



RESPONSE TO LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS 23-06

FOR

OUTSIDE CONSULTANT

IN

DOCKET NO. X-36647, LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE  
COMMISSION, EX PARTE. IN RE: AUDIT OF PURCHASE GAS  
ADJUSTMENT FILINGS FOR CENTERPOINT ARKLA FOR THE  
PERIOD OF JANUARY 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 2022

AND

DOCKET NO. X-36648, LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE  
COMMISSION, EX PARTE. IN RE: AUDIT OF PURCHASE GAS  
ADJUSTMENT FILINGS FOR CENTERPOINT ENTEX FOR THE PERIOD  
OF JANUARY 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 2022

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**SUBMITTAL DATE:**

MARCH 3, 2023

**PREPARED AND SUBMITTED BY:**

UNITED PROFESSIONALS COMPANY  
201 ST. CHARLES, AVE., STE. 4240  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70170-1048

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## Executive Summary

United Professionals Company ("UPC") is pleased to submit its response to the Louisiana Public Service Commission's ("LPSC" or "Commission") Request for Proposals for Outside Consultants 23-06. We hope to have the opportunity to assist Commission Staff ("Staff") in auditing both CenterPoint Arkla and CenterPoint Entex's ("CNP" or "Company") Purchased Gas Adjustment filings for the period of January 2021 through December 2022 ("this Docket"). UPC has a team of regulatory, utility finance, and economics professionals and consultants, the members of which were specifically selected for their ability to serve the needs of the LPSC. As a Louisiana firm, we take great pride in any and all work that we do that benefits the people of our state, and we believe this Docket provides just such an opportunity.

Our team of professionals and consultants has a vast amount of experience assisting Staff in dockets involving electric utility accounting standards, ratemaking, cost-of-service and cost allocation methodologies, determination of riders, Formula Rate Plan reviews, Fuel Adjustment Clause audits, and resource planning. Our experience allows UPC to work closely with the Commission and its Staff in the evaluation of Company's application in this Docket. In addition, our team of professionals and consultants has a vast amount experience in rendering expert testimony and being cross-examined, with respect to all of the issues addressed in this RFP and which are likely to arise in the proceeding. Our team of consultants is fully prepared to assist Staff in its review the Company's application and any testimony; the Company's Purchase Gas Adjustment filings for the applicable period; prior Purchase Gas Adjustment Audits; draft data requests and review responses thereto; participate in informal meetings with Staff, Company, and Intervenors; assist in drafting a final audit report and recommendation(s), including direct testimony, to the Commission, including any exhibits supporting the same; review and respond to any rebuttal testimony; assist in preparing any necessary cross-answering testimony; assist in trial preparation, including cross-examination of witnesses and drafting pleadings and motions related thereto; participate in meetings, conference calls, status conference(s), hearings (whether contested or stipulated), or other conferences; review and analyze potential stipulation terms; and attend meetings with Staff and the Commission, as well as any Business and Executive Session(s) that Staff deems necessary.

UPC appreciates this opportunity to respond to the Commission's RFP. We propose a total budget for the cost of labor and expenses for the completion of the services requested for LPSC RFP 23-06 are not to exceed \$33,500 (\$33,000 of Labor + \$500 of Expenses). Our professionals are excited about the opportunity to serve the Commission as an Outside Consultant in this Docket. UPC's local presence offers the LPSC the benefits of geographic proximity and a wealth of institutional knowledge. The multifaceted financial qualifications and experience offered by UPC's staff of regulatory and utilities finance experts and consultants, combined with our in-depth understanding of Louisiana laws, regulations and local issues, best position us to provide the Commission with the most extensive and comprehensive service. For more information on our knowledge and experience, please contact the client references that we have provided.

Very truly yours,



R. Lane Sisung  
Managing Director

## A. QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

### 1. The Sisung Group

UPC is a member of the New Orleans, Louisiana-based Sisung Group, which is comprised of related Company that provide investment banking, asset management, venture capital and business consulting and development services to corporations, individuals, institutions and governmental agencies.

- **United Professionals Company (“UPC”)** offers financial consulting, transaction structuring, business development, real estate development, and revenue and cash flow development services to clients operating in the public, private and non-profit sectors. UPC specializes in the areas of public utility financial and accounting analysis, mergers and acquisitions consulting, healthcare revenue maximization, public infrastructure and facilities development, energy efficiency and project management services.
- **Sisung Securities Corporation (“SSC”)** is a full-service investment banking firm that offers a range of services, including equity and fixed income underwritings, financial advisory services and securities brokerage services in addition to other related financial services. Clients served include public, corporate, retail and institutional entities. SSC is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and is a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (MSRB) and the Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC).
- **Sisung Investment Management Services (“SIMS”)** provides investment advisory services to corporate and public institutions, as well as to high net worth individuals. SIMS is an investment advisor registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).
- **Sisung Capital** provides alternative financing products to small and medium-sized businesses, thus positively impacting economic development in the communities in which it invests. Sisung Capital invests capital and resources in companies in need of funding for growth and profitability. As a licensed Louisiana Capital Company (“CAPCO”) and Business and Industrial Development Corporation (“BIDCO”), Sisung Capital has primarily focused its investments in Louisiana. By leveraging State tax credit incentive programs, Sisung Capital has assisted start-up and expanding Louisiana businesses in raising and investing over \$25 million dollars in communities throughout Louisiana. Sisung Capital has worked with Company operating in a wide variety of industries including: telecommunications, print manufacturing, construction, weatherization services, oil & gas, healthcare, media and government services sectors.





Unlike most financial firms which focus solely on financial matters, UPC and its affiliated Sisung Group companies have extensive experience in a broad range of financially related areas involving state and local governments

As demonstrated by the above, our professionals are highly experienced in multifaceted areas, including financial analysis, program design, government relations, legislative advocacy, policy initiatives, financing transactions, and legal and regulatory budgeting, planning, and administration.

