06287 SEP 19 2

Eric Fryson

From:

Rhonda Dulgar [rhonda@gbwlegal.com]

Sent:

Wednesday, September 19, 2012 1:46 PM

To:

Filings@psc.state.fl.us; Bill Garner; Brian Armstrong; Charles Guyton; Caroline Klancke; Daniel Larson; Glen Gibellina; Jessica Cano; John Hendricks; John.Butler@fpl.com; Jon Moyle, Jr.; karen.white@tyndall.af.mil; kelly.jr@leg.state.fl.us; Ken Rubin; Kenneth Wiseman; Kevin Donaldson; Keino Young; Larry Nelson; Maria Moncada; Mark Sundback; Martha Brown; McGLOTHLIN.JOSEPH; Patrick Ahlm; Patty Christensen; Paul Woods; Quang Ha; rehwinkel.charles@leg.state.fl.us; Thomas Saporito; Vicki Kaufman; Wade Litchfield

Subject:

Electronic Filing - Docket 120015-El

Attachments: 120015.FRF.NoticeOfSupplementalAuthority.9-19-12.pdf

a. Person responsible for this electronic filing:

Robert Scheffel Wright

Gardner, Bist, Wiener, Wadsworth, Bowden,

Bush, Dee, LaVia & Wright, P.A.

1300 Thomaswood Drive Tallahassee, FL 32308 swright@gbwlegal.com (850) 385-0070

b. 120015-EI

In Re: Petition for Increase in Rates by Florida Power & Light Company.

- c. Document being filed on behalf of the Florida Retail Federation.
- d. There are a total of 46 pages.
- e. The document attached for electronic filing is The Florida Retail Federation's Notice of Supplemental Authority.

(see attached file: 120015.FRF.NoticeOfSupplementalAuthority.9-19-12.pdf)

Thank you for your attention and assistance in this matter.

Rhonda Dulgar

Secretary to Jay LaVia & Schef Wright

Gardner, Bist, Wiener, Wadsworth, Bowden, Bush, Dee, LaVia & Wright, P.A. 1300 Thomaswood Drive Tallahassee, Florida 32308

Phone: 850-385-0070 Fax: 850-385-5416

Email: <u>rhonda@gbwlegal.com</u> http://www.gbwlegal.com/



Gardner, Bist. Wiener, Wadsworth, Bowden. Bush. Dec. LaVia & Wright, PA. ATTORNEYS AT LAW

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This communication is intended only for the exclusive use of the intended recipient(s) and contains

information which is legally privileged and confidential. Furthermore this communication is protected by the Electronic Communication Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. §§ 2510-2521 and any form of distribution, copying, forwarding or use of it or the information contained in or attached to it is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. This communication may not be reviewed, distributed, printed, displayed, or re-transmitted without the sender's written consent. ALL RIGHTS PROTECTED. If you have received this communication in error please return it to the sender and then delete the entire communication and destroy any copies. Thank you.

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition for Increase in Rates By Florida Power & Light Company. DOCKET NO. 120015-EI

FILED: September 19, 2012

THE FLORIDA RETAIL FEDERATION'S NOTICE OF SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORITY

The Florida Retail Federation ("FRF"), pursuant to Rule 9.225, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure ("F.R.A.P.") (see In Re: Petition by BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. for Arbitration of Certain Issues in Interconnection Agreement with Supra Telecommunications Information System, Inc., 2002 WL 22.8483 (PSC Docket No. 001305-TP, Order No. PSC-02-0159-PCO-TP) (Feb. 1, 2002) (stating that the Commission considers supplemental authority pursuant to Rule 9.225, F.R.A.P.)), hereby files this Notice of Supplemental Authority calling the Commission's attention to the following order of the Public Utility Commission of Texas issued on September 14, 2012, after the conclusion of the technical hearing in this docket: Application of Entergy Texas, Inc. For Authority to Change Rates, Reconcile Fuel Costs, and Obtain Deferred Accounting Treatment, (P.U.C. Docket No. 39896) (SOAH Docket No. 473-12-2979) (Item No. 807) (Sept. 14, 2012) (hereinafter the "Entergy Texas 2012 Rate Order"). FRF Witness Chriss referred to the Entergy Texas 2012 Rate Order at page 2980, lines 2-3, of the transcript of the technical hearing in this docket where he stated that the "Public Utility Commission of Texas just award[ed] En[t]ergy Texas [and ROE] of 9.8." A copy of the Entergy Texas 2012 Rate Order is attached hereto.

Respectfully submitted, this 19th day of September, 2012.

Robert Scheffel Wright

schef@gbwlegal.com

John T. LaVia, III

jlavia@gbwlegal.com

Gardner, Bist, Wiener, Wadsworth, Bowden, Bush, Dee, LaVia & Wright, P.A.

1300 Thomaswood Drive

Tallahassee, Florida 32308

Telephone (850) 385-0070

Facsimile (850) 385-5416

Attorneys for the Florida Retail Federation

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished by electronic mail this 19th day of September 2012, to the following:

Keino Young/Caroline Klancke Martha Brown Florida Public Service Commission Division of Legal Services 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard Tallahassee, Florida 32399

R. Wade Litchfield/John T. Butler Jessica Cano/Maria J. Moncada Jordan A. White/Kenneth Rubin Florida Power & Light Company 700 Universe Blvd. Juno Beach, FL 33408-0420

Kevin Donaldson Florida Power & Light Company 4200 West Flagler Street Miami, FL 33134

Charles Guyton Gunster Law Firm 215 S. Monroe Street, Suite 601 Tallahassee, FL 32301

Kenneth Wiseman/Mark Sundback Andrews Kurth LLP 13501 I Street NW, Suite 1100 Washington, DC 20005

J.R Kelly / Joe McGlothlin Office of Public Counsel 111 West Madison St., Room 812 Tallahassee, Florida 32399

John W. Hendricks 367 S. Shore Dr. Sarasota, FL 34234

Mr. & Mrs. Daniel R. Larson 16933 W. Harlena Dr. Loxahatchee, FL 33470 Karen White Federal Executive Agencies AFLOA/JACL-ULFSC 139 Barnes Drive, Suite 1 Tyndall Air Force Base, FL 32403

Vicki Gordon Kaufman Jon C. Moyle, Jr. Moyle Law Firm, P.A. Perkins House 118 North Gadsden Street Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Thomas Saporito 177 U.S. Highway 1N, Unit 212 Tequesta, Florida 33469

William C. Garner Brian P. Armstrong Nabors, Giblin & Nickerson, P.A. 1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 200 Tallahassee, Florida 32308

Paul Woods/Quang Ha/Patrick Ahlm Algenol Biofuels Inc. 28100 Bonita Grande Drive, Suite 200 Bonita Springs, FL 24135

Sleffel Wright

Larry Nelson 312 Roberts Road Nokomis, FL 34275

Mr. Glen Gibellina 7106 28th Street East Sarasota, FL 34243

Attorney

PUC DOCKET NO. 39896 SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-12-2979

OUR CHIMES ON W. O. APPLICATION OF ENTERGY TEXAS, 8 PUBLIC UTILITY COMMI 8 INC. FOR AUTHORITY TO CHANGE RATES, RECONCILE FUEL COSTS, OF TEXAS AND OBTAIN DEFERRED ACCOUNTING TREATMENT

ORDER

This Order addresses the application of Entergy Texas, Inc. for authority to change rates, reconcile fuel costs, and defer costs for the transition to the Midwest Independent System Operator (MISO). In its application, Entergy requested approval of an increase in annual baserate revenues of approximately \$111.8 million (later lowered to \$104.8 million), proposed tariff schedules, including new riders to recover costs related to purchased-power capacity and renewable-energy credit requirements, requested final reconciliation of its fuel costs, and requested waivers to the rate-filing package requirements.

On July 6, 2012, the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) administrative law judges (ALJs) issued a proposal for decision in which they recommended an overall rate increase for Entergy of \$28.3 million resulting in a total revenue requirement of approximately \$781 million. The ALJs also recommended approving total fuel costs of approximately \$1.3 billion. The ALJs did not recommend approving the renewable-energy credit rider and the Commission earlier removed the purchased-power capacity rider as an issue to be addressed in this docket. On August 8, 2012, the ALJs filed corrections to the proposal for decision based on the exceptions and replies of the parties.² Except as discussed in this Order, the Commission adopts the proposal for decision, as corrected, including findings of fact and conclusions of law.



¹ Supplemental Preliminary Order at 2, 3 (Jan. 19, 2012).

² Letter from SOAH judges to PUC (Aug. 8, 2012).

L. Discussion

A. Prepaid Pension Asset Balance

Entergy included in rate base an approximately \$56 million item named Unfunded Pension.³ This amount represents the accumulated difference between the annual pension costs calculated in accordance with the Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 87 and the actual contributions made by Entergy to the pension fund—Entergy contributed nearly \$56 million more to its pension fund than the minimum required by SFAS No. 87.⁴

In Docket No. 33309, the Commission allowed a pension prepayment asset, excluding the portion of the asset that is capitalized to construction work in progress (CWIP), less accrued deferred federal income taxes (ADFIT) to be included in rate base.⁵ For the excluded portion, the Commission allowed the accrual of an allowance for funds used during construction (AFUDC).⁶ The ALJs concluded that this approach was sound and should be followed in this case.⁷ Thus, the ALJs recommended that the CWIP-related portion of Entergy's prepaid pension asset (\$25,311,236) should be excluded from the asset and should accrue AFUDC.⁸ However, the ALJs did not address ADFIT.

The Commission agrees that the CWIP-related portion of Entergy's pension asset should be excluded from the asset and that this excluded portion should accrue AFUDC. However, the Commission also finds that the impact of this exclusion on Entergy's ADFIT should be reflected. When items are excluded from rate base, the related ADFIT should also be excluded. The adjusted ADFIT for the prepaid pension asset remaining in Entergy's rate base should be reduced by \$8,858,933, the deferred taxes related to the excluded \$25 million. The Commission adds new finding of fact 28A to reflect this modification to Entergy's ADFIT.

³ Proposal for Decision at 23 (July 6, 2012) (PFD).

