

RESOLUTION

NO. R-23-254

CITY HALL: June 8, 2023

**BY: ^{HM} COUNCILMEMBERS MORENO, MORRELL, GIARRUSSO, HARRIS, KING,
GREEN AND THOMAS**

**IN RE: 2024 TRIENNIAL INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN
OF ENTERGY NEW ORLEANS, LLC.**

DOCKET NO. UD-23-_____

INITIATING RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Louisiana and the Home Rule Charter of the City of New Orleans (“Charter”), the Council of the City of New Orleans (“Council”) is the governmental body with the power of supervision, regulation, and control over public utilities providing service within the City of New Orleans (“City”); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to its powers of supervision, regulation, and control over public utilities, the Council is responsible for fixing, changing rates and charges of public utilities, and making all necessary rules and regulations to govern applications for the fixing and changing of rates and charges of public utilities; and

WHEREAS, Entergy New Orleans, Inc. (“ENO”) is a public utility providing electric and natural gas service to all of New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, the Council in Resolution No. R-17-332 adopted new Electric Utility Integrated Resource Plan Rules (“IRP Rules”) to govern the triennial integrated resource planning process for ENO; and

WHEREAS, the Council’s IRP Rules at Section 1(B) require that each IRP triennial planning cycle shall be commenced with an Initiating Resolution of the Council which outlines

the IRP process and timeline, Intervenor and public participation, policy objectives for consideration in the IRP and other matters as deemed necessary by the Council; and

IRP Process and Timeline

WHEREAS, the IRP Rules Section 9 sets forth minimum requirements for the IRP process including, but not limited to:

1. The opportunity for Intervenor to participate in the concurrent development of inputs and assumptions for the major components of the IRP in collaboration with the Utility within the confines of the IRP timeline and procedural schedule.
2. At least four technical meetings attended by the parties in the docket focused on major IRP components that include the Utility, Intervenor, the Council Utilities Regulatory Office (“CURO”), and the Advisors with structured comment deadlines so that meeting participants have the opportunity to present inputs and assumptions and provide comments, and attempt to reach consensus while remaining mindful of the procedural schedule established in the Initiating Resolution.
3. At least three public engagement technical conferences advertised through multiple media channels at a minimum of 30 days prior to the public technical conference.
 - a. A public education and kickoff meeting that explains the following: the purpose of the IRP and the corresponding process; the IRP timeline as delineated in the Council’s Initiating Resolution with respect to major process deadlines; the inputs and assumptions that are considered in the IRP process and summarized in the report; and ways in which public can remain informed throughout the IRP cycle (*e.g.*, online information resources that provide status updates, portal through which customers can submit questions or concerns to the Utility);
 - b. A public presentation of the IRP; and
 - c. A public hearing opportunity after presentation of the IRP report to give the public the opportunity to provide comment on the record.
4. CURO shall schedule, provide notice of, and conduct the public technical conferences. In addition to a live presentation, all public technical conferences should also be broadcast via the Council’s website and archived for later viewing; and

WHEREAS, these represent the minimum process requirements for a triennial IRP proceeding, and do not limit the ability of the Council to require additional procedural steps as the Council deems necessary and appropriate for each triennial IRP proceeding; and

WHEREAS, it is the Council's desire to establish a procedural schedule that will allow for robust participation by stakeholders and the public and a transparent process, including allowing the parties to rigorously investigate resource options, conduct discovery, file comments and otherwise establish a record that will inform and empower effective Council and utility decision-making while augmenting utility resource planning and enhancing public awareness of and input regarding the utility's energy choices; and

WHEREAS, the Council wishes to ensure that there is robust opportunity for the Intervenors and Council Advisors to participate in the concurrent development of inputs and assumptions for the major components of the IRP in collaboration with the utility; and

Policy Objectives for Consideration in the IRP

WHEREAS, there are two requirements in the IRP Rules for ENO to incorporate Council and City policies into its IRP analysis: (1) the optimization process, (2) the development of the scorecard, and (3) the identification of cost-effective demand-side resources; and

1. Optimization Policy Objectives

WHEREAS, Section 7(D)(3) requires ENO to develop alternate planning strategies to reflect known utility regulatory policy goals of the Council (including such policy goals or targets identified in the Initiating Resolution) as established no later than 30 days prior to the date the planning strategy inputs must be finalized; and