More information on The Sisung Group is also available at [www.sisung.com](http://www.sisung.com).

## **2. United Professionals Company**

UPC, which operates the Sisung Group's non-regulated financial advisory and consulting activities, provides clients operating in the public, private and non-profit sectors with a broad range of services from its Louisiana based offices. These services include, but are not limited to: financial analysis, transaction structuring, business plan development, real estate development, and revenue maximization. UPC's public sector clients include state governments, parish and county governments, cities, towns, state utility regulatory authorities, school districts, hospitals, levee districts, housing authorities, universities, port authorities, law enforcement districts, charter schools and more.



UPC has extensive experience in a broad range of financially-related areas involving state and local government throughout Louisiana. UPC's dedicated and accomplished staff includes individuals with backgrounds as diversified as:

- Investment Bankers
- Securities Traders
- Financial Analysts
- Attorneys
- Certified Public Accountants
- Regulatory Economists
- Published Authors
- MBAs

Our professionals are highly educated, experienced, and published in multidisciplinary areas including:

- Financial Analysis
- Asset Acquisitions
- Program Design
- Program Management
- Policy Initiatives
- Government Relations
- Legislative Advocacy
- Financing Transactions
- Regulatory Budgeting, Planning, and Administration

Successfully utilizing the strengths, talents and expertise of our seasoned professionals, we are able to provide customized, quality service to our clients. Our professionals have represented local, state and federal issuing authorities, cities, parish and county governments, hospital districts, 501(c)(3) corporations, state agencies, state governments and commissions, and corporations.

As a specialty branch of these financial advisory and consulting services, UPC has built a team of regulatory and utility finance and economics professionals, the members of which were specifically selected for their ability to serve the needs of the LPSC. Members of the UPC team have an extensive experience analyzing the operations, books, and records of utility companies, particularly investor-owned utilities, for the purpose of setting just and reasonable rates, including, but not limited to, calculation of rate base, rates of return, capital structure, formula rates/rate stabilization plans. We have detailed knowledge and experience regarding Louisiana regulatory law and ratemaking principles. UPC's team of consultants all have direct experience with LPSC rulemakings and jurisdictional issues, applicable Commission and federal regulations, as well as the following:

1. Detailed understanding of the major functional areas of a regulated investor-owned utility;



2. Analyzing the operations, books, and records of utility companies, including investor-owned utilities;
3. Appropriate accounting standards and practices for public utilities, public utility accounting, and generally accepted auditing standards;
4. Familiarity with the LPSC's PGA Order;
5. Familiarity with CNP's Purchased Gas Adjustment filings;
6. Auditing procedures of public utilities Purchase Gas Adjustment Clauses;
7. Appropriate adjustments to be made by a public utility pursuant to the LPSC's PGA Order;
8. CNP-specific adjustments allowed by the LPSC to be flowed through CNP's PGA;
9. Understanding of natural gas utility regulation;
10. Monitoring and evaluating of utility performance regarding areas impacting gas costs;
11. Compliance with all pertinent state and federal regulations with regards to a utility's Purchased Gas Adjustment filings;
12. Familiarity with utility price risk management guidelines for purchased gas (including physical hedging, fixed price transactions, price swaps, purchase options, etc.);
13. Determining ratepayer impact(s);
14. The appropriate adjustments to be made to the utility's accounting records;
15. The determination and calculation of the appropriate rate base of a utility plant investment dedicated to providing service;
16. Traditional cost-of-service and cost allocation methodologies supporting the revenue requirements among classes of customers;
17. LPSC and FERC approved cost-of service cost methodologies for public utilities;
18. The cost allocation methodologies for the allocation of investment and expenses between affiliates, including the relationship of the holding company to its subsidiary operating companies, the transfer of investment and costs between operating companies, and the provision of services between affiliates;
19. Cost of capital, including capital structure, cost of debt, cost of equity, rates of return, and currently approved riders;
20. Just and reasonable costs and prudent investments associated with providing safe, reliable and quality service as recommended by NARUC;
21. Depreciation and taxation; and
22. Familiarity with financing and recovery of return on CWIP capital expenditures.

UPC's team of regulatory and utility finance and economics professionals is well qualified to provide the services that the LPSC has requested in Request for Proposal 23-06. Our organization has an extensive amount of practical experience in the field of public utility practice that includes similar practice before the LPSC and other regulatory agencies, and a vast knowledge of Louisiana ratemaking standards and regulatory law. All members of our team are experienced in participating in cases involving public utility regulation, or other regulatory issues on administrative and judicial levels, including the presentation of direct testimony or report and recommendations, assistance in developing cross examination of adverse witnesses, and the analysis of comments and exceptions to proposed recommendations. Our team of professionals has significant experience in the presentation of recommendations involving public utility regulation and other regulatory issues on administrative and judicial levels. Our professionals



have practiced before, and acted as expert witnesses in complex cases before, regulatory agencies such as the LPSC, Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“FERC”), and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (“FINRA”). The attorneys who work in-house for UPC have been published on topics covering a wide range of law.

Collectively, the UPC professionals possess a full understanding and ability to assist Commission Staff in reviewing the issues related to this Docket. Indeed, the combination of our team members’ educational backgrounds, achievements, specific expertise, and prior experience serving the Commission best positions us to provide the LPSC and Staff with the most extensive and comprehensive consulting services available to it on this Docket.

The resumes of some of our highly qualified professionals who could be assigned to assist the Commission in this matter are detailed in *Appendix A*. UPC reserves the ability to supplement its team, if necessary, in order to provide the Commission with the very best service on this Docket.

