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Alyssa Maurice-Anderson Assistant General Coursel Legal Department -- Regulatory

May 16, 2019

Lora W. Johnson, CMC, LMMC Clerk of Council Room 1E09, City Hall 1300 Perdido Street New Orleans, LA 70112

> Re: Revised Application of Entergy New Orleans, LLC for a Change in Electric and Gas Rates Pursuant to Council Resolutions R-15-194 and R-17-504 and for Related Relief Council Docket No. UD-18-07

Dear Ms. Johnson:

On behalf of Entergy New Orleans, LLC ("ENO" or the Company), please find enclosed for your further handling an original and three copies of Entergy New Orleans, LLC's Reply to Advisors' Opposition to Motion to Strike Portions of Advisors' Surrebuttal Testimony, which I would appreciate your filing into the record of this proceeding. Please file an original and two copies into the record in the above referenced matter, and return a date-stamped copy to our courier.

Should you have any questions regarding the above/attached, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

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Alyssa Maurice-Anderson

AMA/amb Enclosures

cc: Official Service List via email

BEFORE THE

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

REVISED APPLICATION OF)ENTERGY NEW ORLEANS, LLC FOR)A CHANGE IN ELECTRIC AND GAS)RATES PURSUANT TO COUNCIL)RESOLUTIONS R-15-194 AND R-17-)504 AND FOR RELATED RELIEF)

DOCKET NO. UD-18-07

ENTERGY NEW ORLEANS, LLC'S REPLY TO ADVISORS' OPPOSITION TO MOTION TO STRIKE PORTIONS OF ADVISORS' SURREBUTTAL TESTIMONY

NOW, BEFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, comes Entergy New Orleans, LLC ("ENO" or the "Company") and files this reply to the opposition filed by the Advisors to the Council of the City of New Orleans (the "Advisors") to ENO's Motion to Strike Portions of Surrebuttal Testimony of Advisors' Witnesses James M. Proctor and Victor M. Prep. In their opposition, the Advisors do not dispute that the testimony regarding a Capital Asset Pricing Model ("CAPM") analysis performed by Goldman, Sachs & Company ("Goldman") is offered to prop up the opinion Mr. Proctor offered in his direct testimony regarding a just and reasonable return on equity ("ROE") and therefore could have been presented on direct. Nor do the Advisors deny that ENO is unduly prejudiced by the Advisors withholding such testimony until their surrebuttal case.

Also, the Advisors do not dispute that Mr. Proctor had the opportunity to but did not comment on the facts included in the Private Letter Rulings in his direct testimony, and they do not show where Mr. Roberts commented on the facts in his rebuttal testimony. Additionally, the Advisors do not explain why Mr. Proctor ignored ENO's projection of the Prepaid Pension Asset and did not propose and quantify his adjustment in his direct testimony. Finally, Pages 11 and 12 of Mr. Prep's Direct Testimony do not contain the words "comply" or "compliance"; compliance with Resolution R-17-504 is a new subject being raised at the eleventh hour. As more fully set forth in detail in ENO's motion and below, the objected-to portions of Mr. Proctor's and Mr. Prep's testimony are not proper rebuttal testimony and should be stricken from the record.

A. Evidence regarding Goldman's CAPM analysis is an improper and untimely attempt to bolster Mr. Proctor's direct testimony and results in unfair prejudice to ENO.

The Advisors in their opposition take the position that because Mr. Hevert opined that Mr. Proctor's recommended ROE is not a reasonable estimate of ENO's cost of equity, Mr. Proctor should be allowed to offer additional evidence of other ROE analyses as support for his recommendation. To the contrary, evidence of analyses or studies that an expert contends support or offer a basis for his or her opinion must be disclosed on direct and is not the proper subject of when such opinion and its bases are challenged by an opposing party.

Advisors admit that Mr. Proctor offers testimony regarding both the factual details and the results of the Goldman CAPM analysis in response to Mr. Hevert's opinions regarding the reasonableness of Mr. Proctor's ROE recommendation, use of historical estimates of the market risk premium, and conclusions on returns based on low-beta coefficients.¹ Offering facts regarding the Goldman CAPM analysis, purportedly in response to Mr. Hevert's *opinions*, is not proper rebuttal testimony.² Mr. Proctor's testimony may have been acceptable surrebuttal evidence had Mr. Hevert testified in his rebuttal that neither ENO nor any other Entergy entity had employed the CAPM analysis to estimate ROE; however, it is not appropriate in response to Mr. Hevert's

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See Advisors' Opposition to Entergy New Orleans, LLC's Motion to Strike Portions of Advisors' Surrebuttal Testimony ("Advisors' Opposition) at 1-3.

