

STATE OF GEORGIA

**BEFORE THE
GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

In Re:

Georgia Power Company's)	
Application for the Certification)	Docket No. 56258
of the Twiggs County Battery)	
Energy Storage System)	

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF

MATTHEW J. BOWERS, M. BRANDON LOONEY, AND MARC A. VINSON

JUNE 27, 2025

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MATTHEW J. BOWERS, M. BRANDON LOONEY, AND MARC A. VINSON**

**IN SUPPORT OF GEORGIA POWER COMPANY'S
APPLICATION FOR THE CERTIFICATION
OF THE TWIGGS COUNTY BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM
DOCKET NO. 56258**

I. INTRODUCTION

Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAMES, TITLES, AND BUSINESS ADDRESSES.

A. My name is Matthew J. Bowers. I am the Integrated Resource Plan (“IRP”) Project Manager in Resource Planning for Georgia Power Company (“Georgia Power” or the “Company”). My business address is 241 Ralph McGill Boulevard N.E., Atlanta, Georgia 30308.

A. My name is Michael “Brandon” Looney. I am the Reliability Planning Manager for Southern Company Services (“SCS”). My business address is 600 North 18th Street, Birmingham, Alabama 35203.

A. My name is Marc A. Vinson. I am the Program Development Manager for Renewable Development at Georgia Power. My business address is 241 Ralph McGill Boulevard N.E., Atlanta, Georgia 30308.

Q. MR. BOWERS, PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE.

A. I graduated from the University of Tennessee in 2012 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering. I began my career with SCS in 2010 as an Engineering Co-op in Resource Planning. From 2013 to 2015, I was a System Planning Engineer for SCS Resource Planning. From 2015 to 2017, I was an

1 engineer for the Project Analysis and Market Assessment team at Southern Power
2 Company. During this period, I earned a Master of Business Administration degree
3 with a Finance Concentration from Samford University in 2016. In 2017, I
4 transitioned to Georgia Power as a Planning Analyst in the Resource Policy and
5 Planning organization where I supported the 2022-2028 Capacity Request for
6 Proposals (“RFP”) and the 2019 and 2022 IRPs. Beginning in 2022, I was promoted
7 to IRP Project Manager for the Resource Planning organization where I supported
8 the defense of the 2022 IRP and led the development and defense of the 2023 IRP
9 Update and the 2025 IRP. In my current role, I am also responsible for ensuring
10 compliance with all IRP Orders from the Georgia Public Service Commission
11 (“Commission”).

12 **Q. MR. BOWERS, HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY TESTIFIED BEFORE THE**
13 **COMMISSION?**

14 A. No. However, I will be testifying in the CARES 2023 Certification proceeding in
15 Docket No. 56181, which is being conducted in parallel with this proceeding.

16 **Q. MR. LOONEY, PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR EDUCATION AND**
17 **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE.**

18 A. I graduated from the University of Alabama in 2003 with a Bachelor of Science
19 degree in Mechanical Engineering. I began my career at SCS in the Engineering
20 and Construction Services organization. During this time, I completed my Master
21 of Business Administration from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and
22 received my Professional Engineering License from the state of Alabama. I moved
23 to Research and Environmental Affairs in 2007 as a Research Engineer responsible
24 for environmental control technology with a focus on compliance with the Mercury
25 and Air Toxics Standards (“MATS”). In 2012, I became the Environmental
26 Controls Research Manager responsible for Southern Company’s technology
27 research portfolio for air, land, and water pollutants.

1 In 2013, I transitioned to Southern Company's System Planning organization,
2 where I have held various leadership positions in several departments including
3 Asset Management, Renewable Generation Development, and Asset and
4 Environmental Planning. I moved into my current position in 2019, where I have
5 primary responsibility for Reliability Planning including the Reserve Margin Study
6 as well as the evaluation for the Company's numerous RFPs. In these roles, I have
7 supported each Georgia Power IRP dating back to 2016 as well as a number of
8 certification filings.

9 **Q. MR. LOONEY, HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY TESTIFIED BEFORE THE**
10 **COMMISSION?**

11 A. Yes. I recently testified before the Commission in Georgia Power's 2025 IRP
12 proceedings in Docket Nos. 56002 and 56003. In addition, I will be testifying in
13 the CARES 2023 Certification proceeding in Docket No. 56181.

