

2022/2023

Integrated Resource Plan



Executive Summary (Non-Technical Summary)

I. Introduction

Southern Indiana Gas and Electric Company d/b/a CEI South a CenterPoint Energy Company's ("CEI South") 2022/2023 Integrated Resource Plan is the culmination of an extensive analysis of CEI South's optimal resources for ensuring the availability of electricity to its retail electric customers over a 20-year period at a low cost with consideration for future cost risks. CEI South has adhered to the requirements of the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission ("IURC" or "Commission") and the guidance provided in the Commission's recent orders related to the preferred portfolio described in CEI South's previous 2019/2020 Integrated Resource Plan ("IRP") both in the preparation of this IRP and the planning process that necessarily preceded the report. The analysis and its conclusions explained in this IRP demonstrate that CEI South can most cost-effectively meet the electric demands of its retail customers by continuing to transition its generation fleet from primarily coal-based generation to a generation mix that is much more diverse. The analysis demonstrates that customers receive a better balance of affordability and reliability by investing in new generation resources and transitioning existing resources to new fuel sources compared to the on-going necessary investment and future cost risk of continuing to run its existing coal-fired generation facilities.

CEI South conducts the IRP process every three years and each IRP, necessarily, builds on the IRP and the generation resource investments that have come before. The preferred portfolio in CEI South's previous 2019/2020 IRP concluded a generation transition was needed, calling for replacement of the majority of CEI South's coal fleet by the end of 2023 with 700-1,000 MWs of solar, 300 MWs of wind, energy efficiency and two gas combustion turbines while retaining FB Culley 3 coal resource. CEI South has begun implementing this 2019/2020 IRP by filing several cases seeking approval to (1) purchase a BTA to own and operate a 191 MW solar project located on its system (the "Posey County Solar Project"), (2) purchase a BTA to own and operate a 130 MW solar project located in Pike County (the "Crosstrack Solar Project"), (3) purchase a BTA to own and operate a 200 MW wind project located in MISO ("Midcontinent Independent System Operator") zone 4 (the "Wind Project"), (4) signed purchase power agreements ("PPA")

for 3 solar facilities totaling 430 MWs for the Warrick County Solar Project, the Knox County Solar Project, and the Vermillion County Solar project. (5) CEI South sought and received approval for two combustion gas turbines at A.B. Brown power plant, totaling 460 MWs. Each of these projects were consistent with the 2019/2020 IRP and, as noted below, this IRP affirms the direction taken by CEI South.

The Commission approved issuance of certificates of public convenience and necessity (“CPCNs”) authorizing the construction of the Posey Solar Project and Cross Track Solar Projects and approved the solar PPAs. Government action and market forces have necessitated renegotiation of several of the renewable projects and delayed their in-service dates. CEI South has worked with the project developers to obtain revised pricing and in-service dates and has sought IURC approval of the changes for the Posey County, the Knox County, the Vermillion County, and the Warrick County Solar Projects. CEI South could have refused to work with the developers of these projects, but the poor economics would have resulted in the developers terminating their relationship with CEI South. Responses to CEI South’s recent request for proposal demonstrated replacement projects would have been higher cost and brought later in-service dates. This is a significant concern for CEI South and its customers due to looming compliance deadlines for its existing generation resources. As of the date of this IRP, the IURC approved increased cost for the Knox County Solar Project, and the OUCC did not oppose the cost increases for the Warrick County Solar Project or the Vermillion County Solar Project. The Posey Solar Project and the Wind Project are awaiting approval by the IURC.

CEI South began its 2022/2023 IRP process in early 2022 to explore new and existing supply-side and demand side resource options to reliably serve CEI South customers over the next 20 years. The Company’s exploration included significant input and dialogue with stakeholders. While starting with 2019/2020 IRP framework as a basis for the 2022/2023 analysis, CEI South has enhanced its process and analysis in several ways. These enhancements include, but are not limited to the following:

- increased stakeholder engagement in the issuance of an All-Source RFP to provide current market project pricing to be utilized in IRP modeling and potential projects to pursue, particularly for renewable resources such as wind, solar, and battery storage;
- increased participation and collaboration from stakeholders using tech-to-tech calls and associated file sharing throughout the process for timely feedback on inputs and resource evaluation criteria;
- an encompassing analysis of wholesale market dynamics that accounts for MISO developments and market trends, including MISO's new seasonal construct, which includes four seasons;
- at stakeholder request, CEI South engaged 1898 & Co. to utilize a new sophisticated IRP modeling tool, Encompass, which provided several benefits (increased transparency for stakeholders, more efficient modeling runs and maintaining the ability to produce probabilistic modeling); and
- a robust risk analysis, which encompasses a broad consideration of risks and an exploration of resource performance over a wide range of potential futures with additional sensitivity analyses.

Based on this planning process and detailed analysis, CEI South has selected a preferred portfolio plan that continues to diversify the resource mix for its generation portfolio. This portfolio includes the addition of significant solar and wind energy resources in the near to midterm, the conversion of FB Culley 3 from coal to natural gas by 2027, and continued investment in energy efficiency and demand response resources. The conversion of Culley Unit 3 allows CEI South to maintain this critical capacity resource, protecting customers from a volatile MISO capacity market and considerably lowering CO₂ emissions. FB Culley 3 will be available for peak periods, enabling CEI South to maintain constant electric supply during potentially extended periods of low output from renewable energy sources. The converted unit will include firm gas supply and allow CEI South to continue to utilize existing equipment and interconnection to the MISO system. Additionally, CEI South has placed an emphasis on exploring demand response options

to provide a cost effective capacity resource for our customers. The company is in discussions with a demand response (“DR”) aggregator for commercial and industrial DR and plans to request a pilot in its upcoming rate case to explore time based rates. Indicative DR amounts were included for IRP planning purposes. CEI South’s preferred portfolio is projected to save customers nearly \$80 million over the next 20 years compared to continuing with this last existing coal unit operated by CEI South. This builds on savings identified in the last IRP. Additionally, the preferred portfolio reduces carbon dioxide stack emissions by approximately 88% by 2030 and 95% by 2035 when compared to projected 2023 levels. This fosters environmental stewardship and sustainability, while meeting customer expectations for clean energy that is reliable and affordable.

