

JEFF LANDRY
GOVERNOR



COURTNEY J. BURDETTE
SECRETARY

STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

RCVD APR 23 2026

APR 17 2026

CERTIFIED MAIL-9589 0710 5270 3727 1983 61-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

File No.: LA0008036
Agency Interest Number (AI No.): 2922
Activity No.: PER20260001

Mr. Bill Matthews
Cleco Power, LLC
Brame Energy Center
Post Office Box 5000
Pineville, LA 71361-5000

RE: Request for Extension of Site-Specific Effluent Limitation Guidelines (ELG) Deadlines in LA0008036

Dear Mr. Matthews:

This Office is in receipt of a letter dated March 2, 2026, requesting two site specific extensions under 40 CFR 423.18(d) applicable to LPDES permit LA0008036 for Cleco Power, LLC (Cleco)- Brame Energy Center's Rodemacher 2. Cleco requests an extension of the December 31, 2025, deadline to transfer out of the 2028 ELG coal cessation subcategory pursuant to 49 CFR 423.28(d)(2) and an extension of the December 31, 2025, deadline to comply to with generally applicable bottom ash transport water (BATW) limitation to limit dischargers to 10% of the bottom ash system volume, pursuant to 40 CFR 423.18(d)(1).

Under LPDES permit LA0008036 effective December 1, 2025, the compliance path is ceasing coal combustion by 2028 and converting the unit to natural gas. Consequently, 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. EPA promulgated new provisions in the final December 2025 ELG extension rule which allows for 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 rulemaking, if facilities requesting the extension meet certain criteria.

Cleco stated that the extension is necessary due to recent reliability concerns across Louisiana and delays in new generation projects within the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) South region which have created the need for viable alternatives for keeping the unit on the grid. Additionally, Cleco stated that the recent and expected regulation changes potentially impacting power plants warrant the extensions to the ELG deadlines under 40 CFR 423.18(d)(3).

Cleco is proposing the following compliance schedule:

1. Within 90 days of LDEQ confirming the extensions, Cleco will provide a formal notice of transfer out of the 2028 subcategory and into the generally applicable ELG limitations;
2. Within 120 days of Cleco's transfer notice, Cleco will submit a permit modification request to incorporate the transfer and to establish a new BATE 10% compliance deadline; and

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3. Rodemacher 2 will comply with the BATW 10% discharge limitation by December 31, 2029.

This Office has no objection to extending December 31, 2025, deadline to transfer out of the 2028 ELG coal cessation subcategory and the December 31, 2025, deadline to comply to with generally applicable BATW limitation to limit dischargers to 10% of the bottom ash system volume. Furthermore, LDEQ approves Cleco's proposed compliance schedule.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter feel free to contact Amy Exnicios, Office of Environmental Services, Permits Division, by phone at (225) 219-3501 or by email at amy.exnicios@la.gov. To ensure that all correspondence regarding this facility is properly filed, please reference your AI No. 2922 and LPDES permit number LA0008036 on all future correspondence to this Department.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Sheppard, Administrator
Water Permits Division

ale

c: IO-W

ec: Permit Compliance Unit
Acadiana Regional Office
Office of Environmental Compliance

Amy Exnicios
Kelli Hamilton
Scott Causey
Water Permits Division