WHEREAS, without reducing or limiting this requirement in any way, the Council provides the specific guidance below with respect to certain policy dockets. The failure to discuss any known utility regulatory policy goal of the Council below does not release ENO from the obligation to reflect such policy goal in the IRP analysis; and

WHEREAS, in Resolution No. R-17-100, the Council directed ENO that future IRP filings should include, for evaluation by the Intervenors and the Council through the CURO and the utility Advisors (“the Advisors”) as one potential planning strategy, the goal of increasing the projected incremental annual kWh savings from the Energy Smart Program by 0.2% per year, until such time as the program generates incremental annual kWh savings at a rate equal to 2% of annual kWh sales (“2% goal”); and

WHEREAS, the data presented in the 2021 IRP proceeding in Docket UD-20-02 indicated that the 2% goal may be achieved in the Energy Smart Program Year (“PY”) 13-15 time period. The Council is therefore re-examining this goal in Council Docket UD-22-04; and

WHEREAS, the Council directs ENO to include the 2% goal in the 2024 IRP modeling, unless the Council sets a new goal in Docket UD-22-04 prior to the last date for the issuance of Council Policies that must be included in the optimization process; and

WHEREAS, the Council has given final approval of the Energy Smart PY 13-14 budget and savings estimates in Resolution No. R-22-523, and therefore, those budget and kWh/kW savings estimates should also be considered in developing the Demand-Side Management (“DSM”) Potential Study data inputs and assumptions for the planning strategies. The Council has reserved the right to modify the Energy Smart Implementation Plan for PY15. If the Council approves budgets and savings estimates for PY 15 prior to the last date for the issuance of Council Policies that must be included in the optimization process the approved budgets and savings estimates for PY 15 should also be considered in developing the DSM Potential Study data inputs and assumptions for the planning strategies. If the Council does not approve budgets and savings estimates for PY 15 prior to the last date for the issuance of Council Policies that must be included in the optimization process, ENO’s proposed budgets and savings estimates for PY 15 should be

considered in developing the DSM Potential Study data inputs and assumptions in the planning strategies; and

WHEREAS, in Resolution No. R-19-111, the Council approved a community solar program for New Orleans. To the greatest extent feasible, ENO shall include community solar as a potential distributed energy resource (“DER”) for New Orleans in accordance with the treatment of DER as specified in the IRP Rules¹; and

WHEREAS, the Council adopted a Renewable and Clean Portfolio Standard (“RCPS”) in Resolution No. R-21-182 and compliance with that standard should be incorporated into the planning strategy reflecting known utility regulatory policy goals of the Council; and

2. *Scorecard Policy Objectives*

WHEREAS, Section 7(I) of the IRP Rules directs ENO to develop and include a scorecard template or set of quantitative and qualitative metrics to assist the Council in assessing the IRP based on the resource portfolios. It states that the scorecard should rank the resource portfolios by how well each portfolio achieves each metric, and that such metrics should include but not necessarily be limited to: cost; impact on the utility’s revenue requirements; risk; flexibility of resource options; reasonably quantifiable environmental impacts (such as national average emissions for the technologies chosen, amount of groundwater consumed, etc.); consistency with established, published city policies, such as the RCPS; and macroeconomic impacts in New Orleans; and

(3) *Cost-Effective Demand-Side Resources Policy Objective*

¹ “The Utility should incorporate any known Council policy goals (including such policy goals identified in the Initiating Resolution) with respect to resource acquisition, including, but not limited to, renewable resources, energy storage technologies, and DERs.” (IRP Rules Section 5, A.3.a)

WHEREAS, Section 5.A.4.d. of the IRP Rules state “The Utility should incorporate any known Council policy goals or targets (including such policy goals or targets identified in the Initiating Resolution) with respect to demand-side resources.” Council policy related to identifying cost-effective demand side resources include the cost-effectiveness tests as well as the discount rate employed in the DSM analyses. In addition, Council policy goals may be modified in the Rulemaking Docket UD-22-04 considering changes to Energy Smart’s DSM programs, and such modified DSM-related goals should be incorporated, recognizing time constraints within the 2024 IRP procedural schedule; and