CEI South’s preferred resource plan reduces risk through continued diversification, the cost to serve load over the next 20 years and provides flexibility to evaluate and respond to future needs through subsequent IRPs. The preferred portfolio has several advantages, including: 1) Converts CEI South’s last remaining coal unit that it operates to natural gas by 2027. This saves customers money and dramatically lowers CO₂ output in the near term. FB Culley 3 can also provide resilient, dispatchable power to CEI South’s system during long-duration weather events. Reliable, dispatchable power is very important as coal plants that have provided capacity in the past continue to retire in MISO Zone 6. 2) Energy supplied by this portfolio is generated primarily through renewable solar and wind projects by 2030, which can take advantage of Investment Tax Credits (“ITC”) and the Production Tax Credits (“PTC”). ITCs and PTCs reduce portfolio costs and leverage current tax-advantaged assets. 3) The portfolio provides flexibility under a wide range of potential future legislative, regulatory, and market conditions. The preferred portfolio also performed well under CO₂, methane constraints, and other related regulations. Like the CTs identified in the 2019/2020 IRP, the preferred portfolio is financially supported by a converted coal unit that will predominantly run during peak load conditions. This benefit provides a financial hedge against periodic instances of high market energy and MISO’s volatile capacity market, while also providing reactive reserves

and system reliability in times of extended renewable generation droughts, i.e., cloud cover and low wind. 4) It reasonably balances energy sales and purchases, ready to adapt to market shifts. 5) It includes new wind, solar, and demand response capacity when it is economic to the portfolio. 6) Finally, it is timely. The conversion of F.B. Culley 3 is projected to take no more than 6 months and can be completed by 2027.

The resource options selected in this plan provide a bridge to the future. For example, the gas conversion allows battery storage technology to become more competitive in price and develop longer duration storage capabilities. Further, should there be a need for new baseload generation to accommodate a large load addition, one or both of the new CTs could be converted to a combined cycle gas turbine, a highly efficient energy resource.

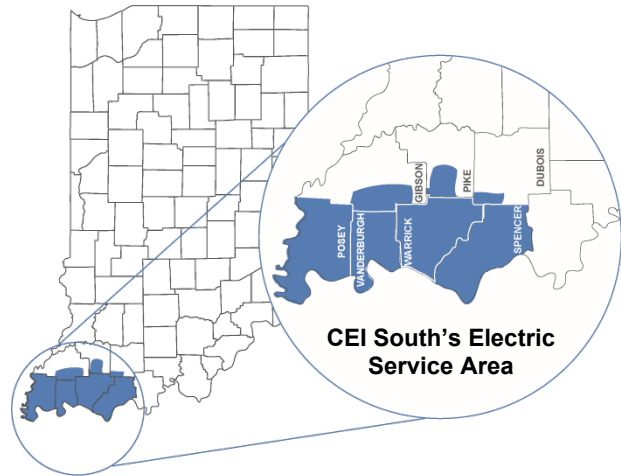
The preferred portfolio also provides several off-ramps (future transitional inflection points) should they be needed. 1) CEI South plans to discontinue joint operations of Warrick 4 (“W4”) at the end of 2023 but continues to speak with Alcoa about a possible extension into 2025. This option could shield CEI South customers from costly purchases in a tight capacity market. As CEI South has worked through the generation transition plan, solar project Commercial Operation Dates (“COD”) have shifted, and there is still a need for capacity to complete phase one of the transition. Additionally, beyond delayed solar projects, time may still be needed for permitting contingency and construction of new combustion turbines, currently expected to be in service in MISO’s 2025/2026 planning period. 2) While Culley 3 is not scheduled to be retired within the timeframe of this analysis, including thermal dispatchable generation in this portfolio provides CEI South flexibility to evaluate this option in future IRPs. 3) CEI South will work to secure attractive renewable projects from the recent All-Source RFP and will likely require future RFPs to secure 200 MWs of additional wind and 200 MWs of additional solar resources by 2030. Issuing a future RFP provides two main benefits. It will provide the most up-to-date pricing for these renewables projects and attract more renewable options to select from, as some offered proposals are no longer available. Second, it provides CEI South additional time to better understand how the Inflation Reduction Act (“IRA”) effects the

renewables markets, potentially unlocking more projects. Demand for wind and solar projects in Indiana is particularly high, which could lead to scarcity of projects if more potential developments do not enter the MISO queue.

The following preferred portfolio summary includes the process to identify the portfolio as well as an explanation of the planning process, all while focusing on CEI South’s operations.

II. CenterPoint Energy Overview

CEI South provides energy delivery services to more than 150,000 electric customers located near Evansville in Southwestern Indiana. In 2022, approximately 43% of electric sales were made to large (primarily industrial) customers, 31% were made to residential customers and 26% were made to small commercial customers.



The table below shows CEI South generating units. Note that CEI South also offers customers energy efficiency programs to help lower customer energy usage and bills.

Unit	Installed Capacity ICAP (MW)	Primary Fuel	Unit in Service	Unit Retirement Date	Unit Age	Coal Unit Environmental Controls ¹
A.B. Brown 1	245	Coal	1979	2023	44	Yes
A.B. Brown 2	240	Coal	1986	2023	37	Yes
F.B. Culley 2	90	Coal	1966	2025	57	Yes
F.B. Culley 3	270	Coal	1973	N/A	50	Yes
Warrick 4	150	Coal	1970	2023 ²	53	Yes
A.B. Brown 3	80	Gas	1991	N/A	31	

¹ All coal units are controlled for Sulfur Dioxide (“SO₂”), Nitrogen Oxide (“NO_x”), Particulate Matter (dust), and Mercury. All coal units are controlled for Sulfur Trioxide (“SO₃”) and Sulfuric Acid (“H₂SO₄”) except F.B. Culley 2.