⁴ PFD at 23-24.

⁵ Application of AEP Texas Central Company for Authority to Change Rates, Docket No. 33309, Order on Rehearing (March 4, 2008).

⁶ Remand of Docket No. 33309 (Application of AEP Texas Central Company for Authority to Change Rates), Docket No. 38772, Order on Remand (Jan. 20, 2011).

⁷ PFD at 26.

⁸ Id. at 24-26.

B. FIN 48

The Financial Accounting Standards Board's Interpretation No. 48 (FIN 48) prescribes the way in which a company must analyze, quantify, and disclose the potential consequences of tax positions that the company has taken that are legally uncertain. Entergy reported that its uncertain tax positions totaled \$5,916,461. FIN 48 requires that this amount be recorded on Entergy's balance sheet as a tax liability. Entergy also reported that it made a cash deposit with the IRS in the amount of \$1,294,683 associated with its FIN 48 liability.

The ALJs concluded that Entergy's FIN 48 liability should be included in its ADFIT balance, but the amount of the cash deposit made by Entergy to the IRS attributable to Entergy's FIN 48 liability should not be included in Entergy's ADFIT balance. Accordingly, the ALJs recommended that \$4,621,778 (Entergy's FIN 48 liability of \$5,916,461 less the \$1,294,683 cash deposit Entergy has already made with the IRS) be added to Entergy's ADFIT balance and thus be used to offset Entergy's rate base. ¹⁰ The ALJs did not recommend the addition of a deferred-tax-account rider because no party expressly advocated the addition of such a rider. ¹¹

The Commission adopts the proposal for decision regarding the adjustment to Entergy's ADFIT for the amount attributable to Entergy's FIN 48 liability. However, the Commission also follows its precedent regarding the creation of a deferred-tax-account tracker and modifies the proposal for decision on this point. In CenterPoint's Electric Delivery Company's last rate case, Docket No. 38339, 12 the Commission found that tax schedule UTP—on which companies must describe, list, and rank each uncertain tax position—would provide the IRS auditors sufficient information to quickly determine which uncertain tax positions are of a magnitude worth investigating and that an IRS audit would be more likely to occur on some uncertain tax positions. If an IRS audit of a FIN 48 uncertain tax position results in an unfavorable outcome, the utility would not be able to earn a return on the amount paid to the IRS until the next rate case.

⁹ PFD at 26-27 (citing Rebuttal Testimony of Roberts, Entergy Ex. 64 at 6), 29 (citing Rebuttal Testimony of Roberts, Entergy Ex. 64 at 8).

¹⁰ PFD at 29.

¹¹ Id. at 29.

¹² Application of CenterPoint Electric Delivery Company, LLC for Authority to Change Rates, Docket No. 38339, Order on Rehearing at 3-4 (June 23, 2011).

Accordingly, the Commission authorizes Entergy to establish a rider to track unfavorable FIN-48 rulings by the IRS. The rider will also allow Entergy to recover on a prospective basis an after-tax return of 8.27% on the amounts paid to the IRS that result from an unfavorable FIN-48 unfavorable-tax-position audit. The return will be applied prospectively to FIN-48 amounts disallowed by an IRS audit after such amounts are actually paid to the federal government. If Entergy subsequently prevails in an appeal of an unfavorable FIN-48 unfavorable-tax-position decision by the IRS, then any amounts collected under rider related to that overturned decision shall be credited back to ratepayers.

The Commission adds new finding of fact 40A and deletes finding of fact 41 consistent with its decision to authorize the deferred-tax-account tracker.

C. Capitalized Incentive Compensation

Entergy capitalized into plant-in-service accounts some of the incentive payments made to employees and sought to include those amounts in rate base. The ALJs determined that Entergy should not be able to recover its financially based incentive-compensation costs.¹³ Therefore, the portion of Entergy's incentive-compensation costs capitalized during the period July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 that were financially based was excluded from Entergy's rate base. The ALJs also determined that the actual percentages should be used to determine the amount that is financially based.¹⁴

In discussing Entergy's incentive compensation as a component of operating expenses, the ALJs adopted the method advocated by Texas Industrial Energy Consumers (TIEC) for calculating the amount of the financially based incentive costs. This method uses the actual percentage reductions applicable to each of the annual incentive programs that included a component of financially-based costs.¹⁵

In its exceptions regarding capitalized incentive compensation, Entergy advocated for the use of TIEC's methodology to also calculate the amount of capitalized incentive compensation that is financially based. Entergy also noted that the amount of the disallowance reflected in the

¹³ PFD at 171.

¹⁴ Id. at 72.

¹⁵ Id. at 174; see also Entergy's Exceptions to the Proposal for Decision at 25-26 (July 23, 2012).

schedules, \$1,333,352, was calculated using a disallowance factor that included incentive compensation tied to cost-control measures, which the ALJs found to be recoverable in the operating-cost incentive-compensation calculation. When the TIEC methodology is applied to the capitalized incentive-compensation costs in rate base, the net result under TIEC's methodology is that only \$335,752.96 should be disallowed from capital costs. ¹⁷

The Commission agrees that capitalized incentive compensation that is financially based should be excluded from rate base and that the exclusion only applies to incentive costs that Entergy capitalized during the period from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. However, the Commission finds that a consistent methodology should be used to calculate the amount to be excluded and therefore that TIEC's methodology should also be used for calculating the amount of capitalized financially based incentive-compensation costs that should be excluded from rate base. Accordingly, the total amount of capitalized incentive-compensation costs that should be disallowed from rate base is \$335,752.96. Finding of fact 61 is modified to reflect this determination.

As noted by Commission Staff, this disallowance to plant-in-service alters the expense for ad valorem taxes. Accounting for this disallowance, the appropriate expense amount for ad valorem taxes is \$24,921,022, 18 an adjustment of \$1,222,106 to Entergy's test year amount. Finding of fact 151 is modified to reflect this adjustment to property taxes.

D. Rate of Return and Cost of Capital

The ALJs found the proper range of an acceptable return on equity for Entergy would be from 9.3 percent to 10.0 percent. The mid-point of the range is 9.65 percent. The ALJs found that the effect of unsettled economic conditions facing utilities on the appropriate return on equity should be taken into account and that the effect would be to move the ultimate return on equity towards the upper limits of the range that was determined to be reasonable.²⁰ The ALJs

¹⁶ Entergy's Exceptions to the Proposal for Decision at 25-26.

¹⁷ Id. at 25-26.

¹⁸ Commission Number-Run Memorandum at 2 (Aug. 28, 2012).

¹⁹ PFO at 94.

²⁰ Id.

found that the reasonable adjustment would be 15 basis points, moving the reasonable return on equity to 9.80 percent.²¹

The Commission must establish a reasonable return for a utility and must consider applicable factors.²² The Commission disagrees with the ALJs that a utility's return on equity should be determined using an adder to reflect unsettled economic conditions facing utilities. The Commission agrees with the ALJs, however, that a return on equity of 9.80 percent will allow Entergy a reasonable opportunity to earn a reasonable return on its invested capital, but finds this rate appropriate independent of the 15-point adder recommended by the ALJs. A return on equity of 9.80 percent is within the range of an acceptable return on equity found by the ALJs. Accordingly, the Commission adds new finding of fact 65A to reflect the Commission's decision on this point.

E. Purchased-Power Capacity Expense

The ALJs rejected Entergy's request to recover \$31 million more in purchased-power capacity costs than its actual test-year expenses because Entergy had failed to prove that the adjustment was known and measurable,²³ and because the request violated the matching principle.²⁴ Consequently, the ALJs recommended that Entergy's test-year expenses of \$245,432,884 be used to set rates in this docket.²⁵

Entergy pointed to an additional \$533,002 of purchased-power capacity expenses that were properly included in Entergy's rate-filing package, but not provided for in the proposal for decision. The Commission finds that an additional \$533,002 (\$6,132 for test-year expenses for Southwest Power Pool fees, \$654,082 for Toledo Bend hydro fixed-charges, and -\$127,212 for an Entergy intra-system billing adjustment that were all recorded in FERC account 555) of purchased-power capacity costs were incurred during the test-year and should be added to the purchased-power capacity costs in Entergy's revenue requirement. The Commission modifies

²¹ Id. at 94.

²² PURA §§ 36.051, .052.

²³ PFD at 108-09.

²⁴ Id. at 109.

²⁵ Id.

²⁶ Entergy's Exceptions to the Proposal for Decision at 51.

findings of fact 72 and 86 to reflect the inclusion of the additional \$533,002 of test-year purchased-power capacity costs, increasing the total amount to \$245,965,886.

F. Labor Costs - Incentive Compensation

The ALJs found that \$6,196,037, representing Entergy's financially-based incentives paid in the test-year, should be removed from Entergy's O&M expenses.²⁷ The ALJs agreed with Commission Staff and Cities that an additional reduction should be made to account for the FICA taxes that Entergy would have paid for those costs,²⁸ but did not include this reduction in a finding of fact.

The Commission agrees with the ALJs, but modifies finding of fact 133 to specifically include the decision that an additional reduction should be made to account for the FICA taxes Entergy would have paid on the disallowed financially-based incentive compensation. The Commission notes that this reduction for FICA taxes is reflected in the schedules attached to this Order.²⁹

G. Affiliate Transactions

OPUC argued that Entergy's sales and marketing expenses exclusively benefit the larger commercial and industrial customers, but the majority of the sales, marketing, and customer service expenses are allocated to the operating companies based on customer counts. Therefore, the majority of these expenses are allocated to residential and small business customers. OPUC argued that it is inappropriate for residential and small business customers to pay for these expenses.³⁰ The ALJs did not adopt OPUC's position on this issue.

The Commission agrees with OPUC and reverses the proposal for decision regarding allocation of Entergy's sales and marketing expense and finds that \$2.086 million of sales and marketing expense should be reallocated using direct assignment. The Commission has

²⁷ PFD at 175.

²⁸ Id. at 175-76.

²⁹ See Commission Number Run-Memorandum at 3 (Aug. 28, 2012).

