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July 31, 2026

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Louisiana Public Service Commission
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602 N. Fifth Street
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Baton Rouge, LA 70802

LA PUBLIC SERVICE COMM
JUL 31 2026 PM02:19

Re: Docket U-37882, Entergy Louisiana, LLC, ex parte. In re: Application for certification of generation and transmission resources and for other relief.

To whom it may concern:

The Direct Testimony of John A. Chapman is enclosed for filing in the above-captioned matter. Please file the enclosed into the record of the above-captioned docket and provide a copy to the Administrative Hearings Division. If you have any questions regarding this filing, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

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**BEFORE THE
LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

DOCKET NUMBER U-37882

**LA PUBLIC SERVICE COMM
JUL 31 2026 PM02:19**

ENTERGY LOUISIANA, LLC

***In re: Application of Entergy Louisiana, LLC for Certification of Generation and
Transmission Resources and for Other Relief Pursuant to the Commission's Lighting
Initiative***

DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

JOHN A. CHAPMAN

**ON BEHALF OF THE
STAFF OF THE
LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

JULY 2026

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I. BACKGROUND

Q1. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME, PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT, TITLE, AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.

A. My name is John A. “Jake” Chapman. I am Vice President of Special Projects for United Professionals Company, LLC (“UPC”). UPC’s address is 3850 North Causeway Boulevard, Suite 1930, Metairie, Louisiana 70002.

Q2. PLEASE DISCUSS YOUR EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND.

A. I hold a Bachelor of Accountancy, *cum laude*, and a Master of Business Administration, concentration in Finance, both from Loyola University New Orleans. I have further completed continuing professional education courses sponsored by the Center for Public Utilities at New Mexico State University and the Regulatory Training Initiative of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (“NARUC”). I am a member of the Society of Depreciation Professionals, through which I have been qualified as a Certified Depreciation Professional (“CDP”). Further, I am a fully licensed Investment Banking Representative (Series 79), Registered Investment Adviser (Series 65), and I have passed my Securities Industries Essentials (“SIE”) exam, all of which are conferred or administered by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (“FINRA”). I maintain an active license in Building Construction with the Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors. Since 2012, I have been employed by UPC or one of its affiliates in roles of increasing responsibility in the areas of investment banking and corporate finance, asset management and investment advisory services, venture capital, business development, healthcare finance consulting, program management and development, and accounting,

1 operations, and compliance. Currently, my primary endeavor is working with UPC and its
2 team of consultants in providing utility regulatory consulting and expert witness services.
3 A listing of my prior testimony is attached hereto as Exhibit JAC-001.

4 **II. PURPOSE OF TESTIMONY**

5 **Q3. ON WHOSE BEHALF ARE YOU APPEARING IN THIS DOCKET?**

6 A. I am appearing on behalf of the Staff of the Louisiana Public Service Commission (“Staff”
7 and “LPSC” or “Commission,” respectively).

8 **Q4. WHY ARE YOU SUBMITTING THIS DIRECT TESTIMONY?**

9 A. The LPSC hired UPC to review an application (the “Application”) filed by Entergy
10 Louisiana, LLC (“ELL” or the “Company”) that seeks, among other things, the certification
11 of and approval for the construction of new generation and transmission facilities necessary
12 to serve load associated with a hyperscale data center being developed by Evest, LLC
13 (“Evest” or the “Customer”), a subsidiary of Meta Platforms, Inc. (“Meta”), in Richland
14 Parish, Louisiana (the “Project”). The Project represents an expansion of the hyperscale
15 data center project currently being developed on a contiguous site in Richland Parish by
16 another Meta subsidiary, Laidley, LLC (“Laidley”), that was central to the Commission’s
17 review of ELL’s application in Docket No. U-37425 (the “Laidley Docket”).¹

18 **Q5. PLEASE DESCRIBE ELL’S APPLICATION IN THIS PROCEEDING.**

19 A. Regarding new generation and capacity resources, ELL is seeking approval to construct
20 seven 1x1 Combined Cycle Combustion Turbine (“CCCT”) generators, each with a

¹ See generally, LPSC Docket No. U-37425, Entergy Louisiana, LLC, ex parte (*In re: Application for Approval of Generation and Transmission Resources Proposed in Connection with Service to a Single Customer Project in North Louisiana, Including Proposed Rider, and Request for Timely Treatment*).

1 nameplate capacity of 754 megawatts (“MW”), for a combined addition of 5,278 MW of
2 new baseload generation (the “Proposed Generators”).² Four of the Proposed Generators
3 will be located near the Project in Richland Parish (referred to as Richland Units 1&2 and
4 Richland Units 3&4) with the remaining three to be located within ELL’s Southeast
5 Louisiana Planning Region (“SELPA”) in Pointe Coupee Parish near the existing Big
6 Cajun site (referred to as Pointe Coupee Units 1, 2, and 3). ELL further proposes to
7 construct three new battery storage facilities (the “Battery Storage Facilities”) within
8 SELPA as part of its supply plan to serve the significant amount of load anticipated by the
9 Project.³

10 ELL is also planning significant transmission investments to serve the Project that
11 can be described in three categories: (i) customer-funded transmission interconnection
12 facilities; (ii) customer-funded transmission line; and, (iii) ELL-funded transmission
13 facilities (collectively, the “Transmission Projects”).⁴

14 ELL’s Application requests several forms of relief associated with its proposal to
15 provide electric service to the Customer, including requests for several accounting,
16 ratemaking, and regulatory determinations in addition to its requests for certification of the
17 new generation and transmission facilities necessary to serve the Customer.⁵ In support of
18 its Application, ELL presents testimony and evidence supporting the need for the proposed

² Application at 15.

³ Direct Testimony of Laura K. Beauchamp at 4.

⁴ *Id.* at 11.

⁵ Application at 27-36.

1 facilities, the Company's proposed resource plan, and its estimate of the costs and benefits
2 associated with serving the Project.

3 ELL's Application also explains the negotiated contractual framework with the
4 Customer that establishes the cost allocation, risk mitigation, and ratemaking treatments
5 designed to ensure that the incremental investments that ELL is pursuing to serve the
6 Customer's load do not unduly burden ELL's other ratepayers statewide. This negotiated
7 contractual framework is memorialized in an Electric Service Agreement ("ESA") between
8 ELL and the Customer,⁶ which incorporates by attachment the Company's standard Terms
9 and Conditions, Rate Schedule LLHLFPS-L, Rider 1 to the ESA, the Evest Long-Lead
10 Agreements,⁷ and the Sustainability Agreement.⁸ Rider 1 to the ESA further incorporates
11 additional contractual terms between ELL and the Customer including certain key
12 provisions such as minimum billing terms, contract term (20-year initial term with
13 automatic 5-year renewals), notice period (3-year non-renewal notice), credit and collateral

⁶ The ESA between ELL and the Customer is attached as HSPM/AEO Exhibit LKB-2 to the Direct Testimony of Laura K. Beauchamp.

⁷ The Direct Testimony of Laura K. Beauchamp at 16-17 defines the Evest Long-Lead Agreements as those certain agreements executed between ELL and the Customer in order to secure various long-lead items. Each such separate agreement that together comprise the Evest Long-Lead Agreements are attached to the Direct Testimony of Laura K. Beauchamp as HSPM/AEO Exhibits LKB-4, LKB-5, LKB-6, LKB-7, and LKB-8 and are further summarized on pages 16-17 of Ms. Beauchamp's Direct Testimony.

⁸ The Sustainability Agreement, attached as Appendix G to Rider 1 of the ESA (HSPM/AEO Exhibit LKB-2 to the Direct Testimony of Laura K. Beauchamp) is an agreement that seeks to support the sustainability goals of both ELL and the Customer by arranging for the offset of a significant portion of the carbon emissions from the Proposed Generators (Direct Testimony of Laura K. Beauchamp at 94-95). Among other provisions, the Sustainability Agreement contemplates an additional 2,500 MW of renewable resources (Direct Testimony of Laura K. Beauchamp at 69), includes an agreement by the Customer to contribute a total of \$140 million toward energy efficiency programs and \$60 million to Entergy's The Power to Care Program over the course of the twenty-year term of the ESA (Direct Testimony of Laura K. Beauchamp at 9), and other commitments for clean resources (including with respect to nuclear power and renewable resources) (Direct Testimony of Laura K. Beauchamp at 24).