State v. Bagwell, 519 So.2d 875, 881 (La. App. 2d Cir. 1988): State v. Dayton, 445 So.2d 76 (La. App. 2d Cir. 1984); see also State v. Franklin, 956 So.2d 823, 837 (La. App. 2d Cir. 2007) ("Rebuttal evidence" is that which is offered to explain, repel, counteract or disprove *facts* given in evidence by the adverse party: ...") (emphasis added).

opinion testimony regarding the reasonableness of Mr. Proctor's CAPM analysis and ROE recommendation.

Moreover, rebuttal evidence is evidence that has become relevant or important only due to evidence introduced by an opposing party.³ Rebuttal evidence is to be confined to new matters adduced by the defense.⁴ The reasonableness of Mr. Proctor's CAPM analysis and resulting ROE recommendation, and the bases and support for his opinion, became an issue as soon as he offered testimony on the topic in his direct. Whether Mr. Proctor used appropriate methodology to develop a sound opinion on direct did not become relevant only because of Mr. Hevert's rebuttal testimony questioning its reasonableness. An expert's methodology must be explained and supported on direct before any opinion is admissible, regardless of any rebuttal on the issue. The analyses that Mr. Proctor contends support his CAPM study and ROE recommendation are not new matters adduced by ENO on rebuttal; they are facts that he was bound to disclose on direct as part of his initial opinion. By waiting until Mr. Proctor's surrebuttal to offer evidence of the Goldman CAPM analysis as support for Mr. Proctor's opinion, the Advisors effectively attempted to reserve a portion of their case-in-chief until the close of prefiled testimony, so that ENO has no reasonable opportunity to offer responsive evidence. Such an attempt is "contrary to statute, to ancient jurisprudence, and to rules of fair play."5

The Advisors do not dispute that Mr. Proctor's surrebuttal testimony regarding the Goldman CAPM analysis is intended to bolster Mr. Proctor's testimony on direct regarding his ROE recommendation; instead, they reiterate that the testimony concerning the Goldman CAPM

³ See State v. Widenhouse, 582 So.2d 1374, 1386 (La, App. 2d Cir, 1991), State v. Turner, 337 So.2d 455, 458 (La, 1976).

⁴ See Dean Classic Cars, L.L.C. v. Fidelity Bank and Trust Co., 978 So.2d 393, 401, n. 1 (La. App. 1 Cir 2007); Capel v. Langford, 734 So.2d 835, 847 (La. App. 3 Cir, 1999).

⁵ State v. Hatfield, 155 So.3d 572, 595 (La. App. 4 Cir. 2014), citing Turner, 337 So.2d at 458 (La. 1976).

analysis shows that Mr. Proctor's ROE recommendation is consistent with that of Goldman and shows the reasonableness of Mr. Proctor's use of the CAPM to estimate ENO's cost of equity.⁶ This is exactly the type of evidence that could and should have been offered on direct, and the Advisors make no argument in their opposition that the testimony could not have been part of Mr. Proctor's direct.

Perhaps most importantly, the Advisors in their opposition do not deny that ENO will be unduly prejudiced by the timing of Mr. Proctor's testimony regarding the Goldman CAPM analysis. As explained in detail in its motion, ENO is put at an unfair advantage given the restricted procedural schedule and the upcoming hearing and the resulting lack of sufficient time to adduce the evidence and information properly required to explain why the Goldman CAPM analysis is wholly inapplicable to Mr. Proctor's methodology and ROE opinion. At this juncture, it is not "practicable to mitigate the prejudice to" ENO resulting from the Advisors' failure to appropriately present the Goldman CAPM analysis on direct as purported support and justification for Mr. Proctor's recommendation.⁷

Therefore, because it is undisputed that (a) Mr. Proctor's surrebuttal testimony regarding the Goldman CAPM analysis is offered to bolster the reasonableness of the ROE opinion he offered on direct; (b) the testimony could have been presented on direct; and (c) ENO does not have "sufficient opportunity to respond" and is therefore unfairly prejudiced due to presentation of the evidence on surrebuttal, such testimony should be stricken.⁸

⁶ Advisors' Opposition at 2.

⁷ Memorandum and Order of April 16, 2019, at 4.