² Joint operations agreement expires 12/31/23

Unit	Installed Capacity ICAP (MW)	Primary Fuel	Unit in Service	Unit Retirement Date	Unit Age	Coal Unit Environmental Controls ¹
A.B. Brown 4	80	Gas	2002	N/A	21	
A.B. Brown 5	245	Gas	2025	N/A	N/A	
A.B. Brown 6	245	Gas	2025	N/A	N/A	
Blackfoot ³	3	Landfill Gas	2009	N/A	14	
Fowler Ridge	50	Wind PPA	2010	N/A	13	
Benton County	30	Wind PPA	2007	N/A	16	
Oak Hill ⁴	2	Solar	2018	N/A	5	
Volkman Rd ⁵	2	Solar	2018	N/A	5	
Troy	50	Solar	2021	N/A	2	
Rustic Hills II Solar ⁶	100	Solar	2025	N/A	N/A	
Posey Solar	191	Solar	2025	N/A	N/A	
Wheatland Solar ⁷	150	Solar	2024	N/A	N/A	
Vermillion Rise Solar ⁸	185	Solar	2025	N/A	N/A	
Crosstrack Solar	130	Solar	2025	N/A	N/A	
Future Wind	200	Wind	2025	N/A	N/A	

III. Integrated Resource Plan

Every three years CEI South submits an IRP to the IURC as required by IURC rules. The IRP describes the analysis process used to evaluate the best mix of generation and energy efficiency resources (resource portfolio) to meet customers’ needs for reliable, affordable, environmentally sustainable power over the next 20 years. The IRP can be thought of as a compass setting the direction for future generation and energy efficiency options. Future analysis, filings and subsequent approvals from the IURC are needed to implement selection of new resources.

CEI South utilized direct feedback on analysis methodology, analysis inputs, and evaluation criteria from stakeholders, including but not limited to CEI South residential, commercial and industrial customers, regulators, elected officials, customer advocacy groups and environmental advocacy groups. CEI South continues to place an emphasis

³ The Blackfoot landfill gas generators are connected at the distribution level.

⁴ Oak Hill Solar is connected at the distribution level.

⁵ Volkman Rd. Solar is connected at the distribution level.

⁶ Warrick County Solar Project

⁷ Knox County Solar Project

⁸ Vermillion County Solar Project

on reliability, affordability, resiliency, stability, risk, resource diversity, and environmental sustainability. The IRP process has become increasingly complex in nature as MISO implements updated resource accreditation methodologies to maintain reliability of the system that includes increased levels of renewable resources, battery energy storage, and natural gas resources to replace existing coal resources.

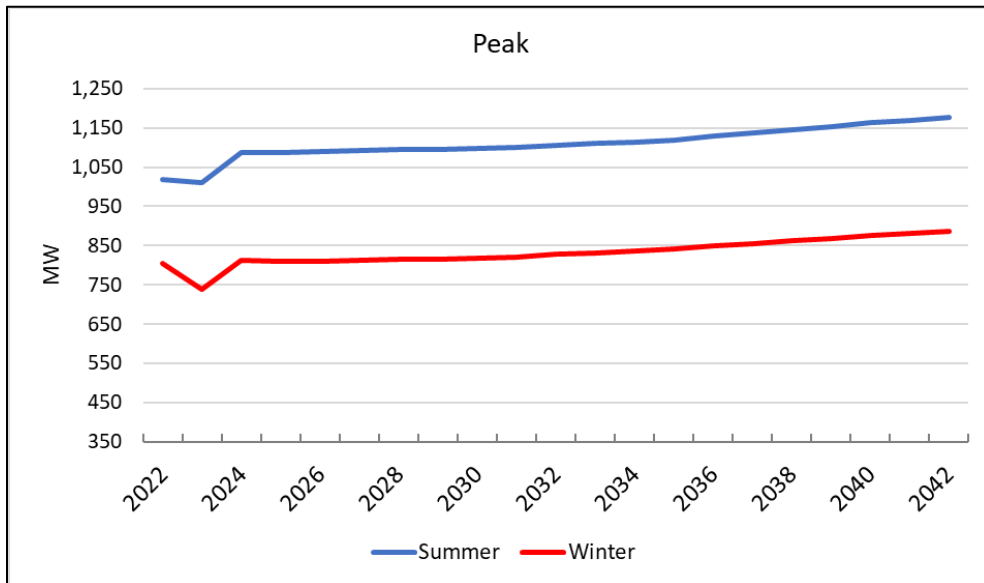
A. Customer Energy Needs

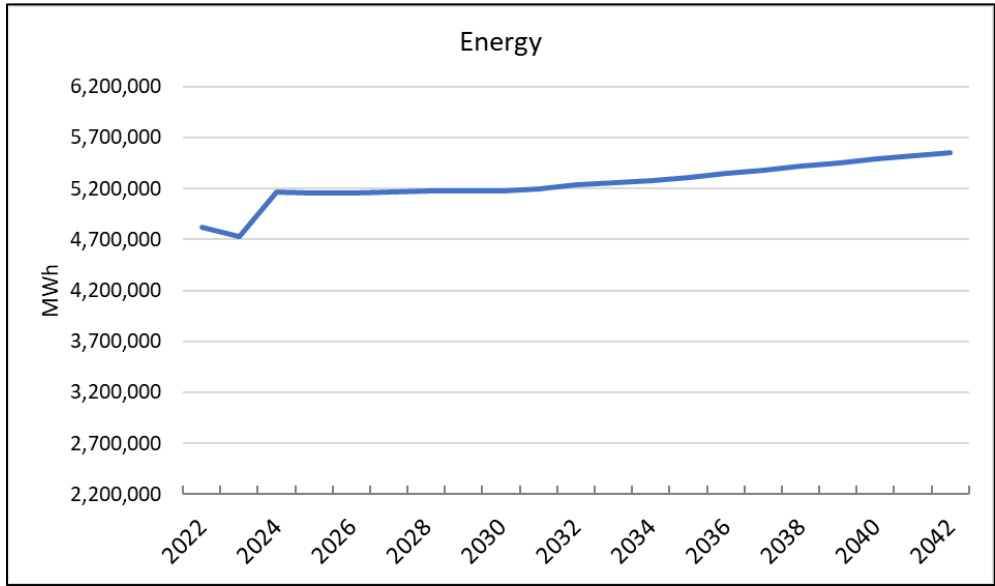
The IRP begins by evaluating customers' need for electricity over the 20-year planning horizon. CEI South worked with Itron, Inc., a leader in the energy forecasting industry, to develop a forecast of customer energy and demand requirements. Demand is the amount of power being consumed by customers at a given point in time, while energy is the amount of power being consumed over time. Energy is typically measured in Megawatt hours ("MWh") and demand is typically measured in Megawatts ("MW"). Both are important considerations in the IRP. While CEI South purchases some power from the market, CEI South is required to have enough generation and energy efficiency resources available to meet expected customers' seasonal peak demand plus additional reserve resources to meet MISO's Planning Reserve Margin Requirement ("PRMR") for reliability. Reserve resources are necessary to minimize the chance of rolling black outs; moreover, as a MISO member, CEI South must comply with MISO's evolving rules to maintain reliability.

