BEFORE THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF KANSAS

) In the Matter of the Application of) NextEra Energy Transmission Southwest,) LLC for a Siting Permit for the) Construction of a 345 kV Transmission) Line in Coffey, Anderson, Allen, Bourbon) and Crawford Counties, Kansas)

Docket No. 23-NETE-___-

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF DANIEL MAYERS DIRECTOR, TRANSMISSION AND SUBSTATION ENGINEERING NEXTERA ENERGY RESOURCES, LLC

ON BEHALF OF

NEXTERA ENERGY TRANSMISSION SOUTHWEST, LLC

Docket No. 23-NETE-___-

JANUARY 24, 2023

Contents

I.	Introduction	3
II.	Overview of NEET Southwest and the Projection	6
III.	Transmission Line Design	8
IV.	Project Location, Proposed Route, and Interconnection	12
V.	Construction Process and Project Schedule	16
VI.	Conditions from the Commission's CCN Order	22

I. INTRODUCTION

2

Q. Please state your name and business address.

A. My name is Daniel Mayers. My business address is 700 Universe Boulevard, Juno
Beach, Florida 33408.

5

Q. By whom are you employed and in what capacity?

6 A. I am the Director of Transmission and Substation Engineering within the 7 Engineering & Construction ("E&C") organization at NextEra Energy Resources, LLC ("NEER"), 8 working as a shared service employee on behalf of NextEra Energy Transmission Southwest, LLC 9 ("NEET Southwest" or the "Applicant"). As the Director of Transmission and Substation 10 Engineering, one of my primary roles is to coordinate or provide support for the development of 11 new transmission systems, including right of way ("ROW") identification and selection, land 12 acquisition, permit acquisition, system engineering, specification and standards development, 13 material and services procurement, construction management, commissioning, system integration, 14 compliance, and project close-out in highly regulated, environmentally sensitive, multi-system 15 operational environments.

16

Q.

On whose behalf are you testifying?

17 A. I am testifying on behalf of the Applicant in this proceeding, NEET Southwest.

18

Q. What is your educational and professional background?

A. I have over 39 years of experience in transmission system planning, substation, and
transmission line design and engineering, transmission line siting and permitting, project
management, and construction at both NEER and its regulated utility affiliate in Florida, Florida
Power & Light Company ("FPL"). I hold a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering

from the University of Pittsburgh and a Master of Science Degree in Engineering Management
 from the University of South Florida.

- 3 Q. Has this Direct Testimony been prepared by you or under your direct 4 supervision?
- 5 A. Yes, it has.

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- Q. Have you previously provided testimony before the Kansas Corporation
 7 Commission ("Commission") or any other regulatory commission?
- 8 A. Yes, I testified before the Commission in the proceeding concerning NEET
- 9 Southwest's Certificate of Convenience and Necessity ("CCN") in Docket No. 22-NETE-419-
- 10 COC. I also filed written testimony in support of NEET Southwest's CCN application before the
- 11 Missouri Public Service Commission ("MPSC") in Docket No. EA-2022-0234. In addition, I have
- 12 also testified before a number of other state regulatory commissions on behalf of various NextEra
- 13 Energy Transmission, LLC ("NEET") and NEER subsidiaries:
- I served as a witness before the Ontario Energy Board ("OEB") on behalf of NextBridge Infrastructure LP ("NextBridge") in its Leave to Construct Application for the East-West Tie Transmission Project (Docket No. EB-2017-0182) and in the Hydro One Networks, Inc.'s Leave to Construct Application for the Lake Superior Link (Docket No. EB-2017-0364). I also filed testimony before the OEB in Docket Nos. EB-2017-0194, regarding NextBridge's Leave to Construct, as well as the OEB's Docket No. EB-2021-0276, NextBridge's revenue requirement case.
 - I testified before the California Public Utilities Commission ("CPUC") in Docket No. A.15-08-027 on behalf of NEET subsidiary, Horizon West Transmission, LLC ("Horizon West"), in obtaining a certificate of public convenience and necessity for the Suncrest Dynamic Reactive Power Support Project.
 - I testified before the South Dakota Public Utility Commission in Docket No. EL17-050 in support of the application of a NEER subsidiary, Crowned Ridge Wind, LLC, for a facility permit to construct a 230 kV transmission line and associated facilities from Codington County to the Big Stone South Substation.
- I filed testimony before the State of New York Public Service Commission ("New York
 PSC") in Docket Nos. 13-T-0455 and 13-T-0456 related to NextEra Energy

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Tr Pl w fo V Tr of	ransmission New York, Inc.'s ("NEETNY") proposals to develop the Marcy to easant Valley transmission project and the Oakdale to Fraser transmission project, as ell as in New York PSC Docket No. 18-T-0499 in support of NEETNY's application r a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need Pursuant to Article II of the Public Service Law for the Construction of a 20 Mile 345 Kilovolt ransmission Line Located in the Town of Royalton, Niagara County, and the Towns Alden, Newstead, Lancaster, and Elma in Erie County.
9 10 11 12	• I · su a r	testified before the Maine Public Utilities Commission in Docket 2014-00048 in pport of NEET subsidiary New Hampshire Transmission, LLC's proposal to develop transmission solution to address reliability problems in Northern Maine.
13 14 15 16 17 18	• Fi D Ll N an	nally, I filed testimony before the Public Utility Commission of Texas ("PUCT") in ocket Nos. 40020 and 42469, on behalf of NEET subsidiary, Lone Star Transmission, LC ("Lone Star"), in its two rate cases. I also testified before the PUCT in Docket o. 38230, which related to Lone Star's application for a certificate of convenience id necessity.
19	Q.	Do you sponsor any exhibits in support of NEET Southwest's Application?
20	А.	Yes. I sponsor Exhibit DM-1. I also co-sponsor, along with NEET Southwest
21	witness Jacqu	elyn Blakley, Exhibit JB-1, which is attached to her Direct Testimony. Both of these
22	exhibits were	prepared or assembled by me or under my supervision and direction
23	Q.	What authority is the Applicant seeking to obtain in this proceeding?
24	А.	The Applicant is seeking to obtain line siting approval, pursuant to K.S.A. 66-
25	1,177, et seq.	, for the proposed route for its 345 kV transmission line project that will connect the
26	existing Wolf	Creek Substation in Coffey County, Kansas to the existing Blackberry Substation in
27	Jasper Count	y, Missouri (the "Project" or the "Wolf Creek-Blackberry Project"). The Project was
28	identified by	the Southwest Power Pool, Inc. ("SPP") as required to address multiple needs
29	identified by	SPP, including an economic need to increase the transmission capability from west
30	to east within	SPP.
31	Q.	What is the purpose of your Direct Testimony?

