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APPLICATION OF ENTERGY § BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE OF
TEXAS, INC. FOR AUTHORITY TO § ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
CHANGE RATES §

CITIES' ERRATA TO THE DIRECT TESTIMONY OF MARK E. GARRETT

The Cities of Anahuac, Beaumont, Bridge City, Cleveland, Dayton, Groves, Houston, Huntsville, Liberty, Montgomery, Navasota, Nederland, Oak Ridge North, Orange, Pine Forest, Pinehurst, Port Arthur, Port Neches, Roman Forest, Rose City, Shenandoah, Silsbee, Sour Lake, Splendora, Vidor, West Orange, and Willis ("Cities") submit this Errata to the Direct Testimony of Mark E. Garrett and attach redline and clean copies of the corrected pages.

The revisions are clerical in nature and do not affect the substance of Mr. Garrett's testimony. The changes made are summarized as follows:

- Page 54 (footnote 75) "MG-6" should be "MG-2.6";
- Page 59 (line 10) "MG-2.6" should be "MG-2.8";
- Page 64, (line 14) "MEG-2.7" should be "MG-2.9";
- Page 65 (line 3), 66 (Table 7) "Big Cajun Units 2 and 3" should be "Big Cajun 2 Unit 3";
- Page 65 (line 12), 73 (footnote 111) "MG-2.8" should be "MG-2.12";
- Page 73 (footnote 112) "MG-2.9" should be "MG-2.13";
- Page 75 (line 10) "Exhibit MG-2 should be "Exhibits MG-2.7 and MG-2.11";
and
- Page 83 (line 1) "Exhibit MG-10" should be "Exhibits MG-2.14 and MG-2.15".

Page 66 of Mr. Garrett's testimony contains highly sensitive protected material and will be filed separately under seal.

Respectfully submitted,
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of this document was served on all parties of record in this proceeding on this the 1st day of December, 2022, by email, First Class, U.S. Mail, facsimile transmission, or hand delivery.



Molly Mayhall Vandervoort

1 limitations under the Internal Revenue Code. Benefits payable under these supplemental
2 plans are typically equivalent to the amounts that would have been paid but for the limitations
3 imposed by the Code. In general, the limitations imposed by the Code allow for the
4 computation of benefits on annual compensation levels of up to \$285,000 for 2020, \$290,000
5 for 2021, \$305,000 for 2022. Retirement benefits on compensation levels in excess of annual
6 compensation limits are paid through supplemental plans. Thus, supplemental retirement
7 plans for highly compensated employees are designed to provide benefits in addition to the
8 benefits provided under the general pension plans of the company. These plans are referred
9 to as *non-qualified* plans because they do not qualify as a deductible tax expense under the
10 code.

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12 **Q: WHAT AMOUNTS WERE INCLUDED IN PRO FORMA OPERATING EXPENSE**
13 **FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT PLANS?**

14 A: The Company included \$1.329M for non-qualified plan in pro forma operating expense for
15 ratemaking purposes in the Company's application.⁷⁵

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19 A: I recommend that supplemental costs be disallowed in their entirety. If these supplemental
20 costs are disallowed, ratepayers will pay for all of the executive benefits included in the
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1 million deficiency and provide funding for the requested \$15.3 million reserve in nine
2 years and three months, which is nine months sooner than originally proposed by ETI and
3 adopted by the Commission.⁸⁷ The current reserve accrual of \$3.57 million should be
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6 **Q: WHAT ADJUSTMENT DO YOU RECOMMEND TO THE ANNUAL SELF-**
7 **INSURANCE RESERVE ACCRUAL?**

8 A: I recommend the current annual reserve accrual of \$3.57 million be ordered by the
9 Commission. This adjustment reduces the requested self-insurance reserve accrual by
10 \$4.67 million. This adjustment is found on Exhibit MG-2.68.

VII. DIRECTORS' AND OFFICERS' LIABILITY INSURANCE

11 **Q: WHAT AMOUNT IS THE COMPANY REQUESTING IN RATES FOR D&O**
12 **LIABILITY INSURANCE IN THIS PROCEEDING?**

13 A: During the test year, ETI incurred \$263,580 for D&O liability insurance. In 2021, the
14 Company began amortizing the premium over 12 months, beginning in July 2021, or
15 \$131,687. The Company is seeking full recovery of this expense.