Historically, IRPs have focused on meeting customer demand in the summer, which is typically when reserve margins are at a minimum. As the regional resource mix changes towards intermittent (variable) renewable generation, it is important to ensure resources are available to meet this demand seasonally in all hours of the year, particularly in the times of greatest need (summer and winter). MISO functions as the regional transmission operator for 15 Midwestern and Southern states, including Indiana (also parts of Canada). In recognition of MISO's ongoing evaluation of how changes in the future resource mix impact seasonal reliability, CEI South ensured its preferred portfolio would have adequate reserve margins for meeting demand in all four seasons, consistent with MISO's recently

approved seasonal construct beginning in the 2023/2024 planning year on June 1, 2023. Later in this document it is further explained how MISO continues evaluating measures to help ensure year-round reliability, beyond the seasonal construct.








CEI South utilizes sophisticated models to help determine energy needs for residential, commercial and large customers. These models include projections for the major drivers of energy consumption, including but not limited to, the economy, appliance efficiency trends, population growth, price of electricity, weather, specific changes in existing large customer demand and customer adoption of solar and electric vehicles. Overall, customer energy and summer peak demand, excluding energy efficiency, are expected to grow by 0.7% per year. Winter peak demand grows at a slightly slower pace of 0.5%.





B. Resource Options

The next step in an IRP is identifying resource options to satisfy customers’ anticipated need. Many resources were evaluated to meet customer energy needs over the next 20 years. CEI South considered both new and existing resource options. 1898 & Co., a well-respected engineering firm, conducted an All-Source RFP which generated 142 unique proposals to provide energy

-  Battery Storage
-  Coal
-  Energy Efficiency/ Demand Response
-  Hydro Electric
-  Natural Gas
-  Nuclear
-  Wind and Solar

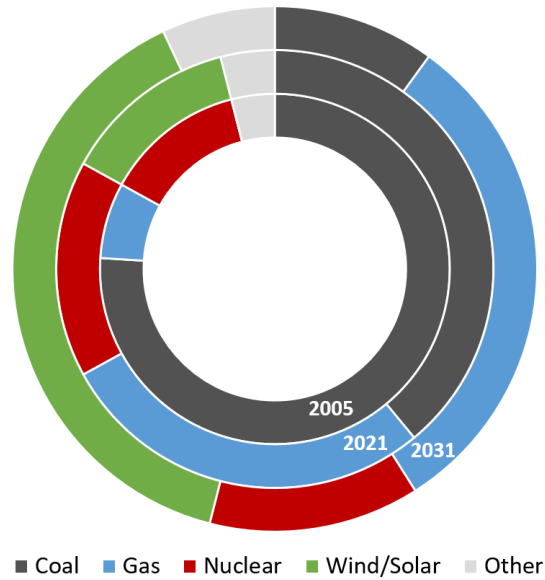
and capacity from a wide range of technologies, including: solar, solar + short duration battery storage, standalone short duration battery storage, demand response, wind, gas, nuclear, and coal. These project bids provided up-to-date, market-based information to inform the analysis and provide actionable projects to pursue to meet customer needs in the near to midterm. Additionally, CEI South utilized other information sources for long term costs and operating characteristics for these resources and others over the entire

20-year period. Other options include continuation of existing F.B. Culley 3 coal unit, conversion of F.B. Culley 2 and/or 3 coal units to natural gas, various other natural gas resources, conversion of AB Brown combustion turbines to a Combined Cycle Gas Turbine, hydro, landfill gas, and long-duration batteries⁹. Every IRP is a snapshot in time producing a direction based on the best information known at the time. It is helpful to provide some background into significant issues that help shape the IRP analysis, including but not limited to: the passage of the IRA, recent volatile gas prices, high inflation, projected high penetration of intermittent renewable resources, recent increased costs for renewables projects due to demand / supply chain issues, the future of coal resources with more restrictive air regulations, new technologies, and rapid changes in the MISO market to adapt and help ensure reliability.

i. Industry Transition

Within the MISO footprint, energy from gas generation has increased from less than 10% of total electric generation, used primarily to meet the needs during peak demand conditions in 2005, to approximately 28% of total generation in 2021¹⁰. Meanwhile, the cost of renewable energy has declined dramatically over this time period due to improvements in technology and helped by

MISO Energy Mix Transition from 2005 to 2021 to 2031
(Based on MISO RRA)



⁹ Not commercially viable at this time

¹⁰ MISO 2021 State of the Market Report, Potomac Economics, June 2022, page 6
<https://cdn.misoenergy.org/2021%20State%20of%20the%20Market%20Report625295.pdf>

government incentives in the forms of the PTC and the ITC for renewable energy resources such as wind and solar, both of which have been extended and expanded by the IRA.

The move toward renewable and gas energy has come at the expense of coal generation, which has been rapidly retiring for several reasons. Coal plants have not been able to consistently compete on short term marginal price with renewable and gas energy. Operationally, the move toward intermittent renewable energy requires coal plants to more frequently cycle on and off. These plants were not designed to operate in this manner. The result is increased maintenance costs and more frequent outages. Additionally, older, inefficient coal plants are being retired to avoid spending significant dollars on necessary upgrades to achieve compliance with Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) regulations. Two recent rule changes are further examples of the continued pressure on coal. EPA finalized revisions to the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule and the Good Neighbor Rule which require further reductions in emissions of NO_x during the Ozone Season. EPA has also recently proposed revisions to the Mercury Air Toxics rule that could further ratchet down particulates for F.B. Culley by 2026-2027 and on January 6, 2023 EPA proposed a new rulemaking to reduce the National Ambient Air Quality Standard PM_{2.5} standard and review state’s attainment designations. It can be challenging for F.B. Culley to maintain compliance under current regulations and will be more difficult to continue operating the unit on coal in 2027 and beyond. Finally, public and investor pressure, coupled with future cost risk associated with the objective of decreasing carbon emissions, has driven unit retirements. Based on these and other major factors, according to MISO’s Regional Resource Assessment, they project wind and solar to contribute up to 42% of the energy in 2031¹¹. Some large nuclear plants remain but have also found it challenging to compete on cost.