32 A. The purpose of my testimony is to:

1	• Provide an overview of NEET Southwest and the Project;				
2	• Describe the transmission line design for the Project;				
3	• Describe the project location, proposed route, and points of interconnection;				
4 5 6 7	 Describe NEET Southwest's evaluation of a potential option to co-locate a 25-mile segment of the Project with an existing Evergy 161 kV transmission line (referred to as the "Double Circuit Option"); Provide an overview of the land acquisition process; and 				
8	• Describe the construction process and project schedule.				
9	II. OVERVIEW OF NEET SOUTHWEST AND THE PROJECTION				
10	Q. Please describe NEET Southwest.				
11	A. As explained in more detail by NEET Southwest witness Becky Walding in her				
12	Direct Testimony, NEET Southwest is a Delaware limited liability company formed in 2014.				
13	NEET Southwest is a direct, wholly-owned subsidiary of NEET, which is an indirect, wholly-				
14	owned subsidiary of NextEra Energy, Inc. ("NextEra Energy"). A Fortune 200 company, NextEra				
15	Energy is the world's largest electric utility by market capitalization, with revenues in calendar				
16	year 2021 of approximately \$17 billion and approximately 15,000 employees as of December 31,				
17	2021.				
18	NextEra Energy's principal businesses are FPL, the largest electric utility in the nation as				
19	measured by retail electricity produced and sold, which serves more than 5.8 million homes and				
20	businesses in Florida, and NEER, the largest generator of renewable energy from the wind and sun				
21	in North America. NextEra Energy and its wholly-owned subsidiaries, NEET and NEET				

22 Southwest, are headquartered in Juno Beach, Florida.

Q. Will NEET Southwest use the services of its affiliates to engineer and construct
 the Project?

3 A. Yes. NEET Southwest currently utilizes support services from various of its 4 NextEra Energy affiliates, including NEET, NEER, FPL, and Lone Star, and NEET Southwest 5 plans to utilize these services to engineer and construct the Project. Doing so allows NEET 6 Southwest to access the significant expertise of the NextEra Energy corporate organization and 7 will enable NEET Southwest to provide service in a cost-efficient manner. With respect to 8 engineering and construction, NEET Southwest plans to utilize the significant expertise in the 9 E&C organization within NEER to engineer, design, and construct the Project. NEET Southwest 10 also plans to utilize the services of NextEra Energy's Integrated Supply Chain ("ISC") for 11 procurement of equipment and services for the Project.

12

Q. Please describe the Project.

13 A. At a high level, NEET Southwest's proposed Project will consist of a new, 14 approximately 92-mile, single-circuit 345 kV transmission line between the existing Wolf Creek 15 Substation in Coffey County, Kansas, owned by Evergy Kansas Central, Inc. ("Evergy"), and the 16 existing Blackberry Substation in Jasper County, Missouri, owned by Associated Electric 17 Cooperative, Inc. ("AECI"). NEET Southwest's proposed route ("Proposed Route") is shown on 18 the map in Exhibit BW-1 to Ms. Walding's Direct Testimony, and detailed maps of the Proposed 19 Route are provided in Exhibit DW-2 to the Direct Testimony of Mr. Dusty Werth. The 20 Commission has granted NEET Southwest a CCN to do business as a utility in the State of Kansas 21 and to construct, own, and operate the Project in Docket No. 22-NETE-419-COC.

III. TRANSMISSION LINE DESIGN

2 Q. What type of transmission conductor does NEET Southwest plan to use for the 3 Project?

A. NEET Southwest's design will consist of a horizontal double-bundled 1590
"Falcon" 42-19 ACSS/TW HS conductor bundle, along with 7#8 Alumoweld shield wire and two
48-fiber stainless steel loose tube ("SSLT") optical ground wires ("OPGW") to facilitate lightning
shielding and provide the primary and secondary communication paths for line protection.

8

Q. Why did NEET Southwest select this conductor for the Project?

9 A. NEET Southwest selected the 1590 "Falcon" 42-19 ACSS/TW HS conductor 10 bundle because it provides the best value to the ratepayer based on the life cycle cost. This 11 conductor will provide the lowest combined cost of initial capital and life cycle losses of any 12 conductor that NEET Southwest evaluated, offers excellent structural reliability, and exceeds 13 SPP's minimum standards for capacity for the Project. In fact, the SPP Independent Evaluator 14 Panel ("IEP") noted in its recommendation of NEET Southwest's proposal that it included "design 15 and materials not offered by other Respondents, including the use of the highest thermal-rated conductor among any of the proposals."¹ 16

Q. What type of transmission structures does NEET Southwest propose to use for the Project?

A. NEET Southwest will utilize primarily direct embedded self-supporting spun concrete monopole structures with silicone rubber-braced post insulators. The typical structure height will be approximately 100 to 130 feet tall. When crossing other transmission lines, NEET Southwest will install self-supporting steel monopole structures that may be approximately 160

¹ See Exhibit BW-4 (IEP Report) at 46.

1 feet above ground. NEET Southwest estimates that it will install approximately seven structures 2 per mile with an average span range of 800 to 1,000 feet between structures. NEET Southwest 3 also will utilize self-supporting and direct embedded steel monopoles as needed. The typical self-4 supported steel monopole structure will have a 10- to 12-foot-diameter drilled pier concrete 5 foundation. The foundations are expected to range from 20 to 30 feet deep, depending on soil 6 conditions. NEET Southwest will primarily utilize guyed angled or dead-end structures at 7 locations where the line direction changes significantly. Angled structures primarily will be guyed 8 concrete monopole structures with either braced post or I-string insulators in a vertical 9 configuration. Dead-end structures primarily will be guyed spun concrete monopoles with strain 10 insulators. Direct embedded steel poles or base plated steel poles placed on drilled shaft 11 foundations will be utilized where necessary due to height requirements or where guying of angle 12 structures is not feasible. On the proposed route, NEET Southwest anticipates the need to install 13 a total of 532 structures of which 57 will be steel structures that are either direct embedded or on 14 foundations, and the balance will be concrete monopoles. Diagrams of the expected structure types 15 are provided as Exhibit DM-1.

