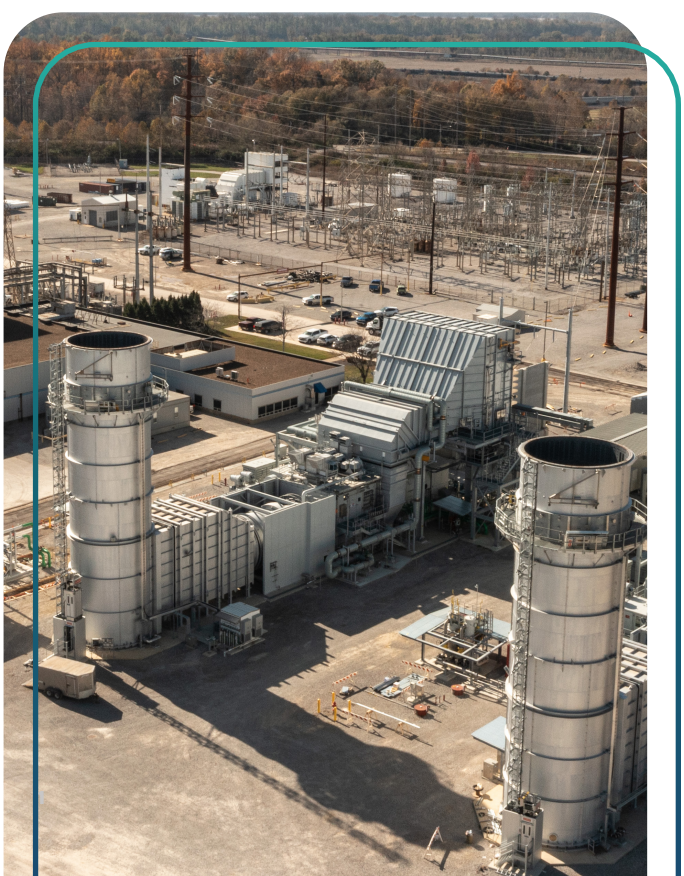
Executive Summary

(Non-Technical Summary)

Introduction

Southern Indiana Gas and Electric Company d/b/a CenterPoint Energy Indiana South's ("CEI South"/"CEIS") 2025 Integrated Resource Plan ("IRP") is the culmination of an extensive analysis of CEI South's optimal resources for ensuring the availability of electricity to its retail electric customers over a 20-year period at a low cost with consideration for future cost risks. CEI South has adhered to the requirements of the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission ("IURC" or "Commission") and the guidance provided in the Commission's orders related to past Preferred Portfolios described in CEI South's previous IRPs both in the preparation of this IRP and the planning process that preceded the report.

CEI South conducts the IRP process every three years and each IRP, necessarily, builds on the IRP and the generation resource investments that have come before. CEI South's 2022/2023 IRP identified a Preferred Portfolio that included a generation transition with the conversion of F.B. Culley 3 from coal to natural gas, along with Demand Side Management ("DSM"), wind, and solar resources. CEI South began implementing the 2022/2023 IRP by filing two cases for which CEI South sought and received approval for (1) two signed purchase power agreements ("PPA") for wind facilities totaling 317 MWs, the Galesburg Wind Project and the Salt Creek Wind Project; and (2) approval for the 2025-2027 DSM Plan. Each of these filings were consistent with the 2022/2023 IRP, and as noted below, the IRP affirms the direction taken by CEI South. These renewable resources still qualify for Federal incentives, which dramatically lowered their cost relative to what could be acquired in the future, post elimination of Inflation Reduction Act ("IRA") tax incentives for wind and solar resources.

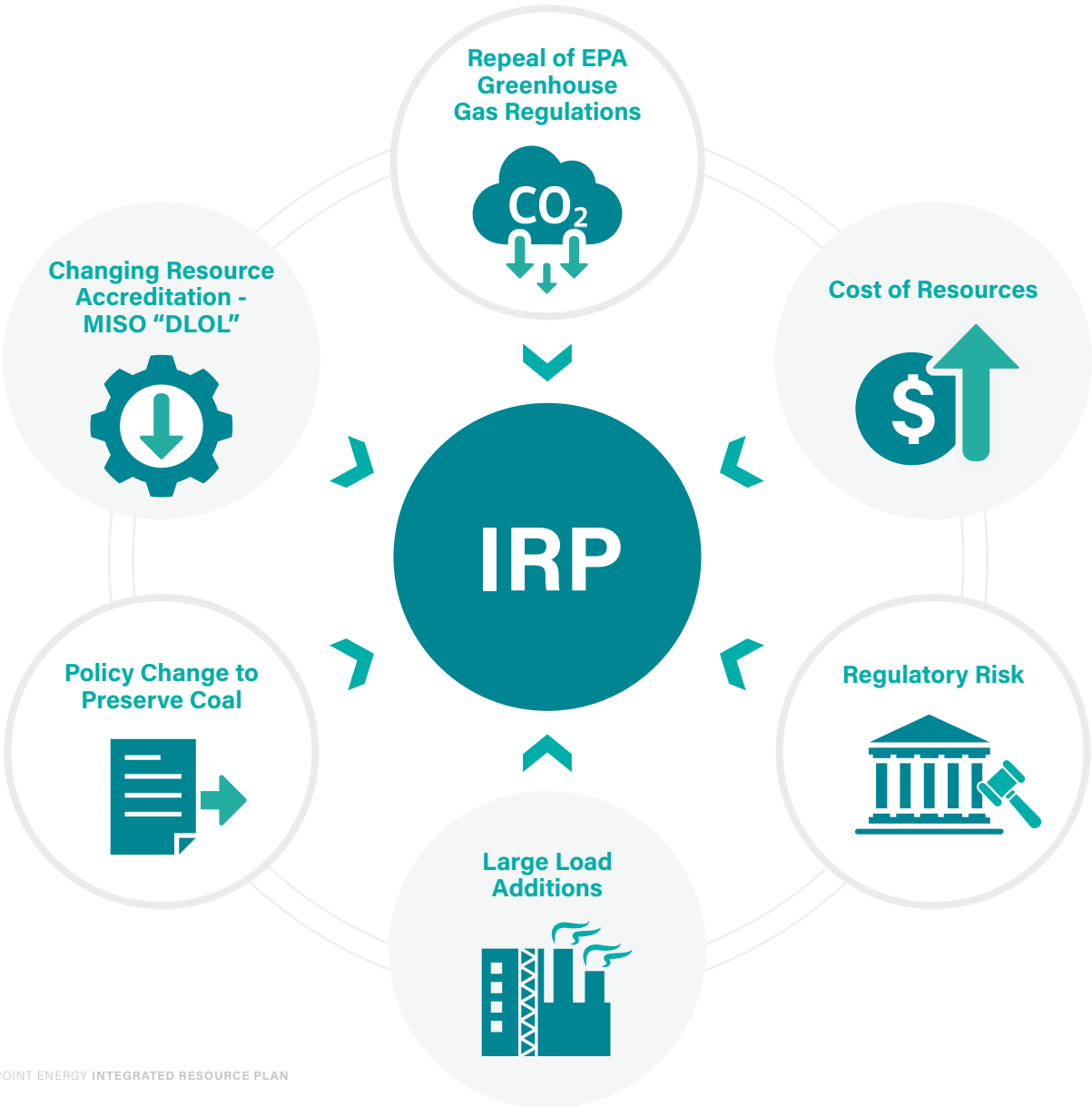


Now in 2025, during this time of unprecedented uncertainty across multiple fronts, the 2025 IRP analysis and its conclusions highlight the prudent decision for CEI South to reevaluate the timing of its generation fleet transition. Amid this time of evolving risk, and following our most recent rate case, there has been feedback from our customers and their advocates to keep bills more affordable. The IRP public meetings allowed us to listen to stakeholders and explain the uncertainty facing the industry.