Some of the United Professionals Company’s unique accomplishments include:

- Serving the Commission on *Docket No. U-33983 In Re: Docket No. U-33983 Review of Entergy Louisiana, LLC’s Motion for Extension of Gas Rate Stabilization Plan* by assisting the Commission’s Legal Staff by conducting a review of *Entergy Louisiana, LLC’s Motion for Extension of Gas Rate Stabilization Plan*, and assisting with the review of *Annual Evaluation Reports* for each of the three proposed test years.
- Serving the LPSC on Commission on *Docket No. U-34434, Atmos Energy Corporation, ex parte. In re: 2016 Rate Stabilization Clause filing for Louisiana Gas Rate Division*, by assisting Staff in reviewing *Atmos’s Gas Rate Stabilization Clause Filing for the Trans Louisiana Rate Division*.
- Serving the LPSC on Commission on *Docket No. U-34343, Atmos Energy Corporation, ex parte. In re: 2016 Rate Stabilization Clause filing for Trans Louisiana Gas Rate Division*, by assisting Staff in reviewing *Atmos’s Gas Rate Stabilization Clause Filing for the Trans Louisiana Rate Division*.
- Serving the Commission on *Docket No. U-33925, Atmos Energy Corporation, ex parte. In re: 2015 Rate Stabilization Clause filing for Trans Louisiana Gas Rate Division*, by assisting Staff in reviewing *Atmos’s Gas Rate Stabilization Clause Filing for the Trans Louisiana Rate Division*.
- Serving as an independent technical consultant in *Docket No. I-33013, Southwestern Electric Power Company, ex parte. In re: 2013 Integrated Resource Planning process for SWEPCO pursuant to General Order dated April 20, 2012*, by assisting the LPSC in reviewing and evaluating the Company’s integrated resource plan filings, including comprehensive sets of potential resource options, supply-side, demand-side and economic transmission resource



*options, to determine a base or “reference resource” plan that offers the most economic and reliable combination of resources satisfying the forecasted load requirements.*

- Serving as an independent technical consultant in Docket No. I-34715, *In re: Request to Initiate the Integrated Resource Plan process pursuant to the General Order dated April 20, 2012.*
- Serving the Commission through assisting Commission Staff in participating in and monitoring the Southwestern Power Pool related matters.
- Serving as an independent technical consultant in Docket No. U-34619, *In re: Application of Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO) for Expedited Certification and Approval of the Acquisition of Certain Renewable Resources and the Construction of a Generation Tie Pursuant to the 1983 and/or 1994 General Orders.*
- Serving the Commission in Docket No. U-35324, *Application of Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO) for Certification and Approval of the Acquisition of Certain Renewable Resources and the Construction of a Generation Tie Pursuant to the 1983 and/or 1994 General Orders.*
- Serving the LPSC on Commission on LPSC Docket No. U-33434 *Joint Application of Cleco Power, LLC and Cleco Partners L.P. for: (i) Authorization of the Change of Ownership and Control of Cleco Power LLC and (ii) Expedited Treatment*
- Serving the LPSC on Commission on LPSC Docket No. U-33848 *Cleco Power LLC Formula Rate Plan June 2015 Monitoring Report*
- Serving the LPSC on Commission on LPSC Docket No. U-34289 *Cleco Power LLC Formula Rate Plan – June 2016 Monitoring Report and pursuant to U-32507 Prudence Review of Cleco’s Installation of MATS Emissions Control Equipment at Dolet hills Power Station, Rodemacher Power Station Unit No. 2, and Madison Unit No. 3*
- Serving the LPSC on Commission on LPSC Docket No. U-34617 *Application of Cleco Power LLC requesting Commission consideration of a Proposed Physical Bilateral Hedge Program, pursuant to General Order R-32975*
- Serving the LPSC on Commission on LPSC Docket No. U-34974 *In Re: Application of Cleco Corporate Holdings LLC and Cleco Power LLC for (i) Authorizations, Waivers, and Regulatory Interpretations of Certain Provisions of LPSC Order No. U-33434-A; (i) Authorization for Cleco Corporate Holdings, LLC to Pledge its Ownership Interest in Cleco Power LLC; and (iii) Expedited Treatment*
- Serving the LPSC on Commission on LPSC Docket No. U-35049 *Cleco Power LLC, LPSC Docket U-35049, In Re: June 2018 Monitoring Report - Application of Cleco Power LLC for: (i) Authorization to Implement Rate Reductions resulting from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017; (ii) Authorization to Modify Certain Tariffs in connection with such Rate Reductions; (iii) Authorization to Implement Residential Base Revenue Decoupling; and (iv) Expedited Treatment*



- Serving the LPSC on Commission on LPSC Docket No. *U-34687 Cleco Power LLC Formula Rate Plan- June 2017 Monitoring Report*
- Serving the LPSC on Commission on LPSC Docket No. *U-32631 Application of Cleco Power LLC for: (i) public interest finding in favor of the transfer of functional control of certain transmission assets to the Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator, Inc.*
- Serving the LPSC on Commission on LPSC Docket No. *U-34501 Cleco Power LLC, ex parte. Application Regarding the Costs and Benefits of Continued Participation in the Midcontinent Independent Systems Operator, Inc. Regional Transmission Organization*
- Serving the LPSC on Commission on FERC Docket No. *EC18-63 Joint Application for Order Authorizing Disposition of Jurisdictional Facilities Under Section 203 of the Federal Power Act of the Cleco and NRG Applicants*
- Serving the LPSC on Commission on FERC Docket No. *ER17-1368 Cleco Power, LLC System Support Resource ("SSR") Payment for Teche Power Station Unit 3*
- Serving as an independent technical consultant in Docket *U-33244 Entergy Louisiana, LLC and Entergy Gulf States Louisiana, LLC, ex parte, In re: Submission of Business Combination Study regarding potential business*
- Serving the Commission as an independent outside consultant on Docket No. *U-33605 Joint Application of Entergy Gulf States Louisiana, L.L.C. and Entergy Louisiana, LLC. for Certification of the Louisiana Economic Transmission Project in Accordance with Louisiana Public Service Commission General Order dated October 10, 2013 in Docket No. R-26018*
- Serving the Commission as an independent outside consultant on Docket No. *U-33645 Application of Entergy Gulf States Louisiana, L.L.C. for Certification of the Lake Charles Transmission Project in Accordance with Louisiana Public Service Commission General Order dated October 10, 2013 in Docket No. R-26018.*
- Providing written and live testimony before the Commission to address and advise the Commission regarding the securitization bonds issued by Entergy Louisiana Investment Recovery Funding I, L.L.C., the designated special purpose entity created by ELL for recovery of the costs related to the Little Gypsy 3 repowering project, and the Commission's issuance of a financing order issued under Louisiana's 2010 enabling legislation, as codified in LA. R.S. 45:1251-1216 ("Entergy Little Gypsy Securitization Docket")
- Acting as outside consultant to the Commission in reviewing issues related to the evaluation of the proposed transfer of transmission assets in Docket No. *U-32538- Entergy Louisiana, LLC, Entergy Gulf States Louisiana, LLC, Mid South TransCo LLC, Transmission Company Louisiana I, LLC, Transmission Company Louisiana II, LLC, ITC Holdings Corp. and ITC Midsouth LLC, ex parte. In re: Joint Application for Approval of Change of Ownership of Electric Transmission Business, for Certain Cost-Recovery Adjustments, and for Related Relief and the related dockets before the Federal Energy Regulatory*