16

Q. Why did NEET Southwest select these transmission structures for the Project?

A. NEET Southwest's engineers, aided by its professional estimators, determined that spun concrete monopoles are the most cost-effective and reliable solution for the Project. NEET Southwest and its affiliates have extensive experience with precast concrete poles. NEET Southwest affiliates have built more than 1,000 circuit miles of the spun concrete-braced post insulator 345 kV lines in Kansas, Missouri, Texas, and Oklahoma since 2009. FPL has utilized prestressed concrete poles since the early 1960s and spun concrete poles since the 1980s and has been a leader in the advancement of spun concrete pole technology.

1 Based upon this experience, NEET Southwest selected spun concrete monopole structures 2 as the primary transmission structure for the Project because they offer structural reliability, reduce 3 visual impacts, are lower cost, have a shorter fabrication time, have a small footprint, require fewer 4 inspections and less maintenance than steel or lattice towers, and offer a longer life than steel or 5 wood structures (with an estimated useful life of at least 80 years). In addition, NEET Southwest's 6 structure design will utilize avian friendly silicone rubber braced post assembly that provides 7 excellent contamination and lightning performance, while allowing live line maintenance. In our 8 experience, spun concrete monopoles can stand up to extreme environmental and soil conditions 9 and are very resilient to the weather conditions expected to be seen in eastern Kansas.

10

Q. Will NEET Southwest design its facilities to meet necessary reliability and 11 safety requirements or concerns?

12 Yes. NEET Southwest is designing the Project according to applicable A. Commission and MPSC requirements, SPP's specifications for the Project, Institute of Electrical 13 14 and Electronics Engineers guidelines, American National Standards Institute standards, 15 Occupational Safety and Health Administration requirements, NERC standards, the National Electrical Safety Code ("NESC"), and prudent utility practice. Public safety and worker safety are 16 17 critical considerations in the design, construction, and operation of transmission facilities, and 18 safety and security have been and will continue to be a major focus in the preparation of all 19 specifications and designs. Based on the results of its preliminary engineering studies, NEET 20 Southwest has designed the Project to ensure safe and reliable operation.

2

0. Does the design of NEET Southwest's facilities conform to generally accepted practices for a project of this type?

3 NEET Southwest will utilize experienced design, procurement, and A. Yes. 4 construction personnel to prepare the design specifications, drawings, and scope of work 5 Also, NEET Southwest's construction management team, safety personnel, documents. 6 engineering consultants, and the respective contractors assigned to the Project will complete field 7 verification and validations to ensure the facilities are constructed to the approved design so that 8 the transmission facilities can be operated reliably and safely.

9

Q. Will the Project comply with the requirements of K.S.A. 66-183 regarding 10 stringing and maintenance of its wires?

11 Yes. NEET Southwest will comply with the requirements of K.S.A. 66-183 to A. 12 string and maintain its wires to avoid unreasonable injury or interference from or with the wires 13 of other utilities. NEET Southwest expects to submit a wire-stringing application pursuant to 14 K.A.R. 82-12-1, et seq., for the Commission's review and approval after design of the facilities 15 are complete.

16

What other approvals are required for the Project? О.

17 A. As I mentioned above, the Commission has issued NEET Southwest a CCN for the 18 Kansas portion of the Project, in Docket No. 22-NETE-419-COC. In addition, the MPSC has 19 issued NEET Southwest a CCN for the Missouri portion of the Project, in MPSC Docket No. EA-20 2022-0234.

21 NEET Southwest also will undertake coordination with, and as necessary, obtain approvals 22 and permits from the following agencies and governmental entities: the U.S. Army Corps of 23 Engineers; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the Kansas and Missouri State Historic Preservation

Offices; the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks; the Missouri Department of Conservation;
 the Kansas Department of Agriculture – Division of Water Resources; the Kansas Department of
 Health and Environment; the Missouri Department of Natural Resources; the Missouri Department
 of Transportation; and the various counties in which the Project will be located.

5

IV. PROJECT LOCATION, PROPOSED ROUTE, AND INTERCONNECTION

6

Q.

Where will the Project be located?

7 A. The Project is anticipated to be located across five counties in Kansas (Coffey, 8 Anderson, Allen, Bourbon, and Crawford counties) and two counties in Missouri (Barton and 9 Jasper counties). At a high level, NEET Southwest's proposed route ("Proposed Route") will 10 connect to the Wolf Creek Substation outside of the Wolf Creek Nuclear Generating Station Plant 11 Owner Controlled Area to the east and then continues diagonally to the southeast for 12 approximately 66 miles, approximately 25 miles of which parallels an existing Evergy 161 kV 13 transmission line. The Proposed Route then turns east for about five miles to avoid the Federal 14 Aviation Administration obstruction areas around the Atkinson Municipal Airport on the 15 northwest side of Pittsburg, Kansas, then continues south/southeast for another eight miles, 16 extending into Missouri. The Proposed Route then turns slightly southward for approximately ten 17 miles to connect with the Blackberry Substation, approximately three miles of which parallels an 18 existing 161 kV transmission line. The Proposed Route is described in detail in the Routing Study 19 provided as Exhibit DW-1 to Mr. Werth's testimony, detailed maps of the Proposed Route are 20 provided in Exhibit DW-2, and a legal description of the Proposed Route is provided as Exhibit DW-3. 21

Q. How did NEET Southwest select the Proposed Route for the Project?

2 NEET Southwest assembled a cross-functional team of internal and external A. 3 subject-matter experts ("SME") to develop the Proposed Route, including development, 4 legal/regulatory, land services, environmental, engineering, construction, and operations team 5 members. As part of this team, NEET Southwest retained Burns & McDonnell, Engineering 6 Company, Inc. ("Burns & McDonnell"), an experienced transmission line design and permitting 7 firm with transmission project experience in Kansas and Missouri, to assist with the engineering, 8 environmental, and routing aspects of NEET Southwest's response to the RFP. Burns & 9 McDonnell prepared a preliminary routing analysis, through which NEET Southwest identified a 10 preliminary proposed route for the project, which NEET Southwest presented to SPP in its bid. 11 NEET Southwest has continued to refine the preliminary proposed route, including through its 12 outreach to and coordination with landowners and county officials. Mr. Werth describes the 13 routing process in more detail in his Direct Testimony.