³⁰ Direct Testimony of Carol Szerszen, OPUC Ex. 1 at 44-45.

previously expressed its preference for direct assignment of affiliate expenses.³¹ The Commission finds that the following amounts should be allocated based on a total-number-of-customers basis: (1) \$46,490 for Project E10PCR56224 – Sales and Marketing – EGSI Texas; (2) \$17,013 for Project F3PCD10049 – Regulated Retail Systems O&M; and (3) \$30,167 for Project F3PPMMALI2 – Middle Market Mkt. Development. The remainder, \$1,992,475, should be assigned to (1) General Service, (2) Large General Service and (3) Large Industrial Power Service.³² The reallocation has the effect of increasing the revenue requirement allocated to the large business class customers and reduces the revenue requirement for small business and residential customers. New finding of fact 164A is added to reflect the proper allocation of these affiliate transactions.

H. Fuel Reconciliation

Entergy proposed to allocate costs for the fuel reconciliation to customers using a lineloss study performed in 1997. Entergy conducted a line-loss study for the year ending December 31, 2010, which falls in the middle of the two year fuel reconciliation period—July 2009 through June 2011—and therefore reflects the actual line losses experienced by the customer classes during the reconciliation period. Cities argued that the allocation of fuel costs incurred over the reconciliation period should reflect the current line-loss study performed by Entergy for this case and recommended approval on a going-forward basis. Fuel factors under P.U.C. SUBST. R. 25.237(a)(3) are temporary rates subject to revision in a reconciliation proceeding described in P.U.C. SUBST. R. 25.236. P.U.C. SUBST. R. 25.236(d)(2) defines the scope of a fuel reconciliation proceeding to include any issue related to the reasonableness of a utility's fuel expenses and whether the utility has over- or under-recovered its reasonable fuel expenses.³³ Cities calculated a \$3,981,271 reduction to the Texas retail fuel expenses incurred over the reconciliation period using the current line-losses. The ALJs rejected Cities' proposed adjustment finding that the P.U.C. SUBST. R. 25.237(c)(2)(B) requires the use of Commission-

³¹ Application of Central Power and Light Company for Authority to Change Rates, Docket No. 14965, Second Order on Rehearing at 87, COL 29 (Oct. 16, 1997).

³² Direct Testimony of Carol Szerszen, OPUC Ex. 1 at Schedule CAS-7.

³³ Cities' Exceptions to the Proposal for Decision at 20-21 (July 23, 2012).

approved line losses that were in effect at the time fuel costs were billed to customers in a fuel reconciliation.³⁴

The Commission agrees with Cities and reverses the proposal for decision regarding which line-loss factors should be used in Entergy's fuel reconciliation. Entergy used the 2010 study line-loss calculations to calculate the demand- and energy-related allocations in its cost of service analysis supporting its requested base rates. These same currently available line-loss factors should have been utilized in Entergy's fuel reconciliation. The Commission finds that Entergy's 2010 line-loss factors should be used to calculate Entergy's fuel reconciliation over-recovery. As a result, Entergy's fuel reconciliation over-recovery should be reduced by \$3,981,271. Finding of fact 246A and conclusions of law 19A and 19B are added to reflect the Commission's finding that the 2010 line-loss factors be used to reconcile Entergy's fuel costs.

I. MISO Transition Expenses

During the Commission's consideration of the proposal for decision, the parties that contested the amount of Entergy's MISO transition expenses and how the transition expenses should be accounted for reached announced on the record that they had reached an agreement on these issues.³⁵ Those parties agreed that the MISO transition expenses would not be deferred and that Entergy's base rates should include \$1.6 million for MISO transition expense.³⁶ The Commission adopts the agreement of the parties and accordingly modifies finding of fact 251 and deletes finding of fact 252.

J. Purchased-Power Capacity Cost Baseline

The Commission modified the amount of purchased-power capacity expense in the test-year to be \$245,965,886 (see section E above). Finding of fact 255 is modified to reflect the change to the proper test-year purchased-power capacity expense.

³⁴ PFD at 327-328.

³⁵ Open Meeting Tr. at 138 (Aug. 17, 2012).

³⁶ Id.

K. Other Issues

New findings of fact 17A, 17B, 17C, 17D, and 17 E are added to reflect procedural aspects of the case after issuance of the proposal for decision.

In addition, to reflect corrections recommended by the ALJs, findings of fact 116, 123, 192, 194, and 202 are modified; and new finding of fact 182A is added.

The Commission adopts the following findings of fact and conclusions of law:

II. Findings of Fact

Procedural History

- Entergy Texas, Inc. (ETI or the company) is an investor-owned electric utility with a retail service area located in southeastern Texas.
- ETI serves retail and wholesale electric customers in Texas. As of June 30, 2011, ETI served approximately 412,000 Texas retail customers. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regulates ETI's wholesale electric operations.
- 3. On November 28, 2011, ETI filed an application requesting approval of: (1) a proposed increase in annual base rate revenues of approximately \$111.8 million over adjusted test-year revenues; (2) a set of proposed tariff schedules presented in the Electric Utility Rate Filing Package for Generating Utilities (RFP) accompanying ETI's application and including new riders for recovery of costs related to purchased-power capacity and renewable energy credit requirements; (3) a request for final reconciliation of ETI's fuel and purchased-power costs for the reconciliation period from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2011; and (4) certain waivers to the instructions in RFP Schedule V accompanying ETI's application.
- 4. The 12-month test-year employed in ETI's filing ended on June 30, 2011 (test-year).
- 5. ETI provided notice by publication for four consecutive weeks before the effective date of the proposed rate change in newspapers having general circulation in each county of ETI's Texas service territory. ETI also mailed notice of its proposed rate change to all of

- its customers. Additionally, ETI timely served notice of its statement of intent to change rates on all municipalities retaining original jurisdiction over its rates and services.
- 6. The following parties were granted intervenor status in this docket: Office of Public Utility Counsel; the cities of Anahuac, Beaumont, Bridge City, Cleveland, Conroe, Dayton, Groves, Houston, Huntsville, Montgomery, Navasota, Nederland, Oak Ridge North, Orange, Pine Forest, Rose City, Pinehurst, Port Arthur, Port Neches, Shenandoah, Silsbee, Sour Lake, Splendora, Vidor, and West Orange (Cities), the Kroger Co. (Kroger); State Agencies; Texas Industrial Energy Consumers; East Texas Electric Cooperative, Inc.; the United States Department of Energy (DOE); and Wal-Mart Stores Texas, LLC, and Sam's East, Inc. (Wal-Mart). The Staff (Staff) of the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission or PUC) was also a participant in this docket.
- On November 29, 2011, the Commission referred this case to the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH).
- 8. On December 7, 2011, the Commission issued its order requesting briefing on threshold legal/policy issues.
- On December 19, 2011, the Commission issued its Preliminary Order, identifying 31 issues to be addressed in this proceeding.
- 10. On December 20, 2011, the Administrative Law Judges (ALJs) issued SOAH Order No. 2, which approved an agreement among the parties to establish a June 30, 2012 effective date for the company's new rates resulting from this case pursuant to certain agreed language and consolidate Application of Entergy Texas, Inc. for Authority to Defer Expenses Related to its Proposed Transition to Membership in the Midwest Independent System Operator, Docket No. 39741 (pending) into this proceeding. Although it did not agree, Staff did not oppose the consolidation.
- 11. On January 13, 2012, the ALJs issued SOAH Order No. 4 granting the motions for admission pro hac vice filed by Kurt J. Boehm and Jody M. Kyler to appear and participate as counsel for Kroger and the motion for admission pro hac vice filed by Rick D. Chamberlain to appear and participate as counsel for Wal-Mart.

- 12. On January 19, 2012, the Commission issued a supplemental preliminary order identifying two additional issues to be addressed in this case and concluding that the company's proposed purchased-power capacity rider should not be addressed in this case and that such costs should be recovered through base rates.
- 13. ETI timely filed with the Commission petitions for review of the rate ordinances of the municipalities exercising original jurisdiction within its service territory. All such appeals were consolidated for determination in this proceeding.
- 14. On April 4, 2012, the ALJs issued SOAH Order No. 13 severing rate case expense issues into Application of Entergy Texas, Inc. for Rate Case Expenses Severed from PUC Docket No. 39896, Docket No. 40295 (pending).
- 15. On April 13, 2012, ETI adjusted its request for a proposed increase in annual base rate revenues to approximately \$104.8 million over adjusted test-year revenues.
- 16. The hearing on the merits commenced on April 24 and concluded on May 4, 2012.
- Initial post-hearing briefs were filed on May 18 and reply briefs were filed on May 30,
 2012.
- 17A. On August 7, 2012, the SOAH ALJs filed a letter with the Commission recommending changes to the PFD.
- At the July 27, 2012 open meeting, ETI agreed to extend the effective date of rates to August 31, 2012 to provide the Commission sufficient time to consider the issues in this proceeding.
- 17C. The Commission considered the proposal for decision at the August 17, 2012 and August 30, 2012 open meetings.
- 17D. At the August 30, 2012 open meeting, ETI agreed to extend the effective date of rates to September 14, 2012.
- 17E. At the August 17, 2012 open meeting, parties announced on the record a settlement of the amount of costs for the transition to MISO.

Rate Base

- 18. Capital additions that were closed to ETI's plant-in-service between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2011, are used and useful in providing service to the public and were prudently incurred.
- 19. ETI's proposed Hurricane Rita regulatory asset was an issue resolved by the black-box settlement in Application of Entergy Texas, Inc. for Authority to Change Rates and Reconcile Fuel Costs, Docket No. 37744 (Dec. 13, 2010).
- 20. Accrual of carrying charges on the Hurricane Rita regulatory asset should have ceased when Docket No. 37744 concluded because the asset would have then begun earning a rate of return as part of rate base.
- 21. The appropriate calculation of the Hurricane Rita regulatory asset should begin with the amount claimed by ETI in Docket No. 37744, less amortization accruals to the end of the test-year in the present case, and less the amount of additional insurance proceeds received by ETI after the conclusion of Docket No. 37744.
- 22. A Test-Year-end balance of \$15,175,563 for the Hurricane Rita regulatory asset should remain in rate base, applying a five-year amortization rate beginning August 15, 2010.
- 23. The Hurricane Rita regulatory asset should not be moved to the storm damage insurance reserve.
- 24. The company requested in rate base its prepaid pension assets balance of \$55,973,545, which represents the accumulated difference between the Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 87 calculated pension costs each year and the actual contributions made by the company to the pension fund.
- 25. The prepaid pension assets balance includes \$25,311,236 capitalized to construction work in progress (CWIP).
- 26. It is not necessary to the financial integrity of ETI to include CWIP in rate base, and there was insufficient evidence showing that major projects under construction were efficiently and prudently managed.