WHEREAS, while the benefit-cost analysis (BCA) includes the Total Resource Cost (“TRC”) and ratepayer impact measure benefit-cost analysis (“RIM BCA”) tests, as defined in the 2002 California Standard Practice Manual, the Rules² do not specifically exclude other BCA tests, such as the National Standards Practice Manual³ Resource Value Test. Recognizing the Council’s intent within Rulemaking docket UD-22-04, the Council notes that the 2024 IRP presents an opportunity to have ENO, with stakeholders input, perform a more comprehensive BCA related to the value and costs of all resources from both the stakeholders and utility perspectives, based on the more recent National Standards Practice Manual; and

WHEREAS, in adopting the IRP Rules, the Council stated “These requirements evaluate all resource options from the perspective of both the utility and all stakeholders, integrating both the supply- and demand-side in a fair and consistent matter while minimizing costs to all stakeholders (not just the utility)...”⁴, and “the Council desires, and customers deserve, an efficient

² IRP Rules, Section 5.A.4.c

³ The National Standards Practice Manual For Benefit Cost Analysis of Distributed Energy Resources, August 2020, and its compendium, Benefit-Cost Analysis Case Studies, June 2022, are publications of the National Energy Screening Project, and provide detail related to quantifying hard-to-monetize costs and benefits, observing a universal principle that each jurisdiction’s primary cost-effectiveness test should account for its energy and applicable policy goals of the jurisdiction.

⁴ Resolution R-17-332, p.2, emphasis added.

IRP process that is focused on least-cost resource planning to meet customer needs...⁵. The choice of discount rate is a policy decision that should be informed by the jurisdiction's energy and other applicable policies—and thus should reflect the regulatory perspective.⁶ The Council agrees with the Advisors that to provide more flexibility in selecting Energy Smart programs, the cost-effectiveness test results should be presented using the societal discount rate and the utility's weighted average cost of capital, and the nominal and present value \$ of benefits versus costs should be provided for each discount rate and individual program;⁷ and

Other Matters

1. DSM Potential Study Consultant

WHEREAS, the IRP Rules at Section 5(A)(4)(g) state that the Council will make a decision and announce it in the Initiating Resolution whether it will procure an independent consultant to perform a demand-side management (“DSM”) potential study; and

WHEREAS, the Council chose to use its own DSM potential study consultant in Docket No. UD-17-03 for the 2018 Triennial IRP cycle and in Docket No. UD-20-02 for the 2021 Triennial IRP cycle; and

WHEREAS, while the Council was pleased with the work performed by the DSM potential study consultants that it chose for the 2018 and 2021 Triennial IRP proceedings, and found the input to be very valuable and helpful to the process, the Council declines to hire an independent consultant to perform a second DSM Potential Study for the 2024 Triennial IRP, but notes that this determination has no impact upon or precedential value for Council determinations regarding the hiring of such a DSM consultant in future Triennial IRP proceedings; and

⁵ Resolution R-17-332, p.11, emphasis added

⁶ National Standard Practice Manual for Assessing Cost-Effectiveness of Energy Efficiency Resources, May 2017, Chapter 9, Discount Rates, and Chapter 2, Resource Value Framework and Primary test.

⁷ Advisors' Report Regarding Parties' Proposed Changes And Additional Guidance, March 1, 2023, p. 25.

WHEREAS, the Council also observes that the IRP Rules do require that in the event the Council does not hire an independent DSM consultant to conduct a DSM Potential Study, ENO shall do so; and

WHEREAS, the Council also observes that as a major component of the IRP process, a minimum requirement of the IRP Rules is that Intervenors have the opportunity to participate in the concurrent development of the DSM potential study inputs and assumptions, that a DSM working group was formed previously in the IRP cycles, and that the development of DSM input has been a collaborative effort in the IRP process of other major utilities. Further, nothing in the IRP Rules prevents other parties from procuring their own DSM consultant to put a DSM potential study into the record; and

2. *Development of Integrated Distribution Planning*

WHEREAS, Section 6(E) of the IRP Rules states:

It is the Council's intent that, as part of the IRP, the utility shall evaluate the extent to which reliability of the distribution system can be improved through the strategic location of DERs or other resources identified as part of the IRP planning process. The utility should provide an analysis, discussion, and quantification of the costs and benefits as part of the evaluation. To the extent the Utility does not currently have the capability to meet this requirement, the utility shall demonstrate progress toward accomplishing this requirement until such time as it acquires the capability.