- Acting as outside consultants to the Commission in reviewing issues related to the evaluation of *Docket No. 32707- Entergy Gulf States, LLC, In re: Application for Authority to Change Rates, Approval of Formula Rate Plan and for Related Relief* and *Docket No. 32708- Entergy Louisiana, LLC, In re: Application for Authority to Change Rates, Approval of Formula Rate Plan and for Related Relief*
- Performing financial analysis and rendering testimony on the proposed issuance and securitization of storm recovery bonds, under La. R.S. 45:1331-1328, for permanent rate-financed recovery of system restoration costs related to Hurricanes Isaac and the replenishment of storm reserve escrow accounts in *Docket No. U-32764 Energy Gulf States Louisiana LLC and Energy Louisiana LLC, ex parte. In re: Joint Application for Recovery in Rates of Costs Related to Hurricane Isaac, Determination of Appropriate Storm Reserve Escrow Amounts and Related Relief*
- Serving as an independent outside consultant to the Commission in *Docket No. U-34289, Cleco Power LLC, ex parte. In re: Formula Rate Plan-June 2016 Monitoring Report*
- Serving as an independent outside consultant to the Commission in *Docket No. U-33848, Cleco Power LLC, ex parte. In re: Formula Rate Plan-June 2015 Monitoring Report*
- Serving as an independent outside consultant to the Commission in *Docket No. U-33434, Joint Application of Cleco Power, LLC and Cleco Partners, L.P. for: (I) Authorization for the Change of Ownership and Control of Cleco Power, LLC and (II) Expedited Treatment*
- Serving the Commission as an independent outside consultant on *Docket No. U-33510 Entergy Gulf States Louisiana, LLC's Upcoming Filing Regarding Acquisition of two power blocks located at Union Power Station*
- Serving the Commission through assisting Commission Staff in participating in and monitoring the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc., Organization of MISO States, and Entergy Regional State Committee related matters
- Serving as an Outside Technical Consultant in *Docket No. R-26968-LPSC, ex parte, In re: Review of the General Order Dated March 12, 1999*
- Serving the Commission on *Docket No. R-32975-LPSC, ex parte, In re: Examination of long-term natural gas hedging proposals, by assisting in: determining whether it is in the public interest for LPSC-jurisdictional investor owned utilities to accept long-term (five, seven, ten and fifteen year), fixed-price hedging proposals for natural gas supply contracts, and if so, determining and/or developing an appropriate methodology for expedited, streamlined Commission approval of such contracts*
- Serving as an independent outside consultant to the Commission in *Docket No. U-33848, Cleco Power LLC, ex parte. In re: Formula Rate Plan-June 2015 Monitoring Report*
- Serving as an independent outside consultant to the Commission in *Docket No. U-33434, Joint Application of Cleco Power, LLC and Cleco Partners, L.P. for: (I) Authorization for the Change of Ownership and Control of Cleco Power, LLC and (II) Expedited Treatment*



- Serving the Commission on *Docket No. U-33974 Entergy Gulf States Utilities, L.L.C. ex parte. In re: 2015 Rate Stabilization Plan Filing*, by assisting Staff in reviewing EGSL's Gas Rate Stabilization Plan Filing
- Serving the Commission on *Docket No. R-32138-Wastewater Treatment Systems & Operations, LLC, ex parte. in relation to the request for an increase in water and wastewater rates by assisting in reviewing, documenting and verifying the upgrades that Wastewater Treatment Systems & Operations, LLC has stated it has made in filings in the above-captioned docket*
- Developing and implementing innovative strategies to assist healthcare providers, local governments, and the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals ("DHH") to finance services through utilization of unused Medicaid Upper Payment Limit Caps ("UPL's"), Certified Public Expenditures ("CPE's"), Intergovernmental Transfers ("IGT's") and Public Private Partnerships ("PPP's")
- Design and administrative management of a statewide financing and construction program for the Louisiana Community and Technical College System including budgeting, accounting, financial advisory services for bond issues, construction fund investment management, board presentations, and other administrative services

As demonstrated by the above, our professionals are highly experienced in multifaceted areas, including financial analysis, program design, government relations, legislative advocacy, policy initiatives, financing transactions, and legal and regulatory budgeting, planning, and administration.



Provided below is a list of five (5) references who can speak on behalf of the United Professional Company's abilities, integrity, and professional reputation in acting as financial advisor to a private or governmental entity.