14

15

Q. What are the key considerations NEET Southwest evaluated to determine its preliminary route?

16 During our review of potential routes for the Project, NEET Southwest's routing A. 17 team evaluated the socioeconomic and landowner, environmental, and infrastructure impacts of 18 each of the potential routes. In reviewing the socioeconomic and landowner impacts of the 19 potential routes, it was NEET Southwest's objective to reduce greenfield routing impacts for 20 landowners by paralleling or co-locating with existing transmission lines, roads, and property lines 21 when feasible, maximizing distances from residences and public facilities to the extent possible, 22 and minimizing impacts to public airports, including the Atkinson Municipal Airport in Pittsburg, 23 Kansas.

In reviewing the environmental impacts of the proposed routes, NEET Southwest's team also sought to minimize or avoid impacts to forested wetlands, protected or sensitive species and habitats, known cultural and archeological resources, and federal and state-owned lands and easements, as well as impacts to tribal lands to the maximum extent practicable. Additionally, NEET Southwest analyzed the proximity of the route to existing structures including bridges, culverts, existing oil and gas wells, existing transmission lines, and telecommunications towers.

Q. How did NEET Southwest refine this preliminary route to develop the 8 Proposed Route?

9 A. Following SPP's selection of NEET Southwest as the designated transmission 10 owner for the Project, NEET Southwest's routing team continued to refine the preliminary route. 11 As described in the Routing Study, the final set of route alternatives consists of individual segments 12 that can be combined in different arrangements to form a continuous path between the Project 13 endpoints. The set of route alternatives for the Project consisted of 53 individual segments, and 14 ultimately, 729 distinct routes were developed using forward-progressing combinations of these 53 segments.² NEET Southwest's routing team ultimately identified its preferred route, which is 15 16 presented as the Proposed Route, as described in more detail by Mr. Werth and in the Routing 17 Study.

In addition, as described by NEET Southwest witness Kara Wry in her Direct Testimony, NEET Southwest undertook a public outreach process that included outreach to local, state, and federal agencies and potentially affected landowners along the preliminary route. NEET Southwest held two virtual open house public meetings on March 22, 2022 to provide information and solicit additional feedback from landowners and held two additional in-person informational

² Exhibit DW-1 (Routing Study) at § 3.2.

1 meetings with counties and landowners on December 12, 2022 and January 10, 2023, respectively. 2 Through this public outreach process, NEET Southwest has considered refinements to its initial 3 route to determine the Proposed Route.

4

How will the Project be interconnected to the transmission grid? Q.

5 A. The western end of the Project will interconnect to the SPP transmission grid at 6 Evergy's existing Wolf Creek Substation, which is interconnected to the Wolf Creek Nuclear 7 Generating Station. As I will discuss in more detail below, NEET Southwest and Evergy have 8 agreed that the point of interconnection between Evergy and NEET Southwest will occur at the 9 first structure west of the Wolf Creek Nuclear Generating Station property line, which is 10 approximately 1.5 miles east of the Evergy Wolf Creek substation. The eastern end of the Project 11 will interconnect to AECI's Blackberry Substation. NEET Southwest is in discussions with both 12 Evergy and AECI regarding the Project's interconnections, and transmission interconnection 13 agreements with Evergy and AECI ultimately will be filed with FERC.

14

Q. Does NEET Southwest or its affiliates have experience with interconnecting to 15 substations connected to nuclear power stations?

16 Yes. NEET Southwest's affiliates have extensive experience owning, operating, A. 17 and maintaining nuclear facilities, which includes managing and leading the complex dynamics 18 among nuclear generation facilities, substations associated with nuclear facilities, and transmission 19 interconnections into these substations. NEET Southwest will draw upon this experience in order 20 to ensure a successful interconnection to the Wolf Creek Substation.

Q. Will the Project require any transmission upgrades on the interconnecting
 utilities' systems?

A. Yes. As part of its RFP for the Project, SPP identified that certain upgrades would be required at the Wolf Creek and Blackberry Substations, which upgrades are to be performed by Evergy and AECI. SPP has issued separate Notifications to Construct to Evergy and AECI for their upgrades.

7 V. CONSTRUC

CONSTRUCTION PROCESS AND PROJECT SCHEDULE

8

Q. How much ROW is needed for the Project?

A. NEET Southwest will seek to obtain easements that are typically 150 feet wide, based upon NEET Southwest's Project design, design standards, anticipated structure types, number of structures, span distances, terrain, and soil conditions. This proposed ROW width may vary at some locations to accommodate topographic features and crossing requirements and to provide flexibility in final structure placement. At all times, the width of the ROW will be sufficient to ensure the safe and reliable operation of the Project.

15 NEET Southwest also anticipates acquiring land rights associated with construction and 16 ongoing access to the Project, as well as material laydown yards. This additional ROW may be 17 required where NEET Southwest cannot access the ROW directly from the road, e.g., due to water 18 bodies or wetlands or other environmentally significant terrain features. In addition, NEET 19 Southwest will be working with local landowners to secure easements for material and equipment 20 laydown areas. These laydown areas will generally require about 25 acres and will be spaced 21 approximately 25 miles apart to allow the contractor to efficiently store and source the materials 22 and equipment to complete the Project construction. These laydown yards are graded, rocked, and 23 fenced but only used temporarily. Upon construction completion, the landowner's property will

be restored to its original use or left as is should the landowner request. Ms. Walding testifies as
 to NEET Southwest's approach to land acquisition in her Direct Testimony.

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4

Q. Once necessary approvals and permits are obtained, and land is acquired, how does NEET Southwest expect to construct the Project?

A. NEET Southwest will utilize a combination of highly skilled NextEra Energy E&C personnel, along with experienced third-party contractors to construct the Project. The E&C team that will oversee the Project's construction has over 90 years of construction experience. NEET Southwest has partnered with Brink Constructors, Inc. ("Brink Constructors") to facilitate and assess preliminary construction activities for the Project. NEET Southwest and its construction contractor will establish a local construction management office within the construction site and will staff the Project with a team of experienced professionals.

