

**On Behalf of Petitioner,
DUKE ENERGY INDIANA, LLC**

**VERIFIED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF
HARLEY Mc CORKLE**

Petitioner's Exhibit 23

April 4, 2024

**DIRECT TESTIMONY OF HARLEY McCORKLE
VICE PRESIDENT, ZONE OPERATIONS
DUKE ENERGY INDIANA, LLC
ON BEHALF OF DUKE ENERGY INDIANA, LLC
BEFORE THE INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION**

I. INTRODUCTION

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18

Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.

A. My name is Harley McCorkle, and my business address is 100 S Mill Creek Road, Noblesville, Indiana.

Q. BY WHOM ARE YOU EMPLOYED AND IN WHAT CAPACITY?

A. I am employed as Vice President of Zone Operations by Duke Energy Indiana, LLC (“Duke Energy Indiana” or “Company”).

Q. PLEASE BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND.

A. I received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business from Montreat College. I began my career at Duke Energy as a Marketing Representative in 1987 and have held a variety of positions of increasing responsibility across Duke Energy in generation and power distribution engineering and operations.

Q. PLEASE BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES AS VICE PRESIDENT OF ZONE OPERATIONS.

A. My current responsibilities include overseeing the safe, reliable, and efficient operations of Duke Energy’s distribution systems for service areas in Indiana, including construction, maintenance, engineering, project management, and resource planning.

HARLEY McCORKLE

DUKE ENERGY INDIANA 2024 BASE RATE CASE
DIRECT TESTIMONY OF HARLEY McCORKLE

1 **Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY IN THIS PROCEEDING?**

2 A. The purpose of my testimony is to provide an overview of Duke Energy Indiana's
3 distribution system planning and expenditures. Specifically, I will present Duke Energy
4 Indiana's distribution practices, which include forward-looking capital and operations
5 outlays, under which the Company is making significant investments to maintain and
6 improve the reliability of its distribution system, to enhance public safety, and grid
7 modernization projects. I also discuss the metrics Duke Energy Indiana uses to measure the
8 reliability of its distribution system. In addition, I will discuss the reliability programs Duke
9 Energy Indiana has implemented. To execute the work involved with operating the
10 Company's distribution system, I support the level of distribution capital expenses and
11 operations and maintenance ("O&M") expenses during the historical base period from
12 September 1, 2022, through August 31, 2023 (the "Base Period"), and the projected level of
13 distribution capital expenses and O&M expenses during the forward-looking test period of
14 January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025.

15 I will discuss the distribution portion of Duke Energy Indiana's Transmission
16 Distribution and Storage System Improvement Charge ("TDSIC") plan, approved by the
17 Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission ("Commission") in Cause No. 44720 ("TDSIC
18 Plan") and Cause No. 45647 ("TDSIC 2.0 Plan").¹ I will also discuss Duke Energy Indiana's
19 storm costs.

¹ The Office of Utility Consumer Counselor filed a notice of appeal in Cause No. 45647 with the Indiana Court of Appeals on July 15, 2022. On March 9, 2023, the Court of Appeals affirmed the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission's approval of Duke Energy Indiana's TDSIC Plan in *Indiana Off. of Util. Consumer Couns. v. Duke Energy Indiana, LLC*, 205 N.E.3d 1026 (Ind. Ct. App.). The

1 I will describe Duke Energy Indiana's current distribution vegetation management
2 program, which focuses on both maintaining our existing rights-of-way and on hazard tree
3 identification and removal outside of our rights-of-way. For purposes of my testimony, I will
4 be discussing the vegetation management program for our distribution system. Duke Energy
5 Indiana witness Mr. Tim Abbott will discuss transmission vegetation management in his
6 testimony.

7 **II. DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM CONDITIONS**

8 **Q. PLEASE PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF DUKE ENERGY INDIANA'S**
9 **DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM.**

10 A. The Duke Energy Indiana electric delivery system provides electric service to approximately
11 900,000 customers as of February 2024 located within 69 out of Indiana's 92 counties. The
12 number of customers is forecasted to increase to 918,000 by the end of the forward-looking
13 test period. Duke Energy Indiana owns and operates all its electric distribution facilities.

14 Duke Energy Indiana's electric delivery system includes 481 substations, 63
15 transmission substations (locations with 69 kilovolt ("kV") or higher operating voltages)
16 having a combined capacity of approximately 13,975 megavolt-amperes ("MVA"), 418
17 distribution substations (locations that supply one or more circuits at 35 kV or lower voltage)
18 having a combined capacity of approximately 9,266 MVA. There are 31,800 distribution
19 circuit miles in Indiana's service territory (29,286 at 12.47kV, 1,264 at 13.8kV, 51 at 34.5kV
20 (delta), 893 at 34.5kV (wye), and 268 at 4.16kV). The Duke Energy Indiana electric delivery

Indiana Supreme Court granted transfer on June 22, 2023 and the case is currently awaiting final decision at the Indiana Supreme Court.

DUKE ENERGY INDIANA 2024 BASE RATE CASE
DIRECT TESTIMONY OF HARLEY McCORKLE

1 system includes various other equipment and facilities, such as control rooms, computers,
2 capacitors, streetlights, meters and protective relays, and telecommunications equipment and
3 facilities.

4 **Q. HOW HAS THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM CHANGED SINCE DUKE ENERGY**
5 **INDIANA'S LAST BASE RATE CASE?**

6 A. The number of counties that Duke Energy Indiana services has not increased since the last
7 base rate case, but economic development and residential housing growth has influenced the
8 need for more infrastructure including substation capacity and line capacity. The number of
9 retail Duke Energy Indiana customers has grown from 847,258 in 2019 to 895,647 in the
10 Base Period.

11 **Table 1**

Year	RES	COM	IND	OTHER	Total
2019	740,711	91,985	2,696	11,866	847,258
2020	749,862	92,668	2,695	11,893	857,118
2021	759,447	93,391	2,689	11,852	867,379
2022	776,588	95,935	2,661	13,253	888,437

12 Customer growth continued throughout 2023. Table 2 depicts the number of retail customers
13 as of Base Period and 2023.

14 **Table 2**

Year	RES	COM	IND	OTHER	Total
Base Period	783,374	96,503	2,648	13,122	895,647
2023	788,920	96,962	2,641	13,001	901,524

1 **Q. PLEASE GENERALLY DESCRIBE HOW THE ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION**
2 **INFRASTRUCTURE IS DESIGNED, CONSTRUCTED, MANAGED, AND**
3 **OPERATED.**

4 A. The electric distribution infrastructure is designed to receive bulk power at transmission
5 voltages, reduce the voltage to one of several distribution voltages and deliver power to
6 customers' premises. The distribution infrastructure generally consists of substation power
7 transformers, switches, circuit breakers, wood pole lines, underground cables, distribution
8 transformers, and associated equipment. The physical design of the distribution system is
9 also generally governed by the National Electrical Safety Code ("NESC").

10 Duke Energy Indiana operates the distribution facilities it owns in accordance with
11 good utility practice. Duke Energy Indiana continuously runs the system with a workforce
12 that provides customer service 24 hours per day, 7 days per week and includes trouble
13 response crews. The Company monitors outages with various systems, such as Supervisory
14 Control and Data Acquisition (or "SCADA"), and the Distribution Outage Management
15 System ("DOMS").

16 **Q. PLEASE GENERALLY DESCRIBE HOW DUKE ENERGY INDIANA**
17 **CURRENTLY MONITORS AND MAINTAINS ITS DISTRIBUTION**
18 **INFRASTRUCTURE AND ITS PERFORMANCE.**

19 A. Duke Energy Indiana maintains its distribution infrastructure in accordance with good utility
20 practice by adhering to inspections, monitoring, testing, and periodic maintenance programs.
21 Examples of these existing programs include, but are not limited to, the following: (1)

1 substation inspection program; (2) surface mounted equipment inspection (“SMEI”); (3)
2 ground-line inspection and treatment program; (4) vegetation management program; and (5)
3 underground cable replacement program.

4 **III. FIVE PILLARS**

5 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE WHICH OF THE FIVE PILLARS DESCRIBED IN WITNESS**
6 **PINEGAR’S TESTIMONY HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED FOR DISTRIBUTION**
7 **INVESTMENTS INCLUDED IN THIS PROCEEDING?**

8 A. Electric system **reliability** is the adequacy and operational reliability of electric utility
9 service. The first concept, adequacy, includes the ability of the electric system to supply
10 electrical demand and energy requirements of its end users at all times, taking into account
11 scheduled and reasonably expected unscheduled outages. The second concept, operational
12 reliability, is the electric system’s ability to withstand sudden disturbances, such as electric
13 short circuits or unanticipated loss of system components.

14 Electric system **resiliency** describes the ability of a system or its components to adapt
15 to changing conditions, withstand disruptions and off-nominal events, and rapidly recover.

16 **Stability** encompasses the ability of the electric system or its components to maintain
17 a state of equilibrium during normal or abnormal conditions or disturbances.