1 requirements, protections for early and/or voluntary termination by the Customer or
2 termination for default, and a guaranty in favor of ELL by the Customer's parent, Meta.⁹

3 In addition to the Evest Long-Lead Agreements referenced above, ELL and the
4 Customer additionally executed a Contribution in Aid of Construction ("CIAC")
5 Agreement detailing the Customer's obligations to provide funding towards the
6 construction of certain new infrastructure required as a primary result of the Project.¹⁰

7 **Q6. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY?**

8 A. The purpose of my testimony is to provide the Commission with an examination of how
9 each of the Transmission Projects proposed by ELL as part of its Application either
10 complies with or is exempt from the requirements set forth in the Commission's 2024
11 Siting Order.¹¹ I am not (1) making a determination as to whether each or any of the
12 Transmission Projects will serve the public convenience and necessity and be in the public
13 interest and therefore approved; (2) making a determination that the generalized siting of
14 each or any of the Transmission Projects is appropriate and that its construction is a
15 reasonable and cost-effective solution to provide reliable electric service to the Customer
16 and/or ELL's other customers across its transmission system; or, (3) discussing ELL's
17 proposed ratemaking treatment relevant to the Project. My colleague, R. Lane Sisung,

⁹ Direct Testimony of Laura K. Beauchamp at 18-19.

¹⁰ *Id.* at 15. Further, the CIAC Agreement is attached as HSPM/AEO Exhibit LKB-3 to Ms. Beauchamp's Direct Testimony.

¹¹ *See generally*, LPSC General Order, Docket No. R-36199 (Sept. 10, 2024) (*In re: Review and Possible Modification of the Commission's General Order dated October 10, 2013 Governing Transmission Certification and General Siting*) (the "2024 Siting Order").

1 President of UPC, is also filing Direct Testimony in this proceeding on behalf of the
2 Commission Staff and will address those issues.

3 Additionally, I address and recommend revisions to the monitoring plan that ELL
4 proposes as a framework for the filing of reports with the Commission reflecting the
5 Company's progress on the construction of the resources necessary to serve the Customer
6 as proposed in its Application.¹²

7 **Q7. IS ANYONE ELSE SUBMITTING DIRECT TESTIMONY IN THIS**
8 **PROCEEDING ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION STAFF?**

9 A. Yes. My colleague, R. Lane Sisung, President of UPC, also submitted Direct Testimony in
10 this proceeding on behalf of the Commission Staff.

11 **Q8. HAVE YOU AND MR. SISUNG COLLECTIVELY ADDRESSED ELL'S**
12 **REQUESTS IN ITS APPLICATION?**

13 A. Yes. Mr. Sisung includes a table in response to Question 9 of his Direct Testimony that
14 provides a summary of the relief requested by ELL in its Application in this proceeding
15 and where each request is addressed in Staff's Direct Testimony.

16 **Q9. WHAT DID YOU RELY ON IN PREPARING YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY?**

17 A. In preparing my Direct Testimony, I reviewed and relied on ELL's filed Application and
18 accompanying exhibits, including the direct testimonies and exhibits of ELL witnesses.
19 Specifically, I focused on the direct testimonies of ELL witnesses Laura K. Beauchamp,
20 Daniel Kline, Ryan D. Jones, and Troy R. Heytens. I also reviewed and analyzed the
21 information provided by ELL in response to data requests served on ELL in this proceeding

¹² ELL's proposed monitoring plan is attached as Exhibit TRH-2 to the Direct Testimony of Troy R. Heytens.

1 by Staff and the Intervenors.¹³ Additionally, I relied on the record of proceedings and the
2 Commission's Orders relating to the Commission's 2024 Siting Order as discussed more
3 in-depth below.

4 **III. THE COMMISSION'S 2024 SITING ORDER**

5 **Q10. BEFORE DISCUSSING THE HISTORY AND APPLICABILITY OF THE**
6 **COMMISSION'S 2024 SITING ORDER, WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE ANY**
7 **DISCLAIMER(S)?**

8 A. Yes. I am not an attorney, and I am not providing legal advice. Rather, I am providing my
9 interpretations of the LPSC's 2024 Siting Order utilizing my plain reading of the applicable
10 documents and Orders and my experience as a utility regulatory analyst and consultant.

11 **Q11. PLEASE DISCUSS THE COMMISSION'S 2024 SITING ORDER.**

12 A. The 2024 Siting Order amends and supersedes the Commission's General Order dated
13 October 10, 2013, *In re: Determination As To Whether the Commission Should Issue a*
14 *General Order Asserting Jurisdiction Over the Certification of Utility Transmission*
15 *Projects and the Determination of Whether Those Projects Are in the Public Interest* in
16 Docket No. R-26018 (the "2013 Siting Order"). The 2013 Siting Order was ultimately
17 amended following a directive at the Commission's October 20, 2021 Business &
18 Executive Session ("B&E") to:

19 ...take whatever action is necessary, including the hiring of outside
20 counsel and/or consultants if deemed necessary, to open a

¹³ Intervenors in this proceeding include the Louisiana Energy Users Group ("LEUG"), Southern Renewable Energy Association ("SREA"), Gulf States Renewable Energy Industry Association ("GSREIA"), 1803 Electric Cooperative, Inc. ("1803"), Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives, Inc. ("ALEC"), Walmart, Inc. ("Walmart"), Sierra Club, Alliance for Affordable Energy ("AAE"), and the Union of Concerned Scientists ("UCS") (AAE and UCS are collectively referred to as the Non-Profit Organizations or "NPOs"). Of the intervenors, LEUG, SREA, Sierra Club, and the NPOs served data requests on ELL.

rulemaking to review and revise, as deemed appropriate, the Commission's Transmission Siting Order to ensure the Commission's jurisdiction over transmission siting within Louisiana is retained and to ensure it consider changes in the law or transmission planning since it was adopted.¹⁴

Q12. WAS THE COMMISSION'S 2024 SITING ORDER ADOPTED FOLLOWING A RULEMAKING PROCEEDING?

A. Yes. Multiple parties, including LPSC-jurisdictional Investor-Owned Utilities ("IOUs") and electric cooperatives, consumer and industrial advocacy groups, a non-LPSC-jurisdictional municipal electric utility, a Regional Transmission Organization ("RTO"), and a merchant transmission developer intervened in the rulemaking proceeding. Staff held a technical conference and sought and incorporated multiple rounds of intervenor comments before proposing a final rule for adoption by the Commission.¹⁵

Q13. DOES THE LPSC HAVE JURISDICTION OVER THE CERTIFICATION AND SITING OF TRANSMISSION FACILITIES IN LOUISIANA?

A. Yes. The Commission's authority over electric utility regulation in Louisiana is exclusive and plenary, with certain exceptions not relevant here. The certification and siting authority of transmission facilities is included within that plenary authority, falls within certain

¹⁴ Notice of Rulemaking Proceeding, Docket No. R-36199 (Nov. 19, 2021).

¹⁵ See generally, LPSC Docket No. R-36199.

1 constitutional¹⁶ and statutory¹⁷ provisions, and is not preempted by federal law.¹⁸ The
2 states, including Louisiana, have traditionally assumed all jurisdiction to approve or deny
3 permits for the certification and siting of electric transmission facilities.¹⁹ The
4 Commission's exercise of its jurisdiction over the certification and siting of designated
5 transmission facilities protects the LPSC's jurisdiction and advances the LPSC's ability to
6 achieve the regulatory goal of promoting safe, reliable utility service at the lowest
7 reasonable rates.²⁰

8 **Q14. DOES THE 2024 SITING ORDER SPECIFICALLY DEFINE WHAT IS**
9 **CONSIDERED A "TRANSMISSION FACILITY" FOR PURPOSES OF**
10 **APPLICABILITY TO THE ORDER?**

11 A. Yes. Section II(a) of the Attachment to the 2024 Siting Order states:

¹⁶ The Louisiana Constitution of 1974, Article IV, Section 21(b), provides that "[t]he commission shall regulate all common carriers and public utilities and have such other regulatory authority as provided by law. It shall adopt and enforce reasonable rules, regulations, and procedures necessary for the discharge of its duties, and shall have other powers and perform other duties as provided by law."

¹⁷ La. Rev. Stat. § 45:1163(A)(1) provides that "[t]he commission shall exercise all necessary power and authority over any street railway, gas, electric light, heat, power, waterworks, or other local public utility for the purpose of fixing and regulating the rates charged or to be charged by and service furnished by such public utility." Further, La. Rev. Stat. § 45:1164(A) provides that "[t]he power, authority, and duties of the commission shall affect and include all matters and things connected with, concerning, and growing out of the service to be given or rendered by such public utility, except in the parish of Orleans."