12 NEET Southwest will coordinate several design and constructability review meetings with 13 Burns & McDonnell, which will serve as the transmission line Engineer of Record for the Project, 14 along with the transmission line construction contractor. These design reviews will take place at 15 30 percent design completion, 60 percent design completion, and just prior to issuance for 16 construction (approximately 90 percent design completion), and will encompass all aspects of the 17 Project's design, including the design criteria, structure framing and assembly drawings, 18 conductor, shield wire, and OPGW pulling and staging plans, sag and tensioning charts, 19 foundations, grounding, materials and equipment installation details, bills of material, material and 20 equipment specifications, ROW access, environmental permitting requirements, and construction 21 specifications. NEET Southwest's SMEs will review the design criteria to verify that such criteria 22 are valid, correct, and adequate and meet the SPP Minimum Transmission Design Standards (rev. 23 2).

1 Construction of the transmission line will follow a typical sequence of events starting with 2 surveying the boundaries and centerline, determining applicable construction access, storm water 3 pollution prevention mitigation installation, ROW clearing, grubbing and grading, material 4 delivery, installing foundations, assembling and installing insulators followed by the, erecting and 5 setting of structures, pulling in shield wires and conductors, installing ground rods, followed by 6 cleanup and site reclamation.

7

Q. What is the current in-service date for the Project?

A. NEET Southwest has committed to an in-service date for the Project of January 1,
2025, which is 365 calendar days prior to the in-service date of January 1, 2026 required by SPP's
RFP. NEET Southwest's Project schedule is provided below:



Q. Under NEET Southwest's project schedule, when does it anticipate beginning construction of the Project?

A. Subject to receiving all necessary regulatory approvals and permits, and obtaining the necessary ROW, NEET Southwest's project schedule currently anticipates commencing construction in the third quarter of 2023. NEET Southwest plans to begin construction activities at the Blackberry Substation and work north toward the Wolf Creek Substation. NEET Southwest plans to build the line in four zones and construct each zone as individual line sections. This strategy will allow clearing crews to stay ahead of transmission line construction. In NEET Southwest's project schedule, clearing, transmission structure installation, and stringing operations have been staggered to minimize the overall schedule, maximize the efficiency of each operation, and include enough float to ensure no single operation is impeded by a delay in a preceding operation.

7 0. Does NEET Southwest utilize any standards and procedures regarding 8 construction, repair, and maintenance in ROW areas on and around the Project footprint? 9 A. Yes. Prior to beginning construction of the Project, NEET Southwest will be 10 negotiating and signing road use and maintenance agreements with affected local governments to 11 ensure we can construct, operate, and maintain the Project in an orderly manner. In addition, 12 NEET Southwest will require that its construction contractor adhere to the strict requirements 13 dictated within its contract, which will include construction and maintenance of all temporary and 14 permanent access roads as required for the transmission facilities, inclusive of all required culverts 15 (temporary and permanent), access approaches, pipeline/utility crossings, matting, reclamation, 16 and restoration.

Upon construction completion, the contractor will provide all equipment, labor, and material to restore all temporarily disturbed land to pre-construction conditions. NEET Southwest will require its contractor to de-compact all soils to pre-construction conditions. Unless in farmland, or as otherwise requested by a landowner, the Contractor shall re-vegetate the areas with native species and in accordance with Project permits and reclamation plans. NEET Southwest will require its contractor to reseed per the Project permit and reclamation plans. In highly erodible areas, the contractor shall install temporary and/or permanent stabilization measures to enhance

1 vegetation re-growth. Prior to NEET Southwest's final acceptance, temporary erosion controls 2 shall be removed by the contractor if and when vegetation reaches 70 percent re-growth in the 3 particular location of the erosion control devices. Upon completion of reseeding and as a provision 4 of final acceptance, NEET Southwest will require its contractor to refurbish all remaining erosion 5 control devices so that they are in compliance with the Stormwater Pollution and Prevention Plan, 6 at which time the maintenance and/or removal of the remaining erosion control devices shall 7 become the responsibility of NEET Southwest. NEET Southwest will respect the landowner 8 property and intends to restore the property to its original condition.

9

10 **ROW?**

Q. How does NEET Southwest plan to treat trees that must be removed from the ?

11 NEET Southwest's construction contractor will install the preliminary access roads A. 12 and matting if required, and begin removal of trees, clearing and grubbing to ensure that any 13 remaining vegetation meets the NESC standards and that the construction crew will have easy 14 access to the construction site. Some low-growing brush or specific tree species that remain below 15 14 feet at mature height may be allowed at the outer limits of the easement area. Taller trees within 16 the ROW that might compromise the safe and reliable operation of the transmission line will be 17 removed. In developed areas and to the extent practical, existing low-growing vegetation that will 18 not pose a risk to the transmission line or impede construction or maintenance may remain in the 19 easement area. Trees beyond the easement area that are in danger of falling into the energized 20 transmission line will be removed or trimmed to eliminate the hazard as allowed by the terms in 21 the acquired landowner easement. In special circumstances, tree trimming agreements may be 22 required to minimize tree removal. All materials resulting from clearing will either be chipped on site and spread on the ROW, stacked in the ROW for use by the property owner, or removed and
 disposed of as agreed to with the property owner.

3 Q. Will the construction of the Project remove any agricultural land from 4 cultivation?

5 A. NEET Southwest has sought through the design of the Project (including through 6 the use of concrete monopoles, which have smaller structure footprints) and will continue to work 7 with landowners to minimize the land removed from future agricultural cultivation. Other than 8 the footprint of the foundations for the transmission structures (which are in general approximately 9 four to five feet in diameter), guys and anchors if required, and any permanent access roads necessary for maintenance and operations, construction generally will not remove agricultural land 10 11 from future cultivation. If a landowner has a guyed structure with anchors on their property, there 12 will be some additional cultivation limitation in order to maintain a safe work clearance from the 13 transmission line equipment. Cultivation will also be limited adjacent to the pole base to prevent 14 inadvertent damage to farm equipment or to the structure.

