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March 2, 2026

Jenniffer Sheppard
Administrator, Water Permits Division
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
Galvez Building, 602 North Fifth Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

RE: Initial Request Letter Pursuant to 40 C.F.R § 423.19(q) Requesting Site-Specific ELG Deadlines – Brame Energy Center, Rodemacher Unit 2 (LPDES Permit LA0008036; AI No. 2922)

Ms. Sheppard:

I. Introduction

Cleco Power LLC ("Cleco") respectfully submits this initial request letter pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 423.19(q) to request site-specific extensions under 40 C.F.R. § 423.18(d) for two deadlines applicable to Brame Energy Center's Rodemacher Unit 2 under federal effluent limitations guidelines ("ELG") regulations. Specifically, Cleco, the permittee for LPDES Permit LA0008036, and the joint owners[1] of Rodemacher Unit 2 ("Owners") seek: (1) an extension of the December 31, 2025 deadline to transfer out of the 2028 ELG coal cessation subcategory, pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 423.18(d)(2); and (2) an extension of the December 31, 2025 deadline to comply with the generally applicable bottom ash transport water ("BATW") limitation to limit discharges to 10% of the bottom ash system volume, pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 423.18(d)(1).

Rodemacher Unit 2 ("Rodemacher 2" or the "Facility") remains a critical asset in Louisiana's power generation portfolio, and the Owners are committed to coordinating with LDEQ, the Louisiana Public Service Commission, the LEPA Board of Directors, and the Lafayette City Council to ensure regulatory alignment, preserve operational flexibility, and provide compliant, cost-effective service for the remainder of the unit's operating life while remaining compliant with ELG regulations. The Owners have not finally determined that they will continue combusting coal at Rodemacher 2 beyond 2028 but are filing this request to preserve operational flexibility. In the meantime, the Owners are undertaking ongoing work towards both potential compliance paths: (a) ceasing coal combustion and converting to natural gas operation by the end of 2028, and alternatively, (b) continuing coal combustion beyond 2028, in which case the two extensions requested in this letter are necessary for continued operations of Rodemacher 2.

[1] The joint owners of Rodemacher Unit 2 are Cleco, Lafayette Public Power Authority ("LPPA"), and Louisiana Energy & Power Authority ("LEPA").

II. Letter Requirements and Contents

This letter summarizes the site and unit background (Section III), the relevant ELG regulatory background (Section IV), the current ELG compliance path the Facility is working towards (Section V), the proposed alternative compliance path requiring the extensions requested in this letter (Section VI), the regulatory basis for the requested deadline extensions (Section VII), the circumstances warranting extension (Section VIII), and a proposed compliance schedule (Section IX).

Accordingly, this letter complies with the requirements of 40 C.F.R. § 423.19(q)(2) for an initial extension request letter:

- "Detail the significant unexpected circumstance in § 423.18(d)(2) and a compelling narrative that explains why these unexpected circumstances warrant an alternative applicability date by the permitting authority in light of the Facility's plans and execution of those plans" – **Sections VI and VIII.**

- "Contain a proposed schedule of compliance to be incorporated into the permit, supported by detailed engineering dependency chart that clearly shows the milestones leading to compliance as soon as possible given the unexpected circumstances described in the letter, including contingencies for critical path steps." – **Section IX and Exhibit A.**

- "In the case of a missed notice of planned participation, annual progress report, or other reporting or recordkeeping requirement that should have been submitted prior to March 2, 2026, the letter must also attach such reporting requirements." – **No missed reporting requirement identified.**

In accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 423.19(q)(5), the Facility is submitting a single initial request letter for both requested extensions to the December 31, 2025, deadlines for (1) transfer out of the 2028 NOPP subcategory and (2) BATW 10% discharge compliance.

Finally, the deadline to submit an initial request letter is within 60 days of the circumstances giving rise to the request or by March 2, 2026, whichever is later.[2] The Owners' ongoing consideration of compliance paths is an evolving process, and energy market dynamics factoring into that process are continuing to evolve as well. In an abundance of caution, Cleco submits this initial request letter now and will supplement this request with additional information and developments as necessary.

III. Site and Unit Background

Rodemacher 2 is located at the Brame Energy Center in Lena, Rapides Parish, Louisiana. The unit is jointly owned by LPPA, Cleco Power LLC, and LEPA (the "Owners") and operates within the Midcontinent Independent System Operator ("MISO") region. The unit has a capacity of 523 megawatts and has been in commercial operation since 1982. Brame Energy Center manages ELG wastestreams including BATW and leachate. On January 8, 2021, Cleco submitted

[2] 40 C.F.R. § 423.19(q)(2).

a Notice of Planned Participation ("NOPP") pursuant to the federal ELG regulations, committing to cease coal combustion by December 31, 2028 ("2028 Subcategory").

IV. Relevant ELG Background

The 2020 ELG Rule required compliance with a 10% BATW discharge limit by December 31, 2025,[3] but allowed facilities to file a NOPP by October 13, 2021 committing to cease coal combustion by December 31, 2028. Facilities that filed a 2028 NOPP did not have to comply with the 10% BATW discharge limit.[4] Facilities could transfer out of the 2028 NOPP subcategory by December 31, 2025, but if they did so, they must comply with the 10% BATW discharge limit by the December 31, 2025 deadline.[5]

The 2024 ELG Rule retained 10% BATW discharge as an interim limit.[6] EPA also promulgated longer-term zero-discharge requirements for BATW and other wastestreams in the 2024 ELG Rule.[7] The original deadline for complying with zero-discharge limits was December 31, 2029, but has since been extended to December 31, 2034.[8] EPA extended this deadline and others in a final rule published on December 31, 2025.[9]

The ELG Extension Rule finalized in December 2025 also included a new Section 423.18(d) that allowed for the site-specific deadline extensions, including to transfer and to meet the 10% BATW discharge limit, that are now requested by Cleco in this submission and discussed in more detail in Sections VII-VIII. The provisions of the ELG Extension Rule are effective as of today, March 2, 2026.[10]

V. Current Compliance Path

The Owners' current ELG compliance path for Rodemacher 2 is ceasing coal combustion by 2028 and converting the unit to natural gas. As a result of the 2028 NOPP submission, Rodemacher 2 did not have to comply with the outer December 31, 2025, deadline to reduce BATW discharges to no more than 10% system volume on a 30-day average.