Therefore, CEI South is reevaluating the timing of its transition to new or upgraded equipment in the near-term with a **focus toward rate stability and system reliability**.

The world looks very different than it did twelve months ago, when this IRP process began. The current pace and amount of change creates a variety of risks that, when weighed together, supports CEI South's decision to reevaluate the generation transition. The figure below summarizes current uncertainties.

Current Uncertainties



In 2023, CEI South filed its first electric base rate case in nearly 14 years. Ultimately, CEI South was approved to recover an additional $80 million from customers to continue to **safely and reliably deliver electricity** to their homes and businesses. While the energy transition CEI South set forth in prior IRPs was more affordable in the long run than continuing to operate its coal units, approximately 80% of the approved rate case increase was related to replacing A.B. Brown coal units 1 & 2 with 191 MW Posey Solar (~$385 million) and 460 MW natural gas combustion turbines (~$287 million). A.B. Brown's aging environmental equipment was required to be updated and replaced at a similar cost by 2024; this fact helps to illustrate the importance of strongly considering near-term affordability within the context of the IRP.

In this dynamic environment, CEI South has remained nimble to allow it to provide affordable and reliable service for its customers. Since the last IRPs were filed, there have been significant challenges in moving forward with key pieces of the last two IRPs' Preferred Portfolios. Several solar projects were terminated due to shifting market dynamics and substantial delays in commercial operation dates—one exceeding four years, with others averaging more than three. These market changes and delays drove project costs beyond the levels approved by the Commission and above what CEI South believed economical for its customers.

As such, the Crosstrack Solar Project, a 130 MW Build Transfer Agreement ("BTA") approved in Cause No. 45754, was terminated on March 15, 2024. Subsequently, two solar PPAs were also canceled on July 1, 2025, due to cost increases beyond the approved agreements, the 100 MW Warrick County Solar Project and the 185 MW Vermillion Solar Project, both approved in Cause No. 45839. Similarly, a 200 MW wind BTA also had upward pricing pressure. After years of negotiation and a re-evaluation of this project, CEI South opted, in this IRP, to abandon this project in an effort to avoid additional customer bill impact.

Also, in early 2025, CEI South announced that it paused the plan to convert F.B. Culley 3 to natural gas, to be re-evaluated in this IRP. Within this analysis, CEI South utilized more refined cost estimates and assumptions based on our preparation to convert the unit. This decision to pause the conversion was not taken lightly and was the direct result of near-term affordability concerns raised by the community, along with the current uncertainties listed in the previous figure.

Although the previous IRP projected long-term cost savings, CEI South estimates that implementing all proposed projects as planned would have resulted in a near-term bill increase of approximately $18 per month over the next few years. CEI South also heard some stakeholders express interest in re-evaluating the

decision to convert F.B. Culley 3 within the context of the transparent IRP process, particularly given the near-term uncertainty driven by changes in the Federal and State administrations. CEI South's decision to reevaluate this path forward proved to be prudent. Under today's market conditions, (elimination of future Federal tax incentives for renewables, declining accreditation from MISO for renewables, increased price pressure on resources based on tariffs/ongoing supply chain issues), converting F.B. Culley 3 to natural gas by 2030 with renewables is projected to be the second highest cost portfolio evaluated, 17% higher than the lowest cost portfolio examined and 14% higher than the Preferred Portfolio.

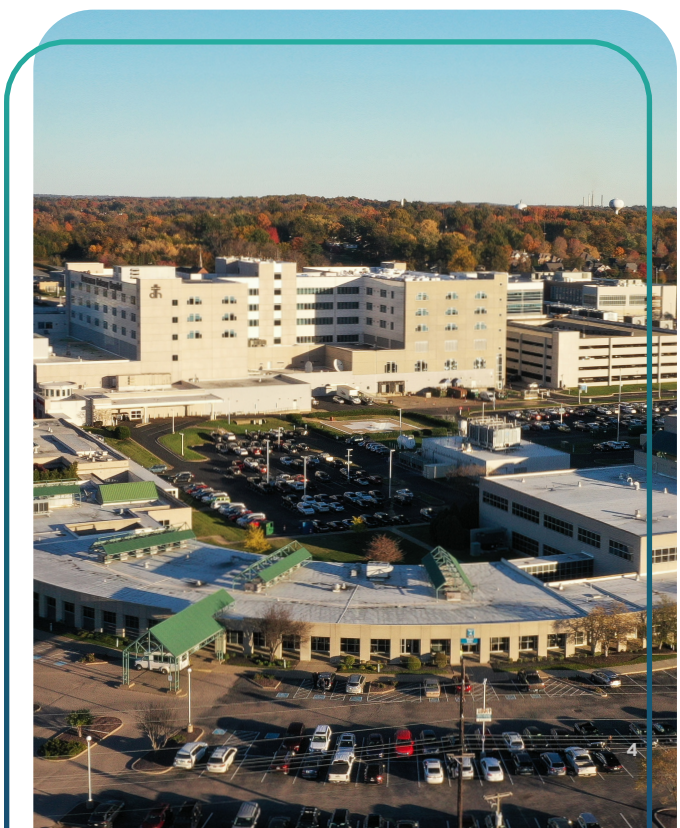
CEI South began its 2025 IRP process in early 2025 to explore new and existing supply-side and demand side resource options to reliably serve CEI South customers over the next 20 years. The Company's exploration included significant input and dialogue with stakeholders. While starting with our 2022/2023 IRP framework as a basis for the 2025 analysis, CEI South has enhanced its process and analysis in several ways. These enhancements include, but are not limited to, the following:

- expanded sensitivity analysis (distributed solar incentive, large load additions, Demand Response term, etc.);
- increased collaboration with transmission and distribution planning;
- enhanced transmission analysis, unserved energy, capacity risk, etc.;
- inclusion of an expected data release schedule;
- five pillars focused score card with an expanded view of affordability; and
- refreshed IRP layout with enhanced description of analysis and results.

Over the last year, CEI South has participated in active discussions with several large load customers, and there was considerable stakeholder interest in understanding how CEI South would serve a large load addition. In order to maintain maximum flexibility, CEI South responded by including large load sensitivities and adding an alternate reference case to its analysis.

To maintain maximum flexibility and agility in these uncertain times, CEI South has selected both a **Preferred** and an **Alternate Preferred Portfolio**.

The Preferred Portfolio assumes the status quo for our territory. The Alternate Preferred Portfolio was developed should CEI South be in a position to provide power to a large load addition.



The alternate reference case maintains reference case market conditions but includes a potential large load addition that grows by 250 MWs per year, topping out at 1.5 GWs above CEI South's current retail load. This large load profile is indicative of ongoing discussions/ negotiations with prospective customers. Potential large load customers require utilities to be able to serve their needs quickly, or they will take their economic development, supporting jobs and the tax base for the community, elsewhere.

CEI South plays a proactive role in **advancing economic development** across southwestern Indiana. By developing an Alternative Preferred Portfolio, the company enhances its agility **to better serve and support the region's evolving needs**.