¹⁸ Following the Energy Policy Act of 2005, Section 216 of the Federal Power Act was amended to provide the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") limited backstop transmission siting authority for transmission projects located within "national interest electric transmission corridors" or "NIETCs." See 2024 Siting Order at 5-7. Section 216 of the Federal Power Act was further amended by the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act ("IIJA"). H.R. 3684, 117th Cong. § 40105(a)(2) (2021).

¹⁹ *Piedmont Environmental Council v. FERC*, 558 F.3d 304 (4th Cir. 2009).

²⁰ 2024 Siting Order at 3.

For purposes of this General Order only, the term “Transmission Facility” shall be defined to include a system of structures, wires, insulators and associated hardware, but not including switching or substations, that carry electric energy over distances and that are located in whole or in part within the State of Louisiana, regardless of whether the line provides electric service to customers within the state, and that would be constructed and operated at or above a nominal 100 kV, exceeds one mile in length, and the estimated cost to construct exceeds \$20 million.²¹ A Transmission Facility shall include the construction of any projects, or group/portfolio of projects, designed to resolve a common transmission-related concern. A “group/portfolio of projects” does not include projects grouped merely because they are submitted in the same planning period or a similar application time-frame or timeline. A single Application process should be utilized to obtain approval for such projects, and the estimated total costs of the projects should be aggregated for the purpose of determining whether the \$20 million threshold is met.²²

Q15. DOES THE 2024 SITING ORDER OUTLINE THE COMMISSION’S SCOPE OF REVIEW AND APPROVAL RELATED TO PROPOSED TRANSMISSION FACILITIES IN LOUISIANA?

A. Yes. Section IV of the Attachment to the 2024 Siting Order states:

In consideration of any Application required under this Order, the Commission may approve the Application if it finds the proposed Transmission Facility to be in the public interest and the interests of affected ratepayers. In making that determination the Commission may consider the expected impact of such Transmission Facility on costs, retail rates, service reliability, reduction of congestion, material economic benefits, the interstate or intrastate benefits expected to be achieved, and whether the proposed Transmission Facility is consistent with public policy, including policy goals of the Commission. The Commission also may consider whether the generalized siting of the proposed Transmission Facility is

²¹ Per the definition of Transmission Facility in the 2024 Siting Order, “[t]he \$20 million threshold should be calculated to include the total cost of the project where a Transmission Facility is being constructed by more than one entity, and not to the individual cost of each entity participating in the project, and the \$20 million threshold also should be calculated to include all of the project costs, including the costs of switching and substations associated with the Transmission Facility.”

²² 2024 Siting Order, Attachment at 4.

appropriate and whether construction of this Transmission Facility (as opposed to construction of another transmission facility or construction of generation, or non-transmission alternative, for example) is a reasonable and cost-effective solution to the problem being addressed by the Transmission Facility proposed in the Application. In addition, the Commission may consider criteria required in or established under federal statutes, FERC Order No. 1000, other FERC Orders, and/or regulations, and potential impacts on other affected utilities and the customers of those utilities.²³

Q16. DOES THE 2024 SITING ORDER PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN EXEMPTIONS TO THE ORDER?

A. Yes. Section VIII of the Attachment to the 2024 Siting Order states:

For good cause shown, at the formal request of an Applicant, the Commission shall have the authority to exempt or suspend the Application of one or more of these rules to a Transmission Facility. In addition, a Certificate and siting approval will not be required for the following:

- a. A new switching station, or substation;
- b. The repair or reconstruction of an existing transmission facility due to weather or other emergencies;
- c. The construction or upgrading of distribution facilities (defined as facilities 100 kV or below) within the electric utility's service area;
- d. Routine maintenance and other activities associated with existing transmission facilities;
- e. Facilities that are projected to cost less than \$75 million and that the Applicant is able to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Commission are needed within three years from the application date to eliminate local criteria or [North American Electric Reliability Corporation ("NERC")] [Transmission Planning ("TPL")] reliability violations or requirements *e.g.*, relating to the NERC reliability standard requirements in the TPL 001, 002, 003, and 004 standards et al, or their successors;

²³ *Id.* at 5-6.

- 1 f. New transmission point-of-delivery facilities, including radial
2 lines, loop flow lines, switching stations, and substations
3 undertaken for the sole purpose of interconnecting specifically
4 identified industrial customers located in Louisiana that have
5 executed an interconnection agreement or accommodating a
6 new or expanding load for specifically identified customers
7 located in Louisiana that have executed interconnection
8 agreements and/or electric service agreements (“ESA”);
9
10 g. The replacement, modification, or expansion of existing
11 equipment or facilities with similar equipment or facilities in
12 substantially the same location or the rebuilding, upgrading,
13 modernizing, or reconstruction of equipment or facilities in
14 substantially the same location that increases the capacity of
15 existing equipment or facilities and that is projected to cost less
16 than \$75 million.
17
18 h. If the costs of the Transmission Facility, and the cost of any
19 associated System Impacts, will never be reflected or recovered
20 in the retail or wholesale rates to be assessed to customers of
21 Louisiana electric utilities including cooperatives.²⁴
22

23 **Q17. WHO POSSESSES THE BURDEN OF PROOF IN PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE**
24 **COMMISSION PURSUANT TO THE TRANSMISSION CERTIFICATION AND**
25 **SITING ORDER?**

26 A. Per the 2024 Siting Order, “[t]he Applicant shall bear the burden to prove that the proposed
27 Transmission Facility is in the public interest and therefore should be sited and issued the
28 Certificate.”²⁵

29 **Q18. IS THE APPLICANT REQUIRED TO INCLUDE CERTAIN CONTENT WITH**
30 **ITS APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION BEFORE THE COMMISSION?**

31 A. Yes, Section V of the Attachment to the 2024 Siting Order states:

²⁴ *Id.* at 9.

²⁵ *Id.* at 5.

1 An Applicant for a Certificate shall file with the Louisiana Public
2 Service Commission a verified Application seeking Commission
3 approval containing at least the following:
4

- 5 a. The name, business address, and electronic addresses of the
6 Applicant(s), as well as for all participants if the Transmission
7 Facility is comprised of projects of multiple entities;
8
9 b. A general description of the proposed Transmission Facility;
10
11 c. Supporting testimony and exhibits explaining and
12 demonstrating the justifications for the proposed Transmission
13 Facility and a cost/benefit and benefits metrics analysis,
14 documenting why the proposed Transmission Facility is a
15 reasonable solution to the problem being addressed. If the
16 applicant is a member of a FERC-approved RTO or ISO, a
17 cost/benefit analysis conducted by that RTO/ISO, if available,
18 shall be provided along with all other documentation prepared
19 by the RTO/ISO identifying the need for construction of the
20 Facility, including alternative transmission or non-transmission
21 alternatives considered and why those alternatives were
22 rejected;
23
24 d. An identification of whether the proposed Transmission Facility
25 is located within a NIETC, including detailed information
26 regarding where, when, and why the NIETC was established;
27
28 e. An identification of any federal proceeding or pre-filing process
29 related to backstop siting of the proposed Transmission Facility
30 and any deadlines required by those federal processes;
31
32 f. A description of the proposed location and siting of the
33 Transmission Facility in the form of a generalized substation-to-
34 substation corridor and not a specific parcel-by-parcel routing;
35
36 g. A description of anticipated sources of funding for the proposed
37 Transmission Facility;
38
39 h. An itemized estimate of the costs of the proposed Transmission
40 Facility, including land and/or right of way acquisition costs,
41 and carrying costs during construction;
42
43 i. An analysis, with supporting data, of the estimated effects on
44 costs to ratepayers attributable to the proposed Transmission
45 Facility, including an estimate of the impact of the cost of the

Transmission Facility on rates of all the entity's customers within Louisiana;

j. A single-line drawing of the proposed typical structure of the Transmission Facility;

k. An estimated time-line, with milestones, for completion of the Transmission Facility;

l. A description of whether rights of way will have to be acquired for the construction of the Transmission Facility or whether existing rights of way will be utilized.²⁶

IV. ELL'S COMPLIANCE WITH OR EXEMPTION FROM THE COMMISSION'S 2024 SITING ORDER

Q19. CAN YOU PLEASE DESCRIBE THE TRANSMISSION FACILITIES PROPOSED BY ELL IN ITS APPLICATION?