The Owners have taken many steps to advance on this path towards meeting the NOPP commitment, including completion of the front-end engineering and design ("FEED") for gas conversion in 2025, and completing and releasing an engineering, procurement, and construction ("EPC") performance specification to two bidders in 2025-2026. However, the Owners have

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[3] 40 C.F.R. § 423.13(k)(2); Steam Electric Reconsideration Rule, 85 Fed. Reg. 64,650, 64,704–05 (Oct. 13, 2020) ("2020 ELG Rule").
[4] 40 C.F.R. §§ 423.19(g), 423.13(k)(2)(ii)(A); 2020 ELG Rule at 64,660–61.
[5] 40 C.F.R. § 423.13(o)(1)(ii); 2020 ELG Rule at 64,708.
[6] 40 C.F.R. § 423.13(k)(1)-(2); Supplemental Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for the Steam Electric Power Generating Point Source Category, 90 Fed. Reg. 40,198, 40,254 (May 9, 2024) ("2024 ELG Rule").
[7] 40 C.F.R. §§ 423.13(g)(4)(i), (k)(4)(i), (l)(1)(i); 2024 ELG Rule at 40,199.
[8] 40 C.F.R. § 423.13(g)(4)(i)(A), (k)(4)(i), (l)(1)(i)(A); Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for the Steam Electric Power Generating Point Source Category—Deadline Extensions, 90 Fed. Reg. 61,328, 61,341 (Dec. 31, 2025) ("ELG Extension Rule")
[9] *See* ELG Extension Rule.
[10] *See generally* 40 C.F.R. § 423.18(d); ELG Extension Rule at 61,328.

encountered multiple unforeseen, significant circumstances that have driven them to consider alternative compliance pathways for Rodemacher 2, as further detailed in Section VIII.

VI. Alternative Compliance Path

As discussed more fully in Section VIII, significant changes to market dynamics have prompted the co-owners to consider a potential alternative compliance path involving continued coal-fired combustion beyond 2028 at Rodemacher 2. To remain compliant with relevant ELG requirements, however, such extended operations would require LDEQ to authorize extensions to the December 31, 2025, deadlines to (1) transfer out of the 2028 NOPP subcategory and (2) come into compliance with the 10% BATW discharge limit.

With respect to the 10% BATW discharge limit, if the Facility ultimately determines that it will combust coal beyond 2028, the Facility would implement a dry ash handling system for BATW. The Facility has undertaken preliminary assessment of the timing and feasibility to design and install a dry ash handling system, and is currently on track to complete an initial FEED study by the end of March 2026. The currently anticipated schedule for additional activities and completion of a BATW dry handling system is further discussed in Section VIII and attached as Exhibit A. Preliminary cost estimates indicate that this system will be a sizable investment in significantly limiting or fully eliminating BATW discharges if the Facility continues coal-fired operations beyond 2028.

Accordingly, the Facility is making progress towards being in a position to comply with the 10% discharge limit but would need an extension from the original December 31, 2025, deadline to meet that limit and remain in compliance with the ELG regulations.

VII. Regulatory Basis for Deadline Extensions

New provisions in 40 C.F.R. § 423.18 finalized in the December 2025 ELG Extension Rule allow permitting authorities to grant site-specific deadline extensions for (1) transfers between compliance alternatives under the federal ELG regulations and (2) for substantive compliance with ELG limitations finalized in the 2020 and 2024 ELG rulemakings, if facilities requesting the extension meet certain criteria.

The deadline to submit a transfer notice to transfer out of the 2028 Subcategory to the generally applicable requirements was December 31, 2025.[11] However, 40 C.F.R. § 423.18(d)(2) now allows LDEQ to grant an extension to this transfer deadline.[12] In explaining the rationale behind these new site-specific deadline provisions, EPA specifically envisioned deadline extensions being granted to plants in the 2028 Subcategory that are now faced with resource adequacy concerns and are considering continued operations, which requires switching out of the 2028 NOPP and back to the generally applicable requirements for BATW. EPA explained that a plant that had submitted a 2028 NOPP "may learn through the IRP process or capacity auctions that its continued operation is necessary to support local resource adequacy" and such plants

[11] *See* 40 C.F.R. §§ 423.13(o), 423.19(l).

[12] *See* 40 C.F.R. § 423.18(d)(2) ("Transfers pursuant to § 423.13(o)(1)(ii) but receiving alternative § 423.19(l) submission dates in this paragraph (d)(2) shall be deemed timely.").

"should be given time to both get approvals needed to submit a transfer notice and build out treatment systems to comply with the 2020 rule."[13]

The deadline to meet the 2020 generally applicable BATW discharge limit was also December 31, 2025. The new site-specific extension provision codified at 40 C.F.R. § 423.18(d)(1) specifically allows permitting authorities to grant "an alternative applicability date and, where appropriate, an associated schedule of milestones, for achieving the required limitations[.]"

For extensions of both transfer notice and substantive requirement compliance deadlines, the Facility must meet one of the four circumstances outlined in 40 C.F.R. § 423.18(d)(3):

Circumstances Warranting Site-Specific Deadline Extensions **40 C.F.R. § 423.18(d)(3)**
(i) Where a facility needs an alternative applicability date upon making a permissible transfer between limitations prior to the deadlines in § 423.13(o) due to: (A) An unexpected change in regional capacity market prices; or (B) An unexpected change in local demand which materially exceeds projections made in the most recent iterations of integrated resource plans or other planning documents;"
(ii) Where a facility has one or more electric generating units using a wastewater treatment system treating combined wastewater (e.g., wastewater from a single flue gas desulfurization system servicing different units) and needs an alternative applicability date after making a decision to back out of a commitment to permanently cease coal combustion at one or more different electric generating units at the same plant due to: (A) An unexpected change in regional capacity market prices; or (B) An unexpected change in local demand which materially exceeds projections made in the most recent iterations of integrated resource plans or other planning documents;
(iii) Where a facility needs an alternative applicability date because it faces an unexpected supply chain issue that delays a necessary component (not merely a preferred component where there are reasonable substitutes) at a key stage of fabrication or installation such that the timeline for reaching steady-state treatment is delayed; or
(iv) Where a facility faces any other circumstance that requires additional time and is wholly outside both the facility's control and the facility's ability to plan for.

