

Santee Cooper IRP | General Notice Meeting #2

April 3, 2025 11:30 am EDT

*This Q&A Summary documents the questions and comments that were asked, and the responses that were provided in the Q&A window during the IRP meeting. The questions and written answers are generated by the Zoom platform. The live answers are transcribed from the recording and are an attempt to capture each as closely as possible, as it was provided. All live answers have been edited for readability and may have been reordered to connect conversations. [Square brackets] are used to identify post-meeting ammendments or restated questions and material references.*

Question Details

#	Question, Follow-on Questions, Comments or Input	Asked By	Response Type by Whom	Responses
1	Is there a passcode for the call so we can join from a virtual room? We have the meeting ID already. Thanks	Matthew Martin	written by Stewart Ramsay	We would suggest trying to join from the room using anyone who has registered credentials.
				Please let me know whether that works for you
2	If you had not and had not planned on it you may want to mention that since we are using Q and A and NOT CHAT	Dennis Boyd	live by Stewart Ramsay	So the chat function is not being used for participants. So just any questions you have, please direct them to the -- thanks, Dennis. Dennis is ahead of me again -- so, yes the chat function isn't being used. Just put your questions in the the Q&A. It makes it much easier for us to interact through that that function.
RH	Thank you. Apologies, I'm on the road. I have two questions, one on the previous slide, and one on this, or maybe this slide, the slide before the stakeholder engagement. I appreciated the conversation about hedging. I think that that's a really important point that you know, there's a diversified portfolio that appropriately hedges potential future risks. And, you know, natural gas prices can be particularly volatile, like we saw with the huge spike when Russia invaded Ukraine. And I was curious if y'all could talk a little bit about what you do to hedge fuel costs, specifically beyond just kind of hedging your capacity planning. Are you all trading gas futures to hedge against future fuel cost risk?	Taylor Allred	live by Dave Millar	Yeah, we have a hedging program. So, yes, we are actively hedging our fuel cost risk.

RH	<p>Okay good deal. I appreciate that. And then my second question on the stakeholder process. Last spring, we had Santee Cooper's slides in the stakeholder working group meeting, which included a goal to improve its engagement with low-income customers. And I've had a number of conversations with Santee Cooper staff on helping to plan out a strategy for that. I've also connected them with another group, the Energy Justice Coalition, who they've had additional conversations with. And you know, it's coming up on a year since we started talking about having some meetings where low-income customers could engage directly on IRP matters that you know they want to learn about and provide input on, because they, you know, they affect everybody. Can you all speak a little bit on the status of that as it currently stands, and are you still committed to engaging with low-income customers?</p>	Taylor Allred	live by Stewart Ramsay	<p>So I can speak to some of that. I have been involved in conversations with those groups. Thank you for the introductions, Taylor, and through working with them, seeking their input on how best to do that, so those conversations are ongoing. We're asking the folks that you've introduced us to, what would be the appropriate format, what would be the most useful and most impactful? And because of the video webinar right now. don't have my calendar open, but I know we have a follow-up meeting in the works on that. So, there is progress being made toward that end.</p>
	<p>Okay, thank you, Stewart. I appreciate that. You know, I'd heard that there was some there are some concerns on Santee Cooper's end and some suggestions that y'all might not ultimately do this. I think it's really important that this gets done. And, I don't want to drag it out, you know, another year. I'd like to try and get something nailed down. And let's do a initial meeting, you know, by this summer, like, let's see how it goes, see how y'all feel about the format. Think of it as like a pilot, and let's get the input and see how we can maybe even do better. I know that EJC folks have a lot of great ideas. I think they've shared with you all on how best to approach this.</p>	Taylor Allred	live by Dave Millar	<p>I mean, Taylor, I appreciate you bringing it up. Yeah, I mean, I, of course, I don't have any issue with that. And, you know, let's talk offline about what that might look like. But it seems like a very, you know, a good a good suggestion.</p>