Client	Lead Contact	Telephone
Louisiana Senate	John Alario Retried Senate President	(504) 289-7428
Louisiana Community and Technical College System	Dr. Monty Sullivan President	(225) 922-2800
West Jefferson Medical Center (Jefferson Parish Hospital Service District No. 1)	Nancy Cassagne Retired CEO	(504) 715-6093
Terrebonne General Medical Center	Diane Yeates COO	(985) 873-4640
Louisiana Public Service Commission	Eve Kahao Gonzalez Former Secretary	(225) 505-6161



## **B. PLAN OF ACTION**

We are fully prepared to assist the Commission's in-house Staff in its review of CNP's application in this Docket. The Commission's RFP makes clear that the time anticipated to complete the Scope of Representation is approximately 18 months ("Period of Representation"). As a result, our Plan of Action is tailored towards that Period of Representation.

If selected, our team of qualified consultants would work closely with the Commission, Commission Staff in its review and analyses. UPC Consultants would:

- Review the Company's filings and any testimony
- Review and analyze CNP's fuel purchases and usage by the Company's Natural Gas Division
- Review and analyze CNP's price risk management guidelines
- Review and analyze any other applicable information received from the Company including accompanying workpapers and financial data
- Review prior audits of CNP's Purchased Gas Adjustment and related data
- Review prior CNP Purchased Gas Adjustment filings for any irregularities
- Review CNP's compliance with the PGA Order
- Recommend appropriate methodologies to provide for recovery of any irregularities found, if necessary.
- Draft and assist in the drafting and review of data requests
- Draft and assist in the drafting and review of data requests on other parties, if applicable
- Draft and prepare a final audit report
- Draft and prepare testimony in support of Staff's ultimate recommendations and final audit report, together with exhibits supporting testimony
- Determine ratepayer impact(s)
- Be prepared to defend staff's recommendation and final audit report through discovery and/or testimony
- Participate in formal and informal meetings, conference calls, status conference(s), hearings, pre-trial conferences, and depositions with the Company, Staff, Intervenor, and/or the Commissioners
- Prepare briefing materials for Staff and Commissioners
- Assist in trial preparation, if necessary, including cross-examination of witnesses and drafting pleadings and motions related thereto
- Review and respond to the testimony and/or discovery of any Intervenor, as necessary
- Review and respond to the testimony and/or discovery prepared by other parties, as necessary
- Review and analyze any potential stipulation terms
- Assist in any settlement discussions
- Prepare for, and participate in, a certification or stipulated hearing, including providing expert testimony before an administrative law judge



- Assist Staff in preparation of any pre-and post-hearing briefs or filings
- Participate and/or testify at a Business and Executive Session, where this docket may be discussed.

If selected, our team of professionals would make ourselves available to participate in informal conference calls, meetings and conferences with the Commission and its Staff, and attend any Business and Executive Sessions that the Staff deems necessary through the conclusion of the Docket and a final Commission vote.

## **1. Methodology**

The methodology that UPC proposes to utilize in serving the LPSC in this Docket leverages our team's in-depth understanding of Commission and state of Louisiana law and regulatory precedent, the regulatory process, and our team of specially-selected professionals' prior experience serving the LPSC on related issues.

## **2. Approach**

If UPC is selected as the Commission's Outside Consultant, our team would actively work to ensure that the Commission and Staff are provided with any and all resources necessary to complete the scope of representation. The UPC approach uses a collaborative, standardized methodology that ensures efficiency, effectiveness, and proper controls. As such, detailed below is an outline of UPC's proposed approach for assisting the Commission Staff in the audit of CNP's Purchased Gas Adjustment Filings for the period of January 2021 through December 2022. UPC fully understands, however, that if chosen, the Commission and its Staff shall determine how the tasks will be carried out.

## **3. Workload Management and Distribution**

UPC's staff utilizes a collaborative and fluid team approach. R. Lane Sisung and Paul T. Chastant, III will serve as contacts to LPSC, with Mr. Sisung serving as the primary contact. Mr. Sisung and the team will remain in constant contact with Commissioners, Commission Staff, and intervening parties regarding any and all material matters so as to provide seamless coverage for the LPSC. Together, we will work with Commissioners, Commission Staff and intervening parties to assess needs, determine deliverables and timelines, coordinate our firm's resources, and schedule meetings with the LPSC and other parties to provide analysis and advice.

Mr. Sisung will draw upon our individual team members' expertise as needed for understanding and edification on individual issues. By assigning the proper specialist to individual issues as they arise, with Mr. Sisung acting as program administrator, we will be able to effectively meet LPSC's needs. All of this resource coordination will take place seamlessly.



We anticipate a close working relationship with the Commissioners and Commission Staff. All LPSC personnel will have Mr. Sisung and the rest of his team's contact information. Commissioners, Commission Staff, and parties will be encouraged to reach out to Mr. Sisung with any questions or concerns. We believe that our process ensures that the work products and deliverables will exceed the quality standards that the LPSC expects from the Independent Technical Consultant awarded this contract. UPC fully understands, however, that if chosen, the Commission and its Staff shall determine how the tasks will be carried out.



### **C. COST PROPOSAL**

UPC is pleased to submit the following price proposal to the Commission for consideration. We estimate that the total cost of labor for the completion of this Docket would not exceed \$33,000. Our labor estimate is based upon the costs necessary to provide the Commission with the services of a dedicated team of finance professionals for the estimated period of representation. Our standard hourly rates per hour vary per consultant from \$60.00/hour to \$400.00/hour, however we have discounted our fees for the Commission such that they range from 60.00/ hour to \$295.00 per hour.

We estimate that the total expenses necessary for the completion of this Docket would not exceed \$500. These costs reflect our estimate of the travel and lodging costs of experts over the period of representation. Expenses would also be separately disclosed with proof of such expenses attached. UPC would request reimbursement for only those travel-related expenses that are actually incurred. Expenses, where applicable, would be billed in accordance with state authorized rates as specified in the Travel Policies and Procedures Memorandum issued by the State of Louisiana, Division of Administration in effect at the time such expenses are incurred ("Allowable Expenses"). Any expenses that exceed the Allowable Expenses would be borne by UPC, unless otherwise specified by the Commission. Further, billed expenses would not exceed twenty percent (20%) of the total amount of billed fees at any given time.