[13] ELG Extension Rule, 90 Fed. Reg. at 61,347–48 (Dec. 31, 2025).

Present circumstances faced by Rodemacher 2 fall within at least two of the described circumstances, § 423.18(d)(3)(i) and (iv), due to recent energy market dynamics and ongoing regulatory changes impacting power plants. In fact, and as discussed above, EPA explicitly designed circumstance (i) for facilities in Rodemacher 2's position.[14]

VIII. Significant Unexpected Circumstances Warranting Deadline Extensions

Recent reliability concerns across Louisiana and delays in new generation projects within the MISO South region, where Rodemacher 2 operates, have triggered the need for viable alternatives for keeping units on the grid. Combined with recent and impending regulatory changes impacting power plants, these demand changes and reliability concerns warrant extensions to the ELG deadlines for Rodemacher 2 under the new 40 C.F.R. § 423.18(d)(3).

A. Market Demand and Price Changes:

Three key developments since the Facility filed its 2021 NOPP submission have significantly impacted demand in MISO and underscored the need for continued reliable and dispatchable power sources: (1) load growth driven by data center demand and industrial development,[15] (2) extreme weather events that have strained grid operations,[16] and (3) retirements by other power plants in the region.[17]

This rapid MISO South load growth (driven by industrial development and data center demand),[18] combined with accelerating retirements outpacing replacement generation, has materially tightened reserve margins. Further, between 2024 and 2025, MISO South experienced a significant increase in declared emergency events, driven by severe weather and conservative operations.[19] MISO has also reduced seasonal accreditation for intermittent resources—resources

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[14] *See* ELG Extension Rule, 90 Fed. Reg. at 61,347–48 ("[A] plant that had submitted a [2028 NOPP] may learn through the IRP process or capacity auctions that its continued operation is necessary to support local resource adequacy… the plant should be given time to both get approvals needed to submit a transfer notice and build out treatment systems to comply with the 2020 rule.").

[15] *See* DOE, Resource Adequacy Report: Evaluating the Reliability and Security of the United States Electrical Grid (July 2025) ("DOE Resource Adequacy Report") at 1 ("The magnitude and speed of projected load growth cannot be met with existing approaches to load addition and grid management.").

[16] *See* Testimony of Jennifer Curran of MISO, "Keeping the Lights on: Examining the State of Regional Grid Reliability" Before the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Energy (Mar. 25, 2025) at 6 ("MISO's region, like most of the country, is also experiencing changing weather patterns, including more frequent occurrences of extreme weather, particularly winter storms affecting large areas of the country. These extreme weather events create challenging operating conditions, with high demand for electricity sometimes accompanied by reduced solar or wind output and, in some instances, challenges with adequate fuel supplies for natural gas and coal power plants. This highlights the need for a diverse electric generation fleet and a robust transmission system to move energy over long distances.")

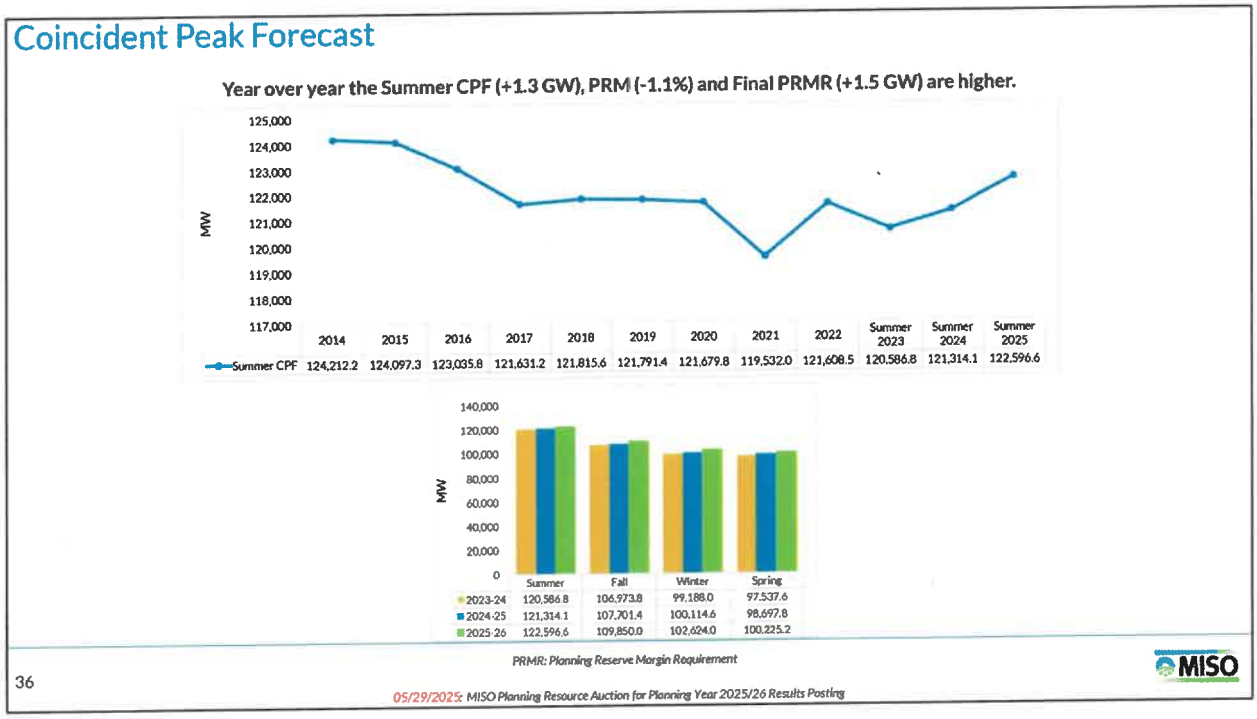
[17] *Id.* ("The retirement of firm power capacity is exacerbating the resource adequacy problem. 104 GW of firm capacity are set for retirement by 2030. This capacity is not being replaced on a one-to-one basis and losing this generation could lead to significant outages when weather conditions do not accommodate wind and solar generation. In the 'plant closures' scenario of this analysis, annual loss of load hours (LOLH) increased by a factor of a hundred.").