WHEREAS, the integration of distributed generation and customer-owned DER into the New Orleans electric grid in a manner that supports grid reliability and sustainability remains a priority for the Council and an objective of growing importance in the IRP planning process; and

WHEREAS, in addition to Section 6.(E) of the Rules requiring an analysis, discussion, and quantification of the costs and benefits of DERs as part of the distribution resources in the IRP planning process, Section 4.A.2 requires that the details of the Load Forecast should identify the energy and demand impacts of customer-owned DERs. The Council desires that ENO continue to develop further and report in detail such capability using tools such as the LoadSEER spatial load

forecasting tool integrated with the SynerGi planning analysis software, AMI and its associated software applications, the recent Distribution Management and Outage Management System, and EnergyHub's "Mercury" DER Management System. The detailed reporting of such capability should also include the distribution integration platform completed in January 2020, including an advanced Geospatial Information System, and the Enterprise Planning – Advanced Network Planning Department formed in 2020 to support the analysis of DER penetration and integration. The Council received in ENO's 2018 IRP report an explanation of the measures it is taking to develop this capability; and received a similar report of ENO's progress in its 2021 IRP. However, ENO should provide more detailed analysis and reporting required by the Rules for DER and integrated distribution planning, since by the time the 2024 IRP Report is submitted, over seven years will have passed since this requirement was adopted by the Council; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the Council established Docket UD-21-03 to consider storm resiliency and storm hardening, which necessarily focuses on strengthening and enhancing the distribution system as an element of storm resiliency and storm hardening, making it even more necessary that ENO develop the ability to optimize the planning of resources impacting the distribution system; and

WHEREAS, as part of the final IRP filing in this proceeding, the Council finds ENO should include a report containing its ongoing assessment of (1) its progress toward being able to determine how to integrate distributed generation and customer-owned DERs into the distribution grid in a manner that supports grid reliability and sustainability; (2) the analytical results provided from hardware, software or other equipment related to this capability; (3) how these analytical results were used to comply with these aforementioned specific sections of the Rules; (4) the incremental costs of equipment, software and additional personnel and personnel training related

to this capability, as well as an estimation of the incremental benefit; and (5) any other remaining measures required to enable ENO to comply fully with these aforementioned Sections of the Rules, including the estimated incremental costs and benefits thereof, and to which of these remaining measures ENO has already made commitments. This report shall also contain an estimated date by which ENO expects it will be able fully comply with the Rules and to implement such integrated distribution planning into the IRP; and

3. *Advisors' Suggestions for 2024 Triennial IRP Procedure*

WHEREAS, in the *Advisors' Report Regarding the Entergy New Orleans, LLC 2021 Integrated Resource Plan* ("Advisors' Report"),⁸ the Advisors made four suggestions for improvements to the IRP Procedure for the 2024 Triennial cycle. The Council adopted Resolution No. R-22-369 on August 18, 2022, which set forth a 90-day period for public comment on the Advisors' suggestions; and

WHEREAS on November 16, 2022, Comments were filed in response to the Advisors' Report by ENO;⁹ and

WHEREAS, first, the Advisors recommended that to the extent that the Council determines that it will use its own independent consultant to produce a DSM Potential Study in the next IRP cycle, it would be helpful if the Council provided instructions to ENO and the independent consultant as to how to make portfolios produced using inputs from different DSM Potential Studies more directly comparable. This could include the use of survey techniques to

⁸ *Advisors' Report Regarding the Entergy New Orleans, LLC 2021 Integrated Resource Plan* ("Advisors' Report"), Docket No. UD-20-02, filed July 12, 2022.