18 As described in my testimony, the TDSIC and non-TDSIC investments the Company
19 is making directly contribute to the reliability, resiliency, and stability of Duke Energy
20 Indiana’s distribution system. The investments that Duke Energy Indiana is making as part of
21 its TDSIC 2.0 Plan not only take into account risk, but further extend a value-to-benefit

HARLEY McCORKLE

DUKE ENERGY INDIANA 2024 BASE RATE CASE
DIRECT TESTIMONY OF HARLEY McCORKLE

1 proposition for each investment emphasizing reliability prioritization, hardening and
2 resiliency improvements, stability, and enablement of distributed energy.

3 Non-TDSIC investments are more reactive, and they support mainly emergent
4 equipment conditions, customer load growth and expansion, outage restoration, vegetation
5 management, and system modifications and highway projects.

6 **IV. RELIABILITY METRICS**

7 **Q. WHAT IS DUKE ENERGY INDIANA'S MAIN GOAL FOR ITS DISTRIBUTION**
8 **SYSTEM?**

9 A. The main goal of Duke Energy Indiana's distribution system is to provide safe and reliable
10 power to satisfy our customers' needs.

11 **Q. HOW DOES THE COMPANY MEASURE THE RELIABILITY OF ITS**
12 **DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM?**

13 A. Duke Energy Indiana uses various reliability indices to measure the effectiveness of its
14 maintenance programs and system reliability. Below are the key reliability indices for Duke
15 Energy Indiana for the 12 months ending December 31, 2023. The electric reliability
16 measures included in Table 3 include the most recent metrics that are submitted to the
17 Commission on an annual basis.

18 **Table 3**

Duke Energy Indiana, LLC		
Electric Reliability Measure	Reporting Year (12 Months Ending: December 31, 2023)	
	Total	Without Major Events
SAIFI	1.48 Interruptions/Customer	0.89 Interruptions/Customer
SAIDI	645.3 Minutes/Customer	98.0 Minutes/Customer

HARLEY McCORKLE

DUKE ENERGY INDIANA 2024 BASE RATE CASE
DIRECT TESTIMONY OF HARLEY McCORKLE

CAIDI	434.7 Minutes/Interruption	109.9 Minutes/Interruption
CI	1,315,559	790,285
CMI	571,390,429	86,841,290

1 **Q. PLEASE EXPLAIN THE VARIOUS RELIABILITY INDICES DUKE ENERGY**
2 **INDIANA USES.**

3 A. Reliability indices are generally recognized standards for measuring the number, scope, and
4 duration of outages. These indices are defined as follows:

- 5 • System Average Interruption Duration Index (“SAIDI”) is the average time each
6 customer is interrupted and is expressed by the sum of customer interruption
7 durations divided by the total number of customers served.
- 8 • System Average Interruption Frequency Index (“SAIFI”) is the system average
9 frequency index and represents the average number of interruptions per customer.
10 SAIFI is expressed by the total number of customer interruptions divided by the total
11 number of customers served.
- 12 • Customer Average Interruption Duration Index (“CAIDI”) is the average interruption
13 duration or average time to restore service per interrupted customer and is expressed
14 by the sum of the customer interruption durations divided by the total number of
15 customer interruptions.
- 16 • Customer Interruption (“CI”) is the loss of service due a force outage for more than
17 five minutes, for one or more customers.
- 18 • Customer Minutes Interrupted (“CMI”) is the number of minutes of forced outage
19 duration multiplied by the number of customers affected.

HARLEY McCORKLE

DUKE ENERGY INDIANA 2024 BASE RATE CASE
DIRECT TESTIMONY OF HARLEY McCORKLE

1 **Q. ARE THERE ANY CHALLENGES WITH THESE INDICES? IF YES, PLEASE**
2 **EXPLAIN.**

3 A. Yes. For example, CAIDI is a measure of how long an average interruption lasts. CAIDI can
4 be lowered by reducing the length of interruptions but can also be lowered by increasing the
5 proportion of shorter-than-average interruptions. As such, a reduction in CAIDI does not
6 necessarily reflect an improvement in reliability; if SAIFI and SAIDI are both going down,
7 but SAIFI is going down faster than SAIDI, CAIDI will go up even though reliability is
8 getting better. In other words, CAIDI can move both up or down, regardless of reliability
9 improving or degrading.

10 **Q. HOW HAS DUKE ENERGY INDIANA ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION**
11 **INFRASTRUCTURE PERFORMED, AS MEASURED BY THESE RELIABILITY**
12 **INDICES?**

13 A. As measured by the reliability indices, Duke Energy Indiana has performed well. As
14 demonstrated in Table 3.a below, reliability scores have demonstrated an overall trend of
15 improvement since 2019.

DUKE ENERGY INDIANA 2024 BASE RATE CASE
DIRECT TESTIMONY OF HARLEY McCORKLE

1

Table 3.a

Duke Energy Indiana					
T&D Reliability Improvement					
2024 Rate Case Filing					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
SAIFI	1.07	0.95	0.94	1.16	0.89
SAIDI	140.4	121.0	127.1	160.4	98.0
SAIDI (Vegetation Related)	44.1	34.2	36.0	40.4	23.0
CAIDI	131.7	127.0	135.9	138.5	109.9
CI	903,088	833,043	806,617	1,013,797	790,285
CMI	119,013,169	105,994,868	109,684,636	140,315,343	86,841,290

2

*Information in the table above excludes MEDs

3 **Q. WHAT EFFORTS HAS DUKE ENERGY INDIANA UNDERTAKEN TO IMPACT**
4 **CUSTOMER RELIABILITY?**

5 A. Overall, the Duke Energy Indiana grid is reliable and well-maintained. While the Company
6 has worked hard to maintain the system to reliably meet the needs of customers, more must
7 be done to improve the Company's energy infrastructure and enhance the customer's energy
8 experience. Duke Energy Indiana has a dedicated team supporting activities to improve
9 customer reliability. Engineers proactively identify equipment that can improve reliability on
10 the system and make recommendations for investments, based on their assessments. Other
11 team members review outages that meet a certain threshold and inspect the distribution lines
12 and recommend reliability improvement projects, such as Targeted Undergrounding. The
13 planning group identifies automation, such as Self-Optimizing Grid, that can be installed on
14 distribution lines to provide backup power sources and isolate issues in the event of power
15 loss from one source.

HARLEY McCORKLE

DUKE ENERGY INDIANA 2024 BASE RATE CASE
DIRECT TESTIMONY OF HARLEY McCORKLE

1 **Q. WHAT ARE THE PRIMARY CAUSES OF DISTRIBUTION OUTAGES IN DUKE**
2 **ENERGY INDIANA'S SERVICE TERRITORY?**

3 A. Over the last four years, the three major causes of outages have been vegetation related
4 outages, equipment failure, and planned outages to perform system upgrades as shown in
5 Table 4. For example, in 2023, 19.41% of all distribution outages were related to vegetation
6 and 15.71% to equipment failure.

7 **Table 4**

Outage Cause	% of Total Number of Outages Excluding MEDs			
	2020	2021	2022	2023
Vegetation	22.85%	23.46%	21.25%	19.41%
Wildlife	11.83%	10.00%	11.73%	11.08%
Public Accident/Damage	6.99%	6.47%	6.14%	6.83%
Unknown Cause	7.65%	7.31%	8.96%	12.15%
Lightning Strike	3.51%	2.82%	2.68%	1.88%
Equipment Failure	16.46%	17.80%	17.67%	15.71%
Other Cause	11.53%	10.18%	9.57%	8.54%
Loss of Transmission/Generation	0.33%	0.49%	0.29%	0.46%
Weather	3.44%	2.12%	3.46%	3.74%
Planned	15.42%	19.35%	18.25%	20.20%

8 **Q. DOES DUKE ENERGY INDIANA TRACK CUSTOMER OUTAGE**
9 **SATISFACTION?**

10 A. Yes. The number of outage information points provided via proactive SMS text and the
11 Company's Outage Maps (including Crew Status, estimated time of restoration ("ETR") and
12 Cause code rates) are up, signaling the Company's field crews' continuous improvement and

DUKE ENERGY INDIANA 2024 BASE RATE CASE
DIRECT TESTIMONY OF HARLEY McCORKLE

1 dedication to keeping customers informed. These increases highlight how key investments
2 the Company has made in its customer digital channels are supporting our customers' desire
3 for more and faster communication.

4 Results collected in Fastrack, the Company's ongoing post-transaction customer
5 satisfaction study, reflects positive customer feedback with customers reporting improved
6 performance in being 'Kept Informed' and receiving 'Useful Information'. Further, Duke
7 Energy Midwest finished as a top quartile performer among large utilities nationally in
8 'Keeping Customers Informed About an Outage' in the 2023 J.D. Power Electric Utility
9 Residential Customer Satisfaction Study.