[18] *See* MISO, "2024 Load Forecast and Process Enhancements Workshop" (Dec. 18, 2024) at 18 ("Projected load growth from all forms of electrification within MISO's footprint is expected to be approximately three times higher than previously forecasted," depicting industry development and data centers as significant contributors to higher projections.).

[19] *See generally* MISO, "Notifications Overview – Real-Time Operations."

that comprised 93% of the 2023–24 interconnection queue—leading to reduced accredited capacity in critical summer and winter seasons.[20] These conditions have increased the frequency of capacity advisories and indicate the market is approaching its operational limits.[21]

For example, 2025 data from the MISO Planning Resource Auction for Planning Year 2025/26 Results detail significant constraints and reliability concerns.[22] As depicted below, the Summer Coincident Peak Forecast increased by approximately 1.3 GW compared to the prior year, while the Final Planning Reserve Margin Requirement rose by 1.5 GW. The increase in the coincident peak forecast directly evidences load growth within the MISO footprint, which MISO has identified as an ongoing challenge through its Reliability Imperative initiatives.[23]



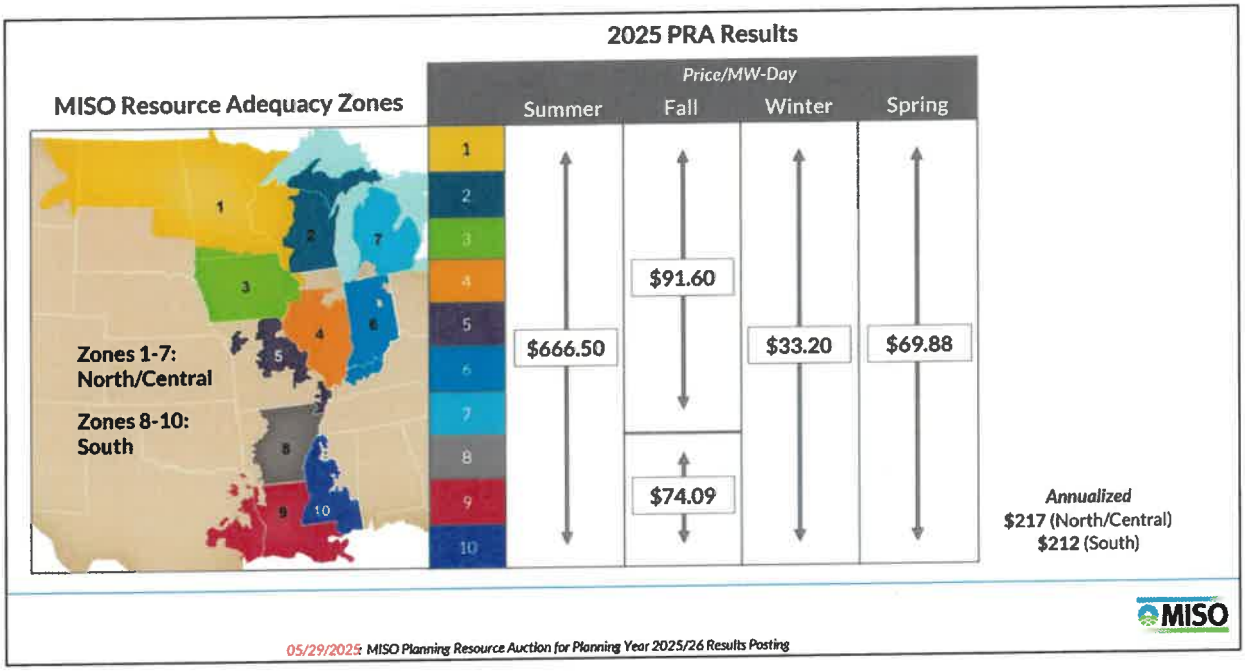
[20] *See* MISO, "MISO announces Generator Interconnection Queue cycle results" (Apr. 23, 2024); 2025 OMS-MISO Survey Results (Jun. 6, 2025).

[21] *See* DOE, Order No. 202-26-16 (Feb. 17, 2026) ("an emergency exists in portions of the Midwest region of the United States due to a shortage of electric energy, a shortage of facilities for the generation of electricity, and other causes"); Exec. Order 14262, "Strengthening the Reliability and Security of the United States Electric Grid" (Apr. 8, 2025); Exec. Order 14156, "Declaring a National Emergency" (Jan. 20, 2025).

[22] MISO, Planning Resource Auction Results for Planning Year 2025-26 ("PRA Results").

[23] PRA Results at 7, 36.

As shown in the below visual from the PRA Results, in 2025, while MISO achieved sufficient capacity at the regional, subregional, and zonal levels, the summer clearing price of $666.50 per MW-day reflects the highest reliability risk and a notably tighter supply-demand balance. This represents a substantial price signal compared to non-summer seasons, with fall prices at $91.60 (North/Central) and $74.09 (South), winter at $33.20, and spring at $69.88. These pricing dynamics directly support reliability concerns because they signal that available surplus capacity is diminishing relative to demand. The elevated summer prices, in particular, indicate that the grid faces heightened risk during peak demand periods, thereby justifying the retention of dispatchable generation resources, including coal combustion units, to maintain system stability and meet planning reserve requirements.