¹¹ MISO 2022 Regional Resource Assessment, November 2022, page 6
<https://cdn.misoenergy.org/2022%20Regional%20Resource%20Assessment%20Report627163.pdf>

ii. Changing Market Rules to Help Ensure Reliability

MISO recognizes these major changes in the way energy is being produced. Traditionally, baseload coal plants produced energy at a constant level around the clock, while peaking gas plants were available to come online as needed to meet peak demand. Gradual increases and decreases in energy demand throughout the day and seasonally were easily managed with these traditional resources. As described above, the energy landscape is continuing its rapid change with increased adoption of more intermittent renewable generation which is available when the sun is shining, or the wind is blowing. This creates much more variability by hour in energy production. Some periods will have over production (more energy produced than is needed at the time) and other periods will have low to no renewable energy production, requiring dispatchable resources to meet real time demand for power. MISO has recognized the region's energy landscape continues to evolve toward a complex, less predictable future. Some of the challenges MISO faces are resources that are primarily weather dependent, less predictable weather, less predictable resource outages, and increasing electric load. To maintain reliability with a changing resource portfolio and the risks MISO faces there is an increased importance of ensuring there are adequate attributes available from the fleet such as ramp capability, long duration energy at high output, and fuel assurance. To ensure reliability is maintained with the changing resource portfolio, MISO implemented a seasonal resource adequacy construct for the 2023/2024 planning year that focuses on meeting system demand in all hours as opposed to planning for meeting the summer peak demand. As part of the seasonal construct thermal resource accreditation has shifted from an Equivalent Forced Outage Rate Demand ("EFOR_d") approach to one that accredits resources based on historical availability during tight operating hours. Accreditation for renewable resources has also seen changes with MISO signaling it will continue to revise the accreditation approach for renewables for upcoming planning years. MISO continues to study how this transition will affect the electrical grid and what is needed to maintain reliable service, as renewables penetrations reach 30-50%. Possible ramifications

include challenges to the ability to maintain acceptable voltage and thermal limits on the grid.

CEI South has accounted for these changes by incorporating the seasonal construct and accreditation approach into the Encompass model and validating that portfolios in this analysis provide sufficient resources to meet its MISO obligations¹² in all four seasons with limited capacity purchases. Additionally, CEI South analyzed the thermal limits of equipment along with the voltage and reactive power needs of the system for various portfolio options and identified mitigations for each option.

iii. **Battery Storage and Transmission Resources**

Increasingly, utilities are considering the opportunity to add battery storage to resource portfolios to help provide the availability, flexibility and visibility to support the move to more reliance on intermittent renewable resources. Lithium-ion (“L-ion”) batteries have seen significant cost declines over the last several years as the technology begins to mature and as the auto industry creates economies of scale by increasing production to meet the anticipated demand for electric vehicles. However, L-ion batteries continue to evolve. Lithium-ion batteries relying on iron-based cathodes are emerging and are expected to provide nearly 50% of the global demand by 2027. This move is occurring because of the relative abundance and sourcing of iron compared to Cobalt. Large scale batteries for utility applications have begun to emerge around the country, particularly where incentives are available to lower the cost of this emerging technology or for special applications that improve the economics. This technology will continue to evolve over the next decade as competing alternatives are put into operation and evaluated.

There are many applications for this resource, from shifting the use of renewable generation from time of generation to the time of need, to grid support for maintaining

¹² Some portfolios have a heavy reliance on the market for energy.

the reliability of the transmission system. CEI South has installed a 1 MW battery designed to capture energy from an adjacent solar project. This test project has provided information regarding the ability to store energy for use during the evening hours to meet customer energy demand. Along with the benefits provided by this technology, there are some limitations to keep in mind as utility scale battery storage is still evolving. Commercially feasible batteries remain short duration, typically four hours. There are some longer-duration batteries that show promise, such as iron air, but these are still very expensive and not proven on a utility-scale. Future IRPs will continue to monitor for when these technologies become commercially viable. Additionally, safety standards are being developed and fire departments are being trained for the fire risk posed by L-ion batteries. Other chemistries are being developed to account for this issue but are not commercially imminent. Moreover, batteries today are a net energy draw on the system. L-ion can produce about 85-95 percent of the energy that is stored in them. Part of this loss is due to the need to be well ventilated, cool and dry, which takes energy. Batteries are promising and have their place in current and future energy infrastructure, but they do not yet replace the need for other forms of dispatchable generation during extended periods without sun and wind. Recent MISO changes in rules and mechanisms are geared towards meeting the worst week in each season. There is a need for multi-day storage to provide similar benefits to dispatchable generation. Other issues to be followed are how the penetration will affect accreditation based on Effective Load Carrying Capability (“ELCC”), which is expected to go down over time. CEI South conducted a sensitivity analysis to evaluate the cost impact of decreasing accreditation to 75% from 95%. The sensitivity demonstrated that cost to portfolios that rely on batteries would go up as accreditation goes down. Additionally, availability of batteries may not be 95% as modeled within this IRP. Information from California’s experience suggests performance of batteries could be much lower. CEI South’s All-Source RFP included bids for stand-alone batteries and batteries connected to solar resources and will continue to track developments in this space.