	I know that there have been some questions about whether, you know, there might be issues with there being kind of these separate conversations from the stakeholder working group. And you know, if that's a real sticking point, I think it's fine to invite the whole stakeholder working group. And you know, I believe EJC is in agreement with me on that. So I'd like to just try and rather than having the we will, then wait a while, we won't, then we will, then we won't back and forth for too long, like we've been having, let's just do it. And you know if it's valuable, it's valuable. And you know if it feels like it's not something that needs to be replicated super frequently, or, you know, beyond particular stages of the IRP process, and we can have that conversation. But do you all think we could get a meeting scheduled with a low income group this summer?			
	Okay, great. Thank you, David, and welcome to Charleston.	Taylor Allred		
RH	Yes sir. Thank you. Sorry to hit you all again so soon, but load forecasting is another topic I've got a lot of interest in, done a lot of work on as you all know. And one thing that you know, I guess a few things, I'm sorry so like, I'm wondering if y'all can speak to any new best practices you're looking at adopting since you've learned lessons in the 2024 load forecast with that significant shift. And I guess within that, a couple things I'm wondering if y'all could address. Are you looking at the potential for large new loads to be interruptible? I know that increasingly, y'all's existing industrial loads have become more and more interruptible, which would greatly change the calculus and capacity modeling and lower costs. And also, you know, a lot of these large new customers have strong corporate shareholder commitments to clean energy, wondering if y'all are surveying the them on those needs, and you know whether they'd be willing to pay a premium if needed to meet it, and thinking about making sure that all of those questions are reflected in the load forecast, so that you're not making false assumptions that lead to potentially over building certain types of capacity which might not be needed for the customers that actually come through.	Taylor Allred	live by Greg McCormack	Yeah. Taylor, thank you for the question and always for your interest in the load forecast. I think my answer to that question would be the same answer that I gave you when you asked that question in our working group session. So when we are working internally to figure out these potential economic development loads, we have a group that does that analysis, and we are going to ask them to evaluate or ask the customer, whatever it may be, what sort of interruptibility they may have. But the stance that I take on that is that we're not going to put interruptible just because we expect it to look like that, or because we think it may look like that it's going to be, if the customer tells us that there is potential for that, so we're, we are not going to be guessing what we think their interruptibility should be. And then, as it relates to corporate goals and things like that, we have a team that is talking to all of these different people, of our customers, and trying to figure out what sorts of loads they may have, and so all of that would be incorporated in our analysis. But we're not doing any sort of separate analysis or corporate outreach type activities, or corporate look to see what sort of things people will be bringing to our system.

	<p>Okay, I appreciate that. I think there is definitely room to improve any process, no matter how good. I encourage us to, you know, continue the conversation and keep looking at the best practices like those that are highlighted in the Applied Economics clinic report that came out in November with the South Carolina focus. You know, there are a lot of good suggestions in there on how we could improve beyond the way things have been done in South Carolina recently. And then, yeah, I think on the interruptibility side of things, I'll just flag that. You know, a lot of states and other utilities have been moving in the direction of increasingly requiring that, because it's just you know the best way to protect other rate payers in terms of, you know, how you're how you're coding new loads, and, you know, just lowers costs and can, can bring new loads online much more quickly while maintaining system reliability. There is a study out of the Nicholas Institute recently that highlighted this as a huge opportunity, particularly with data centers. And I saw that Duke Energy, I believe yesterday, I don't have all the details, but I saw an article that was saying they announced that they're now requiring all new data centers to be on interruptible service. And I think that that's a pretty intriguing idea. I would encourage Santee Cooper to think about.</p>	Taylor Allred		
RH	<p>I'm Carol's husband, we're watching this together. You know, I don't mean to be rude, but there's a gentleman, right, who obviously has his own agenda and is involved intimately in your industry, right? And I can appreciate the fact that he may have questions and suggestions that go far above and beyond the presentation today, but there are those of us that are here that have a limited amount of time, who are just general consumers who want to find out a little bit more about the utility, a little bit more about the new rate structure, and become a little bit more intimate with how you do what you do. So we're hoping that you can stay on point a little bit more and keep the questions that are asked to the presentation and not to a professional who obviously has his own agenda. Thank you.</p>		live by Greg McCormack	<p>Okay, thank you. So I will keep moving forward with that.</p>

