

RESOLUTION
NO. R-16-4

ENONAC: August 30, 2016

BY: Commissioner Legaux

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Busby

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana adopted Act 394 during the Regular Session of 2009; and

WHEREAS, Act 394 (R.S. 33:9100) created the Eastern New Orleans Neighborhood Advisory Commission,

WHEREAS, Section 1 of Act 1236 created the EAST NEW ORLEANS NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COMMISSION hereinafter referred to as the “ENONAC”. The boundaries of ENONAC are the Industrial Canal to the west, the Intracoastal Canal to the south, the St. Tammany Parish Line to the east, and Lake Pontchartrain to the north.

WHEREAS, Act 394 mandates that ENONAC may advise the New Orleans City Council, the Mayor and all agencies under the purview of the aforementioned offices, and all independent agencies, boards and commissions of the government of the City of New Orleans and State of Louisiana, with respect to all proposed matters including, but not limited to, decision regarding neighborhood planning, housing density, economic development, traffic, parking , recreation, street improvements, liquor licenses, zoning, police protection, sanitation and trash collection, social service programs, education, health, safety, and budget which affect the ENONAC area.

WHEREAS, By Laws of the Commission stipulates that ENONAC may present its views to any agency and may initiate its own proposals which promote the general welfare of the overall development of the Areas of Emphasis or Areas of Interest.

WHEREAS, Entergy New Orleans, Inc. proposes to build a combustion turbine gas power plant in New Orleans East, but has yet to demonstrate to community stakeholders the need for this power plant as well as the short-term and long-term impacts the power plant would have on nearby neighborhoods, where residents are predominantly African American and Vietnamese American; and

WHEREAS, the New Orleans City Council passed Resolution R-16-263, which recognizes that Entergy “has not yet conducted meaningful community outreach with respect to its plan to build a CT [combustion turbine power plant]”; and

WHEREAS, Entergy requests the City Council’s approval to charge electric utility customers in New Orleans for the full cost of building the proposed power plant, which

is estimated to be at least \$216 million, but operate this power plant for a total of 1,300 hours per year to supply electricity to New Orleans customers and up to an additional 2,700 hours per year to supply electricity to customers outside of New Orleans and in other states; and

WHEREAS, Entergy's Integrated Resource Plan and Preferred Portfolio offer no flexibility to supply electricity from renewable solar and wind energy or provide energy savings with more energy efficiency and demand response programs, but, instead, would lock New Orleans into electricity supplied from the proposed power plant and existing power plants for the next 20 years; and

WHEREAS, public officials, governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations have issued resolutions and reports that reveal troubling facts about Entergy's proposed power plant as it relates to the following issues that are of concern to us: (1) Environmental Injustice, (2) Lack of Meaningful Community Engagement, (2) Toxic Air Pollution and Health Risks, (3) Flammable Gas and Industrial Accidents, (4) Land Subsidence and Flooding, and (5) Hurricanes and Storm Damage; and

Environmental Injustice

WHEREAS, Entergy proposes to build the power plant at the site of the now deactivated Michoud power plant site in New Orleans East which is located near the homes, schools, churches, and businesses of predominantly African American and Vietnamese American residents. The Environmental Protection Agency's report Environmental Justice Screening Report for the Clean Power Plan 2015 finds that approximately 70% of power plants in the United States are located within 3 miles of communities that are majority people of color regardless of wealth or income; and 92% of power plants in Louisiana are located within 3 miles of communities that are predominantly African American and other people of color. Entergy's plan to build a power plant in the predominantly African American and Vietnamese American community of New Orleans East would continue this pattern of environmental injustice.

Toxic Air Pollution & Health Risks

WHEREAS, Entergy publicly states that the proposed power plant would have minimal environmental impact, but offers no credible information to support this statement. However, the Environmental Protection Agency reports that combustion turbine gas power plants, like the one proposed by Entergy, release air pollution that includes formaldehyde, benzene, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, toluene, xylene, nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide, and particulate matter. The health effects of these air pollutants include cancer, as well as damage to the lungs, heart, kidneys, and liver. In addition, according to Entergy's application to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, the proposed power plant would undergo 500 start-ups and shut-downs on an annual basis. The process of starting up and shutting down a power plant increases toxic air pollution and health risks.

