

FILED
February 14, 2025
INDIANA UTILITY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

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

**VERIFIED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF
JOHN ROBERT SMITH, JR.**

Petitioner's Exhibit 3

February 13, 2025

DUKE ENERGY INDIANA CAYUGA CC PROJECT CPCN
DIRECT TESTIMONY OF JOHN ROBERT SMITH, JR

**DIRECT TESTIMONY OF JOHN ROBERT SMITH, JR.
GENERAL MANAGER FOR NEW GAS GENERATION DEVELOPMENT
DUKE ENERGY BUSINESS SERVICES, LLC
ON BEHALF OF DUKE ENERGY INDIANA, LLC
BEFORE THE INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION**

1

I. INTRODUCTION

2 **Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.**

3 A. My name is John Robert Smith, Jr., and my business address is 525 South Tryon
4 Street, Charlotte, North Carolina 28202.

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

6 A. I am employed by Duke Energy Business Services, LLC, a service company
7 affiliate of Duke Energy Indiana, LLC (“Duke Energy Indiana” or the
8 “Company”), as the General Manager for New Gas Generation Development
9 within the Project Management and Construction (“PMC”) Department of Duke
10 Energy.

11 **Q. PLEASE BRIEFLY SUMMARIZE YOUR EDUCATIONAL
12 BACKGROUND AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE.**

13 A. I received a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from North Carolina State
14 University in 1982. I am a registered Professional Engineer in North Carolina,
15 maintaining registration since 1987. I started my career with Duke Energy’s
16 predecessor Duke Power in 1982 as a field engineer supporting construction of
17 Catawba Nuclear Station. In 1988, I transitioned from engineering into project
18 management working for Duke Energy, Fluor, The Shaw Group, and CB&I in

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1 various roles focused on Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (“EPC”)
2 services for all forms of new generation installations throughout the United States
3 and abroad. Upon returning to Duke Energy as Senior Project Director in 2018, I
4 focused on managing EPC projects. I assumed my current position as General
5 Manager for New Gas Generation Development at the beginning of 2023. In total,
6 I have over 35 years of experience with responsibility for EPC and project
7 management of new power plant construction projects.

8 **Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS GENERAL**
9 **MANAGER FOR NEW GAS GENERATION DEVELOPMENT.**

10 A. In my role as General Manager for New Gas Generation Development, I provide
11 leadership and direction for a team of project managers, engineers, sourcing
12 resources, and estimators responsible for front-end development of new natural
13 gas-fired generation projects (the “PMC Gas Development Team”) in the
14 jurisdictions where Duke Energy owns generation resources and provides electric
15 service.

16 Once a Duke Energy jurisdiction identifies the need for a new gas-fueled
17 resource in a resource plan, my team is responsible for developing conceptual
18 designs that satisfy the need and the associated cost estimates to construct the
19 new generating facility. My team also establishes and initiates project structure,
20 including assisting with key regulatory approvals such as certificates of public
21 convenience and necessity (“CPCN”) to construct the resource. My team
22 coordinates with internal stakeholders and multiple third parties to obtain all

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1 necessary permits, and issues purchase orders and contracts related to the
2 construction of the generation resource. We also manage the process to obtain
3 pricing from major equipment suppliers and EPC providers and use the
4 information to internally develop a comprehensive cost estimate. Once all
5 necessary internal and regulatory approvals, permits, purchase orders, and
6 contracts are in place, my team transitions responsibility to the team within PMC
7 assembled to oversee and manage execution of the project plan to construct the
8 facility.

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

11 A. The purpose of my testimony in this proceeding is to support Duke Energy
12 Indiana's request for a CPCN to construct a 1,476 MW (winter rating) natural gas
13 combined cycle ("CC") plant (the "Cayuga CC Project") on the site of the to-be-
14 retired Cayuga Generating Station. Specifically, I will describe the proposed
15 Cayuga CC Project, which will provide an incremental 471 MW of generation to
16 Duke Energy Indiana's system. My testimony will also describe the contracting
17 approach, cost estimate development and proposed construction schedule. See
18 Figure 1 below for a site map showing the location of the Cayuga CC Project
19 within the Cayuga Energy Complex.

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1

Figure 1



2

II. PROPOSED CAYUGA CC PROJECT

3

Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE PROPOSED CAYUGA CC PROJECT.

4

A. The proposed Cayuga CC Project will include two natural gas-fired combustion turbine generators (“CTG”) each paired with a heat recovery steam generator (“HRSG”), which utilizes the heat from the exhaust produced by the CTGs (that the exhaust stack would otherwise remove) to generate steam. The HRSGs individually produce and deliver the steam to two steam turbine generators

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1 (“STG”) that produce additional electricity beyond that produced by the CTGs
2 alone, making the combined-cycle configuration more efficient than a simple-
3 cycle CTG. I will refer to each CTG/HRSG/STG in combination as a “1x1.” Each
4 1x1 will have a winter rating of approximately 738 MW, for a combined capacity
5 for the two 1x1s of approximately 1,476 MW (winter rating). The Cayuga CC
6 Project will replace the combined capacity of 1,005 MW (winter rating) from two
7 to be retired Cayuga coal-fired units and will allow the Company to cost-
8 effectively leverage existing infrastructure at the Cayuga site, such as the
9 transmission, water and wastewater facilities.

10 **III. THE PROPOSED FACILITY AND CONTRACTING STRATEGY**

11 **Q. PLEASE FURTHER DESCRIBE THE PLANNED CAYUGA CC**
12 **PROJECT.**

13 A. Given the Company’s procurement activities, Duke Energy Indiana is proposing
14 to construct the Project in phases with the first 1x1 (“CC 1”) to be completed and
15 in-service by September 1, 2029, and the second 1x1 (“CC 2”) to be completed
16 and in-service by May 29, 2030. Once CC 1 is in-service, Duke Energy Indiana
17 plans to retire one coal-fired unit and to derate the second coal-fired unit until CC
18 2 is in-service in 2030 (to the extent MISO requires that derate). Note that even if
19 the derate is required, during the remainder of the construction and testing period
20 for CC 2, Duke Energy Indiana expects to be able to maintain the same 1,005
21 MW capacity as the two retiring coal units.

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1 Duke Energy Indiana currently has a signed purchase order for the first
2 CTG – a GE Vernova advanced class gas turbine 7HA.03 which will be capable
3 of operating with a blend of 30% hydrogen (by volume) fuel. The Company is in
4 the process of signing purchase agreements for the second CTG (another 7HA.03)
5 and two STGs, all from GE Vernova. In addition, we are finalizing an EPC
6 agreement with Kiewit Power Constructors, Co. (“Kiewit”), which will be
7 procuring the HRSGs and constructing the Cayuga CC Project under a lump sum,
8 turnkey contract.

9 As mentioned above, the Cayuga CC Project will have a winter capacity
10 rating of 1,476 MW, larger than the to-be-retired coal units’ winter capacity rating
11 of 1,005 MW. To allow for the interconnection of the incremental MW, Duke
12 Energy Indiana entered the 2023 MISO queue for an additional 500 MW. The
13 interconnection process is further discussed by Company witness Karn.

14 The overall site will also include the existing Cayuga CT 4 (approximately
15 100 MW of natural gas peaking capacity) and together will be referred to as the
16 Cayuga Energy Complex. The diesel generators located at Cayuga will also be
17 retired on or about when the coal-fired units retire.

18 **Q. DID DUKE ENERGY INDIANA CONSIDER OTHER OPTIONS FOR**
19 **REPLACING THE CAYUGA COAL UNITS?**

20 A. Yes. My team developed and submitted bids into both of Duke Energy Indiana’s
21 all source Requests for Proposals (“RFP”) – including both a 1x1 CC and 2x1 CC
22 for the site, with the support of our Owner’s Engineer, Burns & McDonnell. As

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1 explained by the testimony of Duke Energy Indiana witness Lee, in the 2022 RFP,
2 a 1x1 advanced class CC was selected over a 2x1 CC that included a less efficient
3 class CTG to increase confidence in maximum operating flexibility and to better
4 ensure EPA Clean Air Act (CAA) Section 111(b) compliance.¹ In the Company's
5 most recent 2023/2024 RFP, Duke Energy Indiana selected a second 1x1
6 advanced class CC over a 2x1 CC that was also bid. In addition to being a less
7 efficient turbine, the 2x1 CC also would not have been available at the in-service
8 date desired by the Company to support the retirement date for the coal units.

9 Once my team was informed that the 1x1 CC was selected by Duke
10 Energy Indiana out of the 2022 RFP, we competitively bid out the major
11 equipment that the Company is responsible for procuring, resulting in the
12 purchase order for CTG 1. My team was informed in September 2024 that our
13 second 1x1 CC bid was selected out of the second RFP. By this point, we also had
14 a preferred EPC bidder and asked Kiewit to refresh its bid to include construction
15 of both CC 1 and CC 2. My team expects to have signed purchase orders for the
16 other CTG and both STGs by June 2025. To the extent the Company's cost
17 estimate requires updating as a result of signing those purchase orders, the
18 Company will provide support for any changes as part of this proceeding.

19 As described in the testimony of Company witness Karn, once the EPA's
20 CAA 111(b) Rule was promulgated, the Company determined that the more

¹ CAA 111(b) sets New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from new, modified, and reconstructed fossil fuel-fired power plants.

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1 efficient turbines, that would meet the requirements of the rule, were the best
2 choice for the Cayuga Energy Complex. Having the most efficient units on the
3 market today to serve customers makes good sense whether or not the EPA's
4 CAA 111(b) Rule remains the law, as explained in more detail by Company
5 witness Gagnon.

6 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE BENEFITS OF CONSTRUCTING ON A SITE**
7 **ALREADY USED BY THE COMPANY FOR GENERATION.**

8 A. Duke Energy Indiana already owns the property at the Cayuga site. Constructing
9 the Cayuga CC Project on a site already used for generation provides cost savings
10 and advantages for the Company and its customers and benefits the local
11 economy.

12 From a construction perspective, it is efficient for the new plant to be able
13 to reuse the existing water intake, switchyard (with some modifications needed),
14 wastewater pond and outfall. Furthermore, as described by Company witness
15 Karn, the Cayuga CC Project can take advantage of the netting of emissions from
16 the existing coal-fired units from an air permitting perspective, as well as utilizing
17 MISO's Generator Replacement Request process for interconnecting with the
18 grid. The Company expects that only needing to seek an incremental 500 MW
19 interconnected at the site will result in a smoother, less costly, and faster process
20 than having to enter the queue with the full site output. However, as I discuss
21 later, Duke Energy Indiana does not yet have a Generator Interconnection
22 Agreement in place for the proposed Cayuga CC Project – which is part of the

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1 reason the Company has proposed certain project reserves to cover the possible
2 network upgrades until they are known.

3 In addition, the Cayuga site is located within Duke Energy Indiana's
4 service territory and reusing this site will help to replace lost property tax base
5 resulting from the retirement of the coal-fired units. Vermillion County will
6 benefit from additional investment within the area and by maintaining Duke
7 Energy Indiana as a community partner, as further discussed by Company witness
8 Pinegar.

9 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE WHAT DUKE ENERGY INDIANA CONSIDERS TO**
10 **BE THE MAJOR COMPONENTS OF THE CAYUGA CC PROJECT.**

11 A. The CTGs, STGs and generator step up transformers ("GSU") are major pieces of
12 equipment the Company is procuring as their availability must be ensured to
13 achieve the desired in-service dates. In addition to this major owner-furnished
14 equipment, the EPC contract makes up the most significant portion of the cost of
15 the proposed Cayuga CC Project. The EPC contractor will be responsible for
16 procuring the HRSGs (which include duct firing) as part of its scope. Other major
17 and critical components of the project include the reconfiguration and use of
18 existing water resources, supply of the new natural gas facilities, and the
19 modification, new design and upgrades required for the transmission
20 interconnection. While not necessarily physical components, the water and air
21 permitting as well as obtaining necessary regulatory approvals are critical
22 components that will facilitate the completion of a successful project.

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1 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE COMPANY'S COMPETITIVE BIDDING**
2 **PROCESS FOR THE CAYUGA CC PROJECT.**

3 A. In 2024, the Company conducted a competitive bid event with major United
4 States of America gas turbine vendors, which has helped my team gain full
5 understanding of current market conditions.

6 My team performed the technical and commercial evaluation of the CTG
7 bids, selecting GE Vernova as the best fit for the Company's needs.

8 For the STG, Duke Energy Indiana also conducted a competitive process
9 and received bids from several vendors. After review, my team again determined
10 that GE Vernova was the best fit for Duke Energy Indiana's project.

11 The Company issued a competitive RFP seeking an EPC contractor for the
12 Cayuga CC Project, ultimately selecting Kiewit as the EPC contractor for this
13 project.

14 **Q. HAS THE COMPANY'S COMPETITIVE BIDDING PROCESS**
15 **COMPLIED WITH IND. CODE § 8-1-8.5-5?**

16 A. Yes. Duke Energy Indiana competitively bid the major components of the Cayuga
17 CC Project, as well as the EPC contract. As required by Ind. Code § 8-1-8.5-
18 5(e)(1)(A), these bids and/or contracts were then used for the estimated costs of
19 the proposed facility in this proceeding. Furthermore, as required by Ind. Code 8-
20 1-8.5-5(e)(1)(B), Kiewit's EPC bid met the technical, commercial and other
21 specifications required by Duke Energy Indiana for the proposed facility.

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1 **Q. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE DUKE ENERGY INDIANA'S**
2 **CONTRACTING STRATEGY FOR THIS PROJECT?**

3 A. My team considered both risks to the Company and its customers as part of its
4 contracting strategy for the Cayuga CC Project. Duke Energy Indiana has
5 employed a variety of contracting strategies in the past – however, with the
6 current market conditions, supply chain constraints and recent rapid price
7 escalation, we currently believe the best choice is to procure the major equipment
8 needed for the Cayuga CC Project early and to obtain firm lump sum, turnkey
9 pricing from our EPC. With a major construction project spanning multiple years,
10 there will be uncertainties and risks, both known and unknown, but Duke Energy
11 Indiana has put itself and its customers in the best position possible to avoid or
12 mitigate price increases and schedule impacts through its contracting strategy.
13 Furthermore, the Company prioritizes safety for its employees and contractors.
14 This priority factored into our selection of Kiewit, a seasoned EPC contractor
15 with safety performance nearly 10x the national average.²

16 **Q. PLEASE EXPLAIN THE STATUS OF THE EPC CONTRACT.**

17 A. As mentioned above, the Company has selected Kiewit as the EPC contractor for
18 this project. As also mentioned above, Duke Energy Indiana expects to enter into
19 a lump sum, turnkey agreement for the EPC portion of the Cayuga CC Project. At
20 the time of the Limited Notice to Proceed (“LNTP”) being provided to Kiewit

² See [About Us | Kiewit Corporation](#) (last visited Jan. 24, 2025).

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1 (currently scheduled within the first six months of 2025), Duke Energy Indiana
2 expects to receive final pricing for the project. As Kiewit has noted in its pricing
3 proposal, its “estimate is based on receiving a Limited Notice to Proceed to
4 release engineering activities on June 2, 2025, with a Full Notice to Proceed on or
5 before October 1, 2025. We have included our best estimate required to align with
6 those dates but will require a true-up of the pricing up or down by the LNTP in
7 June 2025.”³ At that time, the Company can update its cost estimate in this
8 proceeding to reflect the final lump sum pricing.

9 **Q. COULD THERE BE OTHER UPDATES TO THE COMPANY’S COST**
10 **ESTIMATE WHILE THIS PROCEEDING IS PENDING?**

11 A. That is possible. Duke Energy Indiana may also be able to update its estimate
12 during this proceeding as it finalizes contracts for the remaining CTG, two STGs,
13 and to the extent it receives any firm network upgrade requirements from MISO
14 through the GIA process.

15 The Company also expects to be able to adjust the assumption included in
16 the cost estimate related to the project reserve included in the cost estimate. This
17 amount was included to cover the uncertainty related to entering into final
18 contracts for major equipment, the final EPC agreement, and MISO’s required
19 network upgrades. As these amounts are known – either during this proceeding or
20 through the Commission’s ongoing review process – Duke Energy Indiana will be

³ See Confidential Workpaper 2-JRS

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1 able to adjust its cost estimate to reflect known cost changes and reduction in risk
2 as a greater percentage of the cost estimate becomes firm.

3 **Q. HOW HAS THE COMPANY ESTIMATED TRANSMISSION NETWORK**
4 **UPGRADES IF IT IS STILL IN THE MISO QUEUE FOR THE**
5 **ADDITIONAL 500 MW?**

6 A. As included in Confidential Workpaper 12-JRS, our transmission team reviewed
7 the network upgrades required by MISO for projects in the 2020 queue and
8 determined that, on average, projects were required to construct projects at a cost
9 of approximately \$0.27/watt. The team then multiplied that amount by the 500
10 MW in the queue for the Cayuga CC Project, resulting in the approximately \$138
11 million included in the Company's estimate in this proceeding. Of course, as we
12 receive information from MISO on what actual network upgrades will be and the
13 expense, we can update the Company's estimate.

14 As mentioned above, to the extent this information is received from MISO
15 after the record closes in this proceeding, the Company will be able to report on
16 the outcome as part of its semi-annual ongoing review and rider proceedings.

17 **Q. HOW DOES DUKE ENERGY INDIANA INTEND TO OVERSEE**
18 **CONSTRUCTION AT THE SITE?**

19 A. The Cayuga CC Project can be broken down into Duke Energy Indiana scope and
20 EPC contractor scope. Duke Energy Indiana is responsible for procuring certain
21 major equipment (CTGs, STGs, GSUs, Unit Auxiliary Transformers), as well as
22 the distributed control system (DCS) for monitoring, controlling and

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1 communicating with the plant, the high voltage breakers for transmission
2 interconnection, and the on-site transmission modifications. The gas pipeline and
3 metering facilities will be provided by CenterPoint.⁴ The EPC contractor is
4 responsible for everything within the scope of its contract, including procurement
5 of the HRSG, construction, commissioning and performance testing through final
6 completion of the Cayuga CC Project.

7 Duke Energy Indiana intends to use its PMC team to oversee the EPC
8 contractor's work and progress through meetings, full-time site presence, as well
9 as additional visits and required reporting. Reporting will consist of progress
10 reporting on a percent complete basis, as well as key critical milestones and
11 critical path monitoring against the established baseline schedule. PMC will be
12 engaged with the contractor on a daily basis and will receive various reports on a
13 weekly and monthly basis, and monthly meetings will be held with key project
14 stakeholders to review progress and concerns being addressed by the collaborative
15 team. If and as required, reporting and meetings will be increased should extra
16 mitigating strategies be necessary to minimize significant deviations from the
17 project plan. Work will be paid for based on the completion of discretely defined
18 billing milestones representing the value of completed work.

⁴ CenterPoint will be filing the pipeline construction and gas transportation service contract, once completed, with the Commission for review. Costs associated with this contract are not included in the cost estimate in this proceeding.

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1 This high level of engagement from the PMC team will help facilitate the
2 Company's reporting to the Commission on construction as it proceeds through
3 the ongoing review process.

4 **IV. ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE**

5 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE PETITIONER'S CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENT**
6 **3-A (JRS).**

7 A. Petitioner's Confidential Attachment 3-A (JRS) is a copy of the current estimated
8 construction schedule for the Cayuga CC Project provided by Kiewit. This
9 schedule drives toward an in-service date for CC 1 of September 2029 and for CC
10 2 of May 2030.

11 **Q. PLEASE LIST THE KEY ACTIVITIES FOR THE CAYUGA CC**
12 **PROJECT.**

13 A. Duke Energy Indiana has a signed purchase order from GE Vernova for the first
14 CTG and is working on reaching final agreement on the second CTG and both
15 STGs in early 2025. Duke Energy Indiana will complete the procurement of the
16 major equipment within its scope by 3Q 2025 in order to support the EPC
17 contractor's expected schedule.

18 Also in 2025, Kiewit will begin engineering activities, leading up to June
19 when Duke Energy Indiana expects to issue the LNTP to Kiewit. At that time,
20 Duke Energy Indiana will receive updated lump sum, turnkey pricing on the EPC
21 contract (certain activities within the EPC remain subject to escalation given
22 market conditions until LNTP), which the Company will file in this proceeding to

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1 the extent there is a significant change. The Company intends to issue a full notice
2 to proceed (“FNTP”) to Kiewit upon issuance of a CPCN in this proceeding,
3 estimated to be in October 2025, based on the 240 day schedule in Indiana Code
4 8-1-8.5. Upon FNTP, Kiewit will begin mobilization for the initial site work
5 activities and begin to release purchase orders to suppliers. The focus for the
6 remainder of 2025 will be procurement and engineering activities, while the field
7 team will be mobilizing and establishing facilities to support the on-site
8 management for construction.

9 In 2026, Kiewit will ramp up its construction activities beginning with the
10 major civil activities including the installation of erosion control features and site
11 grading. Once rough grading is complete, focus will be on the excavations and
12 installation for the underground services, both mechanical and electrical, and then
13 to the major equipment foundations. Home office engineering will remain focused
14 on completing the procurement of balance of plant equipment and materials and
15 completing engineering drawings and document for construction. Major
16 equipment foundations will continue into 2027 in preparation to begin receiving
17 the major equipment shipments. Most construction activities will shift to above
18 ground installations including buildings, raw water and discharge water tie-ins,
19 pipe racks and pipe, electrical raceway and cable, transmission interconnecting
20 bus lines and shifting to major equipment installation later in the year.
21 Engineering will shift their focus to providing field construction support. The
22 resource peak for the project and main focus in 2028 will be the installation of the

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1 major equipment, CTGs, STGs, HRSGs and transformers. Building construction,
2 major piping system and electrical cabling will continue as the construction shifts
3 from a bulk installation plan, to one focused on system completion in support of
4 upcoming start-up and commissioning. Engineering will be completing
5 construction support and focused on commissioning support. 2029 will start off
6 with first fire for the first CTG that will initiate the hot-start activities continuing
7 through the various commission and testing steps, culminating with the
8 performance testing and declaration of in-service for CC 1. As CC 1 is completing
9 it's testing in late 2029, CC 2 will be prepared for its first fire and continuing
10 testing to achieve an in-service date in mid-2030. Once both units are successfully
11 completed, engineering, with support from construction will complete project as-
12 built documentation for delivery to Duke Energy Indiana prior to final
13 completion. The Company will work to ensure continuous operations from
14 Cayuga to the grid, scheduling tie-ins in a way that maintains service for
15 customers.

16 **Q. IS THE COMPANY REQUESTING THAT THE COMMISSION**
17 **MAINTAIN ONGOING REVIEW OF THE CAYUGA CC PROJECT**
18 **CONSTRUCTION AS IT PROCEEDS?**

19 A. Yes. As set forth in Indiana Code 8-1-8.5-6, the Company requests ongoing
20 review of the construction as it proceeds. As explained in the testimony of
21 Company witness Sufan, Duke Energy Indiana is requesting to set up a new semi-
22 annual rider under which ongoing review may be accomplished. It is our

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1 recommendation that ongoing review be conducted during those semi-annual
2 rider filings.

3 **Q. WHAT TYPE OF REPORTING WILL DUKE ENERGY INDIANA
4 PROVIDE IN ITS SEMI-ANNUAL RIDER FILINGS?**

5 A. Duke Energy Indiana intends to provide the Commission with insight into
6 construction progress at the site, as well as any necessary changes to the expected
7 in-service date or the cost estimate. I expect that the Company will also provide
8 an updated construction schedule as part of its ongoing review filings.