14 **Q. MR. VINSON, PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR EDUCATION AND**
15 **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE.**

16 A. I graduated from Georgia Institute of Technology in 2000 with a Bachelor of
17 Science in Electrical Engineering. I began my career with Georgia Power in 1996
18 as an Engineering Co-op in Network Underground. From 2000 to 2006, I was a
19 Senior Radio Frequency Engineer for Network Operations at T-Mobile USA.
20 During this period, I earned a Master of Business Administration degree with a
21 Finance Concentration from Kennesaw State University in 2006. In late 2006, I
22 returned to Georgia Power as a Staff Profitability and Economic Analyst for the
23 Market Planning team. From 2010 to 2011, I served as a Staff Financial Analyst for
24 the Financial Analysis team where I participated as a member of the 2015 RFP
25 Evaluation Team and led the revenue requirement analysis for the power purchase
26 agreement ("PPA") bids. From 2011 until 2015, I served as the Manager for the
27 SCS Costing and Energy Analysis team where I supervised a team of five analysts
28 in the areas of cost of service studies, marginal cost analysis, and energy modeling.

1 For the next two years, I served as the Utility Scale Supervisor for the Renewable
2 Resources team where I oversaw development of the renewable section in Georgia
3 Power's 2016 IRP.

4 In 2017, I transitioned to Regulatory Affairs Manager where I served as regulatory
5 lead for the preparation, filing, and compliance of Georgia Power's 2019 and 2022
6 IRPs. From 2023 until 2025, I served as the Utility Scale Procurement Manager for
7 the Generation Procurement team where I provided strategic leadership to a cross
8 functional team responsible for the development and execution of system-wide
9 Public Service Commission-approved renewable power generation proposals. In
10 2025, I also served as the Capacity Procurement Manager until I transitioned to my
11 current role as Program Development Manager for the Renewable Development
12 team. In my current role, I am responsible for the development and implementation
13 of Georgia Power's renewable program strategy. I currently lead renewable
14 regulatory filings for new renewable programs and tariffs and develop and evaluate
15 new renewable business models, including profit and loss projections and risk
16 mitigations, to identify commercial opportunities.

17 **Q. MR. VINSON, HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY TESTIFIED BEFORE THE**
18 **COMMISSION?**

19 A. No. However, I will also be testifying in the CARES 2023 Certification proceeding
20 in Docket No. 56181.

21 **Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY?**

22 A. Our testimony is filed in support of Georgia Power's Application for the
23 Certification of the Twiggs County Battery Energy Storage System ("Application")
24 submitted pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 46-3A-4 and Commission Rule 515-3-4-.07(2).
25 The Application, including the Engineering, Procurement, and Construction
26 ("EPC") Agreement, the Battery and Equipment Supply Agreement ("BESA"), the
27 Activities and Critical Path Schedule, and the Solar Project PPA Amendment, was

1 filed on June 20, 2025. We wish to incorporate that filing by reference into this
2 testimony.

3 **Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR TESTIMONY.**

4 A. Our testimony supports Georgia Power’s Application for the Certification of the
5 Twiggs County Battery Energy Storage System (“BESS”). As explained below and
6 in the Company’s 2023 IRP Update proceeding, Georgia continues to be one of the
7 fastest growing states in the country and is experiencing extraordinary economic
8 development growth. To meet the needs of a growing Georgia and so that Georgia
9 Power can continue to reliably serve customers, the Commission approved in its
10 Order Adopting Stipulated Agreement in Docket No. 55378¹ (“2023 IRP Update
11 Order”) a balanced portfolio of resources that ensures Georgia Power can continue
12 to meet the state’s growing capacity needs. To address capacity needs in the Winter
13 of 2027/2028, the Commission authorized the Company to conduct a narrowly
14 tailored RFP on an expedited basis to procure between 300 and 500 megawatts
15 (“MW”) of BESS resources.

16 The Twiggs County BESS project, which was selected in Georgia Power’s Winter
17 2027_2028 BESS RFP, is a reliable and economical resource that meets the
18 resource criteria and capacity needs identified in the 2023 IRP Update. It will also
19 provide several other benefits for customers. First, the project is co-located with an
20 existing solar facility and will leverage existing transmission infrastructure.
21 Second, the project will provide energy arbitrage benefits, which optimize energy
22 savings for all customers by shifting the energy output from hours with a relatively
23 low system marginal cost to hours with a relatively high system marginal cost.

¹ Order Adopting Stipulated Agreement, Docket No. 55378 (April 26, 2024) (“2023 IRP Update Order”).

1 In summary, the Twiggs County BESS project will produce real benefits for
2 Georgia Power's customers while helping to meet the Company's capacity needs
3 in the Winter 2027/2028 timeframe.