A. As previously stated, the transmission facilities that ELL proposes to serve the Project fall into three categories: (i) customer-funded transmission interconnection facilities; (ii) customer-funded transmission line; and (iii) ELL-funded transmission facilities (collectively, the "Transmission Projects"), as follows:

1) Customer-Funded Transmission Interconnection Facilities²⁷

a) West Fork Creek ("WFC")

- i) New interconnection 500/230 kV substation located in vicinity of Customer site
- ii) Built on land directly adjacent to Evest and on the Customer's facility utilizing land and servitudes donated to ELL
- iii) Fully funded through Customer CIAC

b) Customer-Funded Switching Stations

- i) Nine new auxiliary 230 kV Switching Stations
- ii) Built on land directly adjacent to Evest and on the Customer's facility utilizing land and servitudes donated to ELL
- iii) Fully funded through Customer CIAC

²⁶ *Id.* at 6-7.

²⁷ Direct Testimony of Laura K. Beauchamp at 11; *see also* Direct Testimony of Daniel Kline at 13.

c) 230 kV Transmission Lines

- i) 20-30 miles of 230 kV transmission lines located in vicinity of Customer site to connect to customer load-serving substations
- ii) Built on land directly adjacent to Evest and on the Customer's facility utilizing land and servitudes donated to ELL
- iii) Fully funded through Customer CIAC

2) Customer-Funded Transmission Line

a) Smalling to El Dorado 500 kV Transmission Line²⁸

- i) New approximately 90-mile 500 kV transmission line from ELL's Smalling substation to Entergy Arkansas LLC's ("EAL") El Dorado substation
- ii) ELL will develop and own the portion of the line from ELL's Smalling substation to the Arkansas state line
- iii) EAL will develop and own the portion of the line from EAL's El Dorado substation to the Louisiana state line
- iv) Both portions of the line will be fully funded through Customer CIAC
 - (1) Portion of line located in Arkansas is subject to a CIAC agreement between Customer and EAL
 - (2) Portion of line located in Louisiana is subject to a CIAC agreement between Customer and ELL

3) ELL-Funded Transmission Facilities²⁹

a) St. Landry 500 kV Switching Station

- i) New 500 kV switching station that will intersect the to-be-constructed Babel-Webre 500 kV transmission line in St. Landry Parish north of Lafayette.³⁰
- ii) To be funded by ELL utilizing a mix of debt and equity capital
- iii) Customer to pay a rate under its ESA in an amount sufficient to cover the investment during the term of its ESA
- iv) No impact to other customer's bills during the term of the ESA.

b) WFC – St. Landry 500 kV Transmission Line

- i) New approximately 150-mile 500 kV transmission line between new WFC 500/230 kV interconnecting substation near Customer's site and new St. Landry 500 kV Switching Station in St. Landry Parish north of Lafayette
- ii) To be funded by ELL utilizing a mix of debt and equity capital

²⁸ Direct Testimony of Laura K. Beauchamp at 11; *see also* Direct Testimony of Daniel Kline at 14.

²⁹ Direct Testimony of Laura K. Beauchamp at 11; *see also* Direct Testimony of Daniel Kline at 18.

³⁰ *See generally*, LPSC Docket No. U-37812, Entergy Louisiana, LLC, ex parte (*In re: Application for Certification of the Babel-Webre 500kV Transmission Project in Accordance with Louisiana Public Service Commission General Order Dated September 10, 2024*).

- 1 iii) Customer to pay a rate under its ESA in an amount sufficient to cover the
2 investment during the term of its ESA
3 iv) No impact to other customer's bills during the term of the ESA
4

5 **Q20. WHAT ARE ELL'S PRAYERS FOR RELIEF IN THIS PROCEEDING RELATED**
6 **TO ITS PROPOSED TRANSMISSION INVESTMENTS?**

7 A. According to ELL's Application:

8 With respect to transmission, the Commission should find:

- 9
- 10 • As to the Customer-Funded Transmission Interconnection
11 Project, that certain components of these transmission
12 facilities (specifically, the WFC substation and the nine
13 new auxiliary 230kV switching stations) do not require
14 certification pursuant to the [2024 Siting Order] as they do
15 not fall within the definition of "Transmission Facilities"
16 and, further, that the exemption set forth in Section VIII(a)
17 therein applies.
18
 - 19 • As to the other components of the Customer-Funded
20 Transmission Interconnection Project (specifically, the 20-
21 30 miles of 230kV transmission lines to connect the
22 Customer's load to the ELL Transmission System) and as
23 to the Smalling to El Dorado 500kV Line, the Commission
24 should find that such projects are exempt from the
25 requirements of the [2024 Siting Order] pursuant to the
26 first sentence of Section VIII and the exemption in Section
27 VIII(h) of the [2024 Siting Order], because (1) "the costs
28 of the [referenced facilities], and the cost of any associated
29 System Impacts, will never be reflected or recovered in the
30 retail or wholesale rates to be assessed to customers of
31 Louisiana electric utilities including cooperatives," or (2)
32 in the further alternative, "good cause" exists to exempt the
33 interconnection from certification, because there is no risk
34 that the costs of these components of the Customer-Funded
35 Transmission Interconnection Project and of the Smalling
36 to El Dorado 500kV Line will fall on retail customers;
37
 - 38 • As to the Proposed Transmission Facilities—and as to the
39 Customer-Funded Transmission Interconnection Project
40 and Smalling to El Dorado 500kV Line if none of the
41 above-referenced exemptions are found to apply—that (1)
42 such facilities are in the public interest and in the interests
43 of affected customers, taking into account the costs, retail

1 rates, service reliability, reduction of congestion, material
2 economic benefits, the interstate or intrastate benefits
3 expected to be achieved, and the fact that such facilities are
4 consistent with public policy, including policy goals of the
5 Commission; and that (2) the generalized siting of the
6 facilities is appropriate and construction of the facilities (as
7 opposed to construction of other transmission facilities or
8 construction of generation, or non-transmission
9 alternative) is a reasonable and cost-effective solution to
10 the problems being addressed by such facilities;

11 * * *

- 12
- 13 • Find that the retail revenue requirements associated with
14 the actual prudently incurred costs of the Proposed
15 Transmission Facilities, estimates of which are provided
16 by Mr. Jones in his Direct Testimony, net of offsetting
17 Customer revenues, are deemed eligible for recovery by
18 the Company through the applicable mechanisms of the
19 [Formula Rate Plan or “FRP”] to the extent the Company
20 remains subject to an FRP at the time the referenced
21 facilities are placed in service, or in the alternative, through
22 the creation and authorization of a regulatory asset, with
23 interest to be accrued thereon at the Company’s weighted
24 average cost of capital, until such time that the costs can
25 be reflected in rates through a future base rate
26 proceeding[.]³¹
27

28

29 **Q21. FOLLOWING YOUR REVIEW OF THE COMMISSION’S 2024 SITING ORDER,**
30 **THE TRANSMISSION FACILITIES PROPOSED BY ELL IN ITS APPLICATION,**
31 **AND ELL’S PRAYERS FOR RELIEF ON THIS TOPIC, WHAT DO YOU**
32 **CONCLUDE RELATED TO THE CUSTOMER-FUNDED TRANSMISSION**
33 **INTERCONNECTION FACILITIES?**

34 **A.** Customer-Funded Transmission Interconnection Facilities 1a (WFC) and 1b (Customer
35 Funded Switching Stations) as listed in Question 19 above primarily qualify for exemption

³¹ Application at 28-31.

1 from Commission certification pursuant to VIII(a) of the 2024 Siting Order, which states
2 that “a Certificate and siting approval will not be required for . . . [a] new switching station,
3 or substation.”³² Further, in addition to the exemption listed under Section VIII(a) of the
4 2024 Siting Order, and/or as an alternative exemption, I believe that Customer-Funded
5 Transmission Interconnection Facilities 1a and 1b as listed in Question 19 above qualify
6 for exemption under Section VIII(h) of the 2024 Siting Order, which states that “a
7 Certificate and siting approval will not be required . . . [i]f the costs of the Transmission
8 Facility, and the cost of any associated System Impacts, will never be reflected or recovered
9 in the retail or wholesale rates to be assessed to customers of Louisiana electric utilities
10 including cooperatives.”³³ As indicated by ELL witnesses Ms. Beauchamp³⁴ and Mr.
11 Kline³⁵ in their respective Direct Testimonies, and further analyzed and confirmed by Staff
12 witness Mr. Sisung in his Direct Testimony, the costs of these Customer-Funded
13 Transmission Interconnection Facilities are being completely paid for by the Customer
14 through its CIAC Agreement, and the associated costs will not be included in ELL’s
15 jurisdictional retail rates.

³² 2024 Siting Order, Attachment at 9.