- 27. The portion of the prepaid pension assets balance that is capitalized to CWIP should not be included in ETI's rate base.
- 28. The remainder of the prepaid pension assets balance should be included in ETI's rate base.
- 28A. When items are excluded from rate base, the related ADFIT should also be excluded. The amount of ADFIT associated with the \$25 million capitalized to CWIP and excluded from rate base is \$8,858,933. The adjusted ADFIT for the prepaid pension asset remaining in Entergy's rate base should be reduced by \$8,858,933.
- 29. ETI should be permitted to accrue an allowance for funds used during construction on the portion of ETI's Prepaid Pension Assets Balance capitalized to CWIP.
- 30. The Financial Accounting Standard Board (FASB) Financial Interpretation No. 48 (FIN 48), "Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes," requires ETI to identify each of its uncertain tax positions by evaluating the tax position on its technical merits to determine whether the position, and the corresponding deduction, is more-likely-than-not to be sustained by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) if audited.
- 31. FIN 48 requires ETI to remove the amount of its uncertain tax positions from its Accumulated Deferred Federal Income Tax (ADFIT) balance for financial reporting purposes and record it as a potential liability with interest to better reflect the company's financial condition.
- 32. At test-year-end, ETI had \$5,916,461 in FIN 48 liabilities, meaning ETI has, thus far, avoided paying to the IRS \$5,916,461 in tax dollars (the FIN 48 liability) in reliance upon tax positions that the company believes will not prevail in the event the positions are challenged, via an audit, by the IRS.
- 33. ETI has deposited \$1,294,683 with the IRS in connection with the FIN 48 liability.
- 34. The IRS may never audit ETI as to its uncertain tax positions creating the FIN 48 liability.
- 35. Even if ETI is audited, ETI might prevail on its uncertain tax positions.
- 36. ETI may never have to pay the IRS the FIN 48 liability.

- 37. Other than the amount of its deposit with the IRS, ETI has current use of the FIN 48 liability funds.
- 38. Until actually paid to the IRS, the FIN 48 liability represents cost-free capital and should be deducted from rate base.
- 39. The amount of \$4,621,778 (representing ETI's full FIN 48 liability of \$5,916,461 less the \$1,294,683 cash deposit ETI has made with the IRS for the FIN 48 liability) should be added to ETI's ADFIT and thus be used to reduce ETI's rate base.
- 40. ETI's application and proposed tariffs do not include a request for a tracking mechanism or rider to collect a return on the FIN 48 liability.
- 40A. It is appropriate for ETI to create a deferred-tax-account tracker in the form of a rider to recover on a prospective basis an after-tax return of 8.27% on the amounts paid to the IRS that result from an unfavorable FIN 48 audit. The rider will track unfavorable FIN 48 rulings and the return will be applied prospectively to FIN 48 amounts disallowed by an IRS audit after such amounts are actually paid to the federal government. If ETI prevails in an appeal of a FIN 48 decision, then any amounts collected under the rider related to that decision should be credited back to ratepayers.
- 41. Deleted.
- 42. Investor-owned electric utilities may include a reasonable allowance for cash working capital in rate base as determined by a lead-lag study conducted in accordance with the Commission's rules.
- 43. Cash working capital represents the amount of working capital, not specifically addressed in other rate base items, that is necessary to fund the gap between the time expenditures are made and the time corresponding revenues are received.
- 44. The lead-lag study conducted by ETI considered the actual operations of ETI, adjusted for known and measurable changes, and is consistent with P.U.C. SUBST. R. 25.231(c)(2)(B)(iii).

- 45. It is reasonable to establish ETI's cash working capital requirement based on ETI's leadlag study as updated in Jay Joyce's rebuttal testimony and on the cost of service approved for ETI in this case.
- 46. As a result of the black-box settlements in Application of Entergy Gulf States, Inc. for Authority to Change Rates and to Reconcile Fuel Costs, Docket No. 34800 (Nov. 7, 2008) and Docket No. 37744, the Commission did not approve ETI's storm damage expenses since 1996 and its storm damage reserve balance.
- 47. ETI established a prima facie case concerning the prudence of its storm damage expenses incurred since 1996.
- 48. Adjustments to the storm damage reserve balance proposed by intervenors should be denied.
- 49. The Hurricane Rita regulatory asset should not be moved to the storm damage insurance reserve.
- 50. ETI's appropriate Test-Year-end storm reserve balance was negative \$59,799,744.
- 51. The amount of \$9,846,037, representing the value of the average coal inventory maintained at ETI's coal-burning facilities, is reasonable, necessary, and should be included in rate base.
- 52. The Spindletop gas storage facility (Spindletop facility) is used and useful in providing reliable and flexible natural gas supplies to ETI's Sabine Station and Lewis Creek generating plants.
- 53. The Spindletop facility is critical to the economic, reliable operation of the Sabine Station and Lewis Creek generating plants due to their geographic location in the far western region of the Entergy system.
- 54. It is reasonable and appropriate to include ETI's share of the costs to operate the Spindletop facility in rate base.
- 55. Staff recommended updating ETI's balance amounts for short-term assets to the 13month period ending December 2011, which was the most recent information available.

- Staff's proposed adjustments should be incorporated into the calculation of ETI's rate base.
- 56. The following short-term asset amounts should be included in rate base: prepayments at \$8,134,351; materials and supplies at \$29,285,421; and fuel inventory at \$52,693,485.
- 57. The amount of \$1,127,778, representing costs incurred by ETI when it acquired the Spindletop facility, represent actual costs incurred to process and close the acquisition, not mere mark-up costs.
- 58. ETI's \$1,127,778 in capitalized acquisition costs should be included in rate base because ETI incurred these costs in conjunction with the purchase of a viable asset that benefits its retail customers.
- 59. In its application, ETI capitalized into plant in service accounts some of the incentive payments ETI made to its employees. ETI seeks to include those amounts in rate base.
- 60. A portion of those capitalized incentive accounts represent payments made by ETI for incentive compensation tied to financial goals.
- 61. The portion of ETI's incentive payments that are capitalized and that are financially-based should be excluded from ETI's rate base because the benefits of such payments inure most immediately and predominantly to ETI's shareholders, rather than its electric customers. ETI's capitalized incentive compensation that is financially based is \$335,752.96 and should be removed for rate base.
- 62. The test-year for ETI's prior ratemaking proceeding ended on June 30, 2009, and the reasonableness of ETI's capital costs (including capitalized incentive compensation) for that prior period was dealt with by the Commission in that proceeding and is not at issue in this proceeding.
- 63. In this proceeding, ETI's capitalized incentive compensation that is financially-based should be excluded from rate base, but only for incentive costs that ETI capitalized during the period from July 1, 2009 (the end of the prior test-year) through June 30, 2010 (the commencement of the current test-year).

Rate of Return and Cost of Capital

- 64. A return on common equity (ROE) of 9.80 percent will allow ETI a reasonable opportunity to earn a reasonable return on its invested capital.
- 65. The results of the discounted cash flow model and risk premium approach support a ROE of 9.80 percent.
- 65A. It is not appropriate to add 15 points to the ROE due to unsettled economic conditions facing utilities.
- 66. A 9.80 percent ROE is consistent with ETI's business and regulatory risk.
- 67. ETI's proposed 6.74 percent embedded cost of debt is reasonable.
- 68. The appropriate capital structure for ETI is 50.08 percent long-term debt and 49.92 percent common equity.
- 69. A capital structure composed of 50.08 percent debt and 49.92 percent equity is reasonable in light of ETI's business and regulatory risks.
- 70. A capital structure composed of 50.08 percent debt and 49.92 percent equity will help ETI attract capital from investors.
- 71. ETI's overall rate of return should be set as follows:

COMPONENT	CAPITAL STRUCTURE	COST OF CAPITAL	WEIGHTED AVG COST OF CAPITAL
LONG-TERM DEBT	50.08%	6.74%	3.38%
COMMON EQUITY	49.92%	9.80%	4.89%
TOTAL	100.00%		8.27%

Operating Expenses

- 72. ETI's test-year purchased capacity expenses were \$245,965,886.
- 73. ETI requested an upward adjustment of \$30,809,355 as a post-test-year adjustment to its purchased capacity costs. This request was based on ETI's projections of its purchased capacity expenses during a period beginning June 1, 2012 and ending May 31, 2013 (the rate-year).

- 74. ETI's purchased capacity expense projections were based on estimates of rate-year expenses for: (a) reserve equalization payments under Schedule MSS-1; (b) payments under third-party capacity contracts; and (c) payments under affiliate contracts.
- 75. ETI's projection of its rate-year reserve equalization payments under Schedule MSS-1 is based on numerous assumptions, including load growths for ETI and its affiliates, future capacity contracts for ETI and its affiliates, and future values of the generation assets of ETI and its affiliates.
- 76. There is substantial uncertainty with regard to ETI's projection of its rate-year reserve equalization payments under Schedule MSS-1.
- 77. ETI's projection of its rate-year third-party capacity contract payments includes numerous assumptions, one of which is that every single third-party supplier will perform at the maximum level under the contract, even though that assumption is inconsistent with ETI's historical experience.
- 78. There is substantial uncertainty with regard to ETI's projection of its rate-year third-party capacity-contract payments.
- 79. ETI's estimates of its rate-year purchases under affiliate contracts are based on a mathematical formula set out in Schedule MSS-4.
- 80. The MSS-4 formula for rate-year affiliate capacity payments reflects that these payments will be based on ratios and costs that cannot be determined until the month that the payments are to be made.
- 81. Over \$11 million of ETI's affiliate transactions were based on a 2013 contract (the EAI WBL Contract) that was not signed until April 11, 2012.
- 82. There is uncertainty about whether the EAI WBL Contract will ever go into effect.
- 83. ETI projects purchasing over 300 megawatts (MW) more in purchased capacity in the rate-year than it purchased in the test-year.
- 84. ETI experienced substantial load growth in the two years before the test-year, and it continues to project similar load growth in the future.