10 **V. DISTRIBUTION EXPENDITURES**

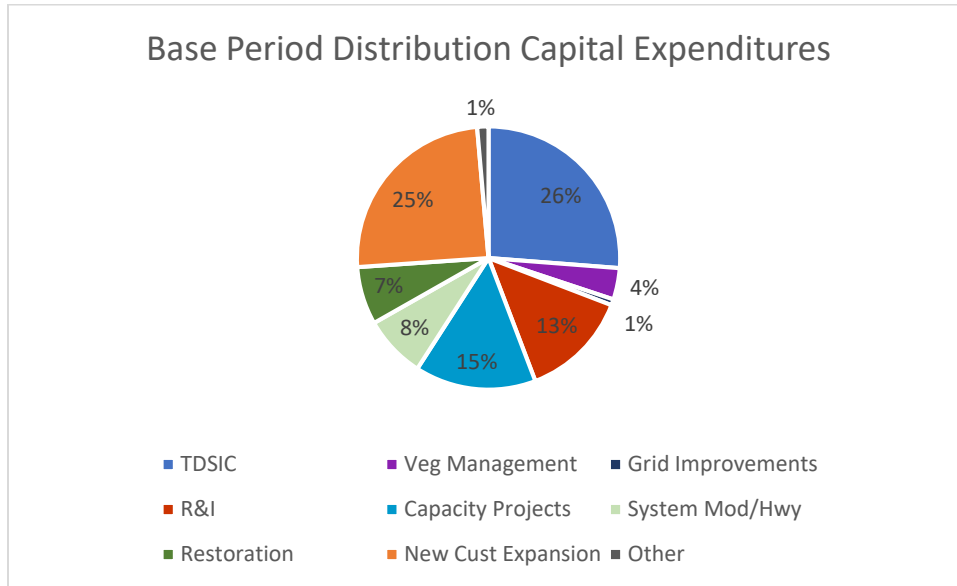
11 **Q. WHAT WAS DUKE ENERGY INDIANA'S TOTAL AMOUNT OF DISTRIBUTION**
12 **O&M EXPENSE AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURES FOR THE BASE PERIOD?**

13 A. Total distribution O&M expenditures for the Base Period were approximately \$98 million,
14 including \$7 million in TDSIC expenditures. Total capital expenditures for the Base Period
15 in the distribution system totaled approximately \$403 million, including \$106 million in
16 TDSIC expenditures.

DUKE ENERGY INDIANA 2024 BASE RATE CASE
 DIRECT TESTIMONY OF HARLEY McCORKLE

1

Chart 1



2 **Q. WHAT IS DUKE ENERGY INDIANA’S FORECASTED AMOUNT OF**
 3 **DISTRIBUTION O&M EXPENSE AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURES IN 2024?**

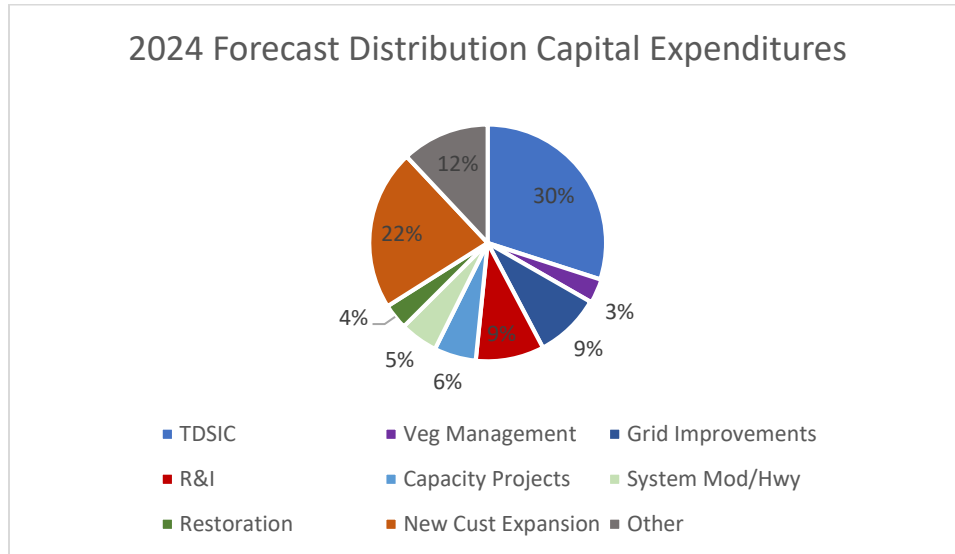
4 A. Duke Energy Indiana forecasts approximately \$117 million in O&M distribution expense in
 5 2024, including \$14 million in TDSIC expenditures. Total capital investment in the
 6 distribution system is projected at approximately \$376 million in 2024, including \$114
 7 million in TDSIC expenditures. The figure below provides a breakdown of Duke Energy
 8 Indiana’s 2024 distribution related capital expenditures.

HARLEY McCORKLE

DUKE ENERGY INDIANA 2024 BASE RATE CASE
DIRECT TESTIMONY OF HARLEY McCORKLE

1

Chart 2

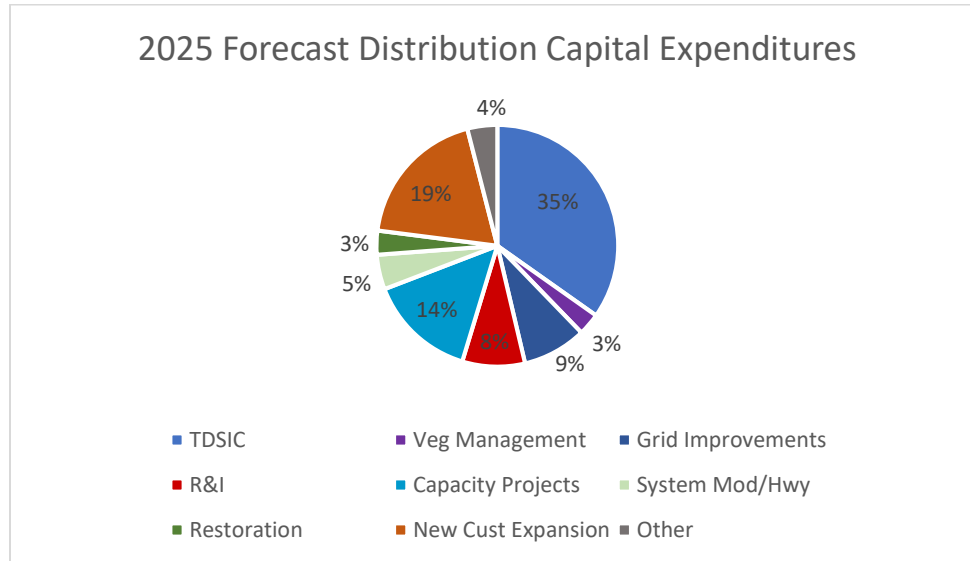


2 **Q. WHAT IS DUKE ENERGY INDIANA’S FORECASTED AMOUNT OF**
 3 **DISTRIBUTION O&M EXPENSE AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURES IN 2025 (THE**
 4 **FORWARD-LOOKING TEST PERIOD)?**

5 A. Duke Energy Indiana projects approximately \$119 million in O&M distribution expense in
 6 2025, including \$15 million in TDSIC expenditures. Total capital investment in the
 7 distribution system is projected at approximately \$420 million in 2025, including \$146
 8 million in TDSIC expenditures. The figure below provides a breakdown of Duke Energy
 9 Indiana’s 2025 distribution related capital expenditures.

DUKE ENERGY INDIANA 2024 BASE RATE CASE
DIRECT TESTIMONY OF HARLEY McCORKLE

1

Chart 3

2 **Q. PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW DUKE ENERGY INDIANA'S DISTRIBUTION O&M**
 3 **EXPENSE AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURES HAVE CHANGED FROM THE BASE**
 4 **PERIOD TO THE 2024 FORECAST AND 2025 FORECAST.**

5 A. Distribution O&M budget target levels have remained relatively flat over the past few years.
 6 O&M variances (see Table 5) from year to year are typically driven by larger events in a
 7 given year or due to program initiatives.

8 Table 5 below includes Base Period actuals and forecasted Distribution spend for 2024
 9 and 2025. From the Base Period to the 2024 Forecast, O&M is forecasted to increase by
 10 approximately \$19 million due to lower TDSIC deferrals and increased vegetation
 11 management. The TDSIC deferral is discussed in greater detail in witness Ms. Suzanne
 12 Sieferman's testimony. The forecast for 2024 to 2025 remains relatively flat with the key
 13 driver of the \$2 million increase relating to increased vegetation management.

HARLEY McCORKLE

DUKE ENERGY INDIANA 2024 BASE RATE CASE
DIRECT TESTIMONY OF HARLEY McCORKLE

1

Table 5

<i>\$ in Millions</i>	Base Period	2024 F	2025 F
Distribution O&M	\$98	\$117	\$119
Increase / (Decrease)		\$19	\$2

2

3

4

5

6

7

As can be seen in Table 6 below, there is a \$27 million decrease in capital expenditures between the Base Period and the 2024 Forecast. The main driver of the difference between the Base Period and the 2024 Forecast was that the 2024 Forecast was based on a lower number of additions than seen in the Base Period. 2025 forecasted expenditures are expected to increase from the 2024 forecast by \$44M. Key drivers of this change are primarily due to increases in TDSIC spend.

8

Table 6

<i>\$ in Millions</i>	Base Period	2024 F	2025 F
Distribution Capital Expenditures	\$403	\$376	\$420
Increase / (Decrease)		(\$27)	\$44

9

10 **Q. PLEASE BRIEFLY EXPLAIN ANY COST SAVING EFFORTS UNDERTAKEN TO**
11 **MANAGE COSTS.**

12 A. Duke Energy Indiana's 2024 Forecast includes cost reductions associated with multiple
13 ongoing Distribution initiatives. While these efforts endure year over year and cost
14 reductions continue, for 2024, the focus areas include automation and detection that reduces
15 truck rolls, implementation of technology and data analytic enhancements, and inventory
16 optimization improvements, among others.