Flammable Gas & Industrial Accidents

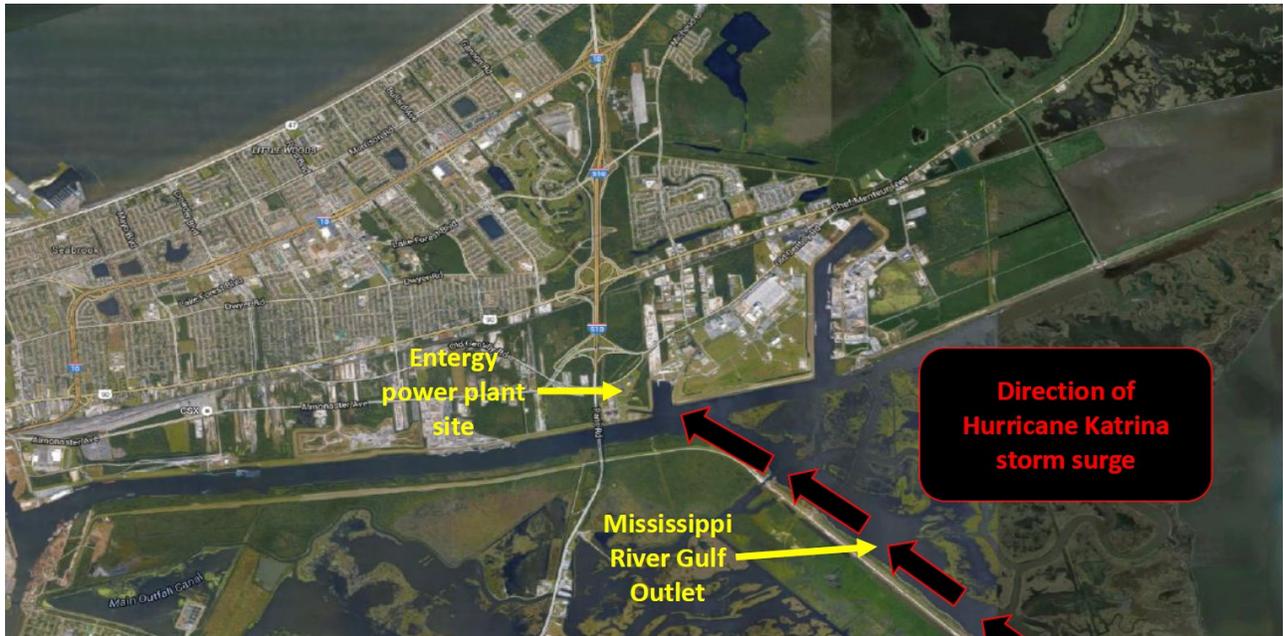
WHEREAS, on August 18, 2016, eight people working for Entergy were injured when a gas pipeline burst at the Michoud facility site in New Orleans East. The workers had to be hospitalized, and one was air-lifted to a hospital because of critical injuries. More than one week has passed and the cause of this serious accident remains unknown. Entergy's proposed power plant would involve the use of flammable gas and be an ever-present risk to the safety of plant workers and residents in New Orleans East.

Land Subsidence & Flooding

WHEREAS, for decades, Entergy pumped groundwater to use as cooling water during the past operation of the Michoud power plant, and plans to withdraw groundwater in the future for the proposed power plant. A recent NASA/LSU study found that Entergy's withdrawal of groundwater for the Michoud power plant caused land subsidence to accelerate in the surrounding area in New Orleans East. The report also found a correlation between the subsidence and levee breaks between New Orleans East and the Lower 9th Ward that occurred during Hurricane Katrina. Entergy publicly disagrees with the NASA/LSU study, but offers no credible information to support its position. There is no independent, peer-reviewed scientific analysis indicating that Entergy's past and proposed future use of groundwater will have no negative impact on land subsidence and flood risk in New Orleans East.

Hurricanes & Storm Damage

WHEREAS, Entergy plans to build the proposed power plant on the site of the now de-commissioned Michoud power plant in New Orleans East, which is located near the top of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MR-GO), a shipping channel extending from the Industrial Canal down to the Gulf of Mexico. During Hurricane Katrina, the MR-GO directed powerful storm surge into New Orleans East, which shut down Entergy's Michoud power plant for 8 months (see map and photo). The U.S. Army Corps acknowledges that for large hurricanes, like Hurricane Katrina, the recently built Lake Borgne Surge Barrier on the MR-GO can be overtopped by floodwater. A national climate study ranks New Orleans as the number one city in the United States to have the most disruptions caused by climate change. Entergy has chosen a precarious location for the proposed power plant that is vulnerable to damage from increasingly stronger hurricanes and storms.



Hurricane Katrina floodwater overtops a levee along the MRGO. Photo taken by an automatic camera installed at Entergy's Michoud power plant in New Orleans East.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the ENONAC met on August 30, 2016 and adopted this Resolution R-16-4,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, based on the foregoing concerns, the East New Orleans Neighborhood Advisory Commission (ENONAC) and VAYLA New Orleans withhold support for the proposal by Entergy New Orleans, Inc. to build a combustion turbine gas power plant in New Orleans East.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ENONAC and VAYLA New Orleans will endeavor to find remedies and policy solutions for the subsidence caused by industrial use of groundwater in New Orleans East.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ENONAC and VAYLA New Orleans call on the Mayor and City Council of New Orleans to ensure that all land use, housing, and other development projects proposed for New Orleans East benefit the health, economy, quality of life, general welfare and sustainability of the New Orleans East Community, rather than impair it.

THE ROLL WAS CALLED ON THE ADOPTION THEREOF AND RESULTED AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Weaver, Bickham, Busby, Whitfield, Woods, Hebert, LaCour-Duckworth, McWilliams, Williams, Penny, Daste, Legaux, DeGrasse, Scales

AND Minh Thanh Nguyen, Executive Director, VAYLA New Orleans

NAYS: 0

AND THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.