¹ *Id.* at 5,

B. The Advisors do not dispute that Mr. Proctor had the opportunity to but did not comment on the facts included in the Private Letter Rulings in his direct testimony, and they do not show where Mr. Roberts commented on the facts in his rebuttal testimony.

The Advisors do not dispute that Mr. Proctor had the Private Letter Rulings prior to the filing of his direct testimony and could have commented on them in his direct testimony. They provide no explanation for why he did not do so. Furthermore, the Advisors did not identify a single comment by Mr. Roberts on rebuttal regarding the facts included in the Private Letter Rulings to which Mr. Proctor's comment in his surrebuttal testimony is responsive.⁹ Moreover, had Mr. Proctor provided his comment earlier in this proceeding, the Company could have explored ways to address it. Accordingly, the Hearing Officer should strike the one question and answer regarding the Private Letter Rulings that is at issue.¹⁰

C. The Advisors do not explain why Mr. Proctor ignored ENO's projection of the Prepaid Pension Asset and did not propose and quantify his adjustment in his direct testimony, and the referenced data request responses are irrelevant.

The Advisors do not dispute that Mr. Proctor is offering a new basis for his recommended Prepaid Pension Asset adjustment in his surrebuttal testimony. Instead, they contend the new basis is justified by the timing of ENO's responses to Advisors 12-2 and 12-3. The Advisors are incorrect.

Mr. Proctor could have proposed his recommended adjustment and quantified the five-year average in his direct testimony by using ENO's projection of the Prepaid Pension Asset. Indeed, the Company provided the basis for this projection in its response to Advisors 3-35 on November 26, 2018 (*i.e.*, prior to the filing of Advisors' direct testimony in February 2019). Furthermore,

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 $^{^9}$ *E.g.*, Proctor Surrebuttal at 49 ("It is apparent to me from reading the PLRs the IRS relied on misinformation provided by the utilities seeking the PLRs.").

¹⁰ The Company does not contest the Advisors' ability to argue that the Private Letter Rulings are not precedent pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code.

that response shows that the year-to-year change in the balance of the Prepaid Pension Asset is the difference between the Company's cash pension contributions and its pension expense. That response also shows that the change in the balance of the Prepaid Pension Asset during 2018 does not depend on the market value of the pension plan assets at the end of 2018, although Mr. Proctor incorrectly thinks it does.¹¹ Mr. Proctor's apparent failure to understand these dynamics does not entitle him to file supplemental direct testimony. Thus, the Hearing Officer should strike Mr. Proctor's new basis for his recommended Prepaid Pension Asset.

D. Pages 11 and 12 of Mr. Prep's direct testimony do not contain the words "comply" or "compliance"; compliance with Resolution R-17-504 is a new subject being raised at the eleventh hour.

Pages 11 and 12 of Mr. Prep's direct testimony explain Mr. Prep's approach to developing a cost of service and quotes from Resolution R-17-504 to support why he used such approach in developing his cost of service studies. Nowhere on pages 11 and 12 does Mr. Prep opine that ENO did not comply with Resolution R-17-504. Furthermore, Mr. Klucher does not discuss Resolution R-17-504 or its requirements in his rebuttal testimony. Rather, he explains why ENO used its approach in developing its cost of service studies and his concerns with Mr. Prep's approach to developing a cost of service; for example, the potential for double recovery of costs. Thus, compliance with Resolution R-17-504 is a new subject that should not be raised for the first time in surrebuttal testimony.

Moreover, ENO has not received a notice of deficiency, and the Advisors do not articulate any harm from the alleged non-compliance. At this point in the proceeding, allegations of noncompliance on what is, at best, an issue of presentation and not of substance are not helpful. The

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Proctor Direct at 68: Proctor Surrebuttal at 68.

surrebuttal testimony in question is interposed for an improper purpose and irrelevant at this stage of the proceeding, and the Hearing Officer should strike the surrebuttal testimony in question.

E. Conclusion

For all these reasons, and those set forth in the motion itself, ENO's Motion to Strike Portions of Surrebuttal Testimony of Advisors' Witnesses James M. Proctor and Victor M. Prep should be granted.

Respectfully submitted,

BY:

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ATTORNEYS FOR ENTERGY NEW ORLEANS, LLC

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this <u>16th</u> day of <u>May</u>, 2019, served the required number of copies of the foregoing pleading upon all other known parties of this proceeding individually and/or through their attorney of record or other duly designated individual, by: \boxtimes electronic mail, \square facsimile, \boxtimes hand delivery, and/or by depositing same with \boxtimes overnight mail carrier, or \square the United States Postal Service, postage prepaid.

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