1 **Q. DID YOU PROVIDE THE 2025 DISTRIBUTION O&M AND CAPITAL**
2 **EXPENDITURES REFLECTED ABOVE TO WITNESS MR. JOEL RUTLEDGE**
3 **FOR INCLUSION IN THE DUKE ENERGY INDIANA FORECASTED TEST**
4 **PERIOD PROPOSED IN THIS CASE?**

5 A. Yes.

6 **A. TDSIC**

7 **Q. WHAT IS TDSIC?**

8 A. TDSIC is an acronym that stands for Transmission Distribution and Storage System
9 Improvement Charge, which is a legislatively enacted recovery mechanism codified in
10 Indiana Code ch. 8-1-39.

11 **Q. DOES DUKE ENERGY INDIANA HAVE AN APPROVED TDSIC PLAN?**

12 A. Yes. Duke Energy Indiana's TDSIC Plans were approved in 2016 in IURC Cause No. 44720
13 covering the period 2016-2022 and approved in 2022 in IURC Cause No. 45647 covering the
14 period 2023-2028.

15 **Q. HOW MUCH OF DUKE ENERGY INDIANA'S DISTRIBUTION CAPITAL**
16 **EXPENDITURES ARE RELATED TO ITS TDSIC PLAN?**

17 A. The amount of Duke Energy Indiana's distribution capital expenditures related to TDSIC is
18 approximately \$106 million in the Base Period, \$114 million in the 2024 Forecast, and \$146
19 million in the 2025 Forecast. Please see Confidential Attachment 23-A (HM) for support for
20 TDSIC investments.

DUKE ENERGY INDIANA 2024 BASE RATE CASE
DIRECT TESTIMONY OF HARLEY McCORKLE

1 Q. WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE DISTRIBUTION TDSIC PLAN?

2 A. Duke Energy Indiana's plan addresses our defined grid investment planning objectives and
3 supports the Five Pillars' attributes of reliability, resiliency, and stability, including the
4 following areas of investment prioritization:

- 5 • Improve reliability for Indiana customers
- 6 • Advance grid hardening and resiliency
- 7 • Enable expansion of renewable and distributed generation
- 8 • Facilitate economic development growth

9 Q. WHAT PROGRAM CATEGORIES ARE INCLUDED IN DUKE ENERGY
10 INDIANA'S DISTRIBUTION TDSIC INVESTMENT PLAN?

11 A. The TDSIC 2.0 Investment Plan's six program categories are:

12 **Circuit Backbone Uplift** - targets circuit enhancements to support circuit modernization, including
13 automation, segmentation, and controlling circuit operations to enable self-optimization. These
14 modernization investments reduce outage impacts with respect to their occurrence frequency, grid
15 impact footprint, recovery time, and cost.

16 **Overhead Lateral Uplift** - is aimed at improving the lateral grid's reliability and resiliency. This
17 program is primarily comprised of projects that add segmentation and automation of the circuit
18 laterals to reduce the number of outages and customers impacted as well as reducing the duration of
19 the outages themselves.

DUKE ENERGY INDIANA 2024 BASE RATE CASE
DIRECT TESTIMONY OF HARLEY McCORKLE

1 **Underground System Uplift** – targets cable rehabilitation for improved reliability.

2 **4kV Conversions** - consists of the conversion of risk-prone, legacy standard, and dated architecture
3 of lower operating voltage lines to a 12 kV system.

4 **Inspection Based Programs** - is a condition-based program geared towards proactively replacing
5 grid hardware and equipment based on their effective age and historical failure rates.

6 At a high level, these categories are focused on system capacity and technology designed to
7 isolate faults and automatically reconfigure the system to reduce and shorten customer
8 outages. In addition, these programs involve upgrading equipment to address the leading
9 cause of outages, momentary interruptions, and enhancing controls around distribution lines
10 and substation equipment to optimize power delivery to customers.

11 **Distribution Substation Hardening and Resiliency Program** – is a program which
12 Transmission manages and involves distribution FERC substation assets. Please see witness
13 Abbott's testimony for more details.

14 **B. OTHER INVESTMENTS (OUTSIDE OF TDSIC)**

15
16 **Q. HOW MUCH OF DUKE ENERGY INDIANA'S DISTRIBUTION CAPITAL**
17 **EXPENDITURES ARE RELATED TO NON-TDSIC INVESTMENTS?**

18 A. The amount of Duke Energy Indiana's distribution capital expenditures related to non-
19 TDSIC investments is approximately \$297 million in the Base Period, \$262 million in the
20 2024 Forecast, and \$274 million in the 2025 Forecast. Please see Attachment 23-B (HM) for
21 support for non-TDSIC Base Period and forecasted capital expenditures.

1 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE NON-TDSIC INVESTMENTS AND HOW THEY DIFFER**
2 **FROM THOSE INCLUDED IN EITHER THE TDSIC OR TDSIC 2.0 PLAN.**

3 A. The non-TDSIC investments are more reactive, and they support mainly emergent equipment
4 conditions, customer load growth and expansion, outage restoration, vegetation management,
5 and system modifications and highway projects. Each of the investments identified in the
6 TDSIC or TDSIC 2.0 Plan are more proactive for the purpose of safety, reliability, or system
7 modernization.

8 The non-TDSIC investments include categories such as Reliability and Integrity,
9 Capacity, New Customer Expansion and Storm Restoration and are described below.

10 **Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE THE COMPANY'S RELIABILITY AND INTEGRITY (R&I)**
11 **PROGRAMS AND INVESTMENTS REFLECTED IN THE 2024 CAPITAL**
12 **FORECAST AND FORWARD-LOOKING TEST PERIOD.**

13 A. The various R&I programs are completed in response to emergent equipment conditions.
14 Some examples of R&I programs are described below.

15 **Cable replacement.** Investments in this program include approximately \$12M for the 2024
16 Forecast and \$12M for the 2025 Forecast. This program replaces medium voltage
17 underground cable that has failed or reached the end of its useful life. Underground cable
18 installation, started in the 1970s and in the 1980s, became the default installation method for
19 most residential customer connects supporting residential neighborhoods and subdivisions.
20 Duke Energy Indiana currently has an estimated 10,025 miles of underground cable installed.
21 Cable technology has improved through the years and life expectancy continues to increase.

DUKE ENERGY INDIANA 2024 BASE RATE CASE
DIRECT TESTIMONY OF HARLEY McCORKLE

1 Cable technology used during the 1970s was non-jacketed, concentric neutral using high
2 molecular weight insulation. This cable is now beyond its anticipated life span and
3 experiences increased failure rates and needs replaced.

4 **Reactive Pole Replacement.** Investments in this program include approximately \$4M for
5 the 2024 Forecast and \$4M for the 2025 Forecast. Replacement of damaged or decayed
6 distribution poles typically “found in the field” by Operations or engineering not associated
7 with an outage, public damage, or pole inspection.

8 **Substation Asset Upgrades.** Investments in this program include approximately \$6M for
9 the 2024 Forecast and \$4M for the 2025 Forecast. These distribution FERC projects are
10 managed by Transmission and include the replacement of obsolete and/or failed or failing
11 substation equipment. Asset replacements could include transformers, circuit breakers,
12 relays, switches, and other miscellaneous station equipment.

13 **Q. WHAT ARE THE DRIVERS OF THE COMPANY'S R&I PROGRAMS?**

14 A. The drivers for R&I Programs are replacement of failed equipment, and equipment that has
15 reached the end of its useful life.

16 **Q. WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THE R&I PROGRAMS?**

17 A. Duke Energy Indiana's R&I Programs maintain assets and the reliability of the system.

18 **Q. PLEASE DISCUSS WHAT TYPE OF CAPACITY PROJECTS ARE REFLECTED IN**
19 **THE COMPANY'S O&M EXPENSES AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURES FOR THE**
20 **2024 CAPITAL FORECAST AND FORWARD-LOOKING TEST PERIOD, AS**
21 **WELL AS THE DRIVERS FOR THESE PROJECTS.**

HARLEY McCORKLE

DUKE ENERGY INDIANA 2024 BASE RATE CASE
DIRECT TESTIMONY OF HARLEY McCORKLE

1 A. The Company executes two types of capacity projects: projects that will enable the power
2 distribution system to deliver more power to customers, and projects that improve the
3 reliability and quality of the voltage that is supplied. The current infrastructure was designed
4 with a limited capacity to distribute power. This capacity was based on the cost of
5 construction at the time and the amount of power needed to supply customers. Aside from
6 addressing capacity concerns, the Company maintains reliable system performance by
7 executing projects that provide alternate sources to supply customers. This operating
8 philosophy improves reliability by establishing backup sources for customers, in the event a
9 primary source is out of service. Finally, physical characteristics of the distribution system
10 can cause the quality of voltage delivered to the customer to be less than optimal to operate
11 their equipment. In these cases, the company executes projects to modify the distribution
12 system to ensure the power supply meets the needs of customers' equipment.