With the need to provide reliable, stable, resilient, affordable, and sustainable energy to our customers, both Preferred Portfolios call for the conversion of A.B. Brown natural gas Combustion Turbine ("CT"), units 5 and 6, to an efficient Combined Cycle Gas Turbine ("CCGT"). The Preferred Portfolio provides customers with near and long-term rate stability and pushes this decision out to future IRPs until there is more clarity on the future while the Alternate Preferred Portfolio moves forward with the conversion by 2030. In either case, the decision on F.B. Culley 3's replacement will be decided in a future IRP. Both portfolios include the remaining solar and wind energy resources—secured prior to this IRP—at significantly lower costs compared to future renewable projects that may not benefit from near- to midterm Federal tax incentives. Both portfolios also include battery storage to replace CEI South's smallest and most inefficient coal unit, F.B. Culley 2. This allows time for CEI South to further evaluate the economics of this option relative to purchasing required capacity to maintain reliability. Finally, both include continued investment in energy efficiency and demand response resources.

The company has signed a contract with a demand response ("DR") aggregator for commercial and industrial DR by 2026. CEI South is also nearing the beginning of a pilot which was approved in its recent rate case to explore time-based rates. The Preferred Portfolio includes indicative DR amounts for IRP planning purposes.

Preferred Portfolio

CEI South's Preferred Portfolio takes a more gradual approach to its generation transition, providing time for greater clarity amid today's unprecedented uncertainty. This approach also allows time for transmission system upgrades through CEI South's current TDSIC plan and the MISO's Long-Range Transmission Plan ("LRTP") Tranche 2.1 projects, which support enhanced reliability and resilience.

The Preferred Portfolio provides for **maximum flexibility** to pivot should the future turn out differently than expected.

This is crucial in this current environment, where developers are less willing to share in cost risk which drives generation project costs higher for utility customers, with uncertainty around how much accreditation resources will receive from MISO to meet reliability requirements, or the direction of future greenhouse gas regulations.

In the short term, the plan maintains the F.B. Culley 2 interconnection, with possible 90 MW battery storage reuse and continues the demand side management programs. In the long-term and to be reevaluated in a future IRP, the plan calls for the conversion of A.B. Brown units 5 & 6 gas turbines to an efficient CCGT unit in 2034 to replace F.B. Culley 3 by 2035. The plan also calls for 50 MWs of battery storage in 2040 and 2045 to meet its planning reserve margin requirements.

Preferred Portfolio: **How Did We Get Here**

While current modeling suggests that replacement of F.B. Culley 3 coal with conversion of CEI South's two new CTs to a CCGT by 2030 could save customers money in the long run, locking in this option for CEI South's retail customers could increase bills in the near-term, increase risk, and reduce future flexibility. The conversion of these units would cost approximately $1 billion dollars or more and would likely be included in customer rates by 2030, costing customers up to $21 [1] more per month on average in the near term compared to the Preferred Portfolio which delays this decision. Affordability, one of the five pillars, is top of mind for CEI South and its customers following our recent rate case and has also been prominent within IRP stakeholder comments.

By slowing down the generation transition, customers should benefit from rate stability while preserving the flexibility—a critical capability in today's landscape—for CEI South to reevaluate F.B. Culley 3's fate in a future IRP. For example, in its previous IRP, CEI South had planned to convert F.B. Culley 3 to natural gas by 2027 with a continued renewables build out. However, just three years later, shifting external factors—such as reduced MISO accreditation for renewables, increased costs driven by market uncertainty, and diminished federal support following the rollback of key IRA tax incentives—have made this a more costly strategy relative to alternatives (14-17% higher).

Preferred Portfolio: **Overview**

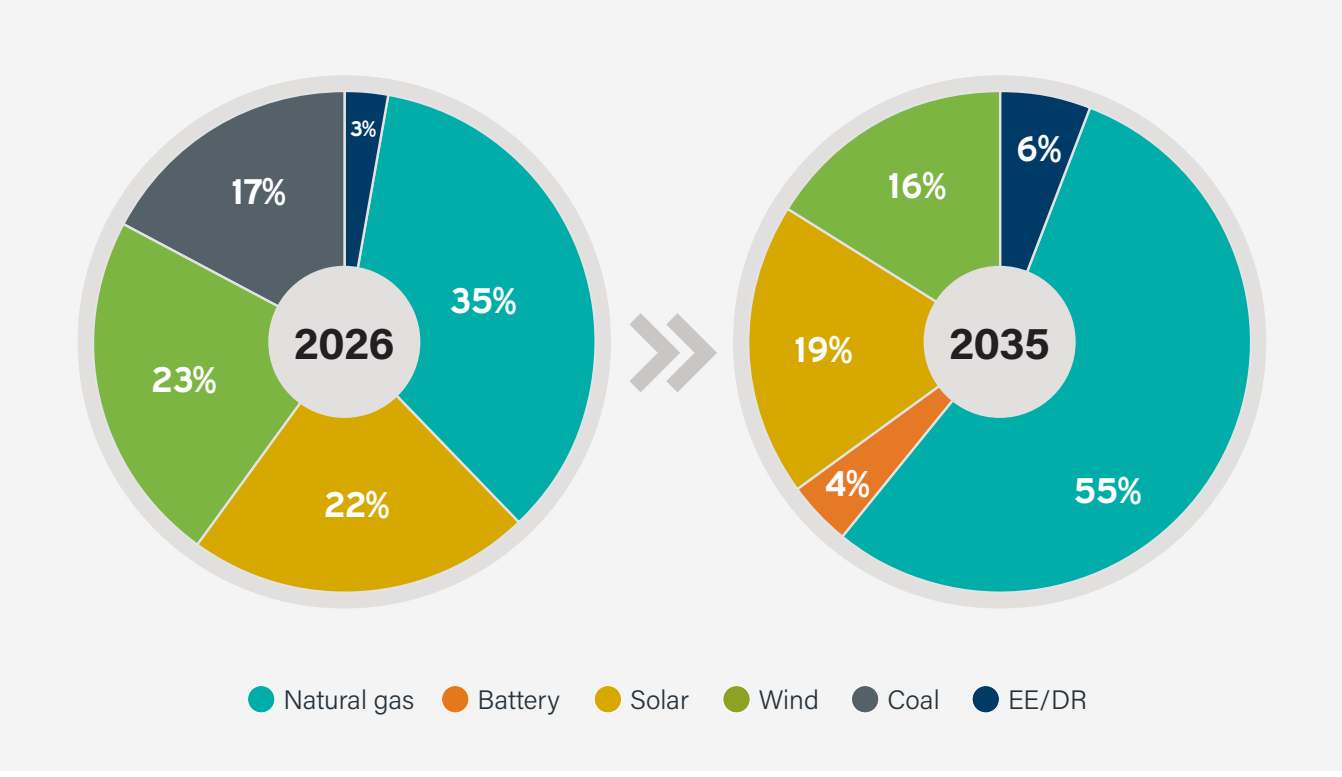
Between now and 2034, the Preferred Portfolio preserves the option to replace F.B. Culley 2 coal plant when it is suspended at the end of 2025 with a 90 MW battery storage unit by the end of 2028. CEI South will conduct another Request for Proposal ("RFP") to determine if the cost of this project has escalated from what was bid in the All-Source RFP and compare the cost to required capacity purchases. Based on the All-Source RFP, the cost of this battery is nearly identical to purchasing an equivalent amount of capacity on the market. Locking in capacity with a battery should help stabilize bills versus purchasing from a volatile capacity market that is expected to see rising prices as MISO's reserve margin continues to decline. It also helps maintain reliability with an on-system resource to help supply stored energy when it is needed most.

The Preferred Portfolio secures cost savings from wind and solar resources identified and acquired through previous IRPs, ahead of the repeal of IRA renewable energy tax incentives under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act ("OBBBA"). It also maintains operational flexibility by allowing F.B. Culley 3 to continue to run on coal, allowing time to reevaluate if conversion to natural gas or earlier retirement makes sense in a future IRP.