C. Uncertainty/Risk

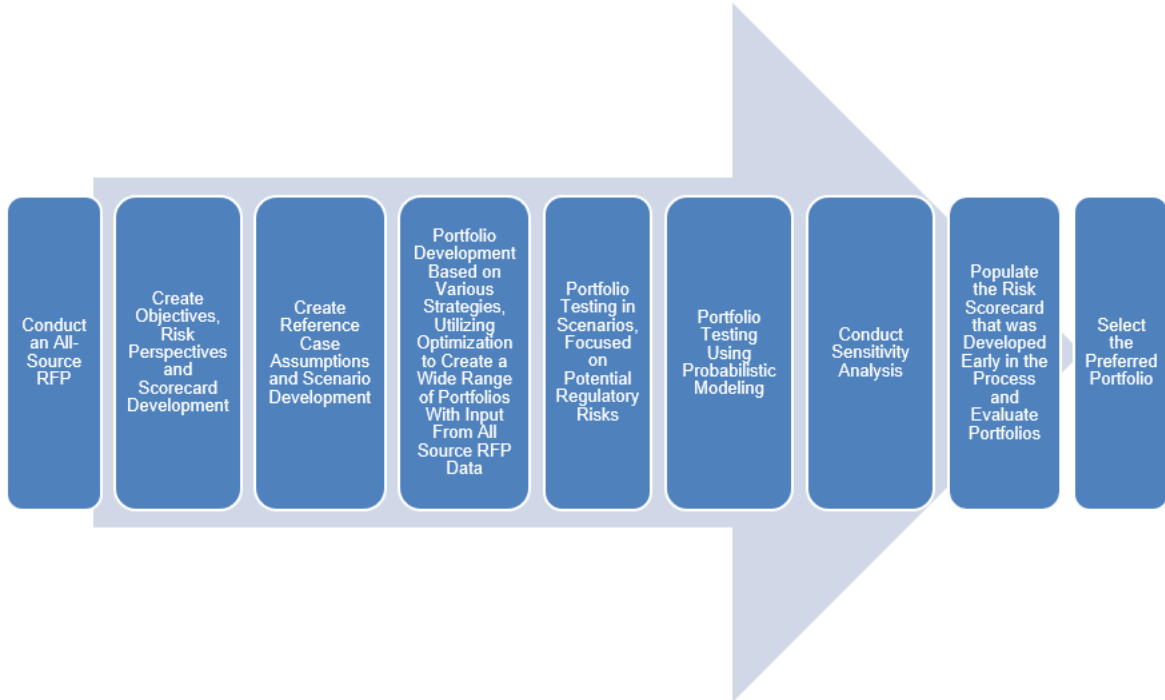
The future is far from certain. Uncertainty creates a risk that a generation portfolio that is reasonable under an anticipated future fails to perform as expected if the future turns out differently. CEI South's IRP analysis was developed to identify the best resource mix of generation and energy efficiency to serve customer energy needs over a wide range of possible future states. CEI South worked with 1898 & Co. to perform two sets of modeling to contribute to the risk analyses, one exposing a defined set of portfolios to a limited number of scenarios and another that exposed the same portfolios to 200 scenarios (stochastic or probabilistic risk assessment). To help better understand the wide range of possibilities for wholesale market dynamics, regulations, technological breakthroughs and shifts in the economy, complex models were utilized with varying assumptions for major inputs (commodity price forecasts, energy/demand forecasts, market power prices, etc.) to develop and test portfolios with diverse resource mixes. Additionally, the risk analysis included sensitivities and qualitative judgement.

IV. Analysis

CEI South's analysis included a step-by-step process to identify the preferred portfolio. The graphic below summarizes the major steps which included the following:

1. Conduct an All-Source RFP to better understand resource cost and availability.
2. Work with stakeholders to develop a scorecard as a tool in the full risk analysis to help highlight several tradeoffs among various portfolios of resources.
3. Work with stakeholders to develop a wide range of future states, called scenarios, to be used for testing of portfolios (mixes of various resource combinations to serve customer power and energy need).
4. Work with stakeholders to develop a wide range of portfolios for testing and evaluation within scenarios, sensitivity analysis and probabilistic analysis. Each of these analyses involves complex modeling.
5. Conduct a risk analysis, including deterministic and probabilistic modeling with sensitivity analysis.

- Utilize the quantitative scorecard measures and judgment to select the preferred portfolio (the best mix of resources to reliably and affordably serve customer energy needs while minimizing known risks and maintaining flexibility).



V. Stakeholder Process

CEI South continued to improve stakeholder engagement with a series of technical meetings with any stakeholder group willing to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement (“NDA”) and participate with in ongoing tech-to-tech conversations about critical assumptions related to the analysis, including all significant modeling assumptions. The process was reevaluated based on early feedback with stakeholders about what has worked well with other utilities throughout the state. CEI South also reviewed comments in the Director’s report on CEI South’s last IRP and ongoing Contemporary Issues meetings hosted by the IURC. Careful consideration was taken to ensure that the time spent was mutually beneficial to all parties involved.

As in the last IRP, each of the first three stakeholder meetings began with stakeholder feedback. CEI South would review requests/comments since the last stakeholder meeting and provide feedback. Suggestions were taken, and in instances where suggestions were

not acted upon, CEI South made a point to further discuss and explain why not. Notes for each meeting were included in question and answer format, summarizing the conversations. Additionally, feedback was received, and questions were answered via e-mail (irp@centerpointenergy.com) and with one off phone calls/meetings in between each public stakeholder meeting by request, in addition to tech-to-tech meetings mentioned above.

While maintaining the virtual option to participate, CEI South thought it was important to offer face to face meetings post the COVID-19 situation of recent years. All stakeholder meetings were held at CEI South in Evansville, Indiana, with a virtual option for those that could not travel to Southern Indiana or did not wish to participate in person. Dates and topics covered are listed below:

August 18, 2022	October 11, 2022	December 13, 2022	April 26, 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2022/2023 IRP Process • Objectives and Measures • Encompass Software • All-Source RFP • MISO Update • Environmental Update • Draft Reference Case Market Inputs & Scenarios • Load Forecast Methodology • DSM MPS/ Modeling Inputs • Resource Options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All-Source RFP Results and Final Modeling Inputs • Draft Resource Inputs • Final Load Forecast • Scenario Modeling Inputs • Portfolio Development • Probabilistic Modeling Approach and Assumptions • Draft Reference Case Modeling Results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Scenario Optimization Results • Draft Portfolios • Final Scorecard and Risk Analysis • Final Resource Inputs* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Reference Case and Scenario Modeling Results • Probabilistic Modeling Results • Risk Analysis Results • Preview the Preferred Portfolio

*Provided final draft modeling file on December 20, 2022 to stakeholders that signed an NDA as part of the tech-to-tech group. Final deterministic modeling files were provided on March 7, 2023, and final stochastic files were provided on April 21, 2023.

Based on this stakeholder engagement, CEI South made fundamental changes to the analysis in real time to address concerns and strengthen the plan. IRP inputs and several of the evaluation measures used to help determine the preferred portfolio were updated through this process. CEI South held meetings with interested stakeholders willing to sign an NDA ahead of and in between public stakeholder meetings. This along with providing modeling inputs along the way helped to allow for a more productive dialogue throughout the process. CEI South appreciates the time and attention provided by each group that participated in this process. CEI South utilized stakeholder information to create boundary conditions that were wide enough to produce plausible future conditions that would favor opposing resource portfolios. CEI South worked closely with stakeholders to consider relevant risks to be included within the scorecard, adding a metric that highlights risk from exposure to energy generated by coal and gas, and adopting a metric that measures total CO₂ equivalent tons emitted into the atmosphere over the full planning year. Finally, multiple adjustments were made to modeling inputs and assumptions based on direct stakeholder feedback. The table below shows key stakeholder requests made during the process and CEI South’s response.