13 **Q. WHAT ARE THE PLANNED INVESTMENTS, WORK SCOPES AND TIMING**
14 **RELATED TO CAPACITY OF THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM?**

15 A. Investments in capacity projects include approximately \$22 million for the 2024 Forecast and
16 \$61 million for the 2025 Forecast. System capacity projects are developed for both actual
17 load growth and projected load growth. Projects that are developed to expand the capacity of
18 the distribution system include the addition of substations, addition of transformers in
19 existing substations, extension of new circuits, and the replacement of existing circuits with
20 larger wires. From conception through execution, the timing of these projects range from one
21 to five years. After engineers develop scoping documents, designers collaborate to ensure all

PETITIONER'S EXHIBIT 23 (PUBLIC)

DUKE ENERGY INDIANA 2024 BASE RATE CASE
DIRECT TESTIMONY OF HARLEY McCORKLE

1 necessary components are integrated into the design to meet customer needs and system
2 operational needs. Aside from load growth projects that result from collaboration with the
3 Company's Large Account Management and Economic Development organizations,
4 planning engineers review system peak load data (summer and winter) looking for
5 overloaded infrastructure/equipment or projected overloading due to impending load growth.
6 Load projections are made using historical data and growth rates. There are times when large
7 customers do not provide long-term plans for growth, which drives Duke Energy Indiana's
8 need to execute short-term projects.

9 Capacity projects are initiated with in-service dates that ensure the necessary capacity
10 will be in-service to meet imminent load growth. These projects usually transition from scope
11 development to completion within 18-24 months. Whereas longer range projects result from
12 forecasted growth trends.

13 **Q. WHAT ARE THE WORK SCOPES AND TIMING OF THE COMPANY'S**
14 **CAPACITY PROJECTS RELATED TO RELIABILITY AND POWER QUALITY OF**
15 **THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM?**

16 A. Some system capacity projects enable the transfer of customers' supply between sources,
17 thereby enabling faster restoration of service when a customer's primary source is
18 unavailable. The system voltage must remain at the level necessary to operate customers'
19 equipment. This can be accomplished by increasing the size of the circuit. Duke Energy
20 Indiana's planning engineers analyze the system for proper voltage, reliability improvement
21 opportunities, and system protection conditions resulting from system loading. The system

HARLEY McCORKLE

DUKE ENERGY INDIANA 2024 BASE RATE CASE
DIRECT TESTIMONY OF HARLEY McCORKLE

1 reliability improvement aspect of the planning engineer's work involves evaluating the
 2 system for optimal protective device installation and coordination, then developing projects
 3 that are designed to improve reliability. If the voltage delivered to the customer is incapable
 4 of operating the customer's equipment, planning engineers develop projects to mitigate the
 5 system issues. These projects include replacing distribution circuits, transferring load
 6 between the three phases of a circuit, transferring load between circuits, and adding voltage
 7 regulation devices. Considering the customer satisfaction impact, these projects are typically
 8 scheduled to be executed within two years.

Q. PLEASE EXPLAIN THE NEED FOR CAPACITY PROJECT EXPENDITURES.

9 A. In 2024 and 2025, the Company will be completing several substation and circuit upgrades
 10 projects. Substation projects include the addition of new substations and/or the addition of
 11 transformers in existing substations. This is necessary to prevent the overloading of
 12 transformers when new customer load is added to the distribution system. Distribution circuit
 13 projects include extending new circuits or increasing the size of existing circuits. New or
 14 larger circuits are necessary to supply new load or prevent the overloading of existing
 15 circuits. Table 7 includes some of the customer addition projects underway in 2024 and
 16 currently projected for 2025.
 17

Table 7

2024 Capacity Projects	2025 Capacity Projects
Plainfield West Add Circuit	Avon Industrial Park
Camp Atterbury Line Extension	Plainfield South Add Three Circuits
Kokomo Industrial South	River Ridge Gateway

HARLEY McCORKLE

DUKE ENERGY INDIANA 2024 BASE RATE CASE
DIRECT TESTIMONY OF HARLEY McCORKLE

Fishers North Bank 1 & 2 Replacement	Westfield NE Transformer and Line Additions
Fishers Olio Rd Line Extension	Wabash Industrial Temporary Feed
Geist Transformer Addition	Greenwood Averitt Rd Line Extension
North Vernon West Transformer and Line Addition	Brownsburg North Transformer Addition
Shelbyville Northridge Transformer and Line Addition	Whitesville Line Extension
Terre Haute Margaret Ave Transformer Addition	Kokomo Industrial Line Additions

1 **Q. HOW DOES THE COMPANY PRIORITIZE ITS CAPACITY PROJECTS?**

2 A. To ensure the most viable and cost-efficient distribution projects are funded each year, a
3 project prioritization matrix has been developed. The intent of this matrix is to maximize the
4 use of objective data while minimizing subjective data. The matrix uses loading criteria and
5 reliability data for an overall project ranking.

6 The following considerations are used in determining project priority:

- 7 ▪ Percent Loading of Transformer
- 8 ▪ Percent Loading of Feeder
- 9 ▪ Estimated Unserved Load
- 10 ▪ Growth Rate

11 Other factors such as regulatory requirements and management discretion are also considered
12 on a case-by-case basis.

1 **Q. WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THE PLANNED CAPACITY PROJECTS?**

2 A. Capacity projects can benefit both the ability to supply load and the quality of the supply. As
3 it relates to system capacity, these projects provide the ability to supply new load. If projects
4 that are designed to supply new load are not completed, we may not be able to supply new
5 customers. In some cases, capacity projects provide a secondary supply to existing load.
6 Secondary supplies provide backup sources for customers. These backup sources enable load
7 transfers for maintenance purposes and expedite restoration during system faults. Finally,
8 capacity projects could be designed to eliminate power quality issues caused by low voltage.
9 Eliminating low system voltage permits customers' equipment to operate as designed.

10 **Q. ARE THERE ANY ALTERNATIVES TO THE COMPANY'S CAPACITY**
11 **PROJECTS?**

12 A. Capacity projects must be completed to supply customer load and ensure the quality of
13 service is acceptable. These projects provide the ability to supply new load. If projects that
14 are designed to supply new load are not completed, the Company might not be able to supply
15 new customers. If capacity projects that are designed to provide a secondary supply to
16 existing load are delayed, the Company might not be able to transfer load to another source
17 for maintenance purposes. Failure to complete these projects could also increase the time
18 needed to restore service during system faults. If capacity projects that are designed to
19 eliminate power quality issues are not completed, customers could experience low voltage
20 that possibly disables their equipment. During the project scoping phase, planning engineers
21 vet alternatives. They seek to resolve system capacity and reliability concerns by

DUKE ENERGY INDIANA 2024 BASE RATE CASE
DIRECT TESTIMONY OF HARLEY McCORKLE

1 implementing the most viable, cost-efficient solutions. Generally, alternative solutions are
2 either impractical, less economical, or both.

3 **Q. PLEASE EXPLAIN THE TYPE OF PROJECTS THAT ARE CLASSIFIED AS NEW**
4 **CUSTOMER EXPANSION.**

5 A. Customer expansion projects for Duke Energy Indiana can be separated into four basic
6 categories:

7 1) Extensions of the Duke Energy Indiana distribution system to serve an individual
8 residential single-family home.

9 2) Extensions of the Duke Energy Indiana distribution system to serve subdivisions or
10 multi-family buildings.

11 3) Extension of the Duke Energy Indiana distribution system to serve Commercial or
12 Industrial businesses or companies.

13 4) Customer-requested relocations of existing Duke Energy Indiana distribution
14 facilities to accommodate new customer facilities on a lot/parcel.

15 **Q. WHAT IS THE PLANNED INVESTMENT, WORK SCOPE, AND TIMING OF THE**
16 **NEW CUSTOMER EXPANSION PROJECTS RELATED TO THE DISTRIBUTION**
17 **SYSTEM?**

18 A. Investments in New Customer Expansion projects include approximately \$82M for 2024
19 Forecast and \$80M for 2025 Forecast. The scope and timing for a customer expansion
20 project is driven by the customer's projected load requirements, the existing Duke
21 distribution system nearest the project, and the customer's requested in-service dates.

PETITIONER'S EXHIBIT 23 (PUBLIC)

DUKE ENERGY INDIANA 2024 BASE RATE CASE
DIRECT TESTIMONY OF HARLEY McCORKLE

1 For residential single-family homes, the scope is typically the extension of overhead
2 or underground primary conductors, poles, with the installation of a single-phase transformer.
3 These projects typically take two to three months to complete, depending on the complexity
4 of the line extension.

5 The scope of a subdivision project typically includes an extension of overhead
6 primary distribution conductors and poles to get to the subdivision entrance. From there it
7 includes the extension of underground primary conductors, pad-mounted transformer and
8 sectionalizing module installations, secondary conductors, and service lateral installations.
9 Depending on the number of lots in the subdivision, there could be a need for multiple
10 distribution phases to be extended throughout the development. Timing for the average
11 typical subdivision today is around 4 months.