[1] *Not including expected offsetting sales revenues*

Preferred Portfolio: **Key Considerations**

CEI South's preferred resource plan reduces risk through continued diversification, lowers the cost to serve load over the next 20 years, and provides flexibility to evaluate and respond to future needs through subsequent IRPs.



The Preferred Portfolio has several advantages, including:

1. Among the least cost options, within **3% of the lowest cost portfolio** in the long term.
2. Provides near-term rate stability for **customer affordability** by delaying large capital investment.
3. Provides **affordable**, **reliable energy** with a well-balanced mix of **sustainable energy resources** and continued focus on demand side resources.
4. F.B. Culley 2 battery storage **enables avoidance of certain required capacity purchases**.

5. **Maximizes flexibility** to navigate unprecedented uncertainty; **minimizes risk**.

   - Delaying large capital investment also mitigates cost risk, as we live in very uncertain times. Current uncertainty is driving near-term price increases for various resources. It also helps reduce long-term price risk by allowing more time to better understand the direction of Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") greenhouse gas regulations. Over the last 16 years environmental regulations have flexed and retracted with each administration. It is possible that in the next administration an aggressive greenhouse gas regulation could materialize which could throttle how much an efficient combined cycle gas unit may run, or a more stringent environmental regulatory requirement is finalized that would significantly increase operating costs for a fossil-fuel fired generation unit.

   - Provides flexibility under a wide range of potential future legislative, regulatory, and market conditions. Maximum flexibility is important as demonstrated by the massive amount of change that has been experienced over the last decade. By proactively canceling high-cost renewable projects and securing affordable wind power purchase agreements, CEI South has taken decisive action to avoid increasing customer expenses. This forward-thinking strategy also strengthens CEI South's position ahead of MISO's upcoming accreditation reforms—reforms that are expected to significantly reduce the reliability value of certain resources, particularly solar. Additionally, pausing the conversion of F.B. Culley 3 and reevaluating under current market conditions preserves future flexibility at a lower near and long-term cost to our customers.

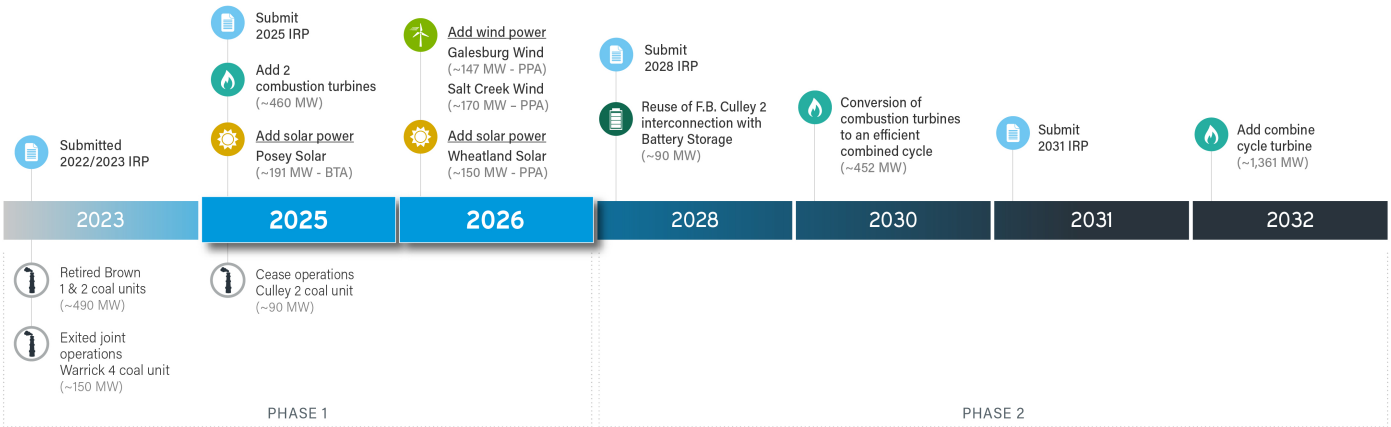
6. **Preserves tax base and jobs in Warrick County.** The replacement of F.B. Culley 2 with a battery storage system provides economic benefit to the community, whereas purchasing this needed capacity from the market does not. It is the equivalent of renting a home vs buying. Allowing F.B. Culley 3 to continue running in the near-term preserves tax base, benefiting the county while it continues to depreciate; it also maintains jobs associated with coal handling. Additionally, the facility uses Indiana-mined coal, preserving mining jobs and supporting the state's economy.

7. Maintains a base load generator on the east side of our system, providing **reliable**, **stable**, and **resilient power**.

   F.B. Culley Unit 3 continues to deliver essential voltage support to our community, providing valuable time for needed transmission expansion and offering flexibility as we await greater clarity on the future of nearby generation facilities that currently play a key role in grid stability.

8. Provides **flexibility** to serve a large load addition, should an **economic development** project materialize (See Alternate Preferred Portfolio).

Alternate Preferred Portfolio



The following Alternate Preferred Portfolio summary includes the process to identify the portfolio as well as an explanation of the planning process, all while focusing on CEI South's operations.

To maintain flexibility and stay nimble for potential economic development opportunities for southwestern Indiana, CEI South chose an **Alternate Preferred Portfolio** for a large load addition.

A large load addition scenario was created, starting at 250 MW and scaling up to 1,500 MWs in the early 2030s. Conversion of the new A.B. Brown CTs to a CCGT and F.B. Culley 2 battery storage become the most affordable options in the near-term to support the ramp. The Alternate Preferred Portfolio utilizes the interconnection at F.B. Culley 2 for a 90 MW battery storage unit by 2028 and continues demand side management programs.

Additionally, the plan calls for the conversion of A.B. Brown units 5 & 6 gas turbines to an efficient CCGT unit by 2030, continues F.B. Culley 3 on coal, and builds a large natural gas combined cycle unit by 2032 to support the large load addition. This build out is paired with near-term reliance on the market and aligns with system capabilities.

Alternate Preferred Portfolio: **How Did We Get Here**

Per stakeholder feedback, CEI South evaluated the potential for a large load addition that would scale over time. This scenario complements the multiple large load sensitivities conducted during the IRP and reflects insights gained from CEI South's ongoing conversations over the past several years with prospective customers across a range of industries. Commonly, CEI South is asked to determine how fast the system can be ready to accommodate a potential customer's business plan. Timelines have been compressed from what was considered normal in the past. These requests require CEI South's generation planning team to work closely with its transmission planning team. This scenario incorporates feedback from both teams, along with expert third party consultants to evaluate what is possible.

Alternate Preferred Portfolio: **Overview**

In the alternate reference case, all market conditions remain the same as reference case conditions, but load is increased by 250 MWs per year until the cumulative load reaches 1,500 MWs in the early 2030s. Load evaluations from prospective customers of this size were extremely uncommon for economic development projects in the past but are now approaching routine. CEI South selected the optimized, least cost model results as the Alternate Preferred Portfolio.

By including an Alternate Preferred Portfolio, CEI South is preserving necessary flexibility to quickly pivot, keeping southwestern Indiana competitive for economic development and growth. The Alternate Preferred Portfolio adds tax base and jobs to the community, not only from the prospective customer facility, but also from the infrastructure needed to support it. CEI South's analysis shows that generation near the site of the load is necessary to provide stability and avoid a large transmission outlay.

Alternate Preferred Portfolio: **Key Considerations**

The Alternate Preferred Portfolio:

- Preserves maximum future flexibility, keeping southwestern Indiana competitive for economic development and growth (Speed to market is important for most prospective customers),
- Adds tax base and jobs in our community, which helps all customers thrive,
- Aligns with Federal and State goals,
- Utilizes F.B. Culley 3 until replacement/conversion to natural gas is decided, and
- Adds efficient on-system base load generation for **reliability**, **stability** and **resilience**.