Request	Response
Allow All-Source RFP respondents to update their proposals to account for the IRA	RFP respondents were given the opportunity to update their bids (updated results were incorporated into the IRP)
Use cumulative CO ₂ equivalent emissions as a measure of environmental sustainability	Cumulative CO ₂ equivalent (stack emissions) were added to the scorecard along with CO ₂ intensity
Add a fuel cost risk measure and objective to the scorecard	Cost Risk metric was included in the scorecard, including both fuel risk and 95% percentile cost risk

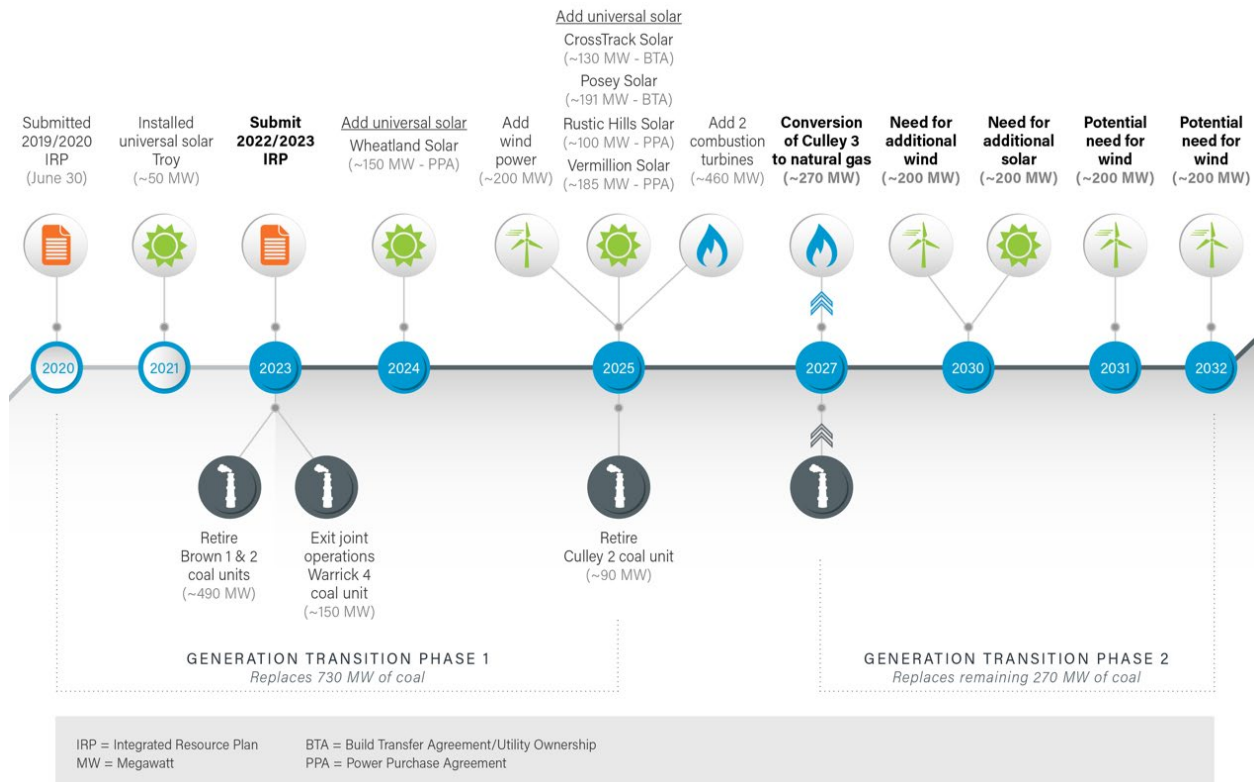
Request	Response
<p>Incorporate more than proposed 10-20 MWs of Industrial DR</p>	<p>CEI South included 25 MWs of industrial DR as a resource. Currently, CEI South does not have any industrial DR registered with MISO. CEI South is engaged in conversations with a demand response aggregator to capture the potential of C&I demand response to further diversify our resource mix</p>
<p>CenterPoint should include demand response using the same methodology as AES. Implement residential rate programs (critical peak pricing, TOU, etc.) soon</p>	<p>CenterPoint has adopted the AES methodology and DR is aligned with peers to incorporate indicative TOU pilots. CEI South is planning to evaluate a TOU rate in the future through a pilot</p>
<p>In the summer of 2022, the reference case forecasts for coal and natural gas prices showed a decline in the near term and do not reflect current pricing</p>	<p>Gas and coal price forecasts were updated as new forecasts became available in late fall of 2022</p>
<p>Coal prices should be higher than the reference case in the high regulatory scenario (not the same as the reference case)</p>	<p>CEI South found it plausible that coal prices could be higher in a high regulatory scenario and updated the price path to be higher than reference case in the high regulatory scenario</p>
<p>Revise the wind profiles being used in the model to differentiate between the output of northern Indiana and southern Indiana wind</p>	<p>The output profiles for wind resources were updated (increased) to better align with the information received from wind resources in the All-Source RFP</p>

Request	Response
Explore alternative retirement dates for Culley 3	Culley 3 will be evaluated in scenarios with a potential retirement date of 2029 (pulled forward from 2030). Also included an alternative that converts F.B. Culley 3 to natural gas by 2027
Update modeling to reflect ITC storage year one	CEI South modeled the ITC benefit for storage in year one
Include full monetization of ITC for hydro resources	Included
Request for continued on-going dialogue following the December public stakeholder meeting	Held a tech-to-tech meeting on February 28, 2023 to provide updated modeling files, additional input files, and portfolios for consideration in the risk analysis to stakeholders for review and comment
Include site -specific assumptions for the energy community bonus for PTC and ITC associated with the IRA	CEI South ran various resource capital costs and tax credit qualification sensitivities to determine the impact of these changes on future resource decisions
Evaluate a portfolio with hydroelectric	Hydroelectric was not selected as a least cost resource within modeling. Several portfolios with hydro were evaluated, but they were higher cost and not included in the risk analysis
Capital costs should not be varied stochastically	An alternate process was used for capital and CO ₂
Adjust the scorecard to include near and long-term energy purchases/sales	Adjusted

Meeting materials for each meeting can be found on www.centerpointenergy.com/irp and in Technical Appendix Attachment 3.1 Stakeholder Materials.