12 Commercial and Industrial project scope is driven by customer load more so than
13 your typical residential installations. The customer's load requirements or requests could lead
14 to the installation of a customer substation and/or primary distribution service. Large
15 commercial developments also require capacity and planning discussions and typically
16 involve extensions or upsizing of the existing distribution system. Once plans are finalized,
17 these projects could take 12 months or more to complete based on the complexity of the
18 development.

19 Customer-requested relocation project scopes are driven by the length of the
20 distribution system that needs relocated and the distribution feeder routing. These projects
21 can require the interconnection of multiple distribution feeders, and the upgrading of existing

DUKE ENERGY INDIANA 2024 BASE RATE CASE
DIRECT TESTIMONY OF HARLEY McCORKLE

1 feeder conductors to handle load growth/swap to the feeder. These projects require
2 completion prior to the customer being able to start construction and the timing varies greatly
3 depending on the size of the customer's development.

4 **Q. HOW DOES THE COMPANY PRIORITIZE ITS NEW CUSTOMER EXPANSION**
5 **PROJECTS?**

6 A. Duke Energy Indiana works with its customers to prioritize new customer expansion projects
7 based on the customer's requested need and timing.

8 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE HOW THE COMPANY PREPARES FOR STORM**
9 **RESTORATION ACTIVITIES.**

10 A. Duke Energy has a full-time Emergency Preparedness organization that is responsible for
11 monitoring all significant threats to the provision of reliable electric service for our
12 customers. These teams work closely with the Duke Energy Meteorology team to monitor
13 weather threats and are alerted multiple days in advance of severe weather as predicted by
14 the National Weather Service. The Company's Meteorology Department provides insight
15 into the timing, impact severity, and location of any severe weather threat and this
16 information is used to classify each storm. Duke Energy Indiana has four classifications, or
17 severity levels, used to determine the level of activation and support personnel required for a
18 storm or natural disaster.

19 **Q. PLEASE PROVIDE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH LEVEL.**

20 A. Level 0 (non-declared): Storms or events that affect or could affect only one part of the
21 service territory with minor isolated damage. Restoration is normally accomplished by the

DUKE ENERGY INDIANA 2024 BASE RATE CASE
DIRECT TESTIMONY OF HARLEY McCORKLE

1 affected area's resources without outside assistance and typically within 6 hours.

2 Level 1 (declared): Storms or events with minor damage affecting one or a few Operations
3 areas. Restoration is normally accomplished by the affected area's resources without outside
4 assistance and typically between 6-12 hours.

5 Level 2 (declared): Storms or events causing damage to one or several Operations
6 areas. Restoration efforts require the movement of line resources, including possible off-
7 system contractors, to the affected areas. Restoration will typically take between 12 and 24
8 hours.

9 Level 3 (declared): Storms or events producing extensive damage to the service territory.
10 Restoration efforts require management of large compliments of off-system crews, as well as
11 extensive materials, logistics, and engineering support. Restoration will take more than 24
12 hours.

13 **Q. HOW OFTEN DOES DUKE ENERGY INDIANA EXPERIENCE LEVEL 1, 2, AND 3**
14 **STORMS?**

15 A. The table below summarizes storm activity since 2019.

16 **Table 8**

Storm Level	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Level 1	6	5	5	8	6
Level 2	8	3	1	2	4
Level 3	0	1	1	1	2
Number of MEDs	9	6	4	3	11

HARLEY McCORKLE

DUKE ENERGY INDIANA 2024 BASE RATE CASE
DIRECT TESTIMONY OF HARLEY McCORKLE

1 **Q. HOW DOES DUKE ENERGY INDIANA DETERMINE IF A STORM QUALIFIES**
2 **AS A MAJOR EVENT DAY (“MED”) STORM?**

3 A. An MED is defined by IEEE 1366 as a day in which the daily system SAIDI exceeds an
4 MED threshold value (calculated from a 5-year average daily SAIDI). MEDs should be
5 analyzed and reported separately.

6 **Q. HISTORICALLY WHAT LEVEL OF ANNUAL O&M EXPENSE HAS DUKE**
7 **ENERGY INDIANA INCURRED FOR MED STORMS?**

8 A. Our actual expenditures will vary year to year based on the actual number of MED storms
9 and the types of restoration required. Over the past 5 years (2019-2023) our MED storm
10 expenses were as follows (\$ in Millions):

11 **Table 9**

Year	Distribution	Transmission	Total
2019	\$14.7	\$0.5	\$15.2
2020	\$9.0	\$1.0	\$10.0
2021	\$6.4	\$0.3	\$6.7
2022	\$4.8	\$0.1	\$4.9
2023	\$40.0	\$1.4	\$41.4
5 Year Average	\$15.0	\$0.7	\$15.6

1 **Q. WHAT LEVEL OF ANNUAL O&M EXPENSE IS DUKE ENERGY INDIANA**
2 **FORECASTING FOR 2024 AND 2025 FOR MED STORMS?**

3 A. For 2024 and 2025, the Company is forecasting annual O&M expense of \$12.7 million.
4 However, as described in more detail in Ms. Sieferman's testimony, the Company is
5 proposing a *pro forma* adjustment to increase this amount from \$12.7 million to \$15.6
6 million, based on the five-year historical average of such costs as shown in Table 9.

7 **VI. VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

8 **Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE THE COMPANY'S DISTRIBUTION VEGETATION**
9 **MANAGEMENT PROGRAM AND BENEFITS.**

10 A. The program includes both routine maintenance trimming along with identifying and cutting
11 down hazard trees that can be located outside of the Company's right-of-way but still impact
12 the system, particularly in times of extreme weather. The Company's reliability metrics, as
13 they pertain to the distribution system, have improved with the increased routine
14 maintenance trimming and Hazard Tree Program which focused on ash trees. Duke Energy
15 Indiana anticipates that maintaining a vegetation management program, at the level
16 proposed in the forward-looking test period, will support restoration efforts and reduce
17 outage times.

18 **Q. WHAT IS THE COMPANY'S PHILOSOPHY TOWARDS VEGETATION**
19 **MANAGEMENT?**

20 A. The Company's approach towards vegetation management is to focus on customer safety and
21 reliability in a cost-effective manner while utilizing industry best management practices.

PETITIONER'S EXHIBIT 23 (PUBLIC)

DUKE ENERGY INDIANA 2024 BASE RATE CASE
DIRECT TESTIMONY OF HARLEY McCORKLE

1 Duke Energy Indiana takes a proactive approach to its vegetation management program,
2 which means we try to trim or remove trees and other vegetation that may cause problems
3 before service is affected. Duke Energy Indiana's primary focus is to control the growth of
4 incompatible vegetation along its electric lines. To control the growth around our distribution
5 lines, we hire qualified personnel to monitor the condition of vegetation over, under, and
6 adjacent to our electric facilities. The Company also utilizes various vegetation control
7 practices to reduce, manage, or eliminate incompatible growth, such as the use of herbicides
8 and mowing. The Company is performing routine maintenance on an average five-year trim
9 cycle or twenty percent of the overhead primary miles annually.

10 The Company's philosophy is that the consistent implementation of industry accepted
11 vegetation management practices reduces the likelihood of tree and power line conflicts, as
12 well as service interruptions, and allows for the full utilization of the operating system.
13 Work is performed in conformance with Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission rules,
14 OSHA regulations, American National Standards Institute ("ANSI") A300, ANSI Z133, Tree
15 Care Industry Association's (formerly the National Arborist Association) standards, Dr.
16 Shigo's *Field Guide for Qualified Line Clearance Tree Workers*, National Electrical Safety
17 Code, International Society of Arboriculture Best Management Practices, and all federal,
18 state, county, and municipal laws, statutes, ordinances, and regulations applicable to said
19 work.

HARLEY McCORKLE

1 19.41% of all distribution-related outages were due to vegetation interference in
2 2023. Duke Energy Indiana knows that a strong vegetation management program is a key
3 component to meet system reliability.

4 **Q. BEYOND ROUTINE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT, WHAT OTHER**
5 **ACTIVITIES IS DUKE ENERGY INDIANA ENGAGED IN TO ENSURE SYSTEM**
6 **RELIABILITY?**

7 A. To maintain safety and reliability, Duke Energy Indiana has a Hazard Tree Program that is
8 designed to remove trees that pose potential danger to our distribution system. This program
9 focuses on cutting down trees that are dead, structurally unsound, dying, diseased, leaning or
10 otherwise defective that could strike electrical lines or equipment.

11 **Q. WHAT IS DUKE ENERGY INDIANA'S ANNUAL ROUTINE MAINTENANCE**
12 **TRIM CYCLE FOR ITS DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM?**

13 A. The Company is performing routine maintenance on approximately twenty percent of the
14 overhead primary mileage annually.

15 **Q. AS PART OF ITS ROUTINE MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE, DESCRIBE THE**
16 **RELIABILITY, SAFETY, AND OTHER CRITERIA USED IN DETERMINING**
17 **WHETHER TREES AND VEGETATION REQUIRE TRIMMING.**

18 A. Duke Energy Indiana has an integrated vegetation management program in which the
19 Company uses foresters who are certified by the International Society of Arboriculture
20 ("ISA") to provide guidance and oversight to contractors who are pruning trees and clearing
21 brush growth around, over, and under power lines. In addition to the routine trim cycle, we

PETITIONER'S EXHIBIT 23 (PUBLIC)

DUKE ENERGY INDIANA 2024 BASE RATE CASE
DIRECT TESTIMONY OF HARLEY McCORKLE

1 perform periodic visual inspections to determine whether the Company's targeted 10 feet of
2 clearance is maintained or requires additional attention in advance of the schedule. During
3 routine vegetation maintenance, our employees and contractors also identify hazard trees that
4 pose a risk and remove the affected trees once permissions are received. As previously
5 discussed, our Hazard Tree Removal Program is another component of our integrated
6 vegetation management plan.