³³ *Id.*

³⁴ Direct Testimony of Laura K. Beauchamp at 11 (Table 2) indicates the WFC and the Customer-Funded Switching Stations will be funded through Customer CIAC.

³⁵ Direct Testimony of Daniel Kline at 13 stating, “ELL will construct a new interconnection 500/230kV substation called West Fork Creek (“WFC”) . . . and nine new auxiliary 230kV switching stations to connect the Customer’s load to the ELL Transmission System. These facilities . . . will be funded directly from the Customer’s CIAC Agreement.”

1 **Q22. DOES THE REMAINING CUSTOMER-FUNDED TRANSMISSION**
2 **INTERCONNECTION FACILITY 1C (THE 230 KV TRANSMISSION LINES) AS**
3 **STATED IN QUESTION 19 ABOVE QUALIFY FOR ANY EXEMPTIONS UNDER**
4 **THE 2024 SITING ORDER?**

5 Yes. Although the 230 kV Transmission Lines meet the definition of a Transmission
6 Facility under the 2024 Siting Order,³⁶ that Customer-Funded Transmission
7 Interconnection Facility primarily qualifies for exemption from Commission certification
8 pursuant to Section VIII(h) of the 2024 Siting Order (“a Certificate and siting approval will
9 not be required . . . if the costs of the Transmission Facility, and the cost of any associated
10 System Impacts, will never be reflected or recovered in the retail or wholesale rates to be
11 assessed to customers of Louisiana electric utilities including cooperatives”).³⁷ As
12 indicated by ELL witnesses Ms. Beauchamp³⁸ and Mr. Kline³⁹ in their respective Direct
13 Testimonies, and further analyzed and confirmed by Staff witness Mr. Sisung in his Direct
14 Testimony, the costs of these Customer-Funded Transmission Interconnection Facilities

³⁶ Section II(a) of the 2024 Siting Order Attachment at 4 defines the term Transmission Facility for the purposes of applicability to that Order and is further quoted in Question 14 of this Direct Testimony. The 230 kV Transmission Lines proposed by ELL in this proceeding (i) are “a system of structures, wires, insulators and associated hardware . . . that carry electric energy over distances and that are located in whole or in part within the State of Louisiana”; (ii) would be constructed or operated at or above a nominal 100 kv; (iii) exceed one mile in length; and, (iv) have an estimated cost to construct that exceeds \$20 million.

³⁷ *Id.*

³⁸ Direct Testimony of Laura K. Beauchamp at 11 (Table 2) states that “20-30 miles of 230kV transmission lines” will be funded through Customer CIAC. Further, footnote 12 on that same page refers to the “230kV transmission lines included in the CIAC-Funded Transmission Lines.”

³⁹ Direct Testimony of Daniel Kline at 13 stating, “ELL will construct . . . 20-30 miles of 230kV transmission lines . . . to connect the Customer’s load to the ELL Transmission System. These facilities . . . will be funded directly from the Customer’s CIAC Agreement.”

1 are being completely paid for by the Customer through its CIAC Agreement, and the
2 associated costs will not be included in ELL's jurisdictional retail rates.

3 Alternatively, the Commission could also find that the 230 kV Transmission Lines
4 qualify for exemption under Section VIII(f) of the 2024 Siting Order which provides an
5 exemption from Commission certification for "[n]ew transmission point-of-delivery
6 facilities . . . undertaken for the sole purpose of . . . accommodating a new or expanding
7 load for specifically identified customers located in Louisiana that have executed
8 interconnection agreements and/or [ESAs]."⁴⁰ As stated by Company witness Mr. Kline,
9 ELL is proposing "a series of 230kV transmission lines in the vicinity of the Customer site
10 to connect to customer load-serving substations"⁴¹ and "[t]hese facilities will be built on
11 land directly adjacent to [the Project] and on the Customer's facility utilizing land and
12 servitudes donated to ELL."⁴²

13 **Q23. FOLLOWING YOUR REVIEW OF THE COMMISSION'S 2024 SITING ORDER,**
14 **THE TRANSMISSION FACILITIES PROPOSED BY ELL IN ITS APPLICATION,**
15 **AND ELL'S PRAYERS FOR RELIEF ON THIS TOPIC, WHAT DO YOU**
16 **CONCLUDE RELATED TO THE CUSTOMER-FUNDED TRANSMISSION**
17 **LINE?**

18 A. Although the Customer-Funded Transmission Line (i.e., the Smalling to El Dorado 500 kV
19 Transmission Line detailed as transmission facility 2a in Question 19 above) meets the

⁴⁰ 2024 Siting Order, Attachment at 9.

⁴¹ Direct Testimony of Daniel Kline at 9.

⁴² *Id.* at 13.

1 definition of a Transmission Facility under the 2024 Siting Order,⁴³ the Smalling to El
2 Dorado 500 kV Transmission Line qualifies for exemption from Commission certification
3 pursuant to Section VIII(h) of the 2024 Siting Order (“a Certificate and siting approval will
4 not be required . . . if the costs of the Transmission Facility, and the cost of any associated
5 System Impacts, will never be reflected or recovered in the retail or wholesale rates to be
6 assessed to customers of Louisiana electric utilities including cooperatives”).⁴⁴ As
7 indicated by ELL witnesses Ms. Beauchamp⁴⁵ and Mr. Kline⁴⁶ in their respective Direct
8 Testimonies, and further analyzed and confirmed by Staff witness Mr. Sisung in his Direct
9 Testimony, the costs of the Smalling to El Dorado 500 kV Transmission Line are being
10 completely paid for by the Customer through its CIAC Agreement, and the associated costs
11 will not be included in ELL’s jurisdictional retail rates.

⁴³ Section II(a) of the 2024 Siting Order Attachment at 4 defines the term Transmission Facility for the purposes of applicability to that Order and is further quoted in Question 14 of this Direct Testimony. The Smalling to El Dorado 500 kV Transmission Line proposed by ELL in this proceeding (i) is “a system of structures, wires, insulators and associated hardware . . . that carry electric energy over distances and that are located in whole or in part within the State of Louisiana”; (ii) would be constructed or operated at or above a nominal 100 kv; (iii) exceeds one mile in length; and, (iv) have an estimated cost to construct that exceeds \$20 million.

⁴⁴ *Id.*

⁴⁵ Direct Testimony of Laura K. Beauchamp at 11 (Table 2) states that “a 500kV transmission line extending from ELL’s Smalling substation to the El Dorado substation located in Arkansas and owned by EAL” will be funded through Customer CIAC. Further, footnote 12 on that same page refers to the “new 500kV transmission line included in the CIAC-Funded Transmission Lines as the Smalling to El Dorado 500kV Transmission Line”

⁴⁶ Direct Testimony of Daniel Kline at 14 stating, “ELL will develop and own the portion of this line from Smalling to the Arkansas state line. . . . The Louisiana portion of this line . . . will be funded from the Customer’s CIAC Agreement with the Company.”

1 **Q24. FOLLOWING YOUR REVIEW OF THE COMMISSION'S 2024 SITING ORDER,**
2 **THE TRANSMISSION FACILITIES PROPOSED BY ELL IN ITS APPLICATION,**
3 **AND ELL'S PRAYERS FOR RELIEF ON THIS TOPIC, WHAT DO YOU**
4 **CONCLUDE RELATED TO THE ELL-FUNDED TRANSMISSION FACILITIES?**

5 There are two transmission facilities that comprise the ELL-Funded Transmission
6 Facilities as detailed in Question 19 above. The St. Landry 500 kV Switching Station
7 (transmission facility 3a) primarily qualifies for exemption from Commission certification
8 pursuant to VIII(a) of the 2024 Siting Order, which states that "a Certificate and siting
9 approval will not be required for . . . [a] new switching station, or substation."⁴⁷ However,
10 ELL's proposed WFC – St. Landry 500 kV Transmission Line (transmission facility 3b)
11 does not qualify for any exemptions of Commission certification allowed by the 2024
12 Siting Order.

13 **Q25. WHY DOES ELL'S PROPOSED WFC – ST. LANDRY 500 kV TRANSMISSION**
14 **LINE NOT QUALIFY FOR ANY EXEMPTIONS ALLOWED BY THE 2024**
15 **SITING ORDER?**

16 A. ELL's proposed WFC – St. Landry 500 kV Transmission Line is not a new switching
17 station or substation (Exemption VIII(a)); is not related to the repair or reconstruction of
18 an existing transmission facility due to weather or other emergencies (Exemption VIII(b));
19 does not meet the definition of a distribution facility (defined as facilities 100 kV or below
20 per Section VIII(c)); is not routine maintenance and other activities associated with existing
21 transmission facilities (Exemption VIII(d)); exceeds the \$75 million cost threshold

⁴⁷ 2024 Siting Order, Attachment at 9.