We propose a total budget for the cost of labor and expenses for the completion of the services requested for LPSC RFP 23-06 are not to exceed \$33,500 (\$33,000 Labor + \$500 Expenses).

UPC understands that Staff would be able to request, and UPC would be required to provide, billing information at any time upon Staff's Request. Staff, working with UPC, would review all of the bills submitted for payment, including but not limited to conformity with the planning sessions and any amendments. UPC further understands that the Commission shall have the discretion to impose additional safeguards upon the potential bidders at the time such bids are put up for vote, and that it shall have the right to either accept such additional safeguards, or reject them and withdraw their bid. Further, at any time after UPC is selected and hired, the Staff and UPC may agree to further safeguards.

If selected, UPC bills would be rendered in strict accordance with the Commission's guidelines. UPC would only charge for actual hours of work performed and costs incurred. All UPC bills would be rendered monthly, and specifically identify and describe all work performed, the person performing such work, the time and charge for such work, and show the total amount billed to date and the authorized original estimate, in accordance with the Commission's August 4, 2004 General Order.



**D. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

United Professionals Company, LLC does not possess any conflicts of interest that would impair its ability to serve the Commission for the purposes of this RFP, but for the purpose of full disclosure, we hereby disclose:

1. SSC presently serves the State of Louisiana, Office of the Governor, Division of Administration through acting as a financial advisor, on an “on call” basis.



## **E. OTHER CURRENT REPRESENTATIONS**

Below are outlined a list of other matters in which we currently represent the Commission:

1. UPC presently serves the Commission through assisting Commission Staff in participating in and monitoring the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc., Organization of MISO States, and Entergy Regional State Committee related matters.
2. UPC also presently serves the Commission through assisting Commission Staff in participating in and monitoring the Southwest Power Pool.

LPSC Docket No. R-36263	LPSC Docket No. U-36103	FERC Docket Nos. ER17-2219, EL 17-93, EL17-41, EL 18-142, EL 18-204
LPSC Docket No. U-34354	LPSC Docket No. U-36105	
LPSC Docket No. U-34735	LPSC Docket No. U-35753	FERC Docket No. EL 18-152
LPSC Docket No. X-36125	LPSC Docket No. U-36502	FERC Docket No. ER21-117
LPSC Docket No. U-36516	LPSC Docket No. U-36174	FERC Docket No. ER21-748
LPSC Docket No. U-33434	LPSC Docket No. X-35741	FEEC Docket No. ER23-816
LPSC Docket No. U-34794	LPSC Docket No. U-36265	FERC Docket No. ER18-1182
LPSC Docket No. U-36515	LPSC Docket No. U-36301	FERC Docket No. ER21-142
LPSC Docket No. U-35299	LPSC Docket No. U-36338	FERC Docket No. ER21-129
LPSC Docket No. U-35807	LPSC Docket No. R-34407	FERC Docket No. EL23-11
LPSC Docket No. U-35806	LPSC Docket No. X-36498	FERC Docket No. ER21-530
LPSC Docket No. U-36514	LPSC Docket No. R-35135	FERC Docket No. ER22-958
LPSC Docket No. U-33244	LPSC Docket No. R-35136	FERC Docket No. EL21-24
LPSC Docket No. U-34951	LPSC Docket No. R-35462	FERC Docket No. EL21-46
LPSC Docket No. U-35205	LPSC Docket No. U-36383	FERC Docket No. RM18-9
LPSC Docket No. U-35581	LPSC Docket No. U-36582	FERC Docket No. RM21-14
LPSC Docket No. U-35565	LPSC Docket No. U-34332	FERC Docket No. RM21-17
LPSC Docket No. U-36385	LPSC Docket No. U-33782	FERC Docket No. RM22-5
LPSC Docket No. X-35981	LPSC Docket No. U-34475	FERC Docket No. ER22-736
LPSC Docket No. U-36092	LPSC Docket No. U-34735	FERC Docket No. EL20-72
LPSC Docket No. X-35071	LPSC Docket No. R-34758	FERC Docket No. EL21-56
LPSC Docket No. X-35987	FERC Docket No. ER18-1247	FERC Docket No. EL22-6
LPSC Docket No. U-36381	FERC Docket No. ER21-915	FERC Docket No. ER22-24
		FERC Docket No. ER23-625



## F. CONCLUSION

UPC appreciates this opportunity to respond to the Commission's RFP to serve as an outside consultant to assist Staff in the review and analysis of the filings and issues in this Docket. As detailed in the sections above, UPC and its affiliated Sisung Group companies are multifaceted and have extensive experience in a broad range of financially-related areas involving state and local governments. Because we are a Louisiana firm, all of whose employees are Louisiana residents, we take great pride in any and all work that we do that benefits the people of our state, and we believe this project provides just such an opportunity.

UPC has built a team of regulatory and utility finance and economics professionals and consultants, the members of which were specifically selected for their ability to serve the needs of the LPSC in this Docket. Together, our team of professionals and consultants has a vast amount of specific knowledge and experience, which will allow us to work closely with the Commission and its Staff as an outside consultant on this Docket. The multifaceted financial qualifications and experience offered by UPC's staff of regulatory and utilities finance experts and consultants, combined with our in-depth understanding of Louisiana laws, regulations and local issues, best position us to provide the Commission with the most extensive and comprehensive service.

Our professionals have a distinctive style that encourages personal service, excellence and integrity. We believe that the combination of our professionals' experience, our local Louisiana presence, our national expertise, and our proven track record of nearly thirty years of exceptional quality and integrity in our dealings offers the Commission an excellent choice for an outside consultant to assist it in this Docket.