- 85. ETI did not meet its burden of proof to demonstrate that a known and measurable adjustment of \$30,809,355 should be made to its test-year purchased capacity expenses.
- 86. ETI's purchased capacity expense in this case should be based on the test-year level of \$245,965,886.
- 87. ETI incurred \$1,753,797 of transmission equalization expense during the test-year.
- 88. ETI proposed an upward adjustment of \$8,942,785 for its transmission equalization expense. This request was based on ETI's projections of its transmission equalization expenses during the rate-year.
- 89. The transmission equalization expense that ETI will pay in the rate-year will depend on future costs and loads for each of the Entergy operating companies.
- 90. ETI's projection of its rate-year transmission equalization expenses is uncertain and speculative because it depends on a number of variables, including future transmission investments, deferred taxes, depreciation reserves, costs of capital, tax rates, operating expenses, and loads of each of the Entergy operating companies.
- 91. ETI seeks increased transmission equalization expenses for transmission projects that are not currently used and useful in providing electric service. ETI's post-test-year adjustment is based on the assumption that certain planned transmission projects will go into service after the test-year. At the close of the hearing, none of the planned transmission projects had been fully completed and some were still in the planning phase.
- 92. It is not reasonable for ETI to charge its retail ratepayers for transmission equalization expenses related to projects that are not yet in-service.
- 93. ETI's request for a post-test-year adjustment of \$8,942,785 for rate-year transmission equalization expenses should be denied because those expenses are not known and measurable. ETI's post-test-year adjustment does not with reasonable certainty reflect what ETI's transmission equalization expense will be when rates are in effect.
- 94. ETI's transmission equalization expense in this case should be based on the test-year level of \$1,753,797.

- 95. P.U.C. SUBST. R. 25.231(c)(2)(ii) states that the reserve for depreciation is the accumulation of recognized allocations of original cost, representing the recovery of initial investment over the estimated useful life of the asset.
- 96. Except in the case of the amortization of the general plant deficiency, the use of the remaining life depreciation method to recover differences between theoretical and actual depreciation reserves is the most appropriate method and should be continued.
- 97. It is reasonable for ETI to calculate depreciation reserve allocations on a straight-line basis over the remaining, expected useful life of the item or facility.
- 98. Except as described below, the service lives and net salvage rates proposed by the company are reasonable, and these service lives and net salvage rates should be used in calculating depreciation rates for the company's production, transmission, distribution, and general plant assets.
- 99. A 60-year life for Sabine Units 4 and 5 is reasonable for purposes of establishing production plant depreciation rates.
- 100. The retirement (actuarial) rate method, rather than the interim retirement method, should be used in the development of production plant depreciation rates.
- 101. Production plant net salvage is reasonably based on the negative five percent net salvage in existing rates.
- 102. The net salvage rate of negative 10 percent for ETI's transmission structures and improvements (FERC Account 352) is the most reasonable of those proposed and should be adopted.
- 103. The net salvage rate of negative 20 percent for ETI's transmission station equipment (FERC Account 353) is the most reasonable of those proposed and should be adopted.
- 104. The net salvage rate of negative five percent for ETI's transmission towers and fixtures (FERC Account 354) is the most reasonable of those proposed and should be adopted.
- 105. The net salvage rate of negative 30 percent for ETI's transmission poles and fixtures (FERC Account 355) is the most reasonable of those proposed and should be adopted.

- 106. The net salvage rate of negative 30 percent for ETI's transmission overhead conductors and devices (FERC Account 356) is the most reasonable of those proposed and should be adopted.
- 107. A service life of 65 years and a dispersion curve of R3 for ETI's distribution structures and improvements (FERC Account 361) are the most reasonable of those proposed and should be approved.
- 108. A service life of 40 years and a dispersion curve of R1 for ETI's distribution poles, towers, and fixtures (FERC Account 364) are the most reasonable of those proposed and should be approved.
- 109. A service life of 39 years and a dispersion curve of R0.5 for ETI's distribution overhead conductors and devices (FERC Account 365) are the most reasonable of those proposed and should be approved.
- 110. A service life of 35 years and a dispersion curve of R1.5 for ETI's distribution underground conductors and devices (FERC Account 367) are the most reasonable of those proposed and should be approved.
- 111. A service life of 33 years and a dispersion curve of L0.5 for ETI's distribution line transformers (FERC Account 368) are the most reasonable of those proposed and should be approved.
- 112. A service life of 26 years and a dispersion curve of L4 for ETI's distribution overhead service (FERC Account 369.1) are the most reasonable of those proposed and should be approved.
- 113. The net salvage rate of negative five percent for ETI's distribution structures and improvements (FERC Account 361) is the most reasonable of those proposed and should be adopted.
- 114. The net salvage rate of negative 10 percent for ETI's distribution station equipment (FERC Account 362) is the most reasonable of those proposed and should be adopted.

- 115. The net salvage rate of negative seven percent for ETI's distribution overhead conductors and devices (FERC Account 365) is the most reasonable of those proposed and should be adopted.
- 116. The net salvage rate of positive five percent for ETI's distribution line transformers (FERC Account 368) is the most reasonable of those proposed and should be adopted.
- 117. The net salvage rate of negative 10 percent for ETI's distribution overhead services (FERC Account 369.1) is the most reasonable of those proposed and should be adopted.
- 118. The net salvage rate of negative 10 percent for ETI's distribution underground services (FERC Account 369.2) is the most reasonable of those proposed and should be adopted.
- 119. A service life of 45 years and a dispersion curve of R2 for ETI's general structures and improvements (FERC Account 390) are the most reasonable of those proposed and should be approved.
- 120. The net salvage rate of negative 10 percent for ETI's general structures and improvements (FERC Account 390) is the most reasonable of those proposed and should be adopted.
- 121. It is reasonable to convert the \$21.3 million deficit that has developed over time in the reserve for general plant accounts to General Plant Amortization.
- 122. A ten-year amortization of the deficit in the reserve for general plant accounts is reasonable and should be adopted.
- 123. FERC pronouncement AR-15 requires amortization over the same life as recommended based on standard life analysis. A standard life analysis determined that a five-year life was appropriate for general plant computer equipment (FERC Account 391.2). Therefore, a five year amortization for this account is reasonable and should be adopted.
- 124. ETI proposed adjustments to its test-year payroll costs to reflect: (a) changes to employee headcount levels at ETI and Entergy Services, Inc. (ESI); and (b) approved wage increases set to go into effect after the end of the test-year.
- 125. The proposed payroll adjustments are reasonable but should be updated to reflect the most recent available information on headcount levels as proposed by Commission Staff.

- In addition to adjusting payroll expense levels, the more recent headcount numbers should be used to adjust the level of payroll tax expense, benefits expense, and savings plan expense.
- 126. Staff has appropriately updated headcount levels to the most recent available data but errors made by Staff should be corrected. The corrections related to: (a) a double counting of three ETI and one ESI employee; (b) inadvertent use of the ETI benefits cost percentage in the calculation of ESI benefits costs; (c) an inappropriate reduction of savings plan costs when such costs were already included in the benefits percentage adjustments; and (d) corrections for full-time equivalents calculations. Staff's ETI headcount adjustment (AG-7) overstated operation and maintenance (O&M) payroll reduction by \$224,217, and ESI headcount adjustment (AG-7) understated O&M payroll increase by \$37,531.
- 127. ETI included \$14,187,744 for incentive compensation expenses in its cost of service.
- 128. The compensation packages that ETI offers its employees include a base payroll amount, annual incentive programs, and long-term incentive programs. The majority of the compensation is for operational measures, but some is for financial measures.
- 129. Incentive compensation that is based on financial measures is of more immediate and predominant benefit to shareholders, whereas incentive compensation based on operational measures is of more immediate and predominant benefit to ratepayers.
- 130. Incentives to achieve operational measures are necessary and reasonable to provide utility services but those to achieve financial measures are not.
- 131. The \$5,376,975 that was paid for long term incentive programs was tied to financial measures and, therefore, should not be included in ETI's cost of service.
- 132. Of the amounts that were paid pursuant to the Executive Annual Incentive Plan, \$819,062 was tied to financial measures and, therefore, should be disallowed.
- 133. In total, the amount of incentive compensation that should be disallowed is \$6,196,037 because it was related to financial measures that are not reasonable and necessary for the provision of electric service. An additional reduction should be made to account for the

- FICA taxes ETI would have paid on the disallowed financially based incentive compensation.
- 134. The amount of incentive compensation that should be included in the cost of service is \$7,991,707.
- 135. To attract and retain highly qualified employees, the Entergy companies provide a total package of compensation and benefits that is equivalent in scope and cost with what other comparable companies within the utility business and other industries provide for their employees.
- 136. When using a benchmark analysis to compare companies' levels of compensation, it is reasonable to view the market level of compensation as a range rather than a precise, single point.
- 137. ETI's base pay levels are at market.
- 138. ETI's benefits plan levels are within a reasonable range of market levels.
- 139. ETI's level of compensation and benefits expense is reasonable and necessary.
- 140. ETI provides non-qualified supplemental executive retirement plans for highly compensated individuals such as key managerial employees and executives that, because of limitations imposed under the Internal Revenue Code, would otherwise not receive retirement benefits on their annual compensation over \$245,000 per year.
- 141. ETI's non-qualified supplemental executive retirement plans are discretionary costs designed to attract, retain, and reward highly compensated employees whose interests are more closely aligned with those of the shareholders than the customers.
- 142. ETI's non-qualified executive retirement benefits in the amount of \$2,114,931 are not reasonable or necessary to provide utility service to the public, not in the public interest, and should not be included in ETI's cost of service.
- 143. For the employee market in which ETI operates, most peer companies offer moving assistance. Such assistance is expected by employees, and ETI would be placed at a competitive disadvantage if it did not offer relocation expenses.