⁹ *Comments of Entergy New Orleans, LLC Regarding the Advisors' Recommendations for Future IRP Proceedings*, ("Entergy Comments") Docket UD-20-02, filed Nov. 11, 2022.

improve the estimation of saturation and adoption rates for specific DSM measures and the use of comparable references regarding the technology available for projected DSM measures;¹⁰ and

WHEREAS, in its comments, ENO agreed with the suggestion that the Council provide guidance on making portfolios produced using inputs from different DSM Potential Studies more directly comparable, and acknowledged the difficulty in aligning input cases produced from two different studies for use in the IRP modeling and analysis.¹¹ ENO also stated that it would like to explore options for agreeing on a single DSM consultant to produce a report used for the 2024 IRP;¹² and

WHEREAS, the Council directs the Council Utilities Regulatory Office (CURO) to procure a DSM consultant pursuant to the Council Rules; and

WHEREAS, if the Council selects a consultant to perform a DSM Potential Study, CURO shall convene a technical conference so that any parties or consultants performing potential studies may agree to principles necessary to align input cases; and

WHEREAS, second, the Advisors recommended that future IRP and final reports should include more detail regarding how specific distributed energy resources, such as growth in community solar, battery storage, and electric vehicles, impact the load forecast with potential ranges of projected estimates. The Advisors recommend that such additional detail could include specific amounts with variances for each DER forecasted by planning year, with excel workpapers of supporting information and the methodologies used to forecast each DER. Previous IRP final reports included general descriptions of the software and methodology but insufficient workpapers for a credible analytical review;¹³ and

¹⁰ Advisors Report at 29.

¹¹ ENO Comments at 1.

¹² ENO Comments at 1.

¹³ Advisors Report at 29.

WHEREAS, in its comments, ENO noted that Sections 3.3.4 and 3.3.5 of the 2021 IRP Report included detail regarding how specific energy resources such as behind-the-meter solar generation and electric vehicles impact the load forecast, and stated that ideas for other types of resources or additional information that could be added to that section could be discussed among the parties during the technical meetings for the 2024 IRP;¹⁴ and

WHEREAS, the Council finds that greater detail regarding how specific distributed energy resources, such as growth in community solar, battery storage, and electric vehicles, impact the load forecast with potential ranges of projected estimates would be useful in the Council's evaluation of the IRP and encourages ENO to work with the stakeholders to identify other types of resources or additional information to be added; and

WHEREAS, third, regarding the retirement of Union Power Station Power Block 1, that the Council directs ENO to utilize AURORA's modeling capability for an economic analysis which optimizes retirement dates for ENO's existing assets rather than utilizing fixed retirement dates and to continue modeling an early retirement date for Union Power Station Power Block 1;¹⁵ and

WHEREAS, in its comments ENO reurged and incorporated the comments it made in response to the similar suggestion made by the Advisors in the 2018 IRP. ENO also noted that the suggestion that ENO continue modeling an early retirement date for Union Power Station Power Block 1 is consistent with the agreements reached among the parties in the 2021 IRP Stakeholder Process to include manual portfolios to analyze an alternative 2025 deactivation date, and argues

¹⁴ ENO Comments at 2.

¹⁵ Advisors Report at 29.

that using manual portfolios to model an alternative retirement date is a preferable approach that can be continued in the 2024 Triennial IRP cycle;¹⁶ and

WHEREAS, the Council finds the additional modeling of manual portfolios performed by ENO in the 2021 IRP analysis was informative and useful to the Council and directs ENO to work with the Parties to develop similar additional modeling for the 2024 IRP Process. Working sessions should be held with ENO, the Parties, and the Advisors prior to IRP Technical Meeting 1 to reach a consensus regarding how manual portfolios could be defined to provide sufficient information to evaluate early retirements ; and

WHEREAS, fourth, the Advisors recommended that the issue of incorporating early retirements of existing resources simultaneously with optimizing an energy-based model solution should be considered by the Council before a procedural schedule is included in the Initiating Resolution of the next triennial IRP;¹⁷ and

WHEREAS, in its comments, ENO argues that this recommendation would add a further layer of complexity to the IRP modeling by going beyond the analysis of early retirement dates suggested in the Advisors' third recommendation.¹⁸ ENO disagreed with optimizing for an energy-based model solution to add resources beyond ENO's capacity needs because the value of those excess resources is dependent on uncertain market prices of capacity and energy, which increases the market risk imposed on ENO's customers.¹⁹ ENO argues that evaluation of early deactivations using manual portfolios will increase the capacity needs; therefore, optimizing with an energy-based model is not necessary to force resource additions;²⁰ and

¹⁶ ENO Comments at 2.