Further, there has been a dramatic escalation in prices in recent years, as shown below from the PRA Results. The data reveals that summer clearing prices have increased exponentially in recent years, rising from $10.00 per MW-day in Summer 2023 to $30.00 in Summer 2024, and then surging to $666.50 in Summer 2025. This represents a 2,122% increase over just two planning years. Prior to this recent escalation, summer prices remained relatively modest, with historical clearing prices ranging from $1.00 to $257.53 across various zones during the 2015-2022 period.

Historical Summer Auction Clearing Price Comparison

PY	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Zone 8	Zone 9	Zone 10	ERZs
2015-2016		$3.48		$150.00		$3.48		$3.29		N/A	N/A
2016-2017	$19.72			$72.00					$2.99		N/A
2017-2018					$1.50						N/A
2018-2019	$1.00					$10.00					N/A
2019-2020			$2.99				$24.30		$2.99		
2020-2021			$5.00				$257.53	$4.75	$6.88	$4.75	$4.89-$5.00
2021-2022				$5.00					$0.01		$2.78-$5.00
2022-2023				$236.66					$2.88		$2.88-236.66
Summer 2023						$10.00					
Summer 2024						$30.00					
Summer 2025						$666.50					

- Auction Clearing Prices shown in $/MW-Day

ERZ: External Resource Zones

27

05/29/2025: MISO Planning Resource Auction for Planning Year 2025/26 Results Posting

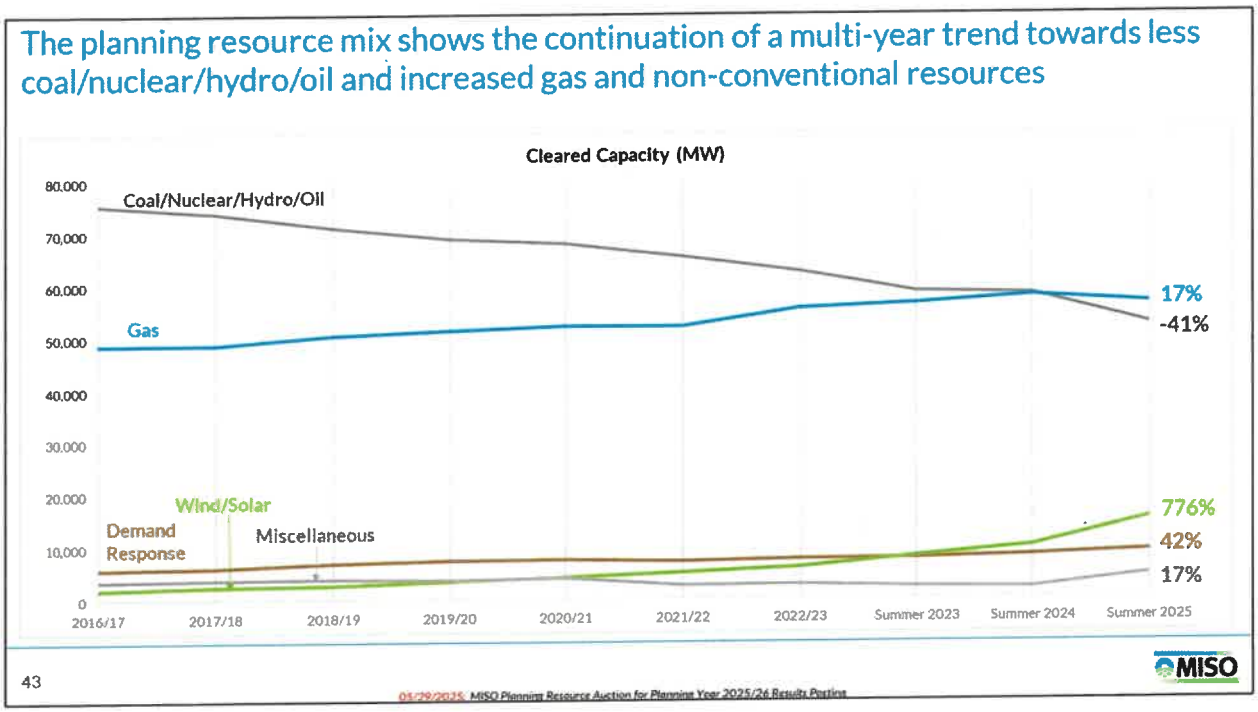
MISO

To support a reliable supply of energy in the MISO region, continued operation of Rodemacher 2 is necessary. In contrast to natural gas, there are advantages to coal-fired generation and specifically operation of the existing coal-fired unit Rodemacher 2. Performance (including generation, emissions, and operation and maintenance) is well known, along with the expected operating capacity of the unit. By contrast, there are some risks for units converting to gas due to uncertainties regarding whether the unit will perform as claimed with respect to generating capacity, emissions, and expected operation and maintenance. Moreover, coal is stored on site and readily available. Due to bulk purchasing, the cost is stable over a given period of time. By contrast, natural gas may not be available in adequate quantities in some cases, and the cost of gas may fluctuate.

The graph below illustrates a multi-year shift in MISO's generation portfolio away from traditional baseload resources toward gas and non-conventional resources. This transition occurs against a backdrop of reliability challenges including reduced surplus capacity, which has declined from approximately 6.5 GW in 2023 to 4.6 GW in 2024 to just 2.6 GW in 2025—a 60% reduction over two years.[24] MISO has acknowledged that the "majority of new resources [have] variable, intermittent output and high weather correlation," which presents distinct reliability challenges.[25] The retirement or suspension of dispatchable coal combustion units, amid a transition to intermittent resources, could exacerbate capacity shortfalls during periods of peak demand or adverse weather conditions. Meanwhile, the retention of coal combustion units like Rodemacher

[24] PRA Results at 4.
[25] PRA Results at 7.

2 provides firm, dispatchable capacity that helps offset the variability of renewable resources and maintain grid stability.



Accordingly, these unexpected and evolving energy market dynamics fall within the circumstances under 40 C.F.R. § 423.18(d)(3)(i) and (iv) that warrant the requested deadline extensions.