CEI South will continue to have ongoing conversations with prospective customers. At this point, no contract has been signed. As we prepare for this potential, CEI South will continue to evaluate possible timelines and costs necessary to serve. While the Alternate Preferred Portfolio provides a possible path, the resource mix to serve will be heavily influenced by a potential customer's need for low-cost power, along with other criteria important to the prospective customer. As such, CEI South modeled alternatives to aid in these conversations. CEI South will work to prioritize affordability for its existing customers and minimize future cost risk should conversations turn into negotiations/contracts.

CenterPoint Energy Overview

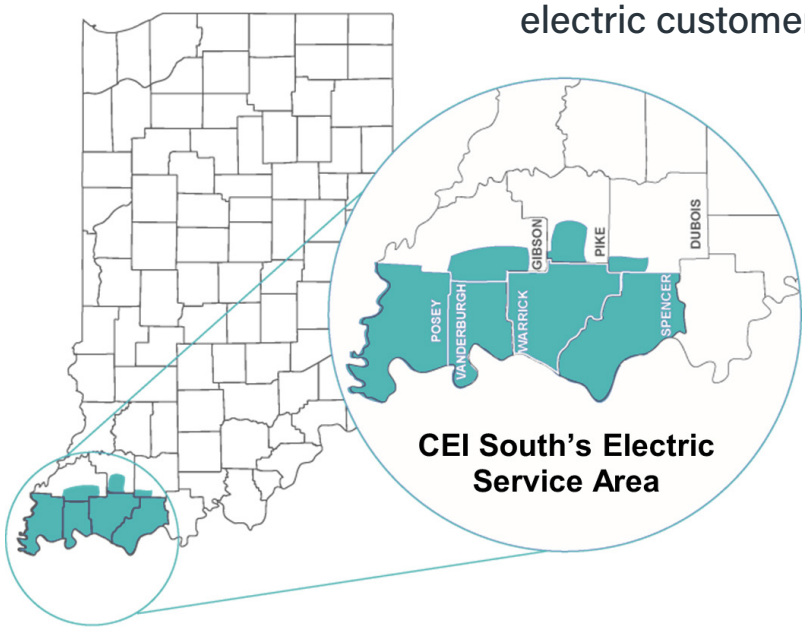
Provides energy delivery services to more than

150,000

electric customers

CEI South provides energy delivery services to more than 150,000 electric customers located near Evansville in southwestern Indiana. In 2024, approximately 45% of electric sales were made to large (primarily industrial) customers, 30% were made to residential customers, and 25% were made to small commercial customers.

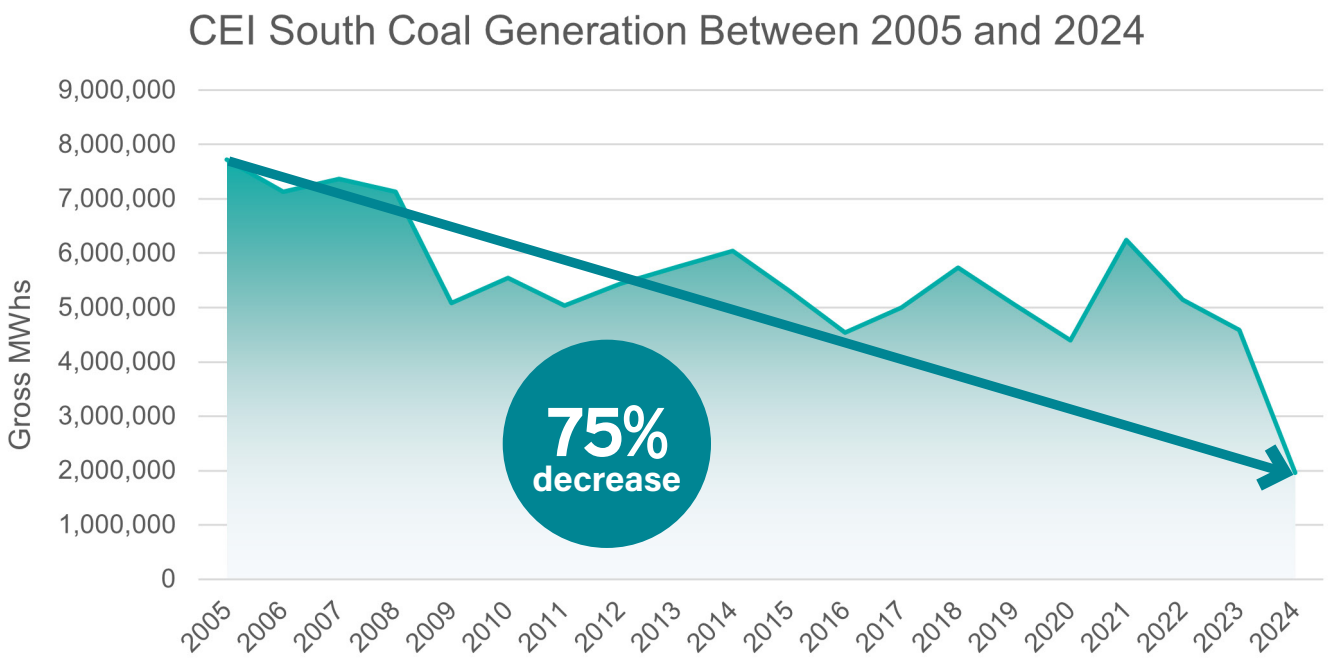
The table below shows CEI South generating units. Note that CEI South also offers customers energy efficiency programs to help lower customer energy usage and bills.



Unit [2]	Installed capacity ICAP (MW)	Primary Fuel	Unit in Service	Unit Retirement Date/Expiration	Unit Age	Coal Unit Environmental Controls [3]
F.B. Culley 2	90	Coal	1966	2025	59	Yes
F.B. Culley 3	270	Coal	1973	N/A	52	Yes
A.B. Brown 3	80	Gas	1991	N/A	34	
A.B. Brown 4	80	Gas	2002	N/A	23	
A.B. Brown 5	230	Gas	2025	N/A	<1	
A.B. Brown 6	230	Gas	2025	N/A	<1	
Blackfoot	3	Renewable Gas	2009	N/A	16	
Fowler Ridge	50	Wind PPA	2010	2029	15	
Benton County	30	Wind PPA	2007	2028	18	
Galesburg	147	Wind PPA	2026	N/A	N/A	
Salt Creek	170	Wind PPA	2026	N/A	N/A	
Troy	50	Solar	2021	N/A	4	
Posey	191	Solar	2025	N/A	<1	
Wheatland	150	Solar PPA	2026	N/A	N/A	
Volkman Rd	2	DG Solar + battery	2018	N/A	7	
Oakhill	2	DG Solar	2018	N/A	7	
Post House	<1	DG Solar	2020	N/A	5	

[2] CEI South has a 1.5% ownership share of Ohio Valley Electric Corporation ("OVEC") which equates to approximately 32 MW.
[3] Both Coal units are controlled for Sulfur Dioxide ("SO2"), Nitrogen Oxide ("NOx"), Particulate Matter (dust), and Mercury. F.B. Culley 3 is controlled for Sulfur Trioxide ("SO3") and Sulfuric Acid ("H2S04").

CEI South has largely moved away from coal, with the retirement of A.B. Brown units 1 & 2, exiting the joint operating agreement for Warrick 4, and the planned suspension of F.B. Culley 2 at the end of 2025.