¹⁷ Advisors Report at 29.

¹⁸ ENO's Comments at 3.

¹⁹ ENO's Comments at 3.

²⁰ ENO's Comments at 3.

WHEREAS, ENO further commented that if the Council decides to consider this path despite ENO's concerns, ENO agrees that evaluation of early retirements may require an increase in the procedural schedule depending on the number and scope of evaluations.²¹ ENO also recommends that the number and scope of such evaluations be limited to only those that may provide meaningful information and that it is not necessary to evaluate every possible deactivation alternative because the cost and time required exceeds the value of the insight provided.²² ENO recommends that any deactivation alternatives that are evaluated should be judiciously chosen and limited to those that are both feasible and reasonably define the potential range of alternatives;²³ and

WHEREAS, recognizing that the IRP Aurora modeling is based on capacity solutions, the Council instructs ENO to work with the Stakeholders and Advisors toward evaluating certain energy-based solutions and to develop an evaluation of early retirements of resources that is sufficient to provide meaningful information regarding energy-based impacts and that can be accomplished within the procedural schedule set forth in this Resolution; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the findings above; **NOW THEREFORE**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

THAT:

1. The Council establishes Docket No. UD-23-___ to consider the 2024 Triennial IRP of ENO.
2. The Honorable Judge Jeffrey Gulin is hereby appointed as Hearing Officer in this docket, and shall, for good cause shown and as required by the circumstances of the proceeding, have the authority to change or amend the procedural dates set forth herein, except for the deadline for the Final IRP Report to be submitted, which shall require a resolution of the Council to change or amend.

²¹ ENO's Comments at 3.

²² ENO's Comments at 3.

²³ ENO Comments at 3.

3. To the extent that the City Clerk's office closes before 5:00 pm on the date of any deadline contained herein or otherwise set by the Hearing Officer, the deadline shall be extended to the next business day.
4. ENO is designated as a Party to this proceeding, and the Council's Advisors are directed to participate fully herein. Additionally, a deadline for intervention by other parties is set forth in the procedural schedule below.
5. The Council adopts the following procedural schedule:
 - a. The initial public meeting shall be held no later than September 15, 2023. The meeting shall be scheduled by CURO in Council Chambers with video recording.²⁴ CURO shall provide 30 days' notice to the parties, and such notification shall be published in *The Times Picayune*, *Gambit*, *The New Orleans Advocate*, *The New Orleans Tribune*, and on ENO's website. The meeting shall be open to the public, and consist of presentations by the Council's Advisors and/or ENO regarding (1) the purpose of the IRP; (2) the IRP process, timeline and procedural schedule; (3) supply-side and demand-side analyses performed in the IRP process, including the inputs and assumptions thereto; and (4) ways in which the public may participate in the proceeding. CURO shall have a sign-up sheet for Interested Persons, as defined in Section 2(A)(9) of the IRP Rules, present at the public meeting, however, members of the public interested in becoming Interested Persons may do so at any time throughout the IRP proceeding by making a request to CURO.
 - b. Interested parties shall intervene in the case by October 2, 2023. Persons desiring to intervene shall do so by filing a motion to intervene with the Clerk of Council and paying the applicable filing fee, unless such fee is waived pursuant to Council Resolution R-16-365, with an electronic copy submitted to Mr. Byron Minor at email: Byron.Minor@nola.gov, Council Utilities Regulatory Office, Room 6E07 City Hall, 1300 Perdido Street, New Orleans, La. 70112. The Council's requirements for motions to intervene may be found in the City Code (which is available on the Council's website) at sections 158-236, 158-240, 158-286, 158-287, 158-322, and 158-324. Objections to intervention requests shall be filed within

²⁴ The Council notes that as of the adoption of this Resolution, the 2019-2020 COVID-19 global pandemic has caused the need for various bans and/or prohibitions on public gatherings for public health and safety purposes, and, if the pandemic persists or if there is a resurgence of the pandemic in the New Orleans region, such bans and prohibitions on public gatherings may make a public meeting in Council Chambers either impossible or inadvisable at various points in time. For each of the public meetings or public technical conferences required under this procedural schedule, CURO shall evaluate the conditions prevalent at the designated time for the issuance of the notice of the meeting or technical conference, and if in CURO's assessment, it is necessary to protect public health and safety or to comply with any prevailing bans or prohibitions on public gatherings, CURO may convene such public meeting or technical conference through the use of teleconference or videoconference technology consistent with Council practices for public hearings and the requirements of any applicable law governing such meetings in effect at the time of the meeting(s) or conference(s).

five days of such requests. Timely-filed intervention requests not objected to within that time period shall be deemed GRANTED.