B. Regulatory Flux:

The ELG regulations, and other regulations impacting coal-fired power plant operations, continue to undergo significant changes that impact facilities' ability to reliably plan for coal cessation and/or conversion. In 2024—three years after Cleco submitted the 2028 NOPP—EPA finalized revisions to the federal ELG regulations, which included establishing stringent zero-discharge standards for BATW, flue gas desulfurization ("FGD") wastewater, and combustion residual leachate ("CRL") from coal-fired power plants.[26] Further significant shifts in the regulatory landscape are currently underway. On March 12, 2025, the EPA announced plans to reconsider the 2024 ELG Rule.[27] In October 2025, the agency proposed extending compliance deadlines and adding flexibility provisions, including the site-specific deadline extensions sought in this letter.[28] On December 23, 2025, the EPA published a final ELG Extension Rule that significantly extended compliance timelines for coal-fired power plants, citing the need to "provide flexibility to a critical industry in advance of imminent deadlines, which could otherwise force utilities to make premature and irrevocable decisions to begin the process of decommissioning

[26] 2024 ELG Rule, 90 Fed. Reg. 40,198.
[27] EPA, "EPA Announces It Will Reconsider 2024 Water Pollution Limits for Coal Power Plants to Help Unleash American Energy" (Mar. 12, 2025).
[28] 90 Fed. Reg. 47,693 (Oct. 2, 2025).

without full consideration of rapidly evolving regional resource adequacy needs."[29] As a result of the national energy crisis driven by substantial increases in electricity demand, EPA determined it was justified to give facilities more time to assess their compliance options and future operational plans. EPA has also indicated that it is considering additional changes to zero-discharge limits and technology-based standards in future rulemakings.

Beyond federal ELG regulations, coal-fired power plants are experiencing significant regulatory upheaval in several areas where significant rulemakings were finalized in 2024, including coal combustion residuals ("CCR"), mercury and air toxic standards ("MATS"), and greenhouse gas ("GHG") emission standards. In May 2024, EPA finalized regulations that drastically expanded the CCR regulatory landscape to regulate CCR surface impoundments at inactive facilities ("legacy surface impoundments") and all placements of CCR on land of one ton or more ("CCR management units" or "CCRMUs") (the "Legacy/CCRMU Rule").[30] In March 2025, EPA announced its plans to reconsider the same Legacy/CCRMU Rule,[31] and has since then finalized deadline extensions applicable to the new CCRMU regulations as it continues to reconsider the substantive requirements of the final rule.[32]

In 2024, EPA also finalized amendments to MATS and GHG emission standards, which are now being reconsidered and revised. The 2024 MATS amendments tightened the filterable particulate matter ("fPM") emission standard from 0.030 lb/MMBtu to 0.010 lb/MMBtu, reduced the mercury standard for lignite-fired plants by 70%, and mandated continuous emissions monitoring systems ("PM CEMS") for all coal-fired electric generating units.[33] In June 2025, EPA proposed to repeal these 2024 amendments due to technical feasibility concerns and unreasonable compliance costs.[34] The proposal would revert to the 2012 MATS, and EPA finalized this repeal in February 2026.[35]

In 2024, EPA also finalized a suite of regulations aimed at reducing GHG emissions from new and existing EGUs under Clean Air Act ("CAA") Section 111, which are currently being reconsidered and rolled back.[36] The 2024 GHG standards included repealing the Affordable Clean Energy Rule, establishing GHG emission guidelines for existing fossil fuel-fired electric-generating units ("EGUs"), and setting new source performance standards ("NSPS") for GHG emissions from new, modified, and reconstructed fossil fuel-fired EGUs. In June 2025, EPA proposed repealing all GHG emissions standards for fossil fuel-fired power plants, offering two alternative approaches: a finding that GHG emissions from power plants do not "contribute significantly" to dangerous air pollution at a level sufficient to invoke the Agency's authority under CAA Section 111, or a narrower repeal of specific portions of the GHG standards based on

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[29] ELG Extension Rule, 90 Fed. Reg. at 61,339.
[30] Hazardous and Solid Waste Management System: Disposal of Coal Combustion Residuals From Electric Utilities; Legacy CCR Surface Impoundments, 89 Fed. Reg. 38,950 (May 8, 2024) ("Legacy/CCRMU Rule").
[31] EPA, "EPA Announces Swift Actions on Coal Ash Program" (Mar. 12, 2025).
[32] Hazardous and Solid Waste Management System: Disposal of Coal Combustion Residuals From Electric Utilities; CCR Management Unit Deadline Extension Rule, 91 Fed. Reg. 5,806 (Feb. 10, 2026) ("CCRMU Extension Rule").
[33] *See* National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Coal- and Oil-Fired Electric Utility Steam Generating Units Review of the Residual Risk and Technology Review, 89 Fed. Reg. 38,508 (May 7, 2024) ("2024 MATS Rule").
[34] *See* 90 Fed. Reg. 25,535 (June 17, 2025).
[35] *See* 91 Fed. Reg. 9,088 (Feb. 24, 2026).
[36] *See* 89 Fed. Reg. 39,798 (May 9, 2024).

determinations that carbon capture and sequestration has not been "adequately demonstrated" as a best system of emission reduction ("BSER").[37] EPA has yet to finalize any repeal.

Overall, these examples of regulatory flux demonstrate many ways coal-fired power plants' cessation and/or conversion plans have been meaningfully impacted. Facilities like Rodemacher 2 undertake their long-term planning in part based on the impact of current and anticipated regulations, but significant regulatory upheaval impedes facilities' ability to reliably plan. Here, Rodemacher 2 submitted the NOPP in 2021 committing to a 2028 coal cessation date; five years later, the regulatory landscape looks significantly different and is still in flux, prompting the Owners to reasonably reconsider long-term plans to ensure reliable and cost-effective supply of energy against the new regulatory backdrop.

C. Conclusion:

Due to pressing market reliability concerns, rapid load growth, retirements, and regulatory flux, the Owners are now evaluating the viability of continuing coal operations at Rodemacher 2. However, this alternative compliance path would require site-specific deadline extensions under 40 C.F.R. § 423.18(d) in order to remain in compliance with federal ELG regulations and the Facility's LPDES permit. As discussed above, the Facility qualifies for such an extension under both 40 C.F.R. § 423.18(d)(i) and (iv).