**Appendix A: Resumes of Sisung Professionals Assigned to RFP 23-06**





## **ROBERT LANE SISUNG**

Mr. Sisung earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Louisiana State University. After graduation, he sat for and passed the Certified Public Accountant exam and subsequently attended Loyola University Law School where he earned a Juris Doctorate. After law school, Mr. Sisung earned an LL.M. in Tax Law from the University of Florida. Mr. Sisung is a fully licensed General Securities Representative, a licensed insurance agent in the state of Louisiana, and a member of the Louisiana State Bar.

Mr. Sisung has over two decades of experience in financial, real estate and investment transactions. His most recent projects include successful development and implementation of the Healthcare Finance Consulting and Financial Litigation Services/Regulatory Consulting business lines for the Sisung Group, where he specializes in providing consulting to regulators of utilities. The Sisung Group's work in these endeavors has produced hundreds of millions of dollars for the firms' clients and the state.

The Financial Litigation Services/Regulatory Consulting business line has primarily supported governmental entities in cases before tribunals. Mr. Sisung manages an array of regulatory and financial experts in coordinating a cohesive approach to providing expert witness services for complicated financial and regulatory matters. Mr. Sisung himself also provides expert testimony and assist in the creation of settlements and orders of judgment. His personal involvement in the representation of the LPSC has helped to provided critical and effective safeguarding of LPSC-jurisdictional rate payers.

Mr. Sisung's previous endeavors include the successful creation, development and implementation of the corporate finance and mergers and acquisitions operations of Sisung Securities Corporation; the creation and operations of Sisung Capital that include raising and investing millions of dollars in venture capital funds in Louisiana; the creation and operation of the Sisung Film Finance Division; and the growth and management of over \$1 billion dollars in assets under management in Sisung Investment Management Services. Mr. Sisung also manages and directs all Sisung Group real estate, project management, and business development projects including multi-y capital infrastructure projects. Mr. Sisung sits on the investment committee for Sisung Investment Management Services, LLC and also serves as in-house counsel for the five companies that comprise the Sisung Group.

Mr. Sisung serves as the primary point of contact for the LPSC, and he will be responsible for coordinating and managing all of our firm's resources, including the direct provision of consulting and litigation services.





### **PAUL THOMAS CHASTANT, III**

Mr. Chastant holds a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and a Minor in History from Louisiana State University. He also holds a Juris Doctor from Tulane University Law School. Mr. Chastant is a member of the Louisiana State Bar, a Certified Public Accountant licensed to practice in Louisiana, and a Certified Mergers and Acquisitions Advisor.

Mr. Chastant has accounting and financial advisory consulting experience in areas that include external audit, acquisition due diligence, revenue and expenditure growth projection, litigation support, and business valuation, gained while working as a Financial Consulting and External Audit Staff Accountant with Postlethwaite & Netterville, one of the largest accounting firms in the state of Louisiana. In this position, he assisted publicly traded companies' internal audit departments in assessing European foreign corporate subsidiaries' compliance with Sarbanes-Oxley Act reporting requirements. His financial consulting experience ranges from constructing detailed financial accounting and reporting policies and procedures manuals for clients to consulting on issues of cross-border financial consolidations, US GAAP financial reporting, and SEC reporting and compliance for US-based multi-national, public companies.

While at Tulane, Mr. Chastant's study of the law was concentrated on issues surrounding transaction law, including corporate law, mergers and acquisitions, practical aspects of hostile acquisitions, and corporate taxation. Prior to graduating Tulane, he completed an externship with The Louisiana Supreme Court Clerk of Court, where he was tasked with assisting in an ongoing revision to the Louisiana Supreme Court's Practice and Procedure Rules and assigned a project to begin drafting e-filing rules for the Louisiana Supreme Court.

Today, Mr. Chastant uses his accounting background and his legal expertise in his role as Vice President of Project Development for the Sisung Group. While at Sisung, Mr. Chastant has assisted in the successful development of the Financial Litigation Services Division and has used his qualifications and experience to help create a streamlined approach for financial experts to be able to support attorneys in the provision of litigation support for complex financial transactions. Mr. Chastant has assisted in every aspect from discovery to testimony to drafting of settlement agreements and orders for judgment.

Mr. Chastant will serve the LPSC in this Docket by serving as the secondary point of contact for the LPSC and providing consulting services on an as needed basis.





## **JONATHAN BOURG**

Mr. Bourg holds a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Louisiana State University and a Juris Doctor, with honors, from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. He is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association.

Mr. Bourg has over a decade of experience in the regulated utility industry having formerly worked for Entergy Corporation in various regulatory roles including transmission policy, regulatory affairs, finance, and resource planning. His prior experience covers a wide array of utility-related matters, including generation resource and transmission certifications, regional transmission organization participation, tariff interpretation, and general regulatory policy. He also has an extensive background in regulated utility ratemaking, and he has provided testimony before the Louisiana Public Service Commission in numerous proceedings.

Prior to attending law school, Mr. Bourg served as a mechanical engineer at a 1750 MW power station located in the metro New Orleans area. During his time there, he was responsible for the engineering oversight of all rotating equipment, and he managed the successful overhaul of two 750 MW turbines.

Mr. Bourg also has former litigation experience, having practiced law for over six years. His litigation experience includes both trial and appellate work in a variety of complex commercial litigation matters, including electric utility certifications, nation-wide toxic tort litigation, insurance coverage disputes, and ad valorem tax valuations.

Mr. Bourg brings his years of diverse regulated utility, engineering, and litigation experience to the table in offering a wide breadth of knowledge and expertise in his role as Vice President, Regulatory Policy at UPC.

Mr. Bourg will serve the LPSC in this Docket by providing consulting services on an as needed basis.





## **JAKE CHAPMAN**

John A. “Jake” Chapman holds a Master of Business Administration degree with a concentration in finance and a Bachelor of Accountancy degree, both from the Joseph A. Butt, S.J., College of Business at Loyola University New Orleans.