15

Q. How will the Project's construction impact landowners?

16 NEET Southwest will work with landowners to minimize impacts during A. 17 construction. Construction of the transmission line follows a typical sequence of events, as I will 18 Various phases of construction occur at different locations throughout the explain later. 19 construction process and in many cases at the same time at different locations throughout the 20 project area. This sequencing will minimize landowner impacts and allow the most efficient 21 transmission line construction so NEET Southwest can safely complete the line in a timely manner. 22 In addition, NEET Southwest will work closely with landowners to minimize impacts on 23 their existing land uses during the construction process. For example, NEET Southwest's affiliates

have worked with farmers and ranchers to accommodate livestock during construction of transmission lines, and NEET Southwest would expect to undertake similar coordination here. NEET Southwest will reimburse landowners for their time required to move livestock from one location to another and, where feasible, may install temporary fences or gates to keep livestock out of the construction area. In addition, NEET Southwest expects to undertake most of its initial construction activities in the late fall after most of the harvesting is complete, thereby reducing impacts to farm production.

8 Q. Once a transmission line easement or other ROW agreement is executed, who 9 within NEET Southwest is responsible for administering the agreements and responding to 10 any requests for the payment of damages, complaints, or claims related to NEET Southwest's 11 activities pursuant to an easement or agreement?

A. During construction of the line, NEET Southwest and its land agent Doyle Land Services ("Doyle") will be responsible for administering the easement agreements along with NEET Southwest's construction project manager, who will work with the construction contractor to ensure the easement agreement is enforced and that any questions, complaints, and or claims are handled to the satisfaction of the landowner and per the underlying agreement. After construction is completed, NEET Southwest's operations lead will be administering the easement agreements and will respond to requests made by the landowner.

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VI. <u>CONDITIONS FROM THE COMMISSION'S CCN ORDER</u>

20 Q. In the settlement agreement entered into in NEET Southwest's CCN 21 proceeding, which was approved by the Commission in the CCN Order, there were certain

conditions related to interconnection of the Project, as well as a potential option to co-locate a portion of the Project with Evergy facilities. Will you please describe these conditions?

2

3 A. Yes. As Ms. Walding describes in her Direct Testimony, NEET Southwest entered 4 into a non-unanimous settlement agreement ("CCN Settlement Agreement") with a number of 5 parties to its CCN proceeding. In its CCN Order, the Commission approved the CCN Settlement 6 Agreement and granted NEET Southwest's CCN for the Project. The Commission's CCN Order 7 also included certain conditions that I will discuss in more detail.

8 First, the Commission directed NEET Southwest to cooperate with Evergy to interconnect 9 the Project to the Wolf Creek Substation, including relocating the point of interconnection ("POI") 10 outside the owner-controlled area of the Wolf Creek Nuclear Generating Station, subject to any necessary SPP reviews or approvals³ Second, the Commission directed NEET Southwest to 11 12 consider and address as part of its line siting application an option to construct a 25-mile portion of the Project that parallels an existing Evergy 161 kV transmission line as a double-circuit facility 13 with the Evergy 161 kV line, subject to receiving necessary approvals for a change in project scope 14 from SPP and necessary agreements from Evergy.⁴ The Commission directed that NEET 15 Southwest and Evergy work together "expeditiously" and "comprehensively" to evaluate this 16 17 alternative and specifically to

consider at least (but not limited to) the following factors in this evaluation:" (1) 18 19 Detailed cost estimates of the cost to double circuit this portion of the line; (2) Cost 20 sharing arrangements/agreements between NEET Southwest and Evergy pertaining 21 to the upgrade costs and all aspects of operation and maintenance of this double-22 circuited portion of the line; (3) Easement sharing agreements and operations and maintenance responsibility sharing agreements for the double circuit portion of the 23 line; (4) Any revisions to construction timelines (of either standalone project) 24 25 necessary to accommodate Evergy or NEET Southwest's construction schedule for

³ CCN Settlement Agreement at ¶ 10(f)(i); CCN Order at ¶ 9(c).

⁴ CCN Settlement Agreement at ¶ 10(d); CCN Order at ¶ 9(d).

this portion of the line; and (5) Any engineering analysis necessary to determine construction standards for this portion of the line.⁵

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Q. Has NEET Southwest addressed the first of these conditions in this application, to relocate the point of interconnection with the Wolf Creek Substation to outside of Evergy's owner-controlled area?

7 Yes. As I mentioned above, following the execution of the CCN Settlement A. 8 Agreement, NEET Southwest and Evergy discussed the location of the POI between the Project 9 and Evergy's facilities at the Wolf Creek Substation, in order to move the POI outside of Evergy's 10 owner-controlled area for the Wolf Creek Nuclear Generating Station. As a result of these 11 discussions, NEET Southwest and Evergy have agreed to locate the POI at the first structure east 12 of the Wolf Creek Nuclear Generating Station property line, which is outside of Evergy's owner-13 controlled area for Wolf Creek, and which will be reflected in the interconnection agreement with 14 Evergy. The modified POI is shown on the detailed map in Exhibit DW-2.

Q. Has NEET Southwest addressed the second of these conditions, to consider
 and address the possible co-location of a section of the Project with Evergy's existing 161 kV
 transmission line?

A. Yes. NEET Southwest has evaluated the condition in the CCN Settlement Agreement to consider and address a potential double circuit option for a 25-mile portion of the Project that parallels an existing Evergy 161 kV transmission line, referred to as the Double Circuit Option. NEET Southwest also has discussed the Double Circuit Option with Evergy and with SPP, as well as providing updates to Commission Staff. Along with Ms. Blakley, I am cosponsoring Exhibit JB-1, which provides a detailed analysis of the Double Circuit Option.

⁵ CCN Order at ¶ 98.

Q. How did NEET Southwest evaluate this option?

A. Ms. Blakley describes this in more detail in her testimony, but at a high level, NEET Southwest and its SMEs and consultants performed a comprehensive evaluation of the potential double circuit options. NEET Southwest engaged its Engineer of Record for the Project, Burns & McDonnell, to perform an engineering analysis of the potential to co-locate the lines, and NEET Southwest's internal engineers and Burns & McDonnell developed conceptual engineering designs for potential double circuit alignments. NEET Southwest then used Burns & McDonnell's engineering analysis to prepare preliminary cost estimates.

In addition, NEET Southwest engaged Doyle to evaluate potential ROW costs, as well as
utilized internal and external legal counsel, internal environmental, engineering, regulatory affairs,
and operations personnel to evaluate the various aspects of the double circuit options.