IX. Proposed Compliance Schedule & Basis

Cleco proposes the following compliance schedule:

- Within **90 days** of LDEQ confirming both deadline extensions, Cleco will provide formal notice of transfer out of the 2028 Subcategory and into the generally applicable ELG limitations.
- Within **120 days** of Cleco's transfer notice, Cleco will submit a permit modification request to incorporate the transfer and to establish a new BATW 10% compliance deadline.
- Rodemacher 2 will comply with the BATW 10% discharge limitation by **December 31, 2029**.

In support of the proposed December 31, 2029, date for substantive compliance with the BATW 10% limitation, an engineering dependency chart is attached as Exhibit A showing the anticipated timeline to design, install, and test a dry ash handling system at the Facility. The anticipated timeline (approximately 44 months) is consistent with input EPA received from other power companies as EPA was promulgating various revisions to the ELGs; estimates typically ranged from 32 to 48 months.[38] More detail is provided in the attached Exhibit A, and a high-level summary of the key milestones is provided below, with construction complete by December 2029:

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[37] 90 Fed. Reg. 25,752 (June 17, 2025).

[38] CCR Part A Rule, 85 Fed. Reg. 53,516, 53,523 ("EPA proposed that the average amount of time needed to implement the conversion to dry handling is 36 months, although the proposed rule presented information that times ranged from 36 to 48 months."); 2024 ELG Rule, 89 Fed. Reg. at 40,283 note 223 ("Information in the record indicates

- All relevant milestones based on an estimation that LDEQ approves the requests in this letter to continue coal combustion by late Q2 2026;
- An additional FEED study is scheduled to run for 148 days beginning in early Q3 2026, following LDEQ approval;
- If necessary, preparation and review/approval of relevant environmental permit applications and Louisiana Public Service Commission ("LPSC") testimony filings are estimated to be completed by Q2 2027;
- Award of major equipment contracts is expected by May 2028;
- Outage construction is forecasted to begin in November 2029 with an estimated 8-week construction duration and completion by December 2029; and
- Project completion (remaining ancillary items after construction is complete in December 2029) is forecasted by February 2030.

Note that the timing of an LDEQ approval of this request drives the project schedule, and the Facility is in the process of conducting an initial FEED study. Accordingly, the time estimates above and in Exhibit A are preliminary. The initial FEED study is currently anticipated to be completed in late March 2026. If the initial FEED study (or subsequent FEED studies or other developments) substantially alters the timeframes set forth in this letter, Cleco will submit a supplement/update for LDEQ's consideration.

X. Conclusion

We appreciate LDEQ considering this request. If there are any questions regarding the contents of this letter, please contact me at william.matthews@cleco.com or 318-484-7718.

Respectfully submitted,

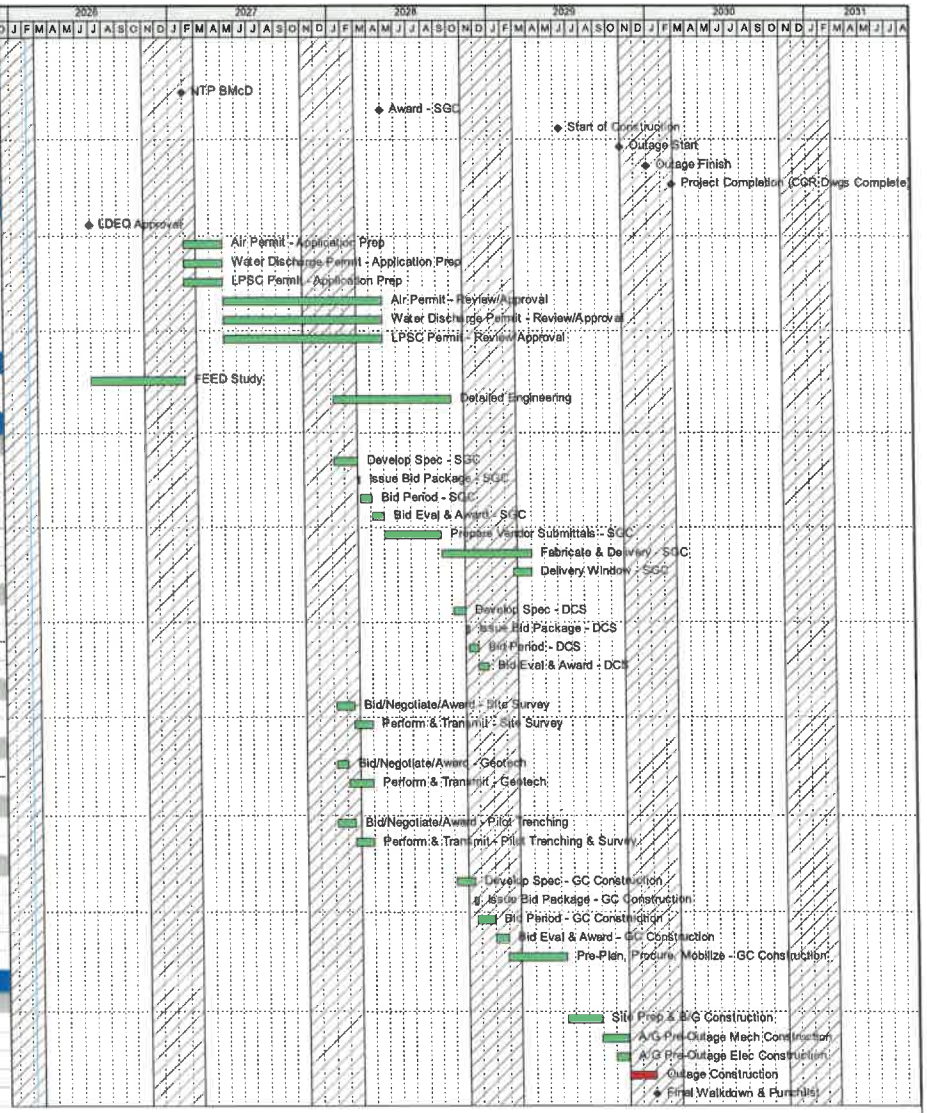
Bill Matthews

Bill Matthews
Director – Environmental Policy and Planning
Cleco Power LLC

that most facilities should be able to complete all steps to implement changes needed to comply with the BA transport water requirements within 32 to 35 months"); *id.* at 40,256 ("Information in EPA's rulemaking record indicates that a typical timeframe to raise capital, plan and design systems (including any necessary pilot testing), procure equipment, and construct and test systems falls well within the existing five-year permit cycle.").