- 144. ETI's relocation expenses were reasonable and necessary.
- 145. The company's requested operating expenses should be reduced by \$40,620 to reflect the removal of certain executive prerequisites proposed by Staff.
- 146. Staff properly adjusted the company's requested interest expense of \$68,985 by removing \$25,938 from FERC account 431 (using the interest rate of 0.12 percent for calendar year 2012), leaving a recommended interest expense of \$43,047.
- 147. During the test-year, ETI's property tax expense equaled \$23,708,829.
- 148. ETI requested an upward *pro forma* adjustment of \$2,592,420, to account for the property tax expenses ETI estimates it will pay in the rate-year.
- 149. ETI's requested *pro forma* adjustment is not reasonable because it is based, in part, upon the prediction that ETI's property tax rate will be increased in 2012, a change that is speculative is not known and measurable.
- 150. Staff's recommendation to increase ETI's test-year property tax expenses by \$1,214,688 is based on the historical effective tax rate applied to the known test-year-end plant in service value, consistent with Commission precedent, and based upon known and measurable changes.
- 151. ETI's test-year property tax burden should be adjusted upward by \$1,222,106 for a total expense of \$24,921,022.
- 152. Staff recommended reducing ETI's advertising, dues, and contributions expenses by \$12,800. The recommendation, which no party contested, should be adopted.
- 153. The final cost of service should reflect changes to cost of service that affect other components of the revenue requirement such as the calculation of the Texas state gross receipts tax, the local gross receipts tax, the PUC Assessment Tax and the Uncollectible Expenses.
- 154. The company's requested Federal income tax expense is reasonable and necessary.
- 155. ETI's request for \$2,019,000 to be included in its cost of service to account for the company's annual decommissioning expenses associated with River Bend is not

- reasonable because it is not based upon "the most current information reasonably available regarding the cost of decommissioning" as required by P.U.C. SUBST. R. 25.231(b)(1)(F)(i).
- 156. Based on the most current information reasonably available, the appropriate level of decommissioning costs to be included in ETI's cost of service is \$1,126,000.
- 157. ETI's appropriate total annual self-insurance storm damage reserve expense is \$8,270,000, comprised of an annual accrual of \$4,400,000 to provide for average annual expected storm losses, plus an annual accrual of \$3,870,000 for 20 years to restore the reserve from its current deficit.
- 158. ETI's appropriate target self-insurance storm damage reserve is \$17,595,000.
- 159. ETI should continue recording its annual storm damage reserve accrual until modified by a Commission order.
- 160. The operating costs of the Spindletop facility are reasonable and necessary.
- 161. The operating costs of the Spindletop facility paid to PB Energy Storage Services are eligible fuel expenses.

Affiliate Transactions

- 162. ETI affiliates charged ETI \$78,998,777 for services during the test-year. The majority of these O&M expenses—\$69,098,041—were charged to ETI by ESI. The remaining affiliate services were charged (or credited) to ETI by: Entergy Gulf States Louisiana, L.L.C.; Entergy Arkansas, Inc.; Entergy Louisiana, LLC; Entergy Mississippi, Inc.; Entergy Operations, Inc.; and non-regulated affiliates.
- 163. ESI follows a number of processes to ensure that affiliate charges are reasonable and necessary and that ETI and its affiliates are charged the same rate for similar services. These processes include: (a) the use of service agreements to define the level of service required and the cost of those services; (b) direct billing of affiliate expenses where possible; (c) reasonable allocation methodologies for costs that cannot be directly billed; (d) budgeting processes and controls to provide budgeted costs that are reasonable and

- necessary to ensure appropriate levels of service to its customers; and (e) oversight controls by ETI's Affiliate Accounting and Allocations Department.
- 164. Affiliates charged expenses to ETI through 1292 project codes during the test-year.
- 164A. The \$2,086,145 in affiliate transactions related to sales and marketing expenses should be reallocated using direct assignment. The following amounts should be allocated to all retail classes in proportion to number of customers: (1) \$46,490 for Project E10PCR56224 Sales and Marketing EGSI Texas; (2) \$17,013 for Project F3PCD10049 Regulated Retail Systems O&M; and (3) \$30,167 for Project F3PPMMALI2 Middle Market Mkt. Development. The remainder, \$1,992,475, should be assigned to (1) General Service, (2) Large General Service and (3) Large Industrial Power Service.
- 165. ETI agreed to remove the following affiliate transactions from its application:
 (1) Project F3PPCASHCT (Contractual Alternative/Cashpo) in the amount of \$2,553;
 (2) Project F3PCSPETEI (Entergy-Tulane Energy Institute) in the amount of \$14,288;
 and (3) Project F5PPKATRPT (Storm Cost Processing & Review) in the amount of \$929.
- 166. The \$356,151 (which figure includes the \$112,531 agreed to by ETI) of costs associated with Projects F5PCZUBENQ (Non-Qualified Post Retirement) and F5PPZNQBDU (Non Qual Pension/Benf Dom Utl) are costs that are not reasonable and necessary for the provision of electric utility service and are not in the public interest.
- 167. The \$10,279 of costs associated with Project F3PPFXERSP (Evaluated Receipts Settlement) are not normally-recurring costs and should not be recoverable.
- 168. The \$19,714 of costs associated with Project F3PPEASTIN (Willard Eastin et al) are related to ESI's operations, it is more immediately related to Entergy Louisiana, Inc. and Entergy New Orleans, Inc. As such, they are not recoverable from Texas ratepayers.
- 169. The \$171,032 of costs associated with Project F3PPE9981S (Integrated Energy Management for ESI) are research and development costs related to energy efficiency programs. As such, they should be recovered through the energy efficiency cost recovery factor rather than base rates.

170. Except as noted in the above findings of fact Nos. 162-169, all remaining affiliate transactions were reasonable and necessary, were allowable, were charged to ETI at a price no higher than was charged by the supplying affiliate to other affiliates, and the rate charged is a reasonable approximation of the cost of providing service.

Jurisdictional Cost Allocation

- 171. ETI has one full or partial requirements wholesale customer East Texas Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- 172. ETI proposes that 150 MW be set as the wholesale load for developing retail rates in this docket. Using 150 MW to set the wholesale load is reasonable. The 150 MW used to set the wholesale load results in a retail production demand allocation factor of 95.3838 percent.
- 173. The 12 Coincident Peak (12 CP) allocation method is consistent with the approach used by the FERC to allocate between jurisdictions.
- 174. Using 12CP methodology to allocate production costs between the wholesale and retail jurisdictions is the best method to reflect cost responsibility and is appropriate based on ETI's reliance on capacity purchases.

Class Cost Allocation and Rate Design

- 175. There is no express statutory authorization for ETI's proposed Renewable Energy Credits rider (REC rider).
- 176. REC rider constitutes improper piecemeal ratemaking and should be rejected.
- 177. ETI's test-year expense for renewable energy credits, \$623,303, is reasonable and necessary and should be included in base rates.
- 178. Municipal Franchise Fees (MFF) is a rental expense paid by utilities for the right to use public rights-of-way to locate its facilities within municipal limits.
- 179. ETI is an integrated utility system. ETI's facilities located within municipal limits benefit all customers, whether the customers are located inside or outside of the municipal limits.

- 180. Because all customers benefit from ETI's rental of municipal right-of-way, municipal franchise fees should be charged to all customers in ETI's service area, regardless of geographic location.
- 181. It is reasonable and consistent with the Public Utility Regulatory Act (PURA) § 33.008(b) that MFF be allocated to each customer class on the basis of in-city kilowatt hour (kWh) sales, without an adjustment for the MFF rate in the municipality in which a given kWh sale occurred.
- 182. The same reasons for allocating and collecting MFF as set out in Finding of Fact Nos. 178-181 also apply to the allocation and collection of Miscellaneous Gross Receipts Taxes. The company's proposed allocation of these costs to all retail customer classes based on customer class revenues relative to total revenues is appropriate.
- 182A. ETI's proposed gross plant-based allocator is an appropriate method for allocating the Texas franchise tax.
- 183. The Average and Excess (A&E) 4CP method for allocating capacity-related production costs, including reserve equalization payments, to the retail classes is a standard methodology and the most reasonable methodology.
- 184. The A&E 4CP method for allocating transmission costs to the retail classes is standard and the most reasonable methodology.
- 185. ETI appropriately followed the rate class revenue requirements from its cost of service study to allocate costs among customer classes. ETI's revenue allocation properly sets rates at each class's cost of service.
- 186. It is reasonable for ETI to eliminate the service condition for Rate Groups A and C in Schedule SHL [Street and Highway Lighting Service] that charges a \$50 fee for any replacement of a functioning light with a lower-wattage bulb.
- 187. It is appropriate to require ETI to prepare and file, as part of its next base rate case, a study regarding the feasibility of instituting LED-based rates and, if the study shows that such rates are feasible, ETI should file proposals for LED-based lighting and traffic signal rates in its next rate case.

- 188. An agreement was reached by the parties and approved by the Commission in Docket No. 37744 that directed ETI to exclude, in its next rate case, the life-of-contract demand ratchet for existing customers in the Large Industrial Power Service (LIPS), Large Industrial Power Service-Time of Day, General Service, General Service-Time of Day, Large General Service, and Large General Service-Time of Day rate schedules.
- 189. ETI's proposed tariffs in this case did not remove the life-of-contract demand ratchet from these rate schedules consistent with the parties' agreement in Docket No. 37744.
- 190. A perpetual billing obligation based on a life-of-contract demand ratchet, as ETI proposed, is not reasonable.
- 191. ETI's proposed LIPS and LIPS Time of Day tariffs should be modified to reflect the agreement that was adopted by the Commission as just and reasonable in Docket No. 37744. Accordingly, these tariffs should be modified as set out in Findings of Fact No. 192-194.
- 192. ETI's Schedule LIPS and LIPS Time of Day § VI should be changed to read:

 DETERMINATION OF BILLING LOAD

The kW of Billing Load will be the greatest of the following:

- (A) The Customer's maximum measured 30-minute demand during any 30-minute interval of the current billing month, subject to §§ III, IV and V above; or
- (B) 75% of Contract Power as defined in § VII; or
- (C) 2,500 kW.
- 193. ETI's Schedule LIPS and LIPS Time of Day § VII should be changed to read:

DETERMINATION OF CONTRACT POWER

Unless Company gives customer written notice to the contrary, Contract Power will be defined as below:

Contract Power - the highest load established under § VI(A) above during the 12 months ending with the current month. For the initial 12 months of Customer's service under the currently effective contract, the Contract Power shall be the kW specified in

the currently effective contract unless exceeded in any month during the initial 12-month period.