1 required for projects undertaken to eliminate local criteria or NERC TPL reliability
2 violations or requirements (Section VIII(e)); is not a new transmission point-of delivery
3 facility (Section VIII(f)); does not replace, modify, or expand existing equipment or
4 facilities with similar equipment or facilities in substantially the same location or rebuild,
5 upgrade, modernize, or reconstruct equipment or facilities in substantially the same
6 location that increases the capacity of existing equipment or facilities and that is projected
7 to cost less than \$75 million (Section VIII(g)); and, the costs of the WFC – St. Landry 500
8 kV Transmission Line and the costs of any associated System Impacts are being proposed
9 by the Company to be reflected or recovered in retail or wholesale rates⁴⁸ (Section
10 VIII(h)).⁴⁹

11 **Q26. DO YOU RECOMMEND THAT THE COMMISSION EXERCISE ITS**
12 **JURISDICTION AND AUTHORITY OVER ELL’S PROPOSED WFC – ST.**
13 **LANDRY 500 kV TRANSMISSION LINE?**

⁴⁸ Although the cost of the WFC – St. Landry 500 kV Transmission Line is not being funded through a CIAC agreement with the Customer, ELL contends that the revenue requirement for this facility will be offset during the term of the ESA by revenues received from the Customer such that there should be no significant effect from the facility on other ELL customers’ bills while the ESA is in effect (Direct Testimony of Laura K. Beauchamp at 12). Additionally, Ms. Beauchamp states at page 93 of her Direct Testimony that the WFC – St. Landry 500 kV Transmission Line is a System Improvement that entails benefits generally to ELL’s customers and that the costs of that project will be borne by all ELL customers and other users of the ELL transmission system, consistent with ELL’s Terms and Conditions of service and line extension policies. Further, ELL witness Daniel Kline states at page 19 of his Direct Testimony that the project “will be ELL funded, generally through a mix of debt and equity capital[.]” and that “the rate the Customer will pay under its ESA will afford sufficient revenue to cover the cost of this investment during the term of the ESA, so there will be no effect on other customers’ bills during the term of the ESA.”

⁴⁹ 2024 Siting Order, Attachment at 9.

1 A. Yes, consistent with the Commission's intention to exercise its jurisdiction and authority
2 over such Transmission Facilities as stated in Section I of the Attachment to the 2024 Siting
3 Order:

4 The Commission intends to exercise its jurisdiction and authority
5 over any Transmission Facility if the costs of the Transmission
6 Facility, and the costs of any associated retail rate impacts, will be
7 reflected or recovered in the retail or wholesale rates to be assessed
8 to customers of Louisiana electric public utilities including
9 cooperatives, and if the facility is physically located in Louisiana
10 regardless of whether the line provides electric service to customers
11 within the state.⁵⁰
12

13 **Q27. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT ELL'S PROPOSED WFC – ST. LANDRY 500 kV**
14 **TRANSMISSION LINE MEETS THE COMMISSION'S DEFINITION OF A**
15 **“TRANSMISSION FACILITY” AS DEFINED IN THE 2024 SITING ORDER?**

16 A. Yes. Per Section II(a) of the Attachment to the 2024 Siting Order, and as discussed above
17 in Question 14, ELL's proposed WFC – St. Landry 500 kV Transmission Line meets the
18 Commission's definition of a “Transmission Facility” as defined in the Attachment to the
19 2024 Siting Order as the proposed facility:

- 20 • Includes a system of structures, wires, insulators, and associated hardware, but not
21 including switching or substations, that carry electric energy over distances that are
22 located in whole or in part within the State of Louisiana, regardless of whether the
23 line provides electric service to customers within the state;
24
- 25 • Would be constructed and operated at or above a nominal 100 kV;
26
- 27 • Exceeds one mile in length; and,
28
- 29 • The estimated cost to construct exceeds \$20 million.⁵¹
30

⁵⁰ *Id.* at 3.

⁵¹ *Id.* at 4.

1 **Q28. REGARDLESS OF WHETHER ANY OF THE VARIOUS TRANSMISSION**
2 **FACILITIES COMPRISING THE TRANSMISSION PROJECTS ARE**
3 **DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSION TO BE EXEMPT FROM**
4 **CERTIFICATION UNDER THE TERMS OF THE 2024 SITING ORDER, IS THE**
5 **ENTIRETY OF THE TRANSMISSION PROJECTS (I.E., EACH OF THE**
6 **TRANSMISSION FACILITIES UNDERLYING THE TRANSMISSION**
7 **PROJECTS) STILL SUBJECT TO A STANDARD OF PRUDENCE?**

8 A. Yes. While a certain transmission facility comprising a part of the overall Transmission
9 Projects proposed by ELL may individually qualify for exemption from Commission
10 certification under the 2024 Siting Order, ELL is proposing the totality of the Transmission
11 Projects as a portfolio designed to resolve a common transmission-related concern (i.e., to
12 accommodate service to the Customer and to ensure the continued reliability of ELL's
13 overall transmission system). Accordingly, any prudence determinations related to the
14 Transmission Projects proposed by ELL in its Application in this proceeding should be
15 considered in their entirety and examine all the transmission facilities comprising the
16 Transmission Projects, regardless of whether certain individual transmission facilities
17 qualify for exemption from Commission certification under the 2024 Siting Order.

1 **Q29. ASSUMING THAT ELL'S APPLICATION IN THIS PROCEEDING**
2 **CONSTITUTES AN APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION OF ITS PROPOSED**
3 **WFC – ST. LANDRY 500 kV TRANSMISSION LINE, HAS THE COMPANY**
4 **INCLUDED IN ITS APPLICATION THE REQUISITE CONTENTS AS DEFINED**
5 **IN THE 2024 SITING ORDER NECESSARY FOR THE COMMISSION TO MAKE**
6 **A DETERMINATION OF CERTIFICATION?**

7 A. I note again here that I am not making a recommendation as to whether the Commission
8 should certify ELL's proposed WFC – St. Landry 500 kV Transmission Line in accordance
9 with the 2024 Siting Order. Such a recommendation will be considered and rendered by
10 my colleague Mr. Sisung in his Direct Testimony on behalf of the Staff as part of his
11 analysis of ELL's entire Application in this proceeding. I am making a recommendation as
12 to whether ELL has complied with the terms of Section V of the 2024 Siting Order as
13 outlined in that Order and included in Question 18 above. Table JAC-001 below includes
14 my analysis on this issue. Column A includes the minimum contents required to be
15 included in an application by ELL for certification of the WFC – St. Landry 500 kV
16 Transmission Line as stated in the 2024 Siting Order. Column B states where this
17 information is (or is not) included in ELL's Application in this proceeding. Based on the
18 analysis shown in the Table JAC-001 below, I conclude that ELL's Application has
19 complied with the terms of the 2024 Siting Order and includes the contents necessary for
20 the Commission to make a determination of certification related to ELL's proposed WFC
21 – St. Landry 500 kV Transmission Line.

Table JAC-001	
Column A	Column B
Required Certification Application Content per the 2024 Siting Order⁵²	Location of Required Content in ELL's Application in this Proceeding
a. The name, business address, and electronic addresses of the Applicant(s), as well as for all participants if the Transmission Facility is comprised of projects of multiple entities;	Application at 25
b. A general description of the proposed Transmission Facility;	Direct Testimony of Daniel Kline starting at 18
c. Supporting testimony and exhibits explaining and demonstrating the justifications for the proposed Transmission Facility and a cost/benefit and benefits metrics analysis, documenting why the proposed Transmission Facility is a reasonable solution to the problem being addressed. If the Applicant is a member of a FERC-approved RTO or ISO, a cost/benefit analysis conducted by that RTO/ISO, if available, shall be provided along with all other documentation prepared by the RTO/ISO identifying the need for construction of the Facility, including alternative transmission or non-transmission alternatives considered and why those alternatives were rejected;	Direct Testimony of Daniel Kline generally and starting at 18 Direct Testimony of Laura K. Beauchamp generally
d. An identification of whether the proposed Transmission Facility is located within a NIETC, including detailed information regarding where, when, and why the NIETC was established;	Direct Testimony of Daniel Kline at 54
e. An identification of any federal proceeding or pre-filing process related to backstop siting of the proposed Transmission Facility and any deadlines required by those federal processes;	Direct Testimony of Daniel Kline at 54
f. A description of the proposed location and siting of the Transmission Facility in the form of a generalized substation-to-substation corridor and not a specific parcel-by-parcel routing;	Direct Testimony of Daniel Kline at 18-19, Exhibit DK-2
g. A description of anticipated sources of funding for the proposed Transmission Facility;	Direct Testimony of Daniel Kline at 19
h. An itemized estimate of the costs of the proposed Transmission Facility, including land and/or right of way acquisition costs, and carrying costs during construction;	Exhibit DK-5 (HSPM) to the Direct Testimony of Daniel Kline 1
i. An analysis, with supporting data, of the estimated effects on costs to ratepayers attributable to the proposed Transmission Facility, including an estimate of the impact of the cost of the Transmission Facility on rates of all the entity's customers within Louisiana;	Direct Testimony of Daniel Kline beginning at 31 Direct Testimony of Ryan D. Jones beginning at 48 and HSPM/AEO Exhibit RDJ-2

