Santee Cooper IRP | General Notice Meeting #3

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

#	Questions, Follow-on Questions, Comments or Input	Asker Name	Response Type by Whom	Responses
1	Are these dots the size of the economic investment or of the increased electric load please?	Eddy Moore	written by Carl Ciullo	Good question Eddy; the dot size is the approximate capital investment, not electricity usage.
2	On slide 14: is it still true that, of the 696 MW plus 776 MW of new large loads, none have signed service agreements under Santee Cooper's recently-adopted, more stringent large load tariffs?	Eddy Moore	written by Carl Ciullo	Good question Eddy. The newly signed large loads are Central Cooperative customers and have service agreements with cooperative tariffs. Santee Cooper tariffs do not apply.
3	For the potential new customers that have approached Santee Cooper or Central, have those customers indicated interest in clean energy as part of their decision-making criteria?	Celeste Wanner	written by Ellie Gallagher	Customers have not shared their decision criteria with us, and we have not had many conversations about clean energy specifically.
4	Are all customers subject to the same peak hours rates as residential customers?	Sam Miller	written by Ellie Gallagher	Each customer is charged in accordance with their rate schedule or tariff. You can learn more about Santee Cooper's rate schedule here: https://www.santeecooper.com/rates/
5	Could you talk more about the change in resource additions, particularly solar, from 2024 to the 2025 Update? In other words, I'm curious about the change in projected solar capacity between the plans.	Celeste Wanner	written by David Millar	Between the 2024 Update and 2025 Update the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBA) became law. The bill quickly phased out tax credits for wind and solar, therefore this year's update shows significantly less solar build out due to the reduced cost-effectiveness of solar.

	Thank you. I found the resource addition tables from the 2024 Update and 2025 Update and solar additions appear to have gone down from 3,450 MW through 2040 to 0 MW through 2040, is that correct?	Celeste Wanner	written by Clay Settle	No that is not correct. Please look at the 2025 Portfolio Update Addtions for solar additions which can be found in Appendix Table C-5. The 2025 Portfolio Update continues to add solar through the study period begnining in the early 2030s
6	Regarding slide 21: I asked in a prior meeting whether the 2025 IRP Update model was free to select or not select the joint resource. The answer was "yes," the model was free to select it or not. In follow up, please: Did Santee Cooper constrain the years in which the model could select the joint resource to only one or two specific years, so that it had to select the resource at a specific time or not at all?	Eddy Moore	written by Bob Davis	The Joint NGCC was available to be selected in 2032 and 2033 only, based on an assumed staged construction of the project. One of three 1x1 NGCC units was modeled as available by Jan 1, 2032 and two additional 1x1 NGCC units were available by Jan 1, 2033.
	So did y'all make the full amount available in 2032, or just the first 1X1? Also, does Santee Cooper believe that NGCC costs will eventually moderate in later years from the current historic highs or do they stay high throughout the 15-year planning horizon?	Eddy Moore	written by Bob Davis	The NGCC units for the Joint NGCC Project were modeled as mutually inclusive resource options. In other words, the model would need to select both the 2032 and 2033 resources options, if desired. I should have also mentioned that the Santee Cooper EnCompass model simulated each of these units as 50% of the size of a typical 1x1 H-class NGCC resource, reflecting Santee Cooper's 50% participation in the project.
			written by Bob Davis	In response to the second part of your follow-up question: We model a technology cost curve that is based on the NREL 2024 ATB. This curve shows an approx 11% reduction in costs in real dollar terms by 2040 (but still increasing in nominal dollar terms). Regarding how costs may fluctuate in the future, its been my experience that costs in real terms tend to decrease in the long-term as technology improves, but market conditions can cause cost fluctuations up and down that are difficult to predict.

7	Hello, Santee Cooper had emailed me to join this meeting, while im not a Stake holder I am a Painting Contractor. Can you please let me know who to talk to directly that takes care of all of your painting needs? I appreciate it.	Whitney Russell	written by Ellie Gallagher	Whitney, thank you for joining. Please visit our suppliers and contractors website at: https://www.santeecooper.com/doing-business-with-us/suppliers-contractors/
8	With ZERO energy cost, why are not solar energy used to reduce customer cost. Even requiring gas turbine's for peaking and no solar input times why are Santee Cooper not adding solar? How are small outside groups affording building and selling their output to existing utilities?	Cunningham Thomas	Clay Settle	The 2025 IRP Update does include continued addtions of solar over the study period. The solar additions will ultimaltey be determined through RFP results from Santee Cooper's Competitive Procurment of Renewable Energy (CRPE) process. Santee Cooper will add solar as found economic throug the CPRE process.
9	For the reserve margin study please: which winter weather year ended up most influencing the resulting reserve margin?	Eddy Moore	live by Joel Dison	I think I'd have to come back with a confirmation of this, but I'm about 98% confident it was 1985. 1985 is the most severe cold weather, weather pattern that we looked at in that in that range, and so I'm pretty sure that was the worst.
	For the reserve margin study please: which winter weather year ended up most influencing the resulting reserve margin?	Eddy Moore	written by Stewart Ramsay	1985 [in follow-up to live confirmation by Joel Dison]
10	There was very little difference in reserve margin despite a large change in import capability. Is it perhaps your assumption about the availability of neighboring system generating capability, rather than the transmission constraint, that accounts for this result?	Eddy Moore	live by Joel Dison	Well, that's pretty much the answer yes. So, if you look at that low transmission import of 20.53% versus the base case of 20.1, you could go into the details, and we can look and and see that the imports that were available from the neighbors, because of their conditions, , was always pretty much less than half the total available transmission import. So, I was able to reduce the transmission import by 50% and it didn't change because, for the most part, they were not receiving more than that from their neighbors at the time Santee Cooper needed it. Now, obviously there were other times, where for economics, Santee Cooper was getting more than that, but during the times when Santee Cooper needed it for reliability purposes, they were only very rarely getting more than the total of 50% of their import capability.