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17 **Q: WHAT IS DIRECTORS' AND OFFICERS' LIABILITY ("D&O") INSURANCE?**

18 A: D&O liability insurance generally protects the assets of a company's directors and officers
19 from the financial impact of litigation that results from their actions and decisions taken

⁸⁷ Calculation: (\$17.7 million + \$15.3 million = \$33.0 million; \$33.0 million/\$3.57 million = 9.25 years).

1 It is my understanding that the regulatory commissions in New York,⁹⁵ and Florida⁹⁶ have
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3 and customers both benefit from D&O liability insurance.

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5 **Q: WHAT DO YOU RECOMMEND FOR THE RECOVERY OF D&O LIABILITY**
6 **INSURANCE?**

7 A: I recommend that the Commission allocate the cost of ETI's D&O liability insurance
8 expense on a 50/50 basis between ETI's customers and shareholders.

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10 **Q: WHAT IS THE AMOUNT OF THE ADJUSTMENT TO THE D&O LIABILITY**
11 **INSURANCE EXPENSE?**

12 A: The adjustment to share the costs of the D&O liability insurance expense removes 50% of
13 the cost from recoverable expenses. This adjustment reduces ETI's revenue requirement
14 by \$65,844. These adjustments are found on Attachments MEG-2.79.

VIII. ACCELERATED DEPRECIATION OF RETIRING PLANTS

15 **Q: PLEASE DISCUSS ETI'S PROPOSED TREATMENT OF GENERATING**
16 **PLANTS NEAR RETIREMENT IN THIS APPLICATION.**

⁹⁵ Order Setting Electric Rates. State of New York Pub. Serv. Comm'n. Cases 08-E-0539 and 08-M-0618. (April 24, 2009), pp. 90-91.

⁹⁶ Final Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part Petition For Rate Increase and Approving Stipulations. Order No. PSC-12-0179-FOF-EI. Florida Public Service Commission. Docket No. 110138-EI. (Apr. 3, 2012), pp. 100-101.

1 A: ETI accelerated the retirement dates for three production units and materially increased
2 the depreciation rates of three other units near retirement. The Company moved up the
3 retirement dates for Nelson Unit 6 and for Big Cajun 2 ~~Units 2 and 3~~. The retirement dates
4 for Sabine Units 1, 3, and 4 were kept materially the same, but their depreciation rates
5 were significantly increased to collect recent expenditures on these units before they
6 retire.⁹⁷ I address, from a ratemaking perspective, why the Company's proposal is
7 inconsistent with Commission precedent and should be rejected. David Garrett
8 incorporates the corrected depreciation rates in his depreciation study analysis.

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10 **Q: HOW HAVE THESE APPROACHING PLANT RETIREMENTS AFFECTED**
11 **ETI'S REQUESTED RATE INCREASE?**

12 A: As shown in Exhibit MG-2.8-12 and in the table below, these approaching retirements add
13 approximately \$59.3 million in increased depreciation expense to ETI's requested revenue
14 requirement.⁹⁸

⁹⁷ Meyer Direct Testimony, p. 12, lines 1-8.

⁹⁸ Responses to OPUC RFI 3-6 and 6-2.

Table 7: Impact of ETI's Early Retirement of Generation Units				
Ln	Unit	Retirement Dates 48371	Proposed Retirement	Rate Increase
1	Accelerated Depreciation		(Confidential)	
2	Nelson Unit 6	2042		\$13,610,003
3	Big Cajun <u>2</u> Units 2 and 3	2043		\$16,897,635
4	Big Cajun 2 Common	2043		\$467,274
5	Increased Depreciation Rates			
6	Sabine Unit 1	2022		\$10,678,080
7	Sabine Unit 2	2026		\$5,605,900
8	Sabine Unit 3	2026		\$12,090,677
9	Total			\$59,349,569

Q: WHAT IS THE PROPER SEQUENCE OF EVENTS FROM A RATEMAKING PERSPECTIVE WHEN A PLANT IS RETIRED EARLY?

A: If the Commission were to find that the retirement is prudent, the following steps would occur: (1) the undepreciated plant balance would be transferred to a regulatory asset account where it could be easily tracked by the Commission, (2) the balance would be removed from rate base because the plant is no longer *used and useful*, and (3) the balance would be amortized (recovered) over the remaining useful life of the plant when the retirement decision was made. In other words, depreciation should **not** be accelerated.