⁵² *Id.* at 6.

j. A single-line drawing of the proposed typical structure of the Transmission Facility;	Exhibit DK-3 to the Direct Testimony of Daniel Kline
k. An estimated time-line, with milestones, for completion of the Transmission Facility;	Exhibit DK-5 to the Direct Testimony of Daniel Kline
l. A description of whether rights of way will have to be acquired for the construction of the Transmission Facility or whether existing rights of way will be utilized; and,	Direct Testimony of Daniel Kline beginning at 66
m. Such other information that the Applicant may consider relevant to support a Public Interest determination. The Commission or Commission Staff upon finding an Application to be insufficient also may request the Applicant to supplement an Application with additional information after the filing of the Applicant's certification and siting request. Applicant must respond promptly to any such request, but in no event more than 10 business days after the request is made. Such request by the Commission or Commission Staff shall not alone act to extend any time guidelines for Commission action set forth herein or limit a party or Intervenor's rights to issue discovery in the proceeding.	Included throughout ELL's entire Application

1
2 **V. ELL'S PROPOSED MONITORING PLAN AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

3 **Q30. IS ELL PROPOSING A MONITORING PLAN IN THIS PROCEEDING?**

4 A. Yes. ELL is proposing substantively the same monitoring plan as approved by the
5 Commission in Docket No. U-37425 related to ELL's plan to serve the neighboring Laidley
6 data center.⁵³ ELL's proposed monitoring plan related to this proceeding is attached to the
7 Direct Testimony of Company witness Troy R. Heytens as Exhibit TRH-2.

⁵³ See, LPSC Order No. U-37425, Entergy Louisiana, LLC, ex parte (*In re: Application for Approval of Generation and Transmission Resources in Connection with Service to a Single Customer for a Project in North Louisiana*), Attachment 1 to Exhibit A (Final Stipulated Settlement).

1 **Q31. WAS STAFF INVOLVED IN NEGOTIATING THE MONITORING PLAN**
2 **INCLUDED IN THE FINAL STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND ULTIMATELY**
3 **ORDERED BY THE COMMISSION IN THE LAIDLEY DOCKET?**

4 A. Yes. I filed Direct Testimony in that proceeding proposing redlined changes to the draft
5 monitoring plan that ELL proposed. Ultimately, the monitoring plan included in the Final
6 Stipulated Settlement and approved by the Commission in the Laidley Docket was the
7 result of a collaborative process between Staff, ELL, and certain Intervenors in that
8 proceeding.

9 **Q32. CAN YOU PLEASE SUMMARIZE ELL'S MONITORING PLAN AS PROPOSED**
10 **IN THIS PROCEEDING?**

11 A. ELL is proposing to submit quarterly progress reports concerning the Planned
12 Generators,⁵⁴ Transmission Facilities,⁵⁵ and Battery Storage⁵⁶ (collectively, the ELL
13 Generation, Transmission, and Battery Projects) to the Staff and Intervenors in this docket
14 by May 15, 2027, August 15, 2027, November 15, 2027, and February 15, 2028, and by
15 those dates of each subsequent year. ELL proposes to additionally provide Staff with

⁵⁴ For the purposes of ELL's proposed monitoring plan (Exhibit TRH-2), the term "Planned Generators" is defined as "the seven [CCCT] generators being built in connection with the referenced Customer Projects."

⁵⁵ For the purposes of ELL's proposed monitoring plan (Exhibit TRH-2), the term "Transmission Facilities" is defined as "the 500 kV line from the West Fork Creek Substation to the St. Landry Switching Station, the St. Landry Switching Station, and the new line bay to be constructed at the West Fork Creek Substation."

⁵⁶ For the purposes of ELL's proposed monitoring plan (Exhibit TRH-2), the term "Battery Storage" is defined as "the Cypress Harvest BESS to be constructed in Iberville Parish and the Bogalusa West BESS to be constructed in Washington Parish."

1 informal reports within ten days of “any significant developments” that may occur between
2 the formal quarterly reports.⁵⁷

3 **Q33. WHAT ELEMENTS DOES ELL PROPOSE TO INCLUDE AS PART OF ITS**
4 **FORMAL QUARTERLY REPORTS?**

5 A. ELL proposes to include: 1) a summary of the status of the schedule of the ELL Generation
6 Transmission, and Battery Projects; 2) the status of the budget of the ELL Generation,
7 Transmission, and Battery Projects; 3) other business issues relevant the ELL Generation,
8 Transmission, and Battery Projects; 4) an update of the status of the construction, costs,
9 and schedule (among other issues) of the Transmission Facilities; 5) safety information
10 including the recordable incident rate and lost workday injury and illness rate; 6) an
11 environmental compliance report identifying any environmental permitting or compliance
12 issues that may arise and affect the ELL Generation, Transmission, or Battery Projects, or
13 any new environmental laws and regulations that have the potential to affect the ELL
14 Generation, Transmission, and Battery Projects; and 7) an Executive Summary containing
15 additional relevant matters not previously discussed in the previous elements.⁵⁸

16 **Q34. CAN YOU ELABORATE ON WHAT ELL INTENDS TO PROVIDE AS PART OF**
17 **ITS SUMMARY OF THE STATUS OF THE ELL GENERATION,**
18 **TRANSMISSION, AND BATTERY PROJECTS SCHEDULE?**

19 A. As proposed by ELL, the summary will include an overview of major items accomplished
20 (such as construction or procurement activities) with respect to the ELL Generation,

⁵⁷ Exhibit TRH-2 to the Direct Testimony of Troy R. Heytens at 1-2.

⁵⁸ *Id.* at 2-5.

1 Transmission, and Battery Projects, including a description of any changes to planned
2 activities or milestones that may impact the project schedule or task sequence, as well as a
3 description of the overall project status and a Gantt Chart or equivalent. ELL maintains
4 that the information provided as part of this section “shall be sufficiently detailed to
5 understand the relationship between the current schedule and the original schedule,
6 including any changes to major project milestones.”⁵⁹

7 **Q35. CAN YOU ELABORATE ON WHAT ELL INTENDS TO PROVIDE AS PART OF**
8 **ITS STATUS OF THE ELL GENERATION, TRANSMISSION, AND BATTERY**
9 **PROJECTS BUDGET?**

10 A. Per Exhibit TRH-2 to the Direct Testimony of Mr. Heytens:

11 Each report shall provide a table that identifies: (a) the original cost
12 estimate; (b) expenditures to date; (c) estimated future spending; (d)
13 cost estimate revisions (due to change orders or other reasons); and
14 (e) any budget variance. These data will be broken down as: (a) EPC
15 payments; (b) Other vendors/expenses; (c) Entergy labor; (d)
16 Indirect costs; (e) Allowance for Funds Used During Construction
17 ("AFUDC"); (f) project contingency; (g) tax changes impacting
18 project costs; (h) contingencies; (i) transmission interconnection to
19 switchyard; and, (j) other costs (including change orders identifying
20 the reasons) for the change and the resulting cost implications,
21 project financing issues, credit rating reports and changes for the
22 Customer and its parent, and presentations to credit rating agencies
23 for the Customer and its parent).⁶⁰

24
25 **Q36. WHAT DOES ELL MEAN BY “BUSINESS ISSUES” THAT MAY BE RELEVANT**
26 **TO THE ELL GENERATION, TRANSMISSION, AND BATTERY PROJECTS?**

⁵⁹ *Id.* at 2.

⁶⁰ *Id.* at 2-3.

