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PROJECT NO. 53198

PROJECT TO IDENTIFY ISSUES	§	PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
PERTAINING TO LUBBOCK POWER	§	
AND LIGHT'S PROPOSAL TO	§	OF TEXAS
TRANSFER EXISTING FACILITIES	§	
AND LOAD INTO THE ELECTRIC	§	
RELIABILITY COUNCIL OF TEXAS	§	

**OFFICE OF PUBLIC UTILITY COUNSEL'S REPLY COMMENTS
ON COMMISSION STAFF'S DISCUSSION DRAFT**

The Office of Public Utility Counsel ("OPUC") respectfully submits these reply comments in response to the initial comments filed regarding the project to identify issues related to the possible transfer by City of Lubbock, acting by and through Lubbock Power & Light ("LP&L"), of its remaining roughly 190 megawatts ("MW") of load into the Electric Reliability Council of Texas ("ERCOT") system. OPUC's lack of reply to any initial comments is not indicative of approval or opposition. Order No. 2 requests reply comments on the project by May 6, 2022. Therefore, these comments are timely filed.

**I. REPLY TO RESPONSES TO REQUEST FOR INITIAL COMMENTS:
SHOULD THE COMMISSION DIRECT ERCOT TO CONDUCT A
COORDINATED IMPACT STUDY WITH THE SOUTHWEST POWER
POOL ("SPP") OR OTHER STUDY IN ADDITION TO A LOAD
INTEGRATION STUDY? PLEASE EXPLAIN [WHY] OR WHY NOT.**

OPUC supports the comments of ERCOT,¹ LP&L,² and Southwestern Public Services Company ("SPS"),³ finding that the Commission's directing ERCOT to conduct a coordinated impact study with SPP is unnecessary in this instance. OPUC generally disagrees with the alternative stance taken by Texas Industrial Energy Consumers ("TIEC"),⁴ especially in light of the outcome of past efforts by ERCOT and SPP to develop a coordinated impact study. While

¹ Electric Reliability Council of Texas, Inc.'s Initial Comments in Response to Order No. 2 at 2, 3 (Apr. 29, 2022) ("ERCOT's Comments").

² Initial Comments of the City of Lubbock, Acting by and Through Lubbock Power & Light at 3, 4 (April 29, 2022) ("LP&L's Comments").

³ Comments of Southwestern Public Service Company in Compliance with Order No. 2 at 1 (Apr. 29, 2022) ("SPS's Comments").

⁴ Texas Industrial Energy Consumers' Comments at 3, 4 (Apr. 29, 2022) ("TIEC's Comments").

OPUC does recognize TIEC's assessment that "the costs of fully vetting a load transfer proposal are minimal compared to the potential impacts,"⁵ OPUC finds that they are simply unwarranted under the present circumstances. The Alliance for Retail Markets ("ARM") offered no comment.⁶

II. REPLY TO RESPONSES TO REQUEST FOR INITIAL COMMENTS: IF THE COMMISSION DOES DIRECT ERCOT TO PERFORM A STUDY IN ADDITION TO A LOAD INTEGRATION STUDY, WHAT SHOULD IT ENTAIL? PLEASE EXPLAIN WHETHER IT SHOULD BE THE SAME AS OR DIFFERENT FROM STUDIES FOR RECENT, PRIOR, PERMANENT, LOAD TRANSFERS. IF IT SHOULD BE THE SAME, PLEASE EXPLAIN WHY. IF IT SHOULD DIFFER, PLEASE EXPLAIN WHY AND HOW.

LP&L conveyed that additional studies are unnecessary,⁷ whereas ARM⁸ and SPS⁹ offered no comment. Insofar as OPUC believes that the scope of any additional Commission directed studies should be based on the forthcoming ERCOT analysis, OPUC finds ERCOT's response to the initial comments insightful. As noted in its comments, "ERCOT's active independent LP&L Load Integration study has not identified any reliability issues relative to the remaining load integration to the ERCOT system."¹⁰ Based on ERCOT's initial assessment, OPUC finds the study scope proposed by TIEC¹¹ presently unwarranted.

III. REPLY TO RESPONSES TO REQUEST FOR INITIAL COMMENTS: SHOULD THE COMMISSION ALLOW COMMENTS ON WHAT ADDITIONAL STUDIES, IF ANY, SHOULD BE CONDUCTED BY ERCOT AFTER COMMENTERS HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW ERCOT'S LOAD INTEGRATION STUDY? PLEASE EXPLAIN WHY OR WHY NOT.