- 194. The Large General Service, Large General Service-Time of Day, General Service, and General Service-Time of Day schedules should be similarly revised to eliminate ETI's life-of-contract demand ratchet.
- 195. In its proposed rate design for the LIPS class, the company took a conservative approach and increased the current rates by an equal percentage. This minimized customer bill impacts while maintaining cost causation principles on a rate class basis.
- 196. It is a reasonable move towards cost of service to add a customer charge of \$630 to the LIPS rate schedule with subsequent increases to be considered in subsequent base rate cases.
- 197. It is a reasonable move towards cost of service to slightly decrease the LIPS energy charges and increase the demand charges as proposed by Staff witness William B. Abbott.
- 198. DOE proposed a new Schedule LIPS rider—Schedule "Schedulable Intermittent Pumping Service" (SIPS) for load schedulable at least four weeks in advance, that occurs in the off-season (November through April), that can be cancelled at any time, and for load not lasting more than 80 hours in a year. For customers whose loads match these SIPS characteristics (for example, DOE's Strategic Petroleum Reserve), the 12-month demand ratchet provision of Schedule LIPS does not apply to demands set under the provisions of the SIPS rider. The monthly demand set under the SIPS provisions would be applicable for billing purposes only in the month in which it occurred. In short, if a customer set a 12-month ratchet demand in that month, it would be forgiven and not applicable in the succeeding 12 months.
- 199. DOE's proposed Schedule SIPS is not restricted solely to the DOE and should be adopted. It more closely addresses specific customer characteristics and provides for cost-based rates, as does another ETI rider applicable to Pipeline Pumping Service.
- 200. Standby Maintenance Service (SMS) is available to customers who have their own generation equipment and who contract for this service from ETI.

- 201. P.U.C. SUBST. R. 25.242(k)(1) provides that rates for sales of standby and maintenance power to qualifying facilities should recognize system wide costing principles and should not be discriminatory.
- 202. It is reasonable to move Schedule SMS toward cost of service by: (a) adding a customer charge equivalent to that of the LIPS rate schedule only for SMS customers not purchasing supplementary power under another applicable rate; and (b) revising the tariff as follows:

Charge	Distribution (less than 69KV)	Transmission (69KV and greater)
Billing Load	Charge (\$/kW):	
Standby	\$2.46	\$0.79
Maintenance	\$2.27	\$0.60
	ergy Charge (¢/kWh	
On-Peak	4.245¢	4.074¢
Off-Peak	0.575¢	0.552¢

- 203. ETI's Additional Facilities Charge rider (Schedule AFC) prescribes the monthly rental charge paid by a customer when ETI installs facilities for that customer that would not normally be supplied, such as line extensions, transformers, or dual feeds.
- 204. ETI existing Schedule AFC provides two pricing options. Option A is a monthly charge. Option B, which applies when a customer elects to amortize the directly-assigned facilities over a shorter term ranging from one to ten years, has a variable monthly charge. There is also a term charge that applies after the facility has been fully depreciated.
- 205. It is reasonable and cost-based to reduce the Schedule AFC Option A rate to 1.20 percent per month of the installed cost of all facilities included in the agreement for additional facilities.

206. It is reasonable and cost-based to reduce the Schedule AFC Option B monthly rate and the Post Term Recovery Charge as follows:

Selected Recovery Term	Recovery Term Charge	Post Recovery Term Charge
1	10.88%	0.35%
2	5.39%	0.35%
3	3.92%	0.35%
4	3.20%	0.35%
5	2.76%	0.35%
6	2.48%	0.35%
7	2.28%	0.35%
8	2.14%	0.35%
9	1.97%	0.35%
10	1.94%	0.35%

- 207. The revisions in the above findings of fact to Schedule AFC rates reasonably reflect the costs of running, operating, and maintaining the directly-assigned facilities.
- 208. It is reasonable to modify the Large General Service rate schedule by increasing the demand charge from \$10.25 to \$12.81; decreasing the energy charge from \$.01023 to \$.00513; and maintaining the customer charge at \$425.05.
- 209. Staff's proposed change to the General Service (GS) rate schedule to gradually move GS customers towards their cost of service by recommending a decrease in the customer charge from the current rate of \$41.09 to \$39.91, and a decrease in the energy charges is reasonable and should be adopted.
- 210. ETI's Residential Service (RS) rate schedule is composed of two elements: a customer charge of \$5 per month and a consumption-based energy charge. The Energy charge is a fixed rate of 5.802¢ per kWh from May through October (summer). In the months November through April (winter), the rates are structured as a declining block, in which the price of each unit is reduced after a defined level of usage.
- 211. ETI's Schedule RS declining block rate structure is contrary to energy-efficiency efforts and the Legislature's goal of reducing both energy demand and energy consumption in Texas, as stated in PURA § 39.905.

- 212. Schedule RS winter block rates should be modified consistent with the goal set out in PURA § 39.905, with the initial phase-in of a 20 percent reduction in the block differential proposed by ETI and subsequent reductions should be reviewed for consideration at the occurrence of each rate case filing.
- 213. Other elements of Schedule RS are just and reasonable.

Fuel Reconciliation

- 214. ETI incurred \$616,248,686 in natural-gas expenses during the reconciliation period, which is from July 2009 through June 2011.
- 215. ETI purchased natural gas in the monthly and daily markets and pursuant to a long-term contract with Enbridge Inc. pipeline. ETI also transported gas on its own account and negotiated operational balancing agreements with various pipeline companies.
- 216. ETI employed a diversified portfolio of gas supply and transportation agreements to meet its natural-gas requirements, and ETI prudently managed its gas-supply contracts.
- 217. ETI's natural gas expenses were reasonable and necessary expenses incurred to provide reliable electric service to retail customers.
- 218. ETI incurred \$90,821,317 in coal expenses during the reconciliation period.
- 219. ETI prudently managed its coal and coal-related contracts during the reconciliation period.
- 220. ETI monitored and audited coal invoices from Louisiana Generating, LLC for coal burned at the Big Cajun II, Unit 3 facility.
- 221. ETI's coal expenses were reasonable and necessary expenses incurred to provide reliable electric service to retail customers.
- 222. ETI incurred \$990,041,434 in purchased-energy expenses during the reconciliation period.
- 223. The Entergy System's planning and procurement processes for purchased-power produced a reasonable mix of purchased resources at a reasonable price.

- 224. During the reconciliation period, ETI took advantage of opportunities in the fuel and purchased-power markets to reduce costs and to mitigate against price volatility.
- 225. ETI's purchased-energy expenses were reasonable and necessary expenses incurred to provide reliable electric service to retail customers.
- 226. ETI provided sufficient contemporaneous documentation to support the reasonableness of its purchased-power planning and procurement processes and its actual power purchases during the reconciliation period.
- 227. The Entergy system sold power off system when the revenues were expected to be more than the incremental cost of supplying generation for the sale, subject to maintaining adequate reserves.
- 228. The System Agreement is the tariff approved by the FERC that provides the basis for the operation and planning of the Entergy system, including the six operating companies. The System Agreement governs the wholesale-power transactions among the operating companies by providing for joint operation and establishing the bases for equalization among the operating companies, including the costs associated with the construction, ownership, and operation of the Entergy system facilities.
- 229. Under the terms of the Entergy System Agreement, ETI was allocated its share of revenues and expenses from off-system sales.
- 230. During the reconciliation period, ETI recorded off-system sales revenue in the amount of \$376,671,969 in FERC Account 447 and credited 100 percent of off-system sales revenues and margins from off-system sales to eligible fuel expenses.
- 231. ETI properly recorded revenues from off-system sales and credited those revenues to eligible fuel costs.
- 232. The Entergy system consists of six operating companies, including ETI, which are planned and operated as a single, integrated electric system under the terms of the System Agreement.
- 233. Service schedule MSS-1 of the System Agreement determines how the capability and ownership costs of reserves for the Entergy system are equalized among the operating

- companies. These inter-system "reserve equalization" payments are the result of a formula rate related to the Entergy system's reserve capability that is applied on a monthly basis.
- 234. Reserve capability under service schedule MSS-1 is capability in excess of the Entergy system's actual or planned load built or acquired to ensure the reliable, efficient operation of the electric system.
- 235. By approving service schedule MSS-1, the FERC has approved the method by which the operating companies share the cost of maintaining sufficient reserves to provide reliability for the Entergy system as a whole.
- 236. Service schedule MSS-3 of the System Agreement determines the pricing and exchange of energy among the operating companies. By approving service schedule MSS-3, the FERC has approved the method by which the operating companies are reimbursed for energy sold to the exchange energy pool and how that energy is purchased.
- 237. Service schedule MSS-4 of the System Agreement sets forth the method for determining the payment for unit power purchases between operating companies. By approving service schedule MSS-4, the FERC has approved the methodology for pricing inter-operating company unit power purchases.
- 238. The Entergy system is planned using multi-year, annual, seasonal, monthly, and next-day horizons. Once the planning process has identified the most economical resources that can be used to reliably meet the aggregate Entergy system demand, the next step is to procure the fuel necessary to operate the generating units as planned and acquire wholesale power from the market.
- 239. Once resources are procured to meet forecasted load, the Entergy system is operated during the current day using all the resources available to meet the total Entergy system demand.
- 240. After current-day operation, the System Agreement prescribes an accounting protocol to bill the costs of operating the system to the individual operating companies. This protocol is implemented via the intra-system bill to each operating company on a monthly basis.