Q. What is NEET Southwest's recommendation regarding the Double Circuit Option?

14 A. NEET Southwest is not proposing the Double Circuit Option as part of its Proposed 15 Route for a number of reasons, which I will discuss below and which Ms. Blakley also discusses 16 in her testimony. Specifically, NEET Southwest believes that the efficiencies and reliability 17 benefits to be gained from the Project would be undermined and delayed by requiring NEET 18 Southwest to co-locate a portion of the Project with Evergy's existing facilities. In particular, 19 depending on which utility's ROW was utilized for the Double Circuit Option, that is expected to 20 delay the Project's in-service date from January 2025 to the first quarter of 2026, at the earliest, to 21 as late as the third quarter of 2028. This delay in the Project's in-service date is expected to reduce 22 the economic benefits associated with the Project's expected 2025 in-service date. In addition,

1 building the Double Circuit Option would significantly increase the complexity associated with 2 the Project's design, engineering, and construction.

3

As an initial matter, how did NEET Southwest interpret this condition? Q.

4 My understanding of this condition was that it required NEET Southwest to A. 5 consider and evaluate whether, for a 25-mile section of the Project that parallels Evergy's existing 6 Marmaton to EDE 161 kV line (the "Evergy 161 kV Line"), it would be feasible to co-locate the 7 345 kV circuit with Evergy's 161 kV circuit on common transmission structures. As I understand 8 it, Evergy is intending to rebuild or upgrade the Evergy 161 kV Line sometime in the next five to 9 ten years, with Evergy advising NEET Southwest that the timing of the rebuild is still unknown and that, while Evergy currently expects to place the 161 kV Line back into service by December 10 11 2030, Evergy's schedule is tentative and could be further delayed depending on the varying needs 12 on the overall Evergy system. This undetermined timing generates additional uncertainty and 13 complexity for NEET Southwest's Project, as well, if Evergy further delayed or ultimately 14 determined not to pursue the rebuild of its 161 kV Line.

15

Q. Would co-locating the Project with Evergy's facilities have an impact on **Project schedule and cost?** 16

17 A. Yes. NEET Southwest has designed and engineered the Project to be a single-18 circuit, 345 kV transmission line with a double-bundled 1590 "Falcon" 42-19 ACSS/TW HS 19 conductor bundle conductor on primarily spun-concrete monopoles. To the extent NEET 20 Southwest is required to redesign 25 miles of the Project (or approximately 26 percent of the total 21 Project route), that could have a substantial impact on NEET Southwest's ability to bring the 22 Project in service on time and on budget. As described in the Double Circuit Option Report, and 23 as Ms. Blakley explains in more detail, depending upon whether the Double Circuit Option were

built in NEET Southwest's or Evergy's ROW, and depending on the length of time required for SPP's review of the changes to the Project and for the parties to acquire the necessary ROW, redesign this section of the Project, and enter necessary coordination agreements, NEET Southwest expects the in-service date of the Project would be delayed from its currently projected in-service date of January 1, 2025 to anywhere from the first quarter of 2026 up to the third quarter of 2028.

6 In addition, my understanding is that NEET Southwest's concrete transmission pole design 7 does not meet Evergy's design standards for its 161 kV Line and thus any agreed-upon design 8 specifications between the two utilities likely would require steel monopoles or significant 9 modifications to NEET Southwest's design criteria for concrete poles. This would have significant 10 impacts on cost and schedule, particularly given current supply chain issues around steel 11 procurement and possible redesign and testing of new concrete pole designs. Many of the benefits 12 of NEET Southwest's proposed Project derive from NEET Southwest's use of concrete poles and 13 changing NEET Southwest's original project design for a significant portion of the Project is likely 14 to reduce or eliminate those benefits.

Q. Please explain the impacts of the Double Circuit Option on cost estimates in more detail.

A. If the Double Circuit Option utilizes Evergy design specifications, that would generally require shifting from the use of concrete monopoles with direct-embedded foundations to steel monopoles with drilled shaft foundations. This structure design increases the cost of the Double Circuit Option above the costs of the base scenario of NEET Southwest and Evergy each building their own individual projects as single-circuit lines (referred to in the report as the "Base Proposal"). Cost estimates for the various design options are provided in the Double Circuit Report in Exhibit JB-1.

1 Separately, as Ms. Blakley describes, NEET Southwest also evaluated building the Double 2 Circuit Option using NEET Southwest's original design specifications. Every has advised NEET 3 Southwest that it would only accept a design that uses concrete monopoles for the 161 kV Line if 4 it meets Evergy's design specifications. In particular, there are certain aspects of NEET 5 Southwest's concrete pole design that Evergy expressed should be modified to meet Evergy's 6 specifications for the 161 kV Line (including use of davit arms and suspension insulators, self-7 supporting structures at angles and deadends, Evergy criteria for tension limits on the 161 kV 8 circuit, and changes to the shield wire type). NEET Southwest expects that any coordinated design 9 criteria for concrete monopoles would increase the costs of this option significantly. In our 10 experience, certain aspects of the design changes that Evergy has suggested are not industry 11 standard for concrete monopoles. For example, due to the limitations in maximum manufactured 12 height of single piece concrete poles, the requirement to utilize davit arms on the double circuit 13 structure would be expected to shorten the span between poles and therefore increase the number 14 of poles required. Two-piece poles might be utilized, however, also increasing the costs. For these 15 reasons, the costs of utilizing coordinated design specifications for a concrete monopole design would be expected to increase significantly. 16

17

Q. Would co-locating the Project minimize impacts to landowners?

A. Even if the Project was co-located with Evergy's facilities, there would still be impacts to landowners along this 25-mile section. In order to co-locate their facilities, NEET Southwest and Evergy would still require additional ROW for the co-located segment, because my understanding is that Evergy's existing ROW for its 161 kV line is only 100 feet wide. This would need to be expanded to 150 feet under NEET Southwest's design standards for the Project. Thus, Evergy and/or NEET Southwest would be required to obtain 50 additional feet along the existing

line, either by Evergy renegotiating its existing easements or NEET Southwest acquiring additional
 ROW along this segment, in order to expand the ROW to a minimum of 150 feet. This would
 continue to result in significant impacts to landowners – even those with existing easement
 agreements with Evergy.