	I think what we're seeing is across the region, with the growth in load, data center load and others, reserve margins are starting to get squeezed a little bit, and so there isn't as much available out in the system that might have been available in the past. Right?	Stewart Ramsay	live by Joel Dison	Right conclusion, probably not the right cause, right? So there is less available for reliabilities, but it doesn't have anything to do with them being squeezed on their reserve margins, because what we do with the neighbors is we don't assume they're long and we don't assume they're short. We assume they are kind of at that industry standard of one day in 10 which means that the assistance that they provide, the only assistance that we really think should provide any benefit to reduce that 32% down to 20% is diversity of load. In other words, Santee Cooper's load may be a little higher than Southern Company's load at a given point in time, and so Southern Company may have something available because of diversity in weather patterns or diversity in unit outage patterns. Santee Cooper may lose a large unit at a time when Southern Company has no units offline, or Duke has no units offline, and can make those purchases. And so it's load diversity benefit and unit outage diversity benefit, not because anybody is short or long at any given point in time. We make sure that that's not why we're leaning on the neighbors at all,only because of this natural diversity. What's really happening here is that as everyone is moving towards a cleaner system,, the more and more renewables are pushing, more renewables and more batteries. What's happening is that everybody's starting to have less load-related and unit-outage-related diversity available. In other words, they're all starting to have risk at the same time. You know, it used to be that, well, maybe Santee Cooper was having risk at at eight o'clock in the morning in January, and Southern Company was not going to have that same risk until an hour or two later, and there was some benefit. But because of the transition that were happening, everybody's risk times are starting to converge in such a way that there's less actual support available between the regions than maybe there were a few years ago. I hope that makes sense.

11	Which types of generation have the biggest impact on the GADs contributino to reserve margin?	Eddy Moore	live by Joel Dison	I'm not sure I would fully understand. The question, but I think, I think he was trying, he may be trying to say what type of generation contributes most to that forced outage, contribution to the reserve market. And I would have to say it's clearly the units that have the highest, the highest e force, which is going to be your older units. So some of your older oil CTS or some of your older coal units would be the ones that would be providing the most contribution in terms of increasing the reserve margin. Right on the other hand, right a more a set of portfolio that would have newer resources with lower forced outage rates would tend to drive the reserve margin down right.
12	Following up on the solar topic, are the cost assumptions for solar and other resources included in the IRP documents?	Celeste Wanner	written by David Millar	Yes. Also check out our Stakeholder page for the technical presentations.
	Thank you!	Celeste Wanner		
RH	I have more of a comment than a question, if that's okay.	Celeste Wanner	live answered by Stewart Ramsay	Sure.
	First of all, I just want to thank you all for Santee Cooper for hosting these public meetings. My name is Celeste Warner, and I'm with the Clean Energy buyers Association. This is CEBA's first time participating or joining one of these general notice meetings. So glad to be here.	Celeste Wanner	live answered by Stewart Ramsay	Glad to have you.
	I mainly just wanted to have a chance to say during this time that CEBA members, our customer members, are very interested in new, voluntary clean energy programs from Santee Cooper that would allow them to purchase clean energy, bundled energy and REC's [Renewable Energy Certificate] through like a green tariff, or clean tariff program, that goes beyond the current Green Power offering, which, based on my understanding, is for unbundled REC's from some landfill gas and solar projects right now, which you know definitely works for some customers,	Celeste Wanner	live answered by Stewart Ramsay	Great. Thank you, Celeste.

but we have, you know, large commercial and industrial customer members who are interested in utility scale renewables and really driving the addition of new clean energy resources, including solar, wind, clean firm technologies such as solar paired with storage, you know, driving those resources and really partnering with and helping Santee Cooper add more of those resources to their system. You know, especially given, as we saw in the presentation, there's, of course, have been some changing economics and political situations, but our members are still very interested, and are out there procuring clean energy, and would love to you know, work with Santee Cooper to develop a new customer program. In particular, customers are interested in being able to work with third party developers in partnership with with the utility to identify and contract for these clean energy projects. And happy to share. I don't want to take up too much time here, since I know other folks haven't like given verbal updates or verbal comments, and again, new to this process, so appreciate the chance to make some verbal comments, but can send, you know, whether it's ... I saw there's the IRP Forum website link. I could put some more information in there, and we'll probably follow up email as well with some examples of like public power programs, as well as IOU programs, that members and customers across the country have utilized and that we would... I guess, takeaway in closing, CEBA strongly encourages Santee Cooper to incorporate and develop a new voluntary clean energy program in its 2026 IRP and to engage with our members and and CEBA is happy to engage as well to help support that.			
Thank you.	Celeste Wanner		

13	Thanks y’all! E	Eddy Moore	written by Jonathan Nunes	Thanks, Eddy.