1 A. Business issues will include, but may not be limited to, material business disputes with
2 contractors, force majeure issues, labor problems or disputes, supply chain issues, and/or
3 any issues or problems associated with local government, permitting, or the local
4 community. ELL also states that this would include any important amendments to the
5 Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (“EPC”) contracts, the status of the
6 Customer’s performance of its obligations under its agreements with the Company, and
7 any developments in the Company’s business relationship with the Customer pertinent to
8 the Project.⁶¹

9 **Q37. WHAT INFORMATION DOES ELL INTEND TO INCLUDE IN THE**
10 **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY?**

11 A. The Executive Summary will highlight progress on the ELL Generation, Transmission, and
12 Battery Projects and any other significant changes to the plan and other notable
13 developments. ELL also proposes to include updates in the Company’s forecasted cost of
14 natural gas, material changes to the cost to complete the ELL Generation, Transmission,
15 and Battery Projects, material incremental changes to the cost of environmental
16 compliance, and an affirmation as to whether continuing construction of the ELL
17 Generation, Transmission, and Battery Projects remains in the public interest.⁶²

18 **Q38. IS ELL PROPOSING TO FILE THE QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORTS**
19 **WITH CONFIDENTIALITY PROTECTIONS?**

20 A. ELL states:

⁶¹ *Id.* at 3.

⁶² *Id.* at 4-5.

1 Even if the contents of the reports contain information that is
2 identified as confidential, they shall contain a non-confidential
3 summary. Any quarterly report containing information that is
4 designated confidential or proprietary by ELL or its Customer,
5 vendors, consultants, or contractors may be submitted on a
6 confidential basis to the Staff and to appropriate reviewing
7 representatives of intervenors that have executed a confidentiality
8 agreement in this docket, and a public redacted version of such
9 report shall be filed in the docket and served upon all parties.⁶³
10

11 **Q39. IS ELL REQUESTING THAT STAFF ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THE**
12 **QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORTS?**

13 A. Yes, ELL requests that Staff use its best efforts to provide written acknowledgement of
14 receipt of the report within thirty days of its submission.⁶⁴

15 **Q40. WILL THE STAFF HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO ASK QUESTIONS**
16 **REGARDING THE CONTENTS OF THE QUARTERLY MONITORING**
17 **REPORTS?**

18 A. Yes, ELL proposes that the Staff provide any questions regarding the quarterly monitoring
19 reports to ELL within 30 days of the Company submitting the report to Staff. However,
20 ELL states that, “[i]f requested by Staff, the Company, or intervenors, a conference call or
21 in-person meeting will be scheduled to request clarifications and discuss issues related to
22 the quarterly progress reports.”⁶⁵

23 **Q41. IS ELL PROPOSING TO ALLOW THE STAFF SITE VISITS TO THE ELL**
24 **GENERATION, TRANSMISSION, AND BATTERY PROJECTS?**

⁶³ *Id.* at 1.

⁶⁴ *Id.*

⁶⁵ *Id.*

1 A. Yes, ELL indicates that they will arrange for the Staff to undertake site visits “at least
2 quarterly, or as otherwise requested by Staff.”⁶⁶

3 **Q42. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS REGARDING ELL’S PROPOSED**
4 **MONITORING PLAN IN THIS PROCEEDING?**

5 A. Yes, I have reviewed ELL’s proposed monitoring plan in this proceeding and propose the
6 changes as shown in the redlined document attached hereto as Exhibit JAC-002, with a
7 clean copy that incorporates such redlined changes attached hereto as Exhibit JAC-003.

8 **Q43. IN THE PREVIOUS SECTION OF YOUR TESTIMONY, YOU DISCUSSED THE**
9 **REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMISSION CERTIFICATION OF TRANSMISSION**
10 **PROJECTS UNDER THE 2024 SITING ORDER. DOES THAT ORDER CONTAIN**
11 **ANY PROVISIONS FOR REPORTING REQUIREMENTS?**

12 A. Yes. Section VI of the Attachment to the 2024 Siting Order states:

13 Semi-annually by February 1 and August 1 of each year after any
14 change in the construction costs of a certified Transmission Facility
15 exceeding five (5) million dollars, or any material change in the
16 routing or scope of the Transmission Facility, the Applicant shall
17 file a report with the Commission detailing those changes and the
18 causes for those changes. For the purposes of this Section, “material
19 change” shall be defined as changes to impacts on landowners,
20 changes in the voltage of the lines, changes in the types of poles or
21 towers to be used or the type of equipment used in substations.
22 Within 120 days after the completion of the in-service date of the
23 Transmission Facility, the Applicant shall file a report with the
24 Commission showing the date of completion of the Transmission
25 Facility authorized by the approval, and the total time to construct
26 the facility. The report shall include a detailed statement of the
27 actual costs to each participant to complete the facility, including the
28 cost of AFUDC, cost of land acquisition/rights of way, and the
29 estimated rate effects. For purposes of this Section VI, “construction
30 costs” refers to the costs estimated by the utility and relied upon by

⁶⁶ *Id.* at 2.

the Commission in the certification docket to site and complete the transmission project.⁶⁷

Q44. GIVEN THE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS CONTEMPLATED IN THE 2024 SITING ORDER, DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO ADD TO ELL'S PROPOSED MONITORING PLAN IN THIS PROCEEDING?

A. Yes. To the extent applicable (i.e., for the WFC – St. Landry 500 kV Transmission Line), Staff proposes incorporating such reporting requirements into any monitoring plan adopted in this proceeding. These changes have been included in Exhibits JAC-002 and JAC-003.

VI. CONCLUSION

Q45. PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR TESTIMONY AND ANY CONCLUSIONS THAT YOU HAVE REACHED FOLLOWING YOUR REVIEW OF ELL'S APPLICATION AND PRAYERS FOR RELIEF IN THIS PROCEEDING.

A. Following my review of ELL's Application and accompanying testimony, ELL's responses to the voluminous data responses served on the Company, and the history and applicability of the Commission's 2024 Siting Order, I conclude that certain transmission facilities comprising the Transmission Projects proposed by ELL as part of its Application are exempt from certification under the 2024 Siting Order (i.e., WFC, the Customer-Funded Switching Stations, the 230 kV Transmission Lines, the Smalling to El Dorado 500 kV Transmission Line, and the St. Landry 500 kV Switching Station). Additionally, I conclude that ELL's proposed WFC – St. Landry 500 kV Transmission Line is subject to Commission certification under the 2024 Siting Order. While I do not explicitly recommend whether the Commission should certify the WFC – St. Landry 500 kV

⁶⁷ 2024 Siting Order, Attachment at 8.

1 Transmission Line as in the public interest (see the Direct Testimony of Mr. Sisung also
2 filed on behalf of the Commission Staff), I acknowledge that ELL's Application and
3 accompanying testimony in this proceeding satisfies the filing requirements for
4 certification applications filed pursuant to the Commission's 2024 Siting Order. Further, I
5 review ELL's proposed monitoring plan in connection with the ELL Generation,
6 Transmission, and Battery Projects that the Company proposes as part of this proceeding
7 and attach recommended redlined changes as Exhibit JAC-002, with a clean copy
8 incorporating such proposed redlined changes attached as Exhibit JAC-003.

9 **Q46. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY?**

10 A. Yes.

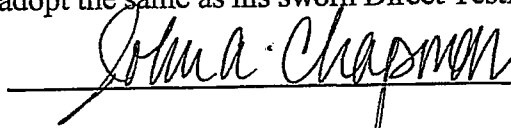
BEFORE THE
LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
ENTERGY LOUISIANA, LLC, EX PARTE.

In re: Application of Entergy Louisiana,
LLC for Certification of Generation and
Transmission Resources and for Other
Relief Pursuant to the Commission's
Lighting Initiative

DOCKET NO. U-37882

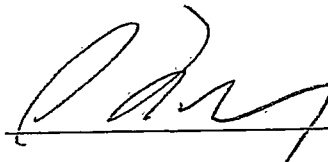
AFFIDAVIT

John A. Chapman, being first duly sworn, deposes and says: that he is the same John A. Chapman whose Direct Testimony accompanies this affidavit; that Direct Testimony was prepared by him or under his direct supervision and control; that he is familiar with the contents thereof; that the facts and opinions set forth therein are true and correct to the best of his knowledge, information and belief; and that he does adopt the same as his sworn Direct Testimony in this proceeding.



John A. Chapman

Subscribed and sworn before me on this 23 day of July, 2026.



Notary Public

Robert Lane Sisung
Jefferson Parish, LA
Notary Public ID NO. 51044
BAR NO. 23420

My Commission Expires: at death

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as of 7/31/2026**

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