As Vice President of Special Projects, Mr. Chapman is charged with overseeing the expansion of venture capital projects through the group’s venture capital firm, Sisung Capital, a licensed Louisiana Capital Company (CAPCO) and Business and Industrial Development Corporation (BIDCO) primarily focusing on investments in Louisiana. Mr. Chapman’s recent endeavors with Sisung’s healthcare finance division involves working with governmental entities and healthcare providers to maximize Federal Participation for eligible Medicaid expenditures. Mr. Chapman also assists in the operations and development of Sisung’s capital markets, asset management, and program management groups.

Mr. Chapman is a registered investment advisory representative (Series 65), investment banking representative (Series 79), and has passed his FINRA Securities Industry Essentials exam. Additionally, Mr. Chapman maintains a Louisiana contractor’s license for commercial building construction.

Prior to joining The Sisung Group in December of 2012, Mr. Chapman worked for over five years with a large regional grocery conglomerate in various store-level customer service management positions before becoming a district operations trainer, providing store support to newly hired associates across the New Orleans and Baton Rouge areas.

In addition to serving on boards for numerous volunteer and civic organizations, Mr. Chapman actively volunteers with Alpha Kappa Psi, the world’s oldest, largest, and most prestigious professional business fraternity, overseeing and advising collegiate chapters across the gulf south.

Mr. Chapman will serve the LPSC in this Docket by providing consulting services on an as needed basis.





**J. THOMAS MCGUCKIN, PH.D.**

Dr. McGuckin holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Pomona College, a Masters of Economics from Colorado State University, and a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Wisconsin. Dr. McGuckin is a member of both the American Economics Association and the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners.

Dr. McGuckin is retired from New Mexico State University where he was a Professor of Economics for thirty-three years. He has also been an associate for the Center for Public Utilities at New Mexico State University, whose program offerings are officially sectioned by the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners.

Dr. McGuckin is an economics expert in the fields of utilities in electricity, water, wastewater, natural gas and solid waste. In this role, he has provided detailed technical and policy analyses and recommendations to numerous state and federal regulatory bodies. He has focused his consulting efforts on performing cost of service analysis, rate analysis and rate design, regulatory policy development, utility governance, and planning and cost allocation processes for investor-owned electric utility companies. His experience has allowed him to build an in-depth knowledgebase on a wide array of topics including: the appropriate accounting standards and practices for electric utilities, resource planning and resource adequacy, cost recovery mechanisms for utilities, regional transmission planning organizations and ancillary services markets, day ahead energy and operating reserves markets and real time energy and operating reserves markets, transmission hedges, annual revenue rights and financial transmission rights, fuel cost recovery, qualified facilities, avoided cost, certification of transmission, certification of generation or power supply purchases, competitive procurement of supply side resources, market forecasting and futures, and federal regulations impacting or potentially impacting utilities' operations and/or policy.

Dr. McGuckin now pulls from his background and experience in serving the Sisung Group as its chief expert regulatory consultant.

Dr. McGuckin will serve the LPSC in this Docket by providing economics-related consulting services on an as needed basis.





## **ROYAL ALEXANDER**

Mr. Alexander holds a Bachelor of Arts from Louisiana State University. He also holds a Juris Doctor from Oklahoma City University School of Law. Mr. Alexander is a member of the Louisiana State Bar.

After law school, Mr. Alexander clerked for U.S. District Judge Rebecca F. Doherty in Lafayette, Louisiana and also interned for U.S. District Judge Richard Haik during the voluminous and complex Combustion environmental tort litigation involving CERTCLA/Superfund claims. Mr. Alexander is a frequent lecturer on state and federal constitutional issues, including implication eminent domain, the Takings Clause and

Commerce Clause/interstate commerce.

Mr. Alexander has worked in Washington D.C. for three different Members of Congress and also worked for the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. During his tenure in Washington, he worked with the Department of Energy and FERC on several energy related issues. In Addition his work on DOE issues included numerous energy research project e.g. nuclear energy and security, energy tax incentives, and hydropower and geothermal energy. He currently has his private law practice in Shreveport, Louisiana.

Mr. Alexander will serve the LPSC in this Docket by providing legal-related consulting services to the Commission on an as needed basis.





## **ROBERT VOSBERG**

Mr. Vosberg holds a Bachelor of Science in Engineering from University of Wisconsin, Platteville.

Mr. Vosberg has nearly forty years practicing in the regulated utility space, including over ten years at Alliant Energy as an Energy Delivery Project Manager. He also has experience with the Wisconsin Electrical Cooperative Association, where he was responsible for direct interaction with State and Federal Regulatory bodies including providing testimony. In this role, Mr. Vosberg also served on committees that provided recommendations to such regulatory bodies for proposed agency rules and regulations. In his role with Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, Mr. Vosberg served as the Director of Engineering, where he was responsible for system planning, system protection, equipment procurement, rate schedules, and standards.

Mr. Vosberg has litigation experience related to economic development efforts and other special projects. He has served on local, State and National committees providing technical guidance to various regulatory agencies, regional bodies, economic groups and other associations. Mr. Vosberg has also performed rate equalization studies and other special projects.

Today, Mr. Vosberg provides technical support to various clients relating to new transmission and generation facilities. He has direct responsibility for interactions with multiple Transmission Providers (PJM, MISO including MISO South, ERCOT, SPP, WECC, etc.) for Interconnection and Transmission Service requirements. Mr. Vosberg has extensive knowledge of SERC member utilities including Southern Company, Progress Energy, TVA, Florida Utilities, Electric Municipals and Electric Cooperatives. He provides guidance to clients regarding Transmission Market requirements, including current and future pricing structures, FERC regulatory requirements and State regulatory requirements.

Mr. Vosberg will serve the LPSC in this Docket by providing economics-related consulting services on an as needed basis.