These resources have been replaced with a diverse mix of wind, solar, energy efficiency, demand response, and gas resources. The current analysis demonstrates that customers receive a better balance of near-term and long-term affordability and reliability by continuing to evaluate the opportunity to replace CEI South's smallest and least efficient coal unit, F.B. Culley 2, with battery energy storage while deferring a decision on replacement of CEI South's last remaining coal unit that it operates, F.B. Culley 3, to a future IRP.

Integrated Resource Plan

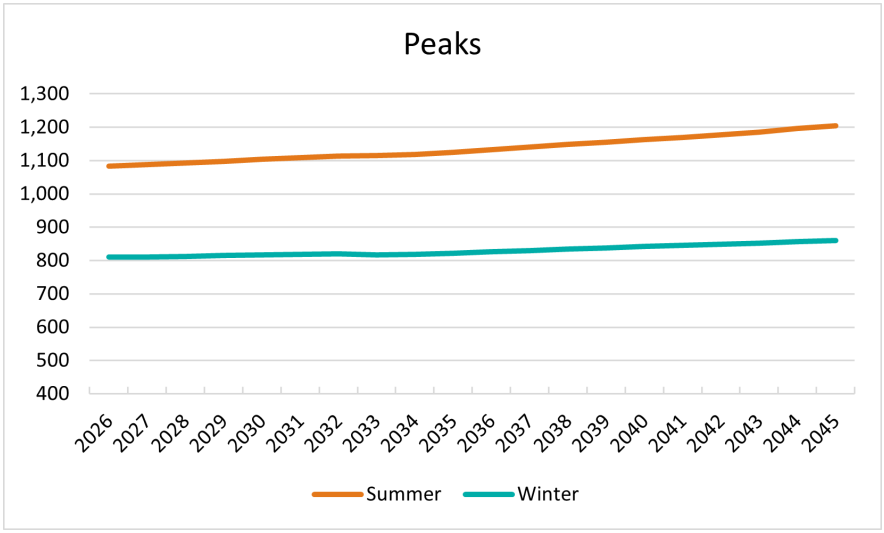
Every three years CEI South submits an IRP to the IURC as required. The IRP describes the analysis process used to evaluate the optimal mix of generation, storage, energy efficiency, and demand response resources (resource portfolio) to meet customers' needs for reliable, resilient, stable, affordable, and environmentally sustainable power ("the five pillars") over the next 20 years. The IRP helps set the direction for future generation and energy efficiency options. Future analysis, filings and subsequent approvals from the IURC are needed to implement selection of new resources.

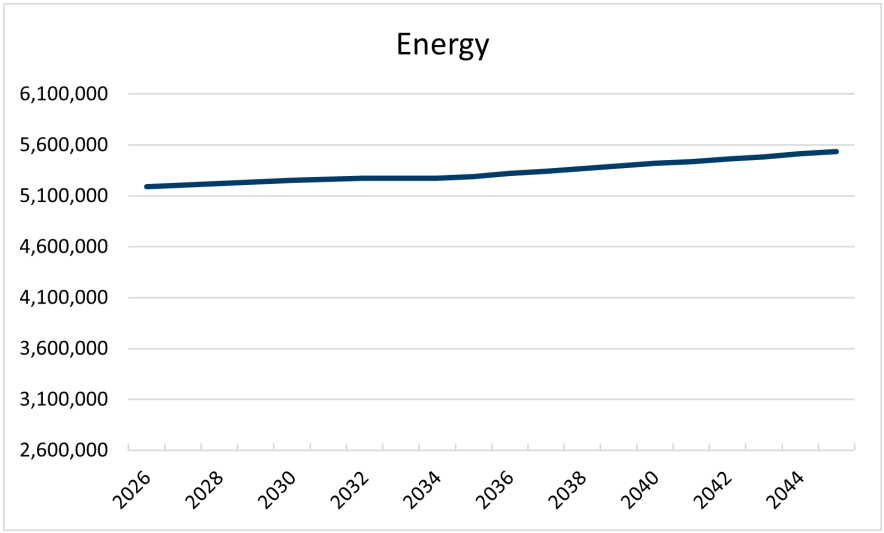
CEI South utilized direct feedback on analysis methodology, analysis inputs, and evaluation criteria from stakeholders, including but not limited to CEI South residential, commercial and industrial customers, regulators, elected officials, customer advocacy groups, trade associations and environmental advocacy groups. CEI South placed considerable emphasis on the five pillars, rate stability, risk, and resource diversity. The IRP process continues to increase in complexity as MISO continues to implement resource accreditation reforms to maintain reliability of the system that includes increased levels of renewable resources, battery energy storage, and natural gas resources to replace existing coal resources.

Customer Energy Needs

The IRP begins by evaluating customers' need for electricity over the 20-year planning horizon. CEI South worked with Itron, Inc., a leader in the energy forecasting industry, to develop a forecast of customer energy and demand requirements. Demand is the amount of power being consumed by customers at a given point in time, while energy is the amount of power being consumed over time. Demand is typically measured in Megawatts ("MW"), and energy is typically measured in Megawatt hours ("MWh"). Both are important considerations in the IRP. While CEI South purchases some power from the market, CEI South is required to have enough generation, demand side (energy efficiency and demand response), and storage resources available to meet expected customers' seasonal peak demand plus additional reserve resources to meet MISO's Planning Reserve Margin Requirement ("PRMR") for reliability. Reserve resources are necessary to minimize the chance of rolling black outs; moreover, as a MISO member, CEI South must comply with MISO's evolving rules to maintain reliability.

CEI South must meet customer demand in all hours of the year. This has become more challenging, as the regional resource mix changes towards intermittent (variable) renewable generation. MISO functions as the regional transmission operator for 15 midwestern and southern states, including Indiana (also parts of Canada). MISO evaluates how changes in the future resource mix impact reliability. Recently, they have received FERC approval to update the way resources are accredited to the Direct Loss of Load ("DLOL") methodology beginning in 2028, which is projected to have a substantial impact on solar accreditation in the summer and winter when load is at its highest. CEI South has accounted for this change and worked with stakeholders to develop a reasonable accreditation projection given the best available information. Later in this document it is further explained how MISO continues evaluating measures to help ensure year-round reliability.





CEI South utilizes sophisticated models to help determine energy needs for residential, commercial and large customers. These models include projections for the major drivers of energy consumption, including but not limited to, the economy, appliance efficiency trends, population growth, price of electricity, weather, specific changes in existing large customer demand and customer adoption of solar and electric vehicles.

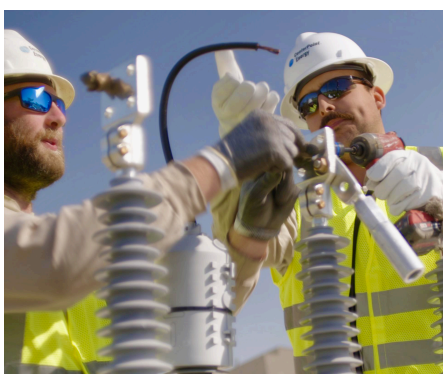
Overall, customer energy and summer peak demand, excluding energy efficiency, are expected to grow by **0.5% per year**. Winter peak demand grows at a slightly slower pace of **0.3% per year**.