3	I believe this presentation is being recorded...will it be available for review by the public at some point? If so, where? I had to step off for a minute and missed a part I think I am interested in.....thank you	Mike Norris	written by Will Brown	Mike, thanks for the question. We do plan to post the video recording, and it will be available on the IRP web page for the 2024-26 Stakeholder process. We will link it under the General Notice 2 meeting dropdown.  Here's the link to the web page, which is also in the slide deck: <a href="https://www.santeecooper.com/about/integrated-resource-plan/2026-irp-stakeholder-process/">https://www.santeecooper.com/about/integrated-resource-plan/2026-irp-stakeholder-process/</a>
4	What use cases are you analyzing for the BESS? Is it simply evaluate as peaking capacity, or are you looking for deployment to support other grid operation needs (FFR, voltage, etc.)	Peter Blauvelt	written by David Millar	BESS can provide a range of services, as you note. Primarily we need it for capacity, but we'll use it for ancillary services as well. Ancillary services are specialised types of operation that make sure the grid's frequency stays at 60 hertz, for those not familiar with that term. We value BESS for all of the services it provides.
5	Is the load forecast peak load?	William Rogers	written by David Millar	Yes, what he has up right now is peak load.
6	are you going to discuss reserve margin in your forecast?	William Rogers	written by David Millar	Yes, Clay will talk about it now. It's the solid black line
7	Why is your high peak in the winter - heat pumps being used? Are they more inefficient than air conditioners? Thank you	Mike Norris	written by Carl Ciullo	Good question Mike; you are correct that heat pumps tend to use more energy than electric cooling in our service territory. In addition, use of other electric appliances tends to go up in the cold but not in the heat; for example, customers are more likely to use their oven during cold temperatures.
			written by David Millar	One point of clarification. A heat pump is like an air conditioner that runs in reverse. It is a highly efficient way to heat homes, relative to resistance heating.
	I am new to the area so not used to the peak need being in the winter :)	Mike Norris	written by Dennis Boyd	As one moves North it has enough cold weather that heat pumps are inefficient and natural gas or oil heat is used. As heat pumps are improved the neutral line moves North but that affects new construction muchmore than existing heating systems.
8	Are you utilizing buying back power from customers who generate themselves?	Mia Mroczynski	written by David Millar	Yes, if customers self-generate more than they use on their site we compensate them for the value of that energy.

	How much does that contribute to overall supply? Or is that not counted because it is not considered "reliable"?	Mia Mroczynski	written by Carl Ciullo	Because Santee Cooper's winter peak tends to be in the morning and rooftop solar tends to generate electricity in the late morning and afternoon, there is not a substantial demand impact from rooftop solar.
9	Is there any timeframe you can share on the release of the next RFP for solar generation resources?	Chris Ottley	written by David Millar	We don't have a timeline right now. We just wrapped up the 2024 solar process. It could be as soon as this Fall but it's TBD.
10	Are you going to address the price increase?	Wes Newman	written by Nicole Aiello	Hi Wes, This meeting is specific to the IRP. if you're asking specifically about the new rates that took effect April 1, you can find much more information on that at <a href="https://www.santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study/">https://www.santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study/</a> . You also can give us a call at 800-804-7424 if you'd like to discuss rate changes.
	Guess Not	Wes Newman		
		Wes Newman	written by Will Brown	Wes, the link provided above is also in the slide deck on slide 7.
11	THX	Wes Newman	written by Will Brown	Thank you Wes. We appreciate your question and participation.