- 241. ETI purchased power from affiliated operating companies per the terms of service schedule MSS-3 of the System Agreement. The payments made under Schedule MSS-3 to affiliated operating companies are reasonable and necessary, and the FERC has approved the pricing formula and the obligation to purchase the energy. ETI pays the same price per megawatt hour for energy under service schedule MSS-3 as does any other operating company purchasing energy under service schedule MSS-3 during the same hour.
- 242. The Spindletop facility is used primarily to ensure gas-supply reliability and guard against gas-supply curtailments that can occur as a result of extreme weather or other unusual events.
- 243. The Spindletop facility provides a secondary benefit of flexibility in gas supply. ETI can back down gas-fired generation to take advantage of more economical wholesale power, or use gas from storage to supplement gas-fired generation when load increases during the day and thereby avoid more expensive intra-day gas purchases.
- 244. ETI's customers received benefits from the Spindletop facility during the reconciliation period through reliable gas supplies and ETI's monthly and daily storage activity.
- 245. ETI prudently managed the Spindletop facility to provide reliability and flexibility of gas supply for the benefit of customers.
- 246. ETI proposed new loss factors, based on a December 2010 line-loss study, to be applied for the purpose of allocating its costs to its wholesale customers and retail customer classes.
- 246A. ETI's 2010 line-loss factors should be used to reconcile ETI's fuel costs. Therefore, ETI's fuel reconciliation over-recovery should be reduced by \$3,981,271.
- 247. ETI's proposed loss factors are reasonable and shall be implemented on a prospective basis as a result of this final order.
- 248. ETI seeks a special-circumstances exception to recover \$99,715 resulting from the FERC's reallocation of rough production equalization costs in FERC Order No. 720-A, and to treat such costs as eligible fuel expense.

249. Special circumstances exist and it is appropriate for ETI to recover the rough production cost equalization costs reallocated to ETI as a result of the FERC's decision in Order No. 720-A.

Other Issues

- 250. A deferred accounting of ETI's Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator (MISO) transition expenses is not necessary to carry out any requirement of PURA.
- 251. ETI should include \$1.6 million in base rates for MISO transition expense.
- 252. Deleted.
- 253. Transmission Cost Recovery Factor baseline values should be set during the compliance phase of this docket, after the Commission makes final rulings on the various contested issues that may affect this calculation.
- 254. Distribution Cost Recovery Factor baseline values should be set during the compliance phase of this docket, after the Commission makes final rulings on the various contested issues that may affect this calculation.
- 255. The appropriate amount for ETI's purchased-power capacity expense to be included in base rates is \$245,965,886.
- 256. The amount of ETI's purchased-power capacity expense includes third-party contracts, legacy affiliate contracts, other affiliate contracts, and reserve equalization. Whether the amounts for all contracts should be included in the baseline for a purchased-capacity rider that may be approved in Project No. 39246 is an issue that should be decided in that project.

III. Conclusions of Law

- 1. ETI is a "public utility" as that term is defined in PURA § 11.004(1) and an "electric utility" as that term is defined in PURA § 31.002(6).
- 2. The Commission exercises regulatory authority over ETI and jurisdiction over the subject matter of this application pursuant to PURA §§ 14.001, 32.001, 32.101, 33.002, 33.051, 36.101-.111, and 36.203.

- 3. SOAH has jurisdiction over matters related to the conduct of the hearing and the preparation of a proposal for decision in this docket, pursuant to PURA § 14.053 and Tex. Gov't Code Ann. § 2003.049.
- 4. This docket was processed in accordance with the requirements of PURA and the Texas Administrative Procedure Act, Tex. Gov't Code Ann. Chapter 2001.
- 5. ETI provided notice of its application in compliance with PURA § 36.103, P.U.C. PROC. R. 22.51(a), and P.U.C. SUBST. R. 25.235(b)(1)-(3).
- 6. Pursuant to PURA § 33.001, each municipality in ETI's service area that has not ceded jurisdiction to the Commission has jurisdiction over the company's application, which seeks to change rates for distribution services within each municipality.
- 7. Pursuant to PURA § 33.051, the Commission has jurisdiction over an appeal from a municipality's rate proceeding.
- 8. ETI has the burden of proving that the rate change it is requesting is just and reasonable pursuant to PURA § 36.006.
- 9. In compliance with PURA § 36.051, ETI's overall revenues approved in this proceeding permit ETI a reasonable opportunity to earn a reasonable return on its invested capital used and useful in providing service to the public in excess of its reasonable and necessary operating expenses.
- 10. Consistent with PURA § 36.053, the rates approved in this proceeding are based on original cost, less depreciation, of property used and useful to ETI in providing service.
- 11. The ADFIT adjustments approved in this proceeding are consistent with PURA § 36.059 and P.U.C. SUBST. R. 25.231(c)(2)(C)(i).
- 12. Including the cash working capital approved in this proceeding in ETI's rate base is consistent with P.U.C. SUBST. R. 25.231(c)(2)(B)(iii)(IV), which allows a reasonable allowance for cash working capital to be included in rate base.
- 13. The ROE and overall rate of return authorized in this proceeding are consistent with the requirements of PURA §§ 36.051 and 36.052.

- 14. The affiliate expenses approved in this proceeding and included in ETI's rates meet the affiliate payment standards articulated in PURA §§ 36.051, 36.058, and Railroad Commission of Texas v. Rio Grande Valley Gas Co., 683 S.W.2d 783 (Tex. App.—Austin 1984, no writ).
- 15. The ADFIT adjustments approved in this proceeding are consistent with PURA § 36.059 and P.U.C. SUBST. R. 25.231(c)(2)(C)(i).
- 16. Pursuant to P.U.C. SUBST. R. 25.231(b)(1)(F), the decommissioning expense approved in this case is based on the most current information reasonably available regarding the cost of decommissioning, the balance of funds in the decommissioning trust, anticipated escalation rates, the anticipated return on the funds in the decommissioning trust, and other relevant factors.
- 17. ETI has demonstrated that its eligible fuel expenses during the reconciliation period were reasonable and necessary expenses incurred to provide reliable electric service to retail customers as required by P.U.C. SUBST. R. 25.236(d)(1)(A). ETI has properly accounted for the amount of fuel-related revenues collected pursuant to the fuel factor during the reconciliation period as required by P.U.C. SUBST. R. 25.236(d)(1)(C).
- 18. ETI prudently managed the dispatch, operations, and maintenance of its fossil plants during the reconciliation period.
- 19. The reconciliation period level operating and maintenance expenses for the Spindletop facility are eligible fuel expenses pursuant to P.U.C. SUBST. R. 25.236(a).
- 19A. Fuel factors under P.U.C. SUBST. R. 25.237(a)(3) are temporary rates subject to revision in a reconciliation proceeding.
- 19B. P.U.C. Subst. R. 25.236(d)(2) defines the scope of a fuel reconciliation proceeding to include any issue related to the reasonableness of a utility's fuel expenses and whether the utility has over- or under-recovered its reasonable fuel expenses. It is proper to use the new line-loss study to calculate Entergy's fuel reconciliation and over-recovery.
- 20. Special circumstances are warranted pursuant to P.U.C. SUBST. R. 25.236(a)(6) to recover rough production equalization payments reallocated to ETI by the FERC.

21. ETI's rates, as approved in this proceeding, are just and reasonable in accordance with PURA § 36.003.

IV. Ordering Paragraphs

In accordance with these findings of fact and conclusions of law, the Commission issues the following orders:

- 1. The proposal for decision prepared by the SOAH ALJs is adopted to the extent consistent with this Order.
- 2. ETI's application is granted to the extent consistent with this Order.
- 3. ETI shall file in Tariff Control No. 40742 Compliance Tariff Pursuant to Final Order in Docket No. 39896 (Application of Entergy Texas, Inc. for Authority to Change Rates, Reconcile Fuel Costs, and Obtain Deferred Accounting Treatment) tariffs consistent with this Order within 20 days of the date of this Order. No later than ten days after the date of the tariff filings, Staff shall file its comments recommending approval, modification, or rejection of the individual sheets of the tariff proposal. Responses to the Staff's recommendation shall be filed no later than 15 days after the filing of the tariff. The Commission shall by letter approve, modify, or reject each tariff sheet, effective the date of the letter.
- 4. The tariff sheets shall be deemed approved and shall become effective on the expiration of 20 days from the date of filing, in the absence of written notification of modification or rejection by the Commission. If any sheets are modified or rejected, ETI shall file proposed revisions of those sheets in accordance with the Commission's letter within ten days of the date of that letter, and the review procedure set out above shall apply to the revised sheets.
- 5. Copies of all tariff-related filings shall be served on all parties of record.
- 6. ETI shall prepare and file as part of its next base rate case a study regarding the feasibility of instituting LED-based rates and, if the study shows that such rates are feasible, ETI should file proposals for LED-based lighting and traffic signal rates in that case. If ETI has LED lighting customers taking service, the study shall include detailed

information regarding differences in the cost of serving LED and non-LED lighting customers. ETI shall provide the results of this study to Cities and interested parties as soon as practicable, but no later than the filing of its next rate case.

 All other motions, requests for entry of specific findings of fact and conclusions of law, and any other requests for general or specific relief, if not expressly granted, are denied.

SIGNED AT AUSTIN, TEXAS the 14 Hday of September 2012.

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS

DONNA L'NELSON, CHAIRMAN

ROLANDO PABLOS COMMISSIONER

I respectfully dissent regarding the utility- and executive-management-class affiliate transactions. To be consistent with Commission precedent in Docket No. 14965,³⁷ the indirect costs of the management of Entergy's ultimate parent should not be borne by Texas ratepayers. Therefore, I would disallow the following: \$173,867 for Project No. F3PCCPM001 (Corporate Performance Management); \$372,919 for Project No. F3PCC31255 (Operations-Office of the CEO); and \$74,485 for Project No. F3PPCOO001 (Chief Operating Officer). I join the Commission in all other respects for this Order.

KÉNNETH W. ANDERSON, JR., COMMISSIONER

q:\cadm\orders\final\39000\39896fo2.docx

³⁷ Application of Central Power and Light Company for Authority to Change Rates, Docket No. 14965, Second Order on Rehearing (Oct. 16, 1997).