Resource Options Considered

The next step in an IRP is identifying resource options to satisfy customers' anticipated need. Many resources were evaluated to meet customer energy needs over the next 20 years. CEI South considered both new and existing resource options. 1898 & Co., a well-respected engineering firm, conducted an All-Source RFP which generated 95 unique proposals to provide energy and capacity from a wide range of technologies, including: solar, solar + short duration battery storage, standalone short duration battery storage, bio-mass thermal, demand response, and wind. These project bids provided up-to-date, market-based information to inform the analysis. Additionally, CEI South utilized other information sources for long-term costs and operating characteristics for these resources and others over the entire 20-year period. Other options include continuation of existing F.B. Culley 3 coal unit, conversion of F.B. Culley 3 coal unit to natural gas, various other natural gas resources, conversion of A.B. Brown combustion turbines to a Combined Cycle Gas Turbine, hydro, landfill gas, and long-duration batteries.

Every IRP is a snapshot in time producing a direction based on the best-known information. It is helpful to provide some background into significant issues that help shape the IRP analysis, including but not limited to: the accelerated sunset of wind and solar tax incentives from the IRA with the passage of OBBBA, the rise of Artificial Intelligence ("AI") data centers and onshoring of industrial manufacturing driving unprecedented load growth, state and federal executive orders to maintain existing resources, continued increased costs for renewables projects, new technologies, and rapid changes in the MISO market to adapt and help enhance reliability.

- Battery storage
- Coal
- Energy efficiency/ Demand response
- Hydro electric
- Natural gas
- Nuclear
- Wind and solar



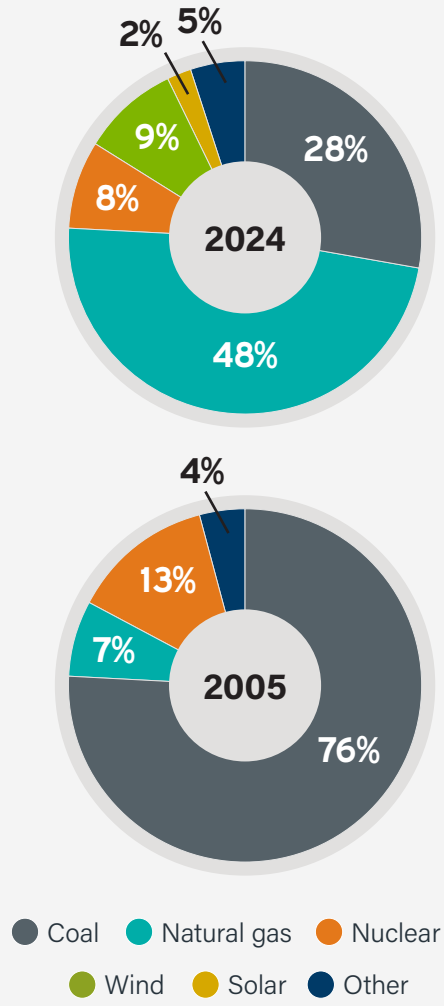
INDUSTRY TRANSITION

The transition to intermittent renewable resources within MISO has continued over the last several years, although at a slower pace. Until the pandemic, renewables costs declined rapidly due to improvements in technology and government incentives. This largely stalled and began an upward climb. Wind and solar resources continue to face increasing price pressure, interconnection delays, and decreasing accreditation from MISO. With the passage of OBBBA, renewable resource tax incentives sunset more quickly than under the IRA placing more pressure on renewable resources.

This comes as load growth to serve data centers supporting AI is projected to ramp very quickly over the next several years. Each data center can use enough energy to power a mid-sized city, and they require power twenty-four hours a day, necessitating dispatchable resources. Additionally, President Trump has made tariffs a core part of his second term. These tariffs are designed to incentivize manufacturing to come back to the United States, thus providing new economic development opportunities, particularly with industries related to national security. For example, his administration has focused on the steel and aluminum industries, which also bring the potential for extremely large loads.

To respond to this challenge, the federal government is working to slash regulations and maintain incentives for baseload (24x7 power) nuclear resources. Additionally, the state of Indiana has responded with incentives for these prospective customers and also with economic development incentives aimed at spurring development in small modular nuclear resources that can provide power intense data centers and large industrial facilities with zero carbon emitting resources, the first of which, in Indiana, is likely to come on-line in the early to mid-2030s.

MISO Energy Mix Transition
from 2005 - 2024



In the near-term, gas resources are seeing unprecedented demand from utilities to meet increasing near-term load obligations. Installed capacity of wind and solar resources is expected to continue to increase within the MISO footprint, although more slowly than even a few years ago. Within the MISO footprint, energy from gas generation has increased from less than 10% of total electric generation in 2005, used primarily to meet the needs during peak demand conditions, to approximately 48% of total generation in 2024.[4] Meanwhile, coal has declined but still supplies a little more than a quarter of the energy need within MISO, followed by wind at 9%, nuclear at 8%, and solar at 2%.

[4] *MISO 2024 State of the Market Report, Potomac Economics, June 2025, page 6 https://cdn.misoenergy.org/2021 State of the Market Report625295.pdf https://www.potomaceconomics.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/2024-MISO-SOM_Report_Body_Final.pdf*

The move toward renewables and gas energy has come at the expense of coal generation, which has been rapidly retiring for several reasons. Coal plants have not been able to consistently compete on short term marginal price with renewable and gas energy. Operationally, the move toward intermittent renewable energy requires coal plants to more frequently cycle on and off. These plants were not designed to operate in this manner. The result is increased maintenance costs and more frequent outages. Older, inefficient coal plants are being retired to avoid spending significant dollars on necessary upgrades to achieve compliance with EPA regulations. Finally, public and investor pressure, coupled with future cost risk associated with the objective of decreasing carbon emissions, has also driven unit retirements.

While coal has been declining, it remains an important source of power for our grid, particularly as this capacity-rich resource has seen an uptick in market capacity revenues. Additionally, President Trump has written executive orders aimed at supporting the coal industry in an attempt to preserve remaining plants. With these market changes, coupled with increasing costs for renewable and gas resources, we are more likely to see some coal units remain online longer than they otherwise would have.

CHANGING MARKET RULES TO HELP ENSURE RELIABILITY

MISO recognizes the major changes in the way energy is being produced. Traditionally, baseload coal plants produced energy at a constant level around the clock, while peaking gas plants were available to come online as needed to meet peak demand. Gradual increases and decreases in energy demand throughout the day and seasonally were easily managed with these traditional resources. As described above, the energy landscape is continuing its rapid change with increased adoption of more intermittent renewable generation which is available when the sun is shining, or the wind is blowing. This creates much more variability by hour in energy production. Some periods will have overproduction (more energy produced than is needed at the time) and other periods will have low-to-no renewable energy production, requiring dispatchable resources to meet real-time demand for power. MISO has recognized the region's energy landscape continues to evolve toward a complex, less predictable future.

Some of the challenges MISO faces are resources that are primarily weather dependent, less predictable weather, less predictable resource outages, and increasing electric load. To maintain reliability with a changing mix of resources, there is an increased importance of ensuring that adequate attributes are available from the fleet such as ramp capability, long duration energy at high output, and fuel assurance. To ensure reliability is maintained, MISO implemented a seasonal resource adequacy construct beginning with the 2023/2024 planning year that focuses on meeting system demand in all hours as opposed to planning for meeting the summer peak demand. As part of the seasonal construct, thermal resource accreditation has shifted from an Equivalent Forced Outage Rate Demand ("EFORd") approach to one that accredits resources based on historical availability during tight operating hours. Accreditation for renewable resources continues to be challenged as MISO received approval to further revise the accreditation approach in 2028 with the introduction of DLOL methodology. The move to DLOL is expected to most affect renewable resources, particularly solar. For example, solar resources were expected to provide about 25% or more of their total installed capacity to cover MISO's reliability requirement. This is expected to drop over time to approximately 5% or below in the summer, CEI South's tightest season. The practical effect is that more capacity will be needed when fully implemented.