In its initial comments, ERCOT notes, "ERCOT has no objection to the Commission considering whether any additional studies may be necessary after interested persons have had an

⁵ *Id.* at 4.

⁶ Alliance for Retail Markets' Comments in Response to Order No. 2 at 2 (Apr. 29, 2022) ("ARM's Comments").

⁷ LP&L's Comments at 2.

⁸ ARM's Comments at 2.

⁹ SPS's Comments at 1.

¹⁰ ERCOT's Comments at 4.

¹¹ TIEC's Comments at 4, 5.

opportunity to review ERCOT's LP&L Load Integration study, which ERCOT anticipates filing at the Commission in the mid-May to early June 2022 timeframe."¹² OPUC agrees with TIEC¹³ that there is value in allowing comments as to additional studies. ARM offered no comment.¹⁴

OPUC disagrees with the differing view as to allowance for comment that is taken by LP&L.¹⁵ LP&L notes that ERCOT's Load Integration Study is complete and that it was presented at March 15, 2022, and April 12, 2022, Regional Planning Group meetings, amounting to past opportunity for comment.¹⁶ Nevertheless, LP&L recognizes ERCOT has not yet finalized its written report.¹⁷ Given the status of the report and the restrictive scope of the ERCOT Regional Planning group meetings as a forum for comment, OPUC would urge the Commission to allow comments on what additional studies, if any, should be conducted by ERCOT after commenters have an opportunity to review ERCOT's Load Integration Study.

**IV. REPLY TO RESPONSES TO REQUEST FOR INITIAL COMMENTS:
SHOULD STUDIES BE CONDUCTED OF THE IMPACT OF LP&L'S
PLANNED LOAD TRANSFER ON THE SPP SYSTEM? PLEASE EXPLAIN
WHY OR WHY NOT. IF SUCH STUDIES SHOULD BE CONDUCTED,
PLEASE EXPLAIN WHAT ISSUES THOSE STUDIES SHOULD ADDRESS
AND WHY AND WHO SHOULD PREPARE THE STUDIES.**

At this time, OPUC does not foresee an additional SPP study benefiting Texas' residential and small commercial consumers, aligning with the initial comment responses of LP&L.¹⁸ As to

¹² ERCOT's Comments at 4.

¹³ TIEC's Comments at 5.

¹⁴ ARM's Comments at 2.

¹⁵ LP&L's Comments at 5

¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ LP&L's Comments at 5.

TIEC's alternative position,¹⁹ OPUC underscores the minimal changes in transmission needs contemplated by the remaining load transfer.²⁰ ERCOT²¹ and ARM²² offered no comment.

**V. REPLY TO RESPONSES TO REQUEST FOR INITIAL COMMENTS:
PLEASE PROVIDE ANY OTHER COMMENTS YOU HAVE REGARDING
LP&L'S PLANNED LOAD TRANSFER.**

OPUC offers no rebuttal to those comments offered by TIEC,²³ LP&L,²⁴ ARM,²⁵ and SPS.²⁶ ERCOT offered no additional comments.²⁷ OPUC reiterates its position that LP&L should hold customers harmless for the integration costs.

VI. CONCLUSION

OPUC appreciates the opportunity to provide these reply comments in response to the initial comments and looks forward to working with Commission Staff and other stakeholders on this project.

¹⁹ TIEC's Comments at 4, 5.

²⁰ See ERCOT's Comments at 3 (noting "the Option 4ow transmission facilities now in service also adequately supports LP&L's remaining load integration without the need for any further transmission improvements . . . and [LP&L] anticipates integrating the remaining load into the ERCOT system through interconnection of its distribution voltage level facilities without the need for any transmission outages or new transmission facilities construction).

²¹ ERCOT's Comments at 4.

²² ARM's Comments at 2.

²³ TIEC's Comments at 5.

²⁴ LP&L's Comments at 6.

²⁵ ARM's Comments at 3, 4.

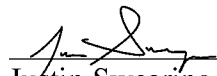
²⁶ SPS's Comments at 1.

²⁷ ERCOT's Comments at 4.

Date: May 6, 2022

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