- c. Technical Meeting 1 of the Parties, CURO and Advisors shall be held between October 30 and November 9, 2023. The primary purpose of this meeting will be to discuss planning scenarios and strategies. ENO should be prepared to present its proposed reference and alternative planning scenarios, the lowest cost option planning strategy, and a reference planning strategy, with the intent of attempting to reach a consensus among the parties regarding the reference planning strategy. Referencing discussions among ENO and Parties prior to Technical Meeting 1, manual portfolios, early resource retirements, and energy-based solutions will be discussed in conjunction with planning scenarios. Transmission and distribution planning, the integration of customer-owned DERs, and the methodologies of cost-benefit analyses will also be discussed. The Council encourages the Intervenor to engage in discussions among themselves prior to this meeting to determine their priorities regarding planning scenarios and planning strategies. If, as a result of this meeting, a Stakeholder scenario and strategy are to be developed, the Intervenor shall prepare and submit their scenario and strategy to ENO for modeling pursuant to an agreed-upon timetable prior to Technical Meeting 2. The Advisors shall work with the Intervenor to ensure that the Intervenor inputs provided can be accommodated within the framework of the existing model and software.
- d. DSM Potential Study to be submitted in the proceeding shall be completed by February 1, 2024. The Council expects that Intervenor and Council Advisors will participate in the concurrent development of inputs and assumptions for the DSM Potential Study in collaboration with ENO. The completed DSM Potential Study shall be circulated to all Parties.
- e. Technical Meeting 2 of the Parties, CURO and Advisors shall be held between February 20 and March 1, 2024. The purpose of this meeting is to either confirm a consensus regarding the proposed planning scenarios, reference planning strategy, and other planning strategies, or to confirm that ENO is prepared to include a Stakeholder planning scenario and planning strategy pursuant to the discussions of Technical Meeting 1.
- f. The last date for the issuance of Council policies that must be included in the optimization process will be April 15, 2024.
- g. Technical Meeting 3 of the Parties, CURO and Advisors shall be held between May 1 and May 14, 2024 to finalize the planning scenarios and planning strategies by all parties and lock down of all IRP inputs. The results of the DSM potential studies will be provided in the input format required for modeling in the IRP. This meeting will also contain the initial discussion of scorecard metrics.

- h. All IRP inputs shall be finalized as of May 17, 2024.
- i. ENO shall complete all optimized portfolio development and results by September 6, 2024. The resulting optimized portfolios and supporting workpapers shall be circulated to the Parties.
- j. Technical Meeting 4 of the Parties, CURO and Advisors shall be held between September 23 and October 4, 2024. The purpose of this meeting is to review the Optimized Resource Portfolios, finalize the Scorecard Metrics, and conduct an initial discussion regarding Energy Smart Program budgets and savings goals. For this meeting, ENO should prepare initial proposed Energy Smart Program budgets, and savings goals for discussion.
- k. The 2021 IRP Report shall be filed by ENO by December 13, 2024.
- l. The second public meeting shall be held between January 21 and January 31, 2025. ENO shall present the IRP Filing to the public and receive public comment. ENO should have a portal on its website for questions and comments to be submitted over a 15-day period, ENO must respond to each question on a rolling 10-day basis. Intervenors are encouraged to submit any questions to ENO during this period as well. The meeting shall be scheduled by CURO in Council Chambers with video recording. CURO shall provide 30 days' notice to the parties, and such notification shall be published in *The Times Picayune*, *Gambit*, *The New Orleans Advocate*, *The New Orleans Tribune*, and on ENO's website.
- m. The third public meeting shall be held between February 18 and February 28, 2025. Interested members of the public are invited to make a two-minute statement to the Council on the record regarding their opinions on the IRP. The meeting shall be scheduled by CURO in Council Chambers with video recording, and a court reporter. CURO shall provide 30 days' notice to the parties, and such notification shall be published in *The Times Picayune*, *Gambit*, *The New Orleans Advocate*, *The New Orleans Tribune*, and on ENO's website. The transcript of the meeting shall be ordered by the most expeditious means available, and the Advisors shall file the transcript of this meeting into the docket.
- n. Technical Meeting 5 of the Parties, CURO, and Advisors shall be held between February 18 and February 28, 2025. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Energy Smart program design and the implementation plan for Program Years 16-18.
- o. Intervenor comments on the Final IRP filing shall be filed not later than March 10, 2025.
- p. ENO Reply Comments shall be filed not later than April 28, 2025.
- q. The Advisor Report shall be filed not later than June 2, 2025.