4 **II. EVALUATION AND PROJECT SELECTION**

5 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE HOW THE COMPANY SELECTED THE TWIGGS**
6 **COUNTY BESS PROJECT FOR CERTIFICATION.**

7 A. Georgia Power issued the Winter 2027_2028 BESS RFP, pursuant to Commission
8 Rule 515-3-4.04(3) ("RFP Rule"), to solicit bids from the market to meet a target
9 of between 300 and 500 MW. The Winter 2027_2028 BESS RFP was conducted
10 under the oversight of the Independent Evaluator ("IE") and Commission Staff,
11 which ensured that the resources were procured in the most efficient and transparent
12 manner. Consistent with the 2023 IRP Update Order, resources eligible for the
13 expedited RFP included four-hour BESS, sized 50 MW or greater, that required
14 minimal system upgrades, were interconnected to the Southern Company
15 Transmission System, were located within the state of Georgia, and were designed
16 to operate from Automatic Generation Control ("AGC"). Georgia Power selected
17 the Twiggs County BESS Project as a winning project following the Winter
18 2027_2028 BESS RFP.

19 **Q. HOW DID THE COMPANY DETERMINE WHICH RFP PROPOSALS**
20 **PROVIDED THE BEST VALUE?**

21 A. Georgia Power reviewed, evaluated, and ranked the RFP submissions by their total
22 evaluated cost. The Twiggs County BESS project was selected as the best value
23 resource for customers that could meet the narrowly tailored criteria of the Winter
24 2027_2028 BESS RFP. The IE and Commission Staff confirmed and approved the
25 evaluation results.

1 **Q. DID THE COMPANY PERFORM A COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS IN**
2 **EVALUATING THE BID PROPOSALS?**

3 A. Yes. The Company conducted an in-depth economic analysis, including a cost-
4 benefit evaluation, for the BESS projects that advanced to the Competitive Tier of
5 the RFP process. The RFP evaluation model integrated the costs and schedules
6 outlined in the BESA and EPC agreement provided for each proposal. Consistent
7 with all RFP evaluations, the Company employed a rigorous cost-benefit analysis
8 framework to systematically assess each project's financial and operational impacts
9 by integrating detailed cost projects and implementation timelines. This analysis
10 included a comprehensive review of direct and indirect costs, anticipated benefits,
11 and potential risks associated with each proposal.

12 **III. BESS PROJECT OVERVIEW**

13 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE TWIGGS COUNTY BESS PROJECT.**

14 A. The Twiggs County BESS is a Company-owned, four-hour duration, 200 MW
15 BESS located in Twiggs County, Georgia. It will be paired with the existing 200
16 MW Twiggs County solar facility, which has a PPA with Georgia Power that was
17 certified by the Commission in Docket No. 40706. For this BESS project, Georgia
18 Power executed a BESA with Tesla for the Megapack 2 XL, which is included in
19 the Application as Appendix B. The Tesla Megapack 2 XL is a utility-scale energy
20 storage solution from a leading supplier. It provides a modular design that allows
21 for rapid deployment of BESS for high-capacity, large-scale projects. This solution
22 provides unique benefits compared to other alternatives because it arrives at the site
23 fully integrated and capable of outputting 480V alternating current ("AC") power.
24 By utilizing the Tesla Megapack, the Company leveraged the expertise of a leading
25 supplier to procure timely and reliable BESS equipment. A copy of the BESA is
26 included in Appendix B to the Application.

1 The Twiggs County BESS project will serve as a dispatchable capacity resource
2 that provides customers with a reliable and economical source of electricity by the
3 Winter of 2027/2028. It will also be a critical part of the Company's diverse
4 generation portfolio, helping to ensure Georgia Power has the appropriate mix of
5 technologies to provide reliable and resilient electric service for its customers.

6 **Q. PLEASE PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF THE ENGINEERING,**
7 **PROCUREMENT, AND CONSTRUCTION PLAN FOR THE TWIGGS**
8 **COUNTY BESS PROJECT.**

9 A. The Company leveraged a previous Supply Chain RFP conducted for Company
10 BESS projects to select Crowder Industrial Construction, LLC ("Crowder") for the
11 Twiggs County BESS project based on its extensive experience in engineering and
12 construction. Pursuant to the EPC Agreement, which is included in Appendix A to
13 the Application, Crowder is responsible for the engineering, procurement, and
14 construction services necessary for the design and installation of the BESS.
15 Crowder is currently working on other certified Company-Owned BESS projects
16 that are currently on schedule and budget.

17 As mentioned above, Georgia Power executed a BESA for the Tesla Megapack
18 2XL. The Company will purchase the battery directly from Tesla under the BESA.
19 Crowder will deliver all services for a fixed price and will adhere to a detailed scope
20 of work and specifications set forth in the EPC Agreement. Experienced Company
21 personnel will provide oversight and ensure appropriate execution of the EPC
22 Agreement. The Company is highly confident in its ability to successfully execute
23 the Twiggs County BESS project.