Also, MISO continues to study how demand response resources will be accredited. To date, these reforms have provided more certainty that demand response will be there when called upon; however, there is a much higher bar than in the recent past for industrial customers to participate with annual testing and required faster response times to remain a participant in these programs. MISO reforms will continue as reserve margins continue to tighten and increasingly include intermittent renewable resources that make it more difficult to maintain acceptable voltage and thermal limits on the grid than traditional, dispatchable resources.

CEI South has accounted for these changes by incorporating the seasonal construct and DLOL accreditation approach into the Encompass model, and the portfolios in this analysis provide sufficient resources to meet its MISO obligations in all four seasons with limited capacity purchases. Additionally, CEI South analyzed the thermal limits of equipment along with the voltage and reactive power needs of the system for various portfolio options and identified mitigations.

BATTERY STORAGE AND TRANSMISSION RESOURCES

To support greater reliance on intermittent renewable resources, utilities are increasingly considering the opportunity to add battery storage to resource portfolios to help provide availability and flexibility. Lithium-ion ("L-ion") batteries have seen significant cost declines over the last several years as the technology begins to mature. In fact, 2024 All-Source RFP bids for battery storage to replace F.B. Culley 2 as a potential CEI South resource were cost effective for the first time.

There are many applications for this resource, from shifting the use of renewable generation from time of generation to the time of need, to grid support for maintaining the reliability of the transmission system. CEI South has experience operating a 1 MW battery designed to capture energy from an adjacent solar project. This pilot project has provided information that will be helpful in moving forward with a much larger project. The 90 MW battery will be available to discharge energy for four hours and will be available for energy arbitrage and meeting peak load conditions.

Uncertainty/Risk

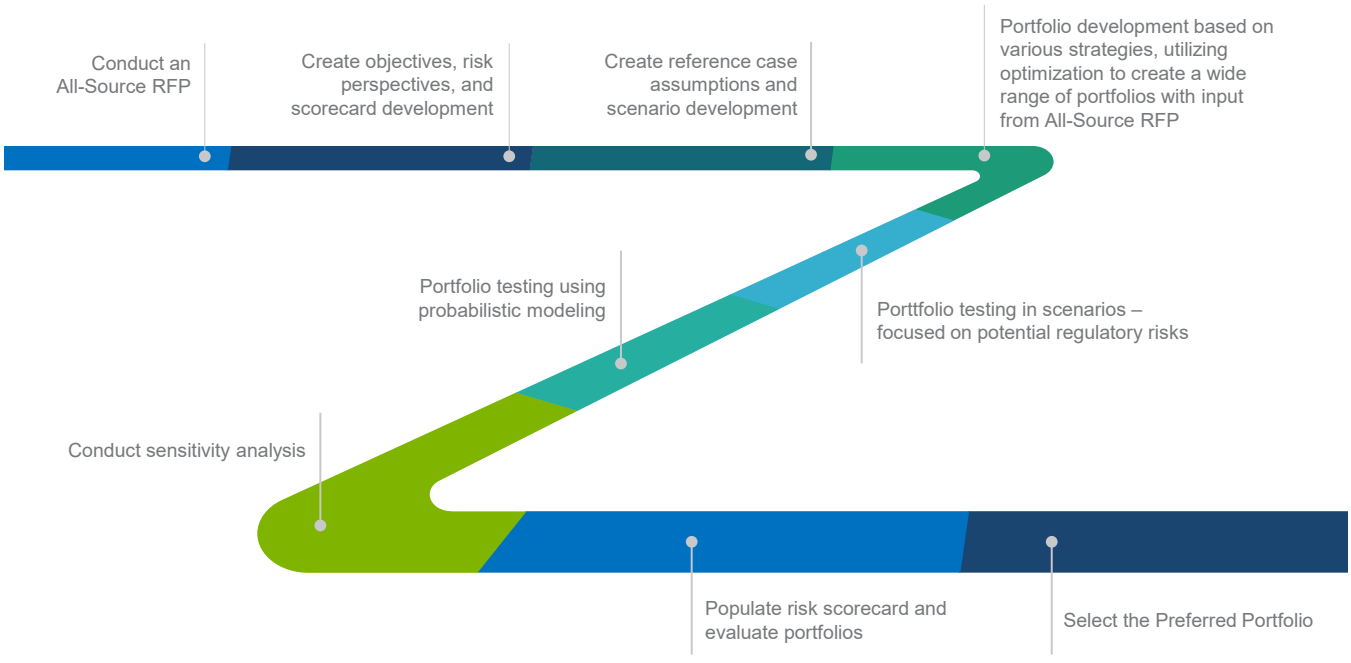
As demonstrated over the past few years, the future is far from certain. Uncertainty creates a risk that a generation portfolio that is reasonable under an anticipated future fails to perform as expected if the future turns out differently. CEI South's IRP analysis was developed to identify the preferred resource portfolio mix of generation and demand side resources to serve customer energy needs over a wide range of possible future states. CEI South worked with 1898 & Co. to perform two sets of modeling to contribute to the risk analyses, one exposing a defined set of portfolios to a limited number of scenarios and another that exposed the same portfolios to 200 scenarios (stochastic or probabilistic risk assessment). To help better understand the wide range of possibilities for wholesale market dynamics, regulations, technological breakthroughs and shifts in the economy, complex models were utilized with varying assumptions for major inputs (commodity price forecasts, energy/demand forecasts, market power prices, etc.) to develop and test portfolios with diverse resource mixes. Additionally, the risk analysis included sensitivities and qualitative judgement.

Analysis

CEI South's analysis included a step-by-step process to identify the Preferred Portfolio. The graphic below summarizes the major steps which included the following:

1. Conducted an **All-Source RFP** to better understand resource cost and availability.
2. Worked with stakeholders to develop a **scorecard** as a tool in the full risk analysis to help highlight several tradeoffs among various portfolios of resources.
3. Worked with stakeholders to develop a wide range of **future states**, called scenarios, to be used for testing of portfolios (mixes of various resource combinations to serve customer power and energy need).
4. Worked with stakeholders to develop a wide range of **portfolios** for testing and evaluation within scenarios, sensitivity analysis and probabilistic analysis. Each of these analyses involves complex modeling.
5. Conducted a **risk analysis,** including deterministic and probabilistic modeling with sensitivity analysis.
6. Utilized the **quantitative scorecard measures** and **judgment** to select the Preferred Portfolio (the best mix of resources to reliably and affordably serve customer energy needs while minimizing known risks and maintaining flexibility).

Analysis Process



Stakeholder Process

As in the last IRP, each of the last three stakeholder meetings began with stakeholder feedback. CEI South reviewed requests/comments from the prior stakeholder meeting and provided feedback. Suggestions were taken, and in instances where suggestions were not acted upon, CEI South explained why not. Notes for each meeting were included in question-and-answer format, summarizing the conversations. Additionally, feedback was received, and questions were answered via e-mail (IRP@CenterPointEnergy.com) and with phone calls/meetings in between each public stakeholder meeting by request.

While maintaining the virtual option to participate, CEI South thought it was important to continue face-to-face meetings. All stakeholder meetings were held at CEI South in Evansville, Indiana, with a virtual option for those that could not travel to southwestern Indiana or did not wish to participate in person. Dates and topics covered are listed below.

CEI South held a series of technical meetings with stakeholder groups willing to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement ("NDA") and participate in ongoing tech-to-tech conversations about critical assumptions related to the analysis, including all significant modeling assumptions. These meetings, along with a data release schedule, helped keep technical stakeholders informed throughout the process and provided an opportunity to engage with CEI South in a way that is not always possible during public stakeholder meetings.

CEI South also incorporