

One data center just put 5 gigawatts on Louisiana's grid. Your capital plan is where that lands.

Meta's \$50-billion Hyperion campus in Richland Parish is the largest capital project in state history, and Entergy Louisiana is building seven new gas plants and three battery installations to serve it — all while the hurricanes keep coming and MISO's reserve margins thin. Every one of those forces reshuffles the projects on your list. Invizion helps electric utilities re-sequence a capital portfolio in a click — and defend every decision.

\$50B+ ¹	5 GW ¹	7 ¹	8.80¢ ²
Meta's committed investment in its Hyperion AI data center in Richland Parish — the largest capital project in Louisiana history.	IT capacity of the Meta Hyperion campus — city-scale new load stacked onto Entergy Louisiana's system.	New natural-gas plants Entergy Louisiana is building — plus three grid-scale batteries — to serve the Meta load.	Louisiana's average retail electricity price per kWh in 2024 — the lowest of any U.S. state.

THE LOUISIANA LANDSCAPE

Four forces are moving your project list at once

None of these is theoretical, and none of them waits for your next budget cycle. Together they mean the capital plan you approved last year may already be the wrong plan.

DEMAND — LOAD GROWTH

A hyperscaler on top of the heaviest industrial base in the country

Louisiana already carries some of the nation's densest industrial load — Gulf Coast LNG export terminals, refineries, and petrochemicals — which is a big part of why it has the lowest retail power price of any state.² Now Meta's Hyperion campus adds 5 GW of IT capacity, a \$50-billion-plus investment already carrying \$1.6 billion in local contracts.¹

The Public Service Commission has opened a large-load rulemaking (Docket R-37905) to manage how hyperscale customers connect — every new gigawatt is a capacity commitment competing for the same capital.³

RELIABILITY — MISO & STORMS

Thinning margins in a region NERC flags as elevated risk

Entergy Louisiana, Cleco, and SWEPCO all sit inside MISO, which NERC rates at **elevated risk**: the region's summer planning reserve margin falls from about 17.7% in 2024 to roughly 10.3% by 2025, and slips below the required level by the mid-2030s as load climbs and generators retire.⁴

Layer on the hurricane exposure that defines the Louisiana grid, and reliability depends on new resources and hardening landing on schedule — not a year late.²

GENERATION — GAS, SOLAR & NUCLEAR

A build-out driven by economics, not a mandate

Louisiana has no statutory clean-energy deadline, so the transition rides on cost and reliability. To serve Meta, Entergy is adding seven gas plants and three grid-scale batteries, backing up to 2.5 GW of Meta-funded renewables, and studying more output from the Waterford 3 nuclear unit.¹

Solar has reached 1,954 MW — about 2.80% of the state's electricity — with roughly 3,736 MW more forecast over five years.⁵ Against a fleet where natural gas is still the dominant fuel, each addition is a capital call with its own timeline.²

CAPITAL — HARDENING & GROWTH

Harden for the next storm and build for the next gigawatt

Storm resilience is now a funded, LPSC-approved program: about 2,100 incremental hardening projects across the state, with the New Orleans phase alone strengthening more than 3,000 structures and upgrading 60-plus miles of line — work projected to avoid roughly \$1.2 billion in future storm costs.⁶

Entergy Louisiana serves about 1.1 million customers across 58 of the state's 64 parishes on part of a roughly 24,000-MW system.⁷ The Meta build stacks seven plants and new transmission on top of that backlog — and something on the list has to move.¹

WHO RUNS LOUISIANA'S GRID

Three big investor-owned utilities, plus municipals and member-owned cooperatives

Louisiana's grid is carried by LPSC-regulated investor-owned utilities, a large New-Orleans utility answering to the City Council, municipal systems, and electric cooperatives. The pressures are shared; the accountability path differs.

Investor-owned utilities

Rates & capital recovery regulated by the LPSC (except New Orleans)

Entergy Louisiana	~1.1M customers · 58 of 64 parishes
Cleco Power	~295,000 customers · 24 parishes
SWEPCO (AEP)	Northwest Louisiana · Shreveport HQ · 556,100 customers across three states
Entergy New Orleans	~209,000 customers · regulated by the New Orleans City Council

Entergy Louisiana operates part of a roughly 24,000-MW Entergy system serving more than 3 million customers across four states

Municipals & cooperatives

Governed by councils & members, not LPSC rates

DEMCO (Dixie Electric)	Member-owned · 7 parishes · elected board, founded 1938
Louisiana's electric cooperatives	~1 million citizens in 50 of 64 parishes (ALEC members)
Lafayette Utilities System (LUS)	Municipally owned · serves Lafayette

Every capital dollar has to be defensible

Whether you answer to an elected Commission, the City Council, or your members, the question is the same: why this project, why now, why at this cost?

Louisiana Public Service Commission (LPSC) — five *elected* commissioners serving overlapping six-year terms regulate rates, capital recovery, and resource plans for Entergy Louisiana, Cleco, and SWEPCO.³

Large-load rulemaking (Docket R-37905) — the LPSC is writing rules for private-use networks and hyperscale customers so existing ratepayers are protected as gigawatt-scale load connects³

New Orleans is different. Entergy New Orleans is regulated by the *New Orleans City Council*, not the LPSC — a jurisdictional split unique to Louisiana that means two separate approval paths for one company.⁷

Resilience cost recovery is incremental. The LPSC approved roughly 2,100 hardening projects as a first phase — approvals come in tranches and each has to be justified on the records⁸

The money is moving — can your plan absorb it?

Louisiana utilities have more capital in motion than they've had in a generation. The constraint is readiness: which projects qualify, which are shovel-ready, and how the timing lines up.

Meta Hyperion: \$50B+ private capital — with \$1.6 billion already in local contracts and Meta funding up to 2.5 GW of renewable energy tied to the Richland Parish campus¹

Storm-resilience program: ~\$1.2B in avoided costs — the LPSC-approved hardening phase (about 2,100 projects) is projected to save customers roughly \$1.2 billion in future storm restoration⁶

Solar: \$2.7B invested, 3,736 MW ahead — Louisiana has drawn about \$2.7 billion of solar investment to date, with roughly 3,736 MW of additional capacity forecast over the next five years⁵

IRA elective (direct) pay — lets municipals like LUS and cooperatives like DEMCO monetize federal clean-energy tax credits as cash for the first time, changing which projects pencil out¹¹

LOUISIANA'S GRID, IN BRIEF

Questions Louisiana utility leaders are asking

Short, sourced answers — the same facts we dig into with utilities looking at their capital programs.

What is driving Louisiana's electricity demand growth?

A single hyperscale customer: Meta's Hyperion AI data center in Richland Parish carries a \$50-billion-plus commitment and about 5 GW of IT capacity, and the LPSC has opened a large-load rulemaking (Docket R-37905) to manage gigawatt-scale connections on top of the state's heavy Gulf Coast industrial base.¹³

How reliable is the grid Louisiana utilities depend on?

Louisiana's investor-owned utilities operate in MISO, which NERC rates at elevated risk: the region's summer reserve margin falls from about 17.7% in 2024 to roughly 10.3% by 2025 and drops below the required level by the mid-2030s as demand grows and generation retires.¹⁴

Who regulates electric rates in Louisiana?

The Louisiana Public Service Commission — five elected commissioners — sets rates and resource plans for Entergy Louisiana, Cleco, and SWEPCO. Entergy New Orleans is regulated separately by the New Orleans City Council, and cooperatives and municipals answer to their own boards and councils.¹⁷

Is Louisiana building renewables or natural gas?

Both, and it's driven by economics rather than a state mandate. Entergy is adding seven gas plants and three batteries plus up to 2.5 GW of Meta-funded renewables, while the state's solar fleet has reached 1,954 MW (about 2.80% of electricity) with roughly 3,736 MW more forecast over five years.¹⁵

How are utilities paying to harden the grid after the hurricanes?

Through LPSC-approved resilience programs recovered incrementally — a first phase of about 2,100 projects, with the New Orleans work alone projected to avoid roughly \$1.2 billion in future storm costs — alongside the private capital arriving with the Meta build.¹¹

How does Invizion help Louisiana electric utilities plan capital?

Invizion is scenario-based capital portfolio optimization for utilities. It lets you model how a 5 GW load addition, a storm-hardening tranche, or a new gas plant reshuffles your whole project list, re-sequence the portfolio automatically, and keep a defensible record of every decision for the LPSC, the City Council, or your board.

REFERENCES

Sources

Every figure in this briefing is tied to a primary or authoritative source.

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2. U.S. EIA — Louisiana electricity profile: 99.6 million MWh net generation (16th), average retail price 8.80¢/kWh (lowest in the U.S.), natural gas the primary fuel, 2024. www.eia.gov
3. Louisiana Public Service Commission — five elected commissioners with overlapping six-year terms; large-load / private-use-network rulemaking, Docket R-37905. www.lpsc.louisiana.gov
4. NERC 2024 Long-Term Reliability Assessment — MISO rated elevated risk; summer planning reserve margin ~17.7% (2024) falling to ~10.3% (2025) and below required levels by the mid-2030s. www.nerc.com
5. SEIA — Louisiana solar: 1,954 MW installed (31st), \$2.7B invested, 2.80% of state electricity, ~3,736 MW forecast over five years, 2026. seia.org
6. Entergy — Louisiana resilience program: LPSC-approved first phase of ~2,100 incremental projects; New Orleans phase strengthens 3,000+ structures and 60+ miles of line, projected to avoid ~\$1.2B in storm costs. www.entergy.com
7. Entergy — company profile: Entergy Louisiana ~1.1M customers across 58 of 64 parishes; Entergy New Orleans ~209,000 customers; ~24,000 MW of generation; 3M+ customers in four states. www.entergy.com
8. Cleco — Cleco Power serves ~295,000 customers across 24 Louisiana parishes. www.cleco.com
9. SWEPCO (AEP) — Southwestern Electric Power Company serves 556,100 customers across Louisiana, Arkansas, and Texas; headquartered in Shreveport, Louisiana. www.swepco.com
10. DEMCO — Dixie Electric Membership Corporation, member-owned cooperative serving seven parishes with a 13-member elected board, founded 1938. www.demco.org
11. Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives (ALEC) — member cooperatives serve roughly 1 million citizens in 50 of the state's 64 parishes. www.alec.coop
12. Lafayette Utilities System (LUS) — municipally owned utility providing electricity, water, and wastewater service to Lafayette, Louisiana. www.lus.org

ABOUT INVIZION

Capital program optimization for utilities

Invizion is a purpose-built capital lifecycle management platform for utilities. It integrates budgeting, CIP, scenario analysis, and funding-source tracking in one system — so utilities can re-sequence a capital portfolio in a click and demonstrate audit-ready, defensible decisions to regulators, boards, and rating agencies.

See how utilities keep capital plans current and defensible with Invizion.

Explore Invizion →