



HELENA MORENO  
COUNCILMEMBER AT-LARGE

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*New Orleans City Council*

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September 20, 2021

John R. Bear, Chief Executive Officer  
Clair J. Moeller, President and Chief Operating Officer  
MISO (Midcontinent Independent System Operator)  
720 City Center Dr.  
Carmel, IN 46032-3826

Mr. Bear and Mr. Moeller:

In the light of the devastating events experienced throughout Southeast Louisiana as a result of Hurricane Ida, I am strongly urging MISO to fulfill its obligations to plan and build a reliable regional grid. I was recently informed that stakeholders believe Entergy is obstructing progress in MISO at the expense of those who rely on the grid for affordable power. These views were expressed at the MISO September 16, 2021 board meeting by people directly impacted by Ida in New Orleans and also by former FERC Commissioner John Norris.

Commissioner Norris stated that he voted in favor of Entergy joining MISO because of the critical need for Entergy to interconnect with other transmission systems. Historically, Entergy isolated itself to ensure only Entergy's generators could supply electricity to its customers. This parochialism resulted in inflated rates to customers and diminished Entergy's ability to deliver electricity when Entergy's generators or transmission grid went down. When Hurricane Ida hit, New Orleans and its people once again suffered the consequences of Entergy's protectionism. Some even died because of power outages in the city.

MISO was supposed to ensure that Entergy could no longer prevent the development of a reliable and interconnected transmission grid in MISO South. The citizens of New Orleans need MISO to fulfill its promise. As I have stated in previous communications, New Orleans embraces MISO's Long Range Transmission Planning (LRTP) process and the related cost allocation; but we need MISO to finalize solutions for New Orleans' area in early 2022. We cannot wait for another year to go by without a solid plan.

Our city frequently experiences extreme weather events, but Hurricane Ida especially highlights the importance of building a robust, interconnected transmission system. For too long, the region surrounding New Orleans has been served by a grid that was built in a piecemeal manner and without sufficient connections to other geographic areas. Given recent stakeholders comments I question whether our grid was designed and built by a utility that is more interested in protecting its own interests than those of its customers.

New Orleans will assist in the MISO stakeholder processes to ensure transmission solutions for the New Orleans area are adopted in 2022. But MISO must lead this effort both in planning and cost allocation. We are relying on MISO for planning the grid infrastructure that New Orleans will need, and we stand ready to support MISO efforts that result in these transmission projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Helena Moreno', with a stylized, flowing script.

Helena N. Moreno  
New Orleans City Council President  
Chair of the New Orleans Utility Telecommunications and Technology Committee

CC: OMS President Julie Fedorchak  
Executive Director Marcus Hawkins