5 It is important to note that most of the current Proposed Route along this segment 6 contemplates that NEET Southwest's ROW will directly abut Evergy's existing ROW for its 161 7 kV line. NEET Southwest anticipates that landowners would be able to maintain current uses of 8 the land in and, even where the ROWs do not directly abut, between the ROWs (e.g., grazing 9 livestock). NEET Southwest also anticipates working directly with landowners that have 10 cultivated fields to locate poles in appropriate locations to allow continued farming while 11 minimizing impacts. For these reasons, NEET Southwest expects there will be minimal impact to 12 landowners from the lines paralleling each other.

- 13 Q. Does this conclude your testimony?
- 14 A. Yes, it does.

VERIFICATION

STATE OF FLORIDA)) ss. COUNTY OF PALM BEACH)

I, Daniel Mayers, being duly sworn, on oath state that I am Director of Transmission and Substation Engineering of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC, and that I have read the foregoing testimony and know the contents thereof, and that the facts set forth therein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

By: Juie Mym Daniel Mayers

The foregoing pleading was subscribed and sworn to before me this __th day of January, 2023.

Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

27 2023



EXHIBIT DM-1 *PUBLIC*

PUBLIC

Exhibit DM-1 Page 1 of 15



Exhibit DM-1 Page 2 of 15

file STR-01001SH01.DWG



Exhibit DM-1 Page 3 of 15

file STR-01003SH01.DWG



Exhibit DM-1 Page 4 of 15





Exhibit DM-1 Page 5 of 15



8 PUBLIC





PUBLIC

Exhibit DM-1 Page 7 of 15



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- REFERENCE STRUCTURE GROUNDING DETAILS FOR GROUNDING INSTALLATION PROCEDURES. REFERENCE STRUCTURE FOUNDATION DRAWING AND FOUNDATION SCHEDULE FOR DIRECT

- FOR RIGHT TANGENT, BRACED POST BRACKET, ARMS AND VANGS SHALL BE INSTALLED ON FLAT 3. 6. SNUBBING SHALL NOT BE PERMITTED ON THIS STRUCTURE.

THIS DOCUMENT IS PRELIMINARY IN NATURE AND



Exhibit DM-1 Page 8 of 15



PUBLIC 8

5'-0" (TYP)

OPGW DOWNLEAD CLAMP (FLAT 9, ROTATED FOR CLARITY)

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H (ABOVE GROUND HEIGHT)

1'-6" (TYP)

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- 4. SNUBBING SHALL NOT BE PERMITTED ON STRUCTURE.

- NOTES: 1. STRUCTURES SHALL BE STEEL POLES.

- 2. REFERENCE STRUCTURE GROUNDING DETAILS FOR GROUNDING
 3. REFERENCE STRUCTURE FOUNDATION DRAWING FOR DRILLED

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Exhibit DM-1 Page 9 of 15

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STRUCTURE N



Exhibit DM-1 Page 10 of 15



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- 1. STRUCTURES SHALL BE STEEL POLES. 2. PLATE THICKNESS TO BE DETERMINED BY POLE MANUFACTURER. MAXIMUM PLATE THICKNESS SHALL BE 3/4" TO ALLOW HARDWARE FIT-UP. IF LARGER THICKNESS IS REQUIRED FOR STRENGTH
- PURPOSES, CONSULT ENGINEER. 3. VANG AND VANG CONNECTION TO POLE SHALL BE DESIGNED TO WITHSTAND THE RESULTANT LOAD 10 DEGREES TO EITHER SIDE OF
- INDICATED LINE ANGLES. 4. REFERENCE STRUCTURE GROUNDING DETAILS FOR GROUNDING
- INSTALLATION PROCEDURES. 5. REFERENCE STRUCTURE FOUNDATION DRAWING FOR DRILLED
- SHAFT FOUNDATION DETAILS. 6. OPGW DOWNLEAD CLAMP BRACKET SHALL START AT 3 FEET BELOW
- TOP OF POLE AND CONTINUE DOWN POLE AT 5 FOOT INTERVALS TO OPGW SPLICE CASE, ENDING ATTACHMENTS NOT MORE THAN 15 FEET ABOVE GROUND LINE.
- 7. SEE PLAN AND PROFILE DRAWINGS FOR LOCATIONS WHERE OPGW SPLICING SHALL OCCUR. REFERENCE OPGW SPLICING DETAILS FOR MODIFICATIONS TO OPGW HARDWARE ASSEMBLIES.
- 8. IF OPGW DOWNLEAD CLAMP FLAT LOCATIONS INTERFERES WITH VANG LOCATION DUE TO LINE ANGLE, OPGW DOWNLEAD CLAMPS TO BE RELOCATED TO NEAREST OPEN FLAT.

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PUBLIC 8

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Exhibit DM-1 Page 11 of 15

Exhibit DM-1

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Exhibit DM-1 Page 13 of 15



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SECTION B-B CONDUCTOR LEVI

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- NOTES: 1. STRUCTURES SHALL BE STEEL POLES.
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Exhibit DM-1 Page 14 of 15

STRUCTURE ELEVATION (NOT TO SCALE)

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NOTES:

STRUCTURES SHALL BE STEEL POLES.

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- 2. PLATE THICKNESS TO BE DETERMINED BY POLE MANUFACTURER. MAXIMUM PLATE THICKNESS SHALL BE 3/4" TO ALLOW HARDWARE FIT-UP. IF LARGER THICKNESS IS REQUIRED FOR STRENGTH PURPOSES, CONSULT ENGINEER.
- REFERENCE STRUCTURE GROUNDING DETAILS FOR GROUNDING INSTALLATION PROCEDURES.
- REFERENCE STRUCTURE FOUNDATION DRAWING FOR DIRECT EMBED POLE DETAILS.
- SNUBBING SHALL NOT BE PERMITTED ON BRACED POST OR STRUCTURE. 5.
- ATTACHMENT HOLES FOR BRACED POST THROUGH BOLTS SHALL BE PRE-DRILLED BY MANUFACTURER PRIOR TO STRUCTURE DELIVERY. ALL HOLES SHALL BE 15/16" DIAMETER, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

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1'-6"

1'-6"



Exhibit DM-1 Page 15 of 15