7 **Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE THE TOTAL O&M SPEND FOR DUKE ENERGY**
8 **INDIANA'S VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE PAST SEVEN**
9 **YEARS AND THE MILES TRIMMED FOR EACH OF THOSE YEARS. PLEASE**
10 **ALSO SUMMARIZE WHAT IS FORECASTED TO BE SPENT IN 2024 AND 2025.**

11 A. The table below shows the amount of O&M spend and miles trimmed on the distribution
12 system for the Company's routine vegetation management activities from 2017-2023
13 (including Base Period) and what is forecasted for 2024-2025:

14 **Table 10:**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022		2023	2024	2025
	Actuals	Actuals	Actuals	Actuals	Actuals	Actuals	Base Period	Actual	Forecast	Forecast
Miles	1,009.45	1,008.59	956.98	2,795.29	3,314.38	3,197.84	3,406.53	3,389.44	3,411	3,234
O&M Total Spend	\$9.8M	\$14.3M	\$14.1M	\$31.16M	\$40.62M	\$40.74M	\$41.55M	\$42.45M	\$44.76M	\$44.8M
Total Cost Per Mile	\$9,708	\$14,178	\$ 14,731	\$11,147	\$12,255	\$12,740	\$12,196	\$12,525	\$13,124	\$13,852

15

DUKE ENERGY INDIANA 2024 BASE RATE CASE
DIRECT TESTIMONY OF HARLEY McCORKLE

1 **Q. PLEASE EXPLAIN THE CHALLENGES THAT DUKE ENERGY INDIANA HAS**
2 **ENCOUNTERED WITH CONTRACTORS OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS.**

3 A. The market for qualified resources eligible to properly engage in vegetation management
4 activities remains constricted and very competitive. Even with competitive bid events, costs
5 for vegetation management services continue to increase.

6 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE HAZARD TREE REMOVAL PROGRAM.**

7 A. Because about twenty percent of all distribution-related outages were due to vegetation
8 interference in 2023, Duke Energy Indiana continues to remove hazard trees that are likely to
9 cause a problem with Duke Energy Indiana's distribution system from outside the
10 Company's right of way. The Company continues to address living trees that are diseased as
11 well as dead trees that have the potential to impact Duke Energy Indiana's assets.

12 In the beginning of 2019, Company personnel developed a workplan that targeted
13 high risk trees using spatial identification technologies. Company personnel worked with
14 contractors to prioritize removal of hazard and ash trees by potential customer impact and
15 highest threats to reliability. Over the last five years between 2019 and 2023, Duke Energy
16 Indiana removed approximately 125,000 trees that were outside of our right of way. Hazard
17 Tree work will continue for the foreseeable future.

18 There are two components to the Hazard Tree Program. First, when our contractors
19 are performing routine maintenance, they are instructed to look outside the ten-foot clearance
20 zone. If they identify trees that pose a threat to our distribution lines, we will work with our
21 customers to remove the tree.

HARLEY McCORKLE

DUKE ENERGY INDIANA 2024 BASE RATE CASE
DIRECT TESTIMONY OF HARLEY McCORKLE

1 The second component of this initiative occurs outside of routine maintenance
2 trimming. The Company utilizes “Hazard Tree Identifiers” whose sole job is to conduct
3 visual inspections and identify hazard trees that pose a threat to our facilities.

4 **Q. WILL THIS BE AN ONGOING COMPONENT OF DUKE ENERGY INDIANA’S**
5 **VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM?**

6 A. Yes, hazard tree identification and removal have been, and will continue to be, a component
7 of our integrated vegetation management program.

8 **Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE DUKE ENERGY INDIANA’S PLANNED APPROACH TO**
9 **VEGETATION MANAGEMENT FROM 2023-2025.**

10 A. Duke Energy Indiana’s plan includes performing routine maintenance on approximately
11 twenty percent of the overhead primary miles annually and continued focus on Hazard tree
12 removals.

13 **Q. WHAT IS DUKE ENERGY INDIANA’S REQUEST IN TERMS OF DOLLARS TO**
14 **PERFORM ROUTINE MAINTENANCE?**

15 A. Currently, the Company is forecasted to spend approximately \$44.8M of O&M in both 2024
16 and 2025 for routine vegetation management. As described in detail in Company witness Ms.
17 Christa Graft’s testimony, the Company is proposing to continue its reserve accounting
18 approach for its distribution vegetation management O&M costs. Additionally, in 2024 and
19 2025 Duke Energy Indiana is forecasting to spend approximately \$12.5 million annually in
20 capital costs for its Hazard Tree Program.

1 **VII. CONCLUSION**

2 **Q. WAS CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENT 23-A (HM) AND ATTACHMENT 23-B**
3 **(HM) PREPARED BY YOU OR UNDER YOUR DIRECTION?**

4 **A. Yes.**

5 **Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR PREFILED TESTIMONY?**

6 **A. Yes, it does.**

VERIFICATION

I hereby verify under the penalties of perjury that the foregoing representations are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Signature: 
Harley Mc Corkle

Dated: April 4, 2024

(in millions)

TDSIC 2 Program Categories *	Base Period	2024 Forecast	2025 Forecast
Circuit Backbone Reliability Uplift	\$ 28.3	\$ 24.3	\$ 55.3
Overhead Lateral Reliability Uplift	\$ 8.8	\$ 19.8	\$ 19.5
Underground System Uplift	\$ 3.1	\$ 5.6	\$ 5.8
4 kv Conversion	\$ 6.9	\$ 7.7	\$ 8.4
Inspection Based	\$ 15.5	\$ 27.8	\$ 25.5
Substation Hardening & Resiliency	\$ 10.3	\$ 28.4	\$ 31.8
Line Hardening & Resiliency	\$ 3.4	\$ -	\$ -
TDSIC 1	\$ 29.3	\$ -	\$ -
Grand Total	\$ 105.7	\$ 113.7	\$ 146.2

*Dollars reported are Capex, whereas TDSIC filings are reported as In Service. Dollars reported are not reflective of updates submitted in the TDSIC-2 Plan Update filed in Oct 2023.

Duke Energy Indiana - T & D Infrastructure Improvement Plan, Distribution System Capital Improvements

Line No.	Distribution Circuit Upgrade Projects	2023 Material	2023 Labor	2023 Indirects	2023 AFUDC	2023 Total Capital Additions	2023 Project O&M	2023 Capital & O&M Total	2023 Retirements	2023 Total Project
1	4kV Conversion									
2	Automated Lateral Device (ALD)									
3	Capacitor Automation									
4	Circuit Sectionalization									
5	Circuit Segmentation									
6	Circuit Visibility & Control									
7	Declared Circuits									
8	Deteriorated Conductor									
9	General Switchgear									
10	GLT									
11	Inaccessible R/W	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0
12	Limited Access Road Crossing	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0
13	Recloser Replacement Program									
14	SMEI									
15	SOG - Circuit Connectivity									
16	SOG - Recloser									
17	Targeted Undergrounding (TUG)									
18	Underground Cable Rehabilitation									
19	IVVC									
20	IVVC Circuit Conditioning Capacitor									
21	IVVC Circuit Conditioning Reconductor									
22	IVVC Circuit Conditioning Regulator	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0
23	IVVC EOL Voltage Sensors									
24	IVVC Line Voltage Regulator Control Replacement									
25		\$20,818,109	\$39,515,827	\$19,804,414	\$2,266,957	\$82,405,306	\$15,826,276	\$98,231,582	\$16,806,216	\$115,037,798

Duke Energy Indiana - T & D Infrastructure Improvement Plan, Distribution System Capital Improvements

Line No.	Distribution Circuit Upgrade Projects	2024 Material	2024 Labor	2024 Indirects	2024 AFUDC	2024 Total Capital Additions	2024 Project O&M	2024 Capital & O&M Total	2024 Retirements	2024 Total Project
1	4kV Conversion									
2	Automated Lateral Device (ALD)									
3	Capacitor Automation									
4	Circuit Sectionalization									
5	Circuit Segmentation									
6	Circuit Visibility & Control									
7	Declared Circuits									
8	Deteriorated Conductor									
9	General Switchgear									
10	GLT									
11	Inaccessible R/W	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0
12	Limited Access Road Crossing									
13	Recloser Replacement Program									
14	SMEI									
15	SOG - Circuit Connectivity									
16	SOG - Recloser									
17	Targeted Undergrounding (TUG)									
18	Underground Cable Rehabilitation									
19	IVVC									
20	IVVC Circuit Conditioning Capacitor									
21	IVVC Circuit Conditioning Reconductor									
22	IVVC Circuit Conditioning Regulator	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0
23	IVVC EOL Voltage Sensors	\$								
24	IVVC Line Voltage Regulator Control Replacement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0
25		\$24,298,220	\$46,652,097	\$21,518,029	\$3,017,219	\$95,485,564	\$14,607,463	\$110,093,028	\$20,908,340	\$131,001,368

