

LATOYA CANTRELL, MAYOR  
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

March 25, 2021

Mr. John Bear, CEO  
Mid-Continent Independent System Operator, Inc.  
701 City Center Dr  
Carmel, IN 46032

Mr. Clair Moeller, President  
Mid-Continent Independent System Operator, Inc.  
701 City Center Dr  
Carmel, IN 46032

**RE: SUPPORT FOR LONG RANGE TRANSMISSION PLANNING TO ENSURE  
RELIABLE, RENEWABLE AND AFFORDABLE ENERGY IN MISO SOUTH**

Dear Mr. Bear and Mr. Moeller,

The City of New Orleans faces multiple existential threats from a changing climate. To that end, the Mayor's Office, under my administration, has made climate action and resilience for the city a top priority. In addition to efforts like the recent partnership with local solar companies in the 'Solar for All' campaign, I have been an active participant in the C40 coalition of mayors as a member of the Climate Mayors Steering Committee. This worldwide coalition of 97 mayors exists for the purpose of leading climate action and sustainability efforts from cities, and for New Orleans this means leading in resilience.

Louisiana's electric system has benefited greatly by being better connected with our neighboring states. However, as our climate changes, and our energy system, we need to ensure that it is resilient. With the New Orleans City Council's passage of the Renewable and Clean Portfolio Standard nearly a year ago, with the goal of a zero-emission energy supply by 2050, the city has taken an important step towards meaningful climate action.

It is important however, that consumers in the city have access to a reliable and affordable energy system as well. This past year, Louisiana was hit by five hurricanes that left hundreds of thousands of Louisianans without power, sometimes for days. From July to November the city was in the path of eight hurricanes in 2020, and tens of thousands of New Orleanians were left without power for days in late October when the eye of Hurricane Zeta passed over the city. In February 2021, a Polar Vortex struck, and again our citizens lost power. New Orleans cannot continue to accept major power outages that slow our economy and harm our citizens. Simply put, the city must prepare for a 21st century climate, and a 21st century energy system.

To that effect, I am pleased to hear that MISO is already anticipating more robust transmission upgrades through the Long-Range Transmission Plan (LRTP). Better connections with our neighboring states, both within MISO South as well as with MISO North, will increase Louisiana's resiliency in the face of these more extreme weather events and reduce costs while allowing greater access to renewable energy, and renewable energy jobs. Electric transmission expansion is a clear win-win solution for our environment and economy.



Collaborative long-range planning is the only way to expand transmission in a cost-effective way. Given the lengthy process of transmission planning and development, and the looming threats of additional extreme weather, I am asking that you move as swiftly as possible to incorporate the climate and resilience goals of New Orleans in MISO's transmission planning processes. I also request that the MISO Transmission Expansion Plan for 2021 reflect this point of view to the extent possible.

We are relying on MISO to plan the grid infrastructure that the City of New Orleans can rely on now, and for the century to come. We stand ready to partner with you to ensure that this occurs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "LaToya Cantrell". The signature is stylized with a large, circular flourish at the end.

LaToya Cantrell  
Mayor of the City of New Orleans