24 **Q. HOW WILL THE PROPOSED TWIGGS COUNTY BESS PROJECT**
25 **BENEFIT CUSTOMERS AND GEORGIA POWER?**

26 A. The Twiggs County BESS project will benefit customers and the Company in
27 several ways. The Company strategically selected the Twiggs County site for its

1 expedited deployment capabilities along with the ability to pair the BESS with the
2 existing solar facility. This strategic site selection allows the Company to leverage
3 existing transmission infrastructure, thereby eliminating the need to construct new
4 generator step-up (“GSU”) project-level substations and eliminating potential
5 expenses and long lead time projects associated with interconnection and network
6 upgrades. In addition, it also offers expedited deployment capabilities and ensures
7 known transmission deliverability.

8 The Twiggs County BESS will be controlled by AGC signals and will store the
9 renewable energy generated during daylight hours and discharge it as needed to
10 support grid operations and to meet capacity needs. Therefore, the Twiggs County
11 BESS will optimize energy savings by shifting the energy from hours with
12 relatively low system marginal cost to hours with relatively high system marginal
13 cost. The Twiggs County BESS will primarily charge from the collocated solar
14 facility.

15 **Q. WHAT IS THE ANTICIPATED COMMERCIAL OPERATION DATE FOR**
16 **THE TWIGGS COUNTY BESS PROJECT?**

17 A. Georgia Power anticipates that the project will reach commercial operation
18 November 1, 2027. Appendix C to the Application includes additional details
19 regarding the proposed project schedule and timeline for the Twiggs County BESS
20 project.

21 **Q. WHY DIDN'T THE OTHER PROJECTS EVALUATED IN THE**
22 **COMPETITIVE TIER ADVANCE TO CERTIFICATION?**

23 A. After the Company's evaluation was complete, Georgia Power determined that the
24 other competitive tier projects submitted into the Winter 2027_2028 BESS RFP
25 were not able to meet the Winter 2027/2028 required commercial operation dates
26 due to required transmission system upgrades.

1 **IV. CERTIFIED COST AND COST RECOVERY**

2 **Q. WHAT COST IS THE COMPANY ASKING THE COMMISSION TO**
3 **CERTIFY FOR THE TWIGGS COUNTY BESS PROJECT?**

4 A. As shown in Figure 4.16 on page 9 of the Company's Application, Georgia Power
5 seeks Commission certification of the total in-service project cost of REDACTED,
6 which includes the engineering, construction, oversight, and associated
7 procurement costs, financing cost, and ad valorem taxes. The Company requests
8 that the Commission certify the Twiggs County BESS project at its total projected
9 in-service costs.

10 **Q. HOW DOES GEORGIA POWER PROPOSE TO RECOVER THE COST OF**
11 **THE TWIGGS COUNTY BESS PROJECT?**

12 A. Georgia Power proposes to recover the costs associated with the construction of the
13 Twiggs County BESS project in rate base and will reflect the unit operating
14 expenses in its retail cost of service. Georgia Power requests that the Commission
15 approve the regulatory treatment consistent with the current treatment of Georgia
16 Power's other Company-owned retail generation facilities.

17 **Q. WHAT PROJECT COSTS WOULD THE COMPANY SEEK TO RECOVER**
18 **SHOULD THE COMMISSION DECLINE TO CERTIFY THE BESS**
19 **PROJECT IN THIS APPLICATION?**

20 A. Consistent with other project costs outlined in the 2023 IRP Update, if the
21 Commission rejects the Application, the Company would request that all costs

1 incurred that are not useful or transferable to other potential projects be deferred to
2 a regulatory asset for recovery in the next base rate case.²

3 **V. CONCLUSION**

4 **Q. IN CONCLUSION, PLEASE SUMMARIZE WHAT GEORGIA POWER IS**
5 **REQUESTING OF THE COMMISSION IN THIS APPLICATION.**

6 A. The Company requests that the Commission certify the 200 MW Twiggs County
7 BESS project as proposed in the Application. As set forth in the Company's 2023
8 IRP Update and recognized in the 2023 IRP Update Order, this BESS resource is
9 required to provide a cost-effective and reliable source of capacity and energy for
10 customers by the Winter of 2027/2028 and is in the public interest. Therefore,
11 approval of the Certification Application will help ensure Georgia Power can
12 economically and reliably meet customers' energy needs.

13 **Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?**

14 A. Yes.

² See 2023 IRP Update Order Stipulation, Para. 7 ("Whether any incurred project cost not useful or transferable to other potential future projects shall be deferred to a regulatory asset for recovery in the next base rate case.").