VI. The Preferred Portfolio

The Preferred Portfolio is the second evolution to the generation transition plan to move away from coal to a more sustainable portfolio of resources. The recommendation is to convert the remaining 270 MWs of coal generation to natural gas and to provide demand response resources for low-cost capacity and continue to add clean, renewable wind and solar resources by 2030, while maintaining energy efficiency programs at similar levels. Beyond 2030, 400 MWs of additional wind is called for.

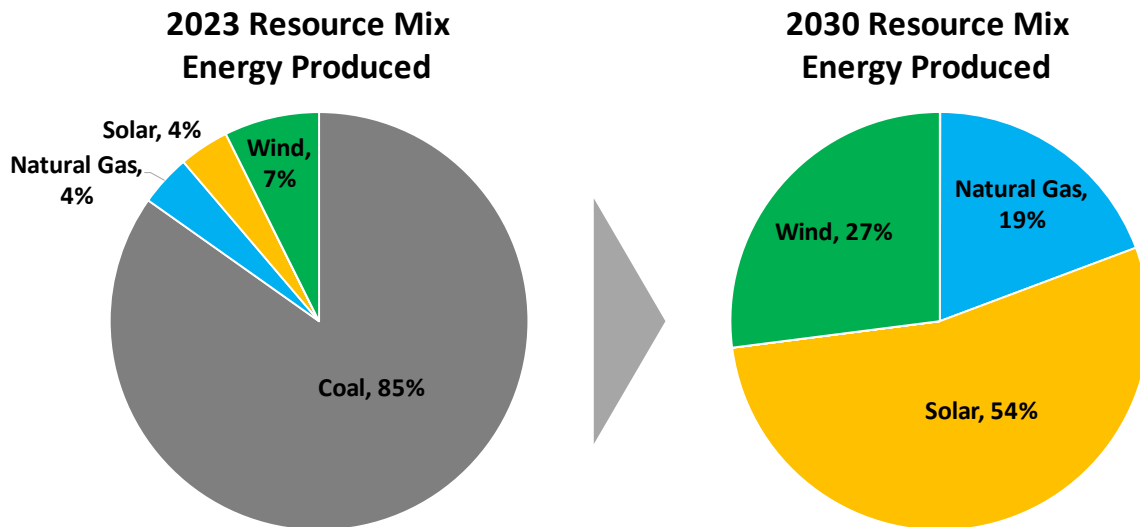


This preferred portfolio:

- Eliminates dependence on coal-fired generation in a prompt timeframe yet provides the flexibility to adapt to changes in technology in the future.
- Maintains reliability and allows customers to enjoy the benefits of renewable energy, while ensuring continued reliable service as CEI South continues to move toward higher levels of intermittent renewable energy in the future. Dispatchable generation with firm gas service at F.B. Culley will allow this resource to be available to meet peak conditions during long duration weather events, providing resiliency.
- Saves customers nearly \$80 million over the next 20 years when compared to continued operation of F.B. Culley with coal and avoids \$170 million of cost risk over this time period. Eliminates risk of additional cost to comply with currently proposed final environmental rules that become applicable to Culley 3 in 2027 and potential new regulations as EPA continues to focus on environmental concerns associated with coal-fired generation.
- Reduces CO₂ equivalent emissions, which includes methane, by nearly 95% over the next 20 years. Direct carbon emissions are reduced 98% from 2005 levels by 2035. The portfolio prevents over 9 million tons of CO₂ from entering the atmosphere as compared to continuing to run F.B. Culley 3 with coal.
- Includes a diverse mix of resources (solar, wind and energy efficiency, supported by fast-start gas, peaking gas generation, and demand response), mitigates the impacts of extended periods of limited renewable generation and protects against overreliance on the market for energy and capacity.
- Maintains future flexibility with several off ramps to accommodate a rapidly evolving industry, includes a multi-year build out of resources on several sites and maintains the option to replace Culley 3 in the future when appropriate based on continual evaluation of available technology and changing conditions.
- Provides the flexibility to adapt to future environmental regulations or upward shifts in fuel prices relative to Reference Case assumptions. The preferred portfolio

performed consistently well across a wide range of potential future environmental regulations, including CO₂, methane and fracking.

- Maintains tax base in Warrick County, which is particularly important to the local school system in that county.
- Allows for continued use of existing plant assets, helping to avoid potential future stranded assets.
- Continues CEI South’s energy efficiency programs with near term energy savings of 1.1% of eligible sales and further long-term energy savings opportunities identified over the next 20 years. CEI South is committed to energy efficiency to help customers save money on their energy bills and will continue to evaluate this option in future IRPs.
- Explores new options to help manage loads in the future with the potential for new demand response resources, working with an aggregator to better partner with commercial and industrial customers to tap additional potential and include a pilot to evaluate the potential of time-based rates, which could provide new resources to help manage loads in the future.



VII. Next Steps

The preferred portfolio calls for CEI South to make additional changes to its generation fleet. Some of these changes require action in the near term. First, CEI South will seek approval from the IURC to convert F.B. Culley 3 from coal to natural gas. Second, the IRP calls for continuation of energy efficiency. CEI South filed a one year continuation of the 2021-2023 plan for 2024 and will file a 2025-2027 plan in early 2024 with the IURC, consistent with the IRP. Third, CEI South plans to issue a new RFP in 2024 to pursue an additional 200 MWs of wind generation and 200 MWs of solar generation to be in service by 2030. CEI South continues to evaluate the potential to work with industrial customers who would like on-site solar generation. CEI South will evaluate including a portion of the new solar for this purpose. Given the long lead times for these projects and the need for energy that they produce, CEI South will begin pursuing these renewable projects ahead of the next IRP. These filings will be consistent with the preferred portfolio. However, the assumptions included in any IRP can change over time, causing possible changes to resource planning. Changes in commodities, regulations, political policies, customer need and other assumptions could warrant deviations from the preferred plan.

CEI South's plan must be flexible, as several items are not certain at this time.

- The timing of exiting joint operations of the Warrick 4 coal plant could change. The plant is jointly owned with Alcoa and as such, CEI South continues to talk to Alcoa about its plans.
- Competition for renewable projects is steep, with multiple, ongoing RFP processes in the state of Indiana and the passage of the IRA. CEI South will continue to actively seek cost competitive projects for the benefit of our customers, consistent with the preferred portfolio.
- Finally, MISO continues to evaluate the accreditation of resources. CEI South will continue to follow developments.