



Kevin T. Boleware
Manager – Regulatory Affairs
Entergy New Orleans, LLC
504-670-3673 | kbolewa@entergy.com
1600 Perdido Street, New Orleans, LA 70112

August 14, 2025

VIA Electronic Delivery

Clerk of Council
City Hall, Room 1E09
1300 Perdido Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

**Re: Report of Entergy New Orleans, LLC in Compliance with
Council Resolution R-24-73; UD 21-03**

Dear Clerk of Council:

In compliance with the reporting requirements of Resolution R-24-73 (Order #7) dated February 22, 2024 (“Resolution”), I am sending this letter on behalf of Entergy New Orleans, LLC (“ENO”) to update the Council on the status of the GRIP Project. As the Council knows, the GRIP Project – which was selected by the Department of Energy (“DOE”) for an award – is comprised of hardening certain distribution and transmission lines and installing a battery/microgrid interconnected to the New Orleans Solar Station in New Orleans East.

ENO previously sent an update to the Council in February 2025. Since that update, on March 14, 2025, the DOE issued a letter rescinding an earlier letter dated January 28, 2025, which had instructed ENO and other award recipients to stop activities and cease incurring costs associated with Community Benefit Plans (“CBP”) (as well as DEI and Justice 40 initiatives) for all DOE awards. The March letter effectively made such activities voluntary. In response, ENO has discontinued all CBP-related activities and expects to seek to recover \$44k in DOE reimbursements for associated costs incurred in 2024.

In May 2025, the DOE issued data requests to ENO seeking technological, engineering, financial, and other information regarding the GRIP Project. ENO understands other award recipients received substantially the same requests regarding their projects. On June 16, 2025, ENO timely provided responses to the requests and thereafter sent a copy of its responses to the Advisors. To date, ENO has not received a substantive response from the DOE regarding the information provided.

While ENO awaits further guidance from the DOE, ENO has continued to prepare to commence construction work on the GRIP Project. In June 2025, ENO completed a Class 3 estimate for the GRIP Project. The granularity and detail involved in developing the estimate identified cost savings and resulted in a lower overall cost estimate for the GRIP Project, particularly with regard to the transmission component. Based on the Class 3 estimate, ENO projects that the GRIP Project will cost approximately \$124.9 million.

As the Council may recall, ENO stated in its February update that the total estimated cost of the GRIP Project, based on a Class 5 estimate, was approximately \$140.9 million. Thus, the refined Class 3 estimate represents an approximately \$16.0 million reduction in the overall estimated cost of the GRIP Project. The reduction is largely due to a change in transmission strategy, i.e., replacing 80 structures and hardening 17 structures rather than replacing all 97

structures as originally contemplated. ENO is considering additional strategies that potentially may drive down the estimated cost of the GRIP Project even more.

The first Go/No-Go Milestone for the GRIP Project is September 30, 2025. Go/No-Go Milestones are part of DOE guidelines and, in essence, a project management best practice to track project progress; the milestones allow the DOE and award recipients to evaluate and ensure technical performance of a project. ENO understands that the September milestones will include, among other things, consideration of the status of the scope and design of the distribution, transmission, and microgrid components of the GRIP Project.

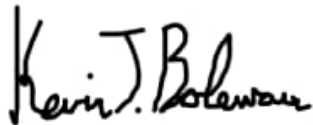
To date, ENO has completed the above-referenced work as part of its preparation to commence construction on the GRIP Project. In addition, vendor selection for the battery / interconnection component is ongoing, after the originally selected vendor withdrew from negotiations. Project costs incurred through July 2025 total approximately \$4.2M, comprised of an estimated \$3.1M for transmission, \$0.5M for distribution, and \$0.6M for microgrid.

Finally, on July 16, 2025, ENO submitted to the DOE a request for reimbursement review in the amount of \$170,640. That amount for costs incurred in 2024 includes \$99k for subcontracts, \$40k for CBP disbursements, and \$32k for indirect costs. This is the first such request that ENO has made of the DOE regarding the GRIP Project. Depending on the outcome of the request, ENO hopes to submit additional requests for reimbursement in the near future.

ENO remains excited about the opportunity to enhance resilience in New Orleans East through this important project. Consistent with the requirements of the Resolution, ENO will continue to keep the Council informed regarding the status of the GRIP Project.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact me at (504) 670-3673.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin T. Boleware". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Kevin T. Boleware

cc: Official Service List UD-21-03
All Councilmembers
Council Advisors
Council Utilities Regulatory Office