Duke Energy Indiana - T & D Infrastructure Improvement Plan, Distribution System Capital Improvements

Line No.	Distribution Circuit Upgrade Projects	2025 Material	2025 Labor	2025 Indirects	2025 AFUDC	2025 Total Capital Additions	2025 Project O&M	2025 Capital & O&M Total	2025 Retirements	2025 Total Project
1	4kV Conversion	[REDACTED]								
2	Automated Lateral Device (ALD)									
3	Capacitor Automation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0
4	Circuit Sectionalization	[REDACTED]								
5	Circuit Segmentation									
6	Circuit Visibility & Control									
7	Declared Circuits									
8	Deteriorated Conductor									
9	General Switchgear									
10	GLT									
11	Inaccessible R/W									
12	Limited Access Road Crossing									
13	Recloser Replacement Program									
14	SMEI									
15	SOG - Circuit Connectivity									
16	SOG - Recloser									
17	Targeted Undergrounding (TUG)									
18	Underground Cable Rehabilitation									
19	IVVC									
20	IVVC Circuit Conditioning Capacitor									
21	IVVC Circuit Conditioning Reconductor									
22	IVVC Circuit Conditioning Regulator									
23	IVVC EOL Voltage Sensors									
24	IVVC Line Voltage Regulator Control Replacement									
25		\$29,860,855	\$51,516,720	\$25,572,474	\$3,263,092	\$110,213,140	\$16,120,247	\$126,333,387	\$23,268,851	\$149,602,239

Duke Energy Indiana - T & D Infrastructure Improvement Plan, Distribution System Capital Improvements

Line No.	Distribution Circuit Upgrade Projects	2026 Material	2026 Labor	2026 Indirects	2026 AFUDC	2026 Total Capital Additions	2026 Project O&M	2026 Capital & O&M Total	2026 Retirements	2026 Total Project
1	4kV Conversion	[REDACTED]								
2	Automated Lateral Device (ALD)	[REDACTED]								
3	Capacitor Automation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0
4	Circuit Sectionalization	[REDACTED]								
5	Circuit Segmentation	[REDACTED]								
6	Circuit Visibility & Control	[REDACTED]								
7	Declared Circuits	[REDACTED]								
8	Deteriorated Conductor	[REDACTED]								
9	General Switchgear	[REDACTED]								
10	GLT	[REDACTED]								
11	Inaccessible R/W	[REDACTED]								
12	Limited Access Road Crossing	[REDACTED]								
13	Recloser Replacement Program	[REDACTED]								
14	SMEI	[REDACTED]								
15	SOG - Circuit Connectivity	[REDACTED]								
16	SOG - Recloser	[REDACTED]								
17	Targeted Undergrounding (TUG)	[REDACTED]								
18	Underground Cable Rehabilitation	[REDACTED]								
19	IVVC	[REDACTED]								
20	IVVC Circuit Conditioning Capacitor	[REDACTED]								
21	IVVC Circuit Conditioning Reconductor	[REDACTED]								
22	IVVC Circuit Conditioning Regulator	[REDACTED]								
23	IVVC EOL Voltage Sensors	[REDACTED]								
24	IVVC Line Voltage Regulator Control Replacement	[REDACTED]								
25		\$35,880,787	\$52,952,231	\$30,206,326	\$3,971,934	\$123,011,278	\$17,754,669	\$140,765,947	\$27,579,670	\$168,345,617

Duke Energy Indiana - T & D Infrastructure Improvement Plan, Distribution System Capital Improvements

Line No.	Distribution Circuit Upgrade Projects	2027 Material	2027 Labor	2027 Indirects	2027 AFUDC	2027 Total Capital Additions	2027 Project O&M	2027 Capital & O&M Total	2027 Retirements	2027 Total Project
1	4kV Conversion									
2	Automated Lateral Device (ALD)									
3	Capacitor Automation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0
4	Circuit Sectionalization									
5	Circuit Segmentation									
6	Circuit Visibility & Control									
7	Declared Circuits									
8	Deteriorated Conductor									
9	General Switchgear									
10	GLT									
11	Inaccessible R/W	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0
12	Limited Access Road Crossing									
13	Recloser Replacement Program									
14	SMEI									
15	SOG - Circuit Connectivity									
16	SOG - Recloser									
17	Targeted Undergrounding (TUG)									
18	Underground Cable Rehabilitation									
19	IVVC									
20	IVVC Circuit Conditioning Capacitor									
21	IVVC Circuit Conditioning Reconductor									
22	IVVC Circuit Conditioning Regulator									
23	IVVC EOL Voltage Sensors									
24	IVVC Line Voltage Regulator Control Replacement									
25		\$35,022,655	\$58,135,166	\$32,555,683	\$4,261,529	\$129,975,034	\$19,513,025	\$149,488,058	\$32,130,399	\$181,618,458

Duke Energy Indiana - T & D Infrastructure Improvement Plan, Distribution System Capital Improvements

Line No.	Distribution Circuit Upgrade Projects	2028 Material	2028 Labor	2028 Indirects	2028 AFUDC	2028 Total Capital Additions	2028 Project O&M	2028 Capital & O&M Total	2028 Retirements	2028 Total Project
1	4kV Conversion									
2	Automated Lateral Device (ALD)									
3	Capacitor Automation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0
4	Circuit Sectionalization									
5	Circuit Segmentation									
6	Circuit Visibility & Control									
7	Declared Circuits									
8	Deteriorated Conductor									
9	General Switchgear									
10	GLT									
11	Inaccessible R/W									
12	Limited Access Road Crossing									
13	Recloser Replacement Program									
14	SMEI									
15	SOG - Circuit Connectivity									
16	SOG - Recloser									
17	Targeted Undergrounding (TUG)									
18	Underground Cable Rehabilitation									
19	IVVC									
20	IVVC Circuit Conditioning Capacitor									
21	IVVC Circuit Conditioning Reconductor									
22	IVVC Circuit Conditioning Regulator									
23	IVVC EOL Voltage Sensors									
24	IVVC Line Voltage Regulator Control Replacement									
25		\$40,150,414	\$63,168,349	\$36,139,148	\$4,729,110	\$144,187,021	\$21,464,276	\$165,651,297	\$35,573,960	\$201,225,256

Duke Energy Indiana - T & D Infrastructure Improvement Plan, Distribution System Capital Improvements

Line No.	Distribution Circuit Upgrade Projects	6 Year Total Material	6 Year Total Labor	6 Year Total Indirects	6 Year Total AFUDC	6 Year Total Capital Additions	6 Year Total Project O&M	6 Year Total Capital & O&M Total	6 Year Total Retirements	6 Year Total Project
1	4kV Conversion									
2	Automated Lateral Device (ALD)									
3	Capacitor Automation									
4	Circuit Sectionalization									
5	Circuit Segmentation									
6	Circuit Visibility & Control									
7	Declared Circuits									
8	Deteriorated Conductor									
9	General Switchgear									
10	GLT									
11	Inaccessible R/W									
12	Limited Access Road Crossing									
13	Recloser Replacement Program									
14	SMEI									
15	SOG - Circuit Connectivity									
16	SOG - Recloser									
17	Targeted Undergrounding (TUG)									
18	Underground Cable Rehabilitation									
19	IVVC									
20	IVVC Circuit Conditioning Capacitor									
21	IVVC Circuit Conditioning Reconductor									
22	IVVC Circuit Conditioning Regulator									
23	IVVC EOL Voltage Sensors									
24	IVVC Line Voltage Regulator Control Replacement									
25		\$186,031,040	\$311,940,390	\$165,796,073	\$21,509,841	\$685,277,343	\$105,285,956	\$790,563,299	\$156,267,436	\$946,830,735

Pie Chart Category	Base Period	2024 Forecast	2025 Forecast
TDSIC	105,669,327	113,670,152	146,229,621
Veg Management	15,593,236	12,449,260	12,496,890
Grid Improvements	2,950,631	33,544,772	35,520,895
R&I	53,928,358	35,127,156	35,211,451
Capacity Projects	59,997,392	21,548,737	60,862,026
System Mod/Hwy	30,967,157	19,538,880	19,531,781
Restoration	28,656,170	13,167,541	13,496,730
New Cust Expansion	99,571,022	82,406,611	79,955,715
Other	5,591,360	44,541,180	16,663,850
Grand Total	402,924,653	375,994,290	419,968,960

R&I Category	Base Period	2024 Forecast	2025 Forecast
Cable Replacement	13,552,258	11,879,484	12,265,868
Switchgear Replacement	790,554	959,132	963,908
Recloser Replacement	743,738	1,215,000	1,251,450
Capacitor Replacement	2,494,744	2,013,000	2,028,390
Reactive Pole Replacement	5,137,420	3,710,000	3,821,300
Transformer Replacement	2,247,603	1,550,000	3,052,700
Substation Asset Upgrades	14,534,848	5,743,000	3,587,000
Other	14,427,193	8,057,540	8,240,835
Grand Total	53,928,358	35,127,156	35,211,451