9 **V. COST ESTIMATE**

10 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE PETITIONER'S CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENT
11 3-B (JRS).**

12 A. Petitioner's Confidential Attachment 3-B (JRS) is the detailed cost estimate for
13 the Cayuga CC Project.

14 **Q. WHAT IS THE COMPANY'S BEST ESTIMATE OF THE TOTAL COST
15 OF CONSTRUCTION FOR THE CAYUGA ENERGY COMPLEX?**

16 A. As detailed on Petitioner's Confidential Attachment 3-B (JRS), the estimated cost
17 of the Cayuga CC Project is \$2.97 billion, plus AFUDC, property taxes and
18 project reserve. The Company has separated out the items it expects may change
19 over time, specifically AFUDC, transmission network upgrades and project
20 reserves. When those items are included, the total best estimate for the Cayuga
21 CC Project is \$3.33 billion. As I discussed earlier in my testimony, Duke Energy
22 Indiana intends to reflect known changes to its estimate during this proceeding,

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1 for example, when firm purchase orders are signed for major equipment, when
2 MISO network upgrades are known and when the Company gives Kiewit the
3 LNTP. As the estimate becomes firmer, there could also be adjustments to the
4 amount the Company has set aside for project reserves.

5 My team is responsible for development of the project and associated
6 schedule and cost estimate and have high confidence the work completed to-date
7 supports this estimate being considered AACE Class 3 quality, with an accuracy
8 range of -20%/+30%. The Company's current estimate for contingency and
9 project reserves reflects this accuracy level. However, Duke Energy Indiana
10 expects that this cost estimate will be further refined throughout this proceeding
11 as large contracts are awarded.

12 **Q. HAS DUKE ENERGY INDIANA SUPPORTED ITS COST ESTIMATE IN**
13 **THIS PROCEEDING WITH DETAILED WORKPAPERS?**

14 A. Yes, it has. Filed with my testimony are workpapers that include the purchase
15 order with GE Vernova for the CTG, the bid for the second CTG, the bid for the
16 STG, the EPC bid, and contingency analysis, along with other supporting
17 information.

18 **Q. WERE COSTS INCLUDED FOR THE NATURAL GAS PIPELINE IN**
19 **THIS PROCEEDING?**

20 A. No. CenterPoint Energy is constructing the pipeline that will interconnect the
21 Cayuga CC Project with the REX interstate pipeline for Duke Energy Indiana. As
22 part of the contract between Duke Energy Indiana and CenterPoint (to be filed

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1 with the Commission), the Company will be billed over a twenty-year period for
2 the transportation of gas to Cayuga and expects to seek to recover the
3 transportation costs through its FAC proceedings as it does with other natural gas
4 transportation costs.

5 In addition, Duke Energy Indiana has contracted with REX for firm
6 transportation as part of the recent REX “open season” process. Duke Energy
7 Indiana has discussed its efforts to procure firm transportation in its FAC
8 testimony. Please see the testimony of Company witness McClay for additional
9 information.

VI. CONCLUSION

10
11 **Q. IN CONCLUSION, DO YOU BELIEVE THE COMPANY’S BEST**
12 **ESTIMATE OF CONSTRUCTION COSTS FOR THE CAYUGA CC**
13 **PROJECT IS REASONABLE AND SHOULD BE APPROVED?**

14 A. Yes, I do. My team has put forth considerable effort to develop a firm cost
15 estimate that will not be subject to the kind of price inflation and supply chain
16 risks we have been seeing in the industry recently. By procuring major equipment
17 up front and entering into a lump sum, turnkey EPC contract for construction, the
18 Company is trying to ensure a smooth construction process with minimal
19 surprises along the way. Of course, any major construction project will have
20 unknown events and issues arise along the way. However, through our deliberate
21 contracting strategy, we hope those events and issues will not have a significant
22 impact on either price or in-service dates.

JOHN ROBERT SMITH, JR.

**DUKE ENERGY INDIANA CAYUGA CC PROJECT CPCN
DIRECT TESTIMONY OF JOHN ROBERT SMITH, JR**

1 **Q. WERE PETITIONER'S CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENTS 3-A (JRS)**

2 **AND 3-B (JRS) PREPARED BY YOU OR AT YOUR DIRECTION?**

3 **A.** Yes, they were.

4 **Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR PREFILED DIRECT TESTIMONY?**

5 **A.** Yes, it does.

JOHN ROBERT SMITH, JR.

VERIFICATION

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

Signed: *Bobby Smith*
Bobby Smith

Dated: 02/13/2025