EXHIBIT A

Activity ID	Activity Name	OD	Start	Finish	Budgeted Labor Units	Total Float	Expected Finish
CLECO - Rodemacher Power Plant SGC							
Milestones							
A1000	NTP BMcD	0d	02-Feb-27*		0.00h	238d	
A1010	Award - SGC	0d		01-May-28	0.00h	462d	
A1090	Start of Construction	0d	13-Jun-29		0.00h	179d	
A1300	Outage Start	0d	01-Nov-29		0.00h	80d	
A1310	Outage Finish	0d		31-Dec-29	0.00h	40d	
A1320	Project Completion (CCR Dwgs Complete)	0d		26-Feb-30	0.00h	0d	
Permitting							
A1550	LDEQ Approval	0d		30-Jun-26*	0.00h	238d	
A1470	Air Permit - Application Prep	64d	02-Feb-27	30-Apr-27	0.00h	462d	
A1490	Water Discharge Permit - Application Prep	64d	02-Feb-27	30-Apr-27	0.00h	462d	
A1510	LPSC Permit - Application Prep	64d	02-Feb-27	30-Apr-27	0.00h	462d	
A1480	Air Permit - Review/Approval	254d	03-May-27	01-May-28	0.00h	462d	
A1500	Water Discharge Permit - Review/Approval	254d	03-May-27	01-May-28	0.00h	462d	
A1520	LPSC Permit - Review/Approval	254d	03-May-27	01-May-28	0.00h	462d	
Engineering							
A1380	FEED Study	148d	01-Jul-26	01-Feb-27	0.00h	238d	
A1370	Detailed Engineering	190d	07-Jan-28	03-Oct-28	0.00h	2d	
Procurement							
Submerged Grind Conveyor							
A1020	Develop Spec - SGC	40d	07-Jan-28*	02-Mar-28	0.00h	2d	
A1030	Issue Bid Package - SGC	2d	03-Mar-28	06-Mar-28	0.00h	149d	
A1040	Bid Period - SGC	20d	07-Mar-28	03-Apr-28	0.00h	149d	
A1050	Bid Eval & Award - SGC	20d	04-Apr-28	01-May-28	0.00h	149d	
A1060	Prepare Vendor Submittals - SGC	90d	02-May-28	07-Sep-28	0.00h	149d	
A1070	Fabricate & Delivery - SGC	143d	08-Sep-28	02-Apr-29	0.00h	149d	
A1080	Delivery Window - SGC	30d	20-Feb-29	02-Apr-29	0.00h	149d	
DCS							
A1390	Develop Spec - DCS	20d	04-Oct-28	31-Oct-28	0.00h	299d	
A1400	Issue Bid Package - DCS	5d	01-Nov-28	07-Nov-28	0.00h	299d	
A1410	Bid Period - DCS	15d	08-Nov-28	29-Nov-28	0.00h	299d	
A1420	Bid Eval & Award - DCS	15d	30-Nov-28	20-Dec-28	0.00h	299d	
Site Survey							
A1430	Bid/Negotiate/Award - Site Survey	30d	07-Jan-28	17-Feb-28	0.00h	484d	
A1440	Perform & Transmit - Site Survey	30d	18-Feb-28	30-Mar-28	0.00h	484d	
Geotech							
A1530	Bid/Negotiate/Award - Geotech	20d	07-Jan-28	03-Feb-28	0.00h	484d	
A1540	Perform & Transmit - Geotech	40d	04-Feb-28	30-Mar-28	0.00h	484d	
Pilot Trenching							
A1450	Bid/Negotiate/Award - Pilot Trenching	30d	07-Jan-28	17-Feb-28	0.00h	484d	
A1460	Perform & Transmit - Pilot Trenching & Survey	30d	18-Feb-28	30-Mar-28	0.00h	484d	
GC Construction							
A1160	Develop Spec - GC Construction	30d	04-Oct-28	14-Nov-28	0.00h	2d	
A1150	Issue Bid Package - GC Construction	5d	15-Nov-28	21-Nov-28	0.00h	2d	
A1170	Bid Period - GC Construction	25d	22-Nov-28	29-Dec-28	0.00h	2d	
A1180	Bid Eval & Award - GC Construction	20d	02-Jan-29	29-Jan-29	0.00h	2d	
A1190	Pre-Plan, Procure, Mobilize - GC Construction	95d	30-Jan-29	12-Jun-29	0.00h	2d	
Construction & Startup							
Outage							
A1100	Site Prep & B/G Construction	55d	13-Jun-29	29-Aug-29	0.00h	2d	
A1110	A/G Pre-Outage Mech Construction	42d	30-Aug-29	29-Oct-29	0.00h	2d	
A1120	A/G Pre-Outage Elec Construction	20d	02-Oct-29	29-Oct-29	0.00h	2d	
A1130	Outage Construction	40d	01-Nov-29*	31-Dec-29	0.00h	0d	
A1140	Final Walkdown & Punchlist	0d		31-Dec-29	0.00h	0d	



Start Date	30-Jun-26
Finish Date	26-Feb-30
Data Date	09-Feb-26
Run Date	23-Feb-26

BURNS McDONNELL

CLECO - Rodemacher Power Plant SGC - Scenario 2

Project Schedule

Page 1 of 1

03/2/26

Date	Revision	Checked	Approved
02/23/26	DRAFT		