- r. The Energy Smart Implementation filing for Program Years 16-18 shall be filed not later than June 16, 2025, with details of Energy Smart program design.
 - s. Further procedural deadlines related to the Energy Smart Implementation Filing will be set in a future resolution.
6. CURO is directed to issue a request for qualification for a consultant to conduct a DSM Potential Study. If the Council does not select a consultant prior to September 15, 2023 ENO will provide a DSM Potential Study.
 7. The Final IRP Report shall include a detailed report of ENO's progress toward being able to determine how to integrate distributed generation and customer-owned DERs into the distribution grid in a manner that supports grid reliability and sustainability, consistent with the discussion in this Resolution.
 8. All materials to be discussed at any technical meeting of the Parties, CURO and Advisors or at a public technical conference should be served on the service list no less than two weeks prior to the meeting.
 9. Nothing in this Resolution prohibits parties from scheduling additional meetings among themselves as necessary. To the extent that additional meetings are necessary, they are to be arranged by the parties with the assistance of the Hearing Officer, if necessary.
 10. The Council directs ENO to include its goal of increasing energy efficiency incremental annual kWh savings by 0.2% of sales per year until such time as incremental annual kWh savings reach 2% of annual sales into the Planning Strategy that incorporates all effective Council utility regulatory policies unless this goal is superseded by Council action prior to the deadline for the issuance of Council policies that must be included in the IRP optimization process, in which case the superseding energy efficiency goal and any other DSM-related policy goals set forth by the Council shall be used instead.
 11. The Council directs ENO to include its final, approved Energy Smart Program Years 13 and 14 budget and savings goals into the assumptions in all Planning Strategies. To the extent that the Council approves a budget and savings goals for Program Year 15 prior to the deadline for the issuance of Council policies that must be included in the IRP optimization process, the approved budget and savings targets should be included into the assumptions. To the extent that the Council does not approve a budget and savings targets for Program Year 15 prior to the deadline, ENO's proposed budget and savings targets shall be included into the assumptions.
 12. The Council directs ENO to include in its scorecard all of the metrics listed in the IRP Rules, including consistency with the RCPS adopted in Council Docket No. UD-19-01.

13. A formal discovery period shall run from the issuance of this Resolution through May 23, 2025 (discovery requests must be made in time that responses may be received prior to the close of the discovery period). Responses to data requests shall be made on a rolling basis and shall be due within 15 calendar days of receipt. Parties are encouraged to submit their data requests and responses electronically, where appropriate. Objections to data requests shall be filed within five days of receipt. The Parties are encouraged to attempt to resolve their discovery disputes amicably prior to seeking the intervention of the Hearing Officer or appealing to the Council.

14. It is anticipated that during discovery, the parties may be required to produce documents or information that are deemed confidential and/or highly sensitive. Accordingly, the Council adopts for use in this docket its official Protective Order adopted by Resolution No. R-07-432, a copy of which can be obtained from CURO.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS READ IN FULL, THE ROLL WAS

CALLED ON THE ADOPTION THEREOF, AND RESULTED AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Giarrusso, Green, Harris, Moreno, Morrell, Thomas - 6

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: King - 1

AND THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

THE FOREGOING IS CERTIFIED
TO BE A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY
Lara W. Johnson
CLERK OF COUNCIL