If the retirement were found to be *imprudent*, the balance would be removed from rate base and ***no recovery*** of the remaining balance should be allowed.

Q: IS THIS ORDER OF EVENTS SPELLED OUT IN ANY RECENT COMMISSION ORDERS?

1 the future affords opportunities to offset these costs with other savings. These savings can
2 come from improved technologies, increased operating efficiencies, lower capital costs,
3 load growth, or merely with the passage of time. Over time, rate bases that are inflated
4 with other environmental compliance costs have time to subside to more reasonable levels.
5 Thus far, I have yet to hear many good arguments against spreading the higher costs of
6 early plant terminations over some reasonable period into the future.

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8 **Q: DOES THIS POLICY OF SPREADING INCREASED COSTS OVER A**
9 **REASONABLE PERIOD APPLY TO THE SABINE UNITS?**

10 A: Yes. The increase in the Sabine units is not from early retirements but from a high level
11 of recent investments in the plants that has resulted in unrecovered costs. The Company
12 identified \$66.8 million in plant additions to the Sabine Station since the last rate case,
13 with the largest identified projects related to Sabine Unit 4.¹¹⁰ The Company is seeking to
14 recover the remaining investments in a relatively short period of time. The Company
15 provided information showing the annual increase in depreciation is \$10.7 million for
16 Sabine Unit 1, \$5.6 million of Sabine Unit 3, and \$12.1 million for Sabine Unit 4.¹¹¹ My
17 calculations show that the Sabine Units 1, 3, and 4 would have their costs fully recovered
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¹¹⁰ See Direct Testimony of Beverley Gale, page 17, Table 1 and 22:7 – 23:41.

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¹¹² See Exhibit MG-2.913.

depreciation not be accelerated on the Nelson and Big Cajun units and that depreciation rates not be increased for increased end-of-life expenditures on the Sabine units.

IX. REGULATORY ASSET AMORTIZATION PERIODS

Q: WHAT IS THE ISSUE WITH THE REGULATORY ASSET AMORTIZATION PERIODS?

A: The Company has recommended a 3-year amortization period for two regulatory assets. These assets should be amortized instead over a 4-year period to coincide with the Company's next scheduled rate case. Otherwise, the Company will over-collect the balance in these accounts. The two regulatory asset accounts that should be adjusted are set forth below. The revenue requirement impact of changing to a 4-year amortization is also shown for each account. These adjustments can be seen at Exhibits MG-2.7 and MG-2.11.

Pension and OPEB Regulatory Asset	\$1,532,659
COVID-19 Bad Debt Regulatory Asset	\$978,016

X. ETI PROPOSED ROE ADDER

Q: PLEASE DESCRIBE THE COMPANY'S PROPOSED ROE BONUS BASED ON ENTERGY TEXAS' ("ETI") PERFORMANCE.

A: In addition to its proposed 10.5 percent rate of return on common equity ("ROE"),¹¹³ the Company proposes an additional 30 basis points¹¹⁴ performance adder based on the

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1 in Exhibits ~~MG-402.14~~ and MG 2.15, ETI ranked third highest for SAIDI¹²⁵ and second
2 highest for SAIFI¹²⁶ among 13 utilities in states bordering the Gulf of Mexico.
3 Nationwide, the Company ranked eighth highest for SAIDI and seventh highest for SAIFI
4 among 110 utilities.

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6 **Q: AS THE COMPANY WAS RESTORING SERVICE DURING THE 2020**
7 **HURRICANE SEASON, DID ETI ALLOW OTHER PRIORITIES TO BE**
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9 A: Yes. As ETI was impacted by Hurricanes Laura and Delta as well as the threat of other
10 hurricanes from 2019 to 2021, resources were diverted away from the Company's
11 advanced metering system ("AMS") implementation to respond to storm preparation and
12 restoration activities.¹²⁷ The revenue requirement for AMS is now greater than
13 estimated¹²⁸ and the benefits forthcoming to customers were temporarily delayed.¹²⁹

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¹²⁵ In this context, the acronym "SAIDI" refers to a utility's System Average Interruption Duration Index which is calculated as the sum of all customer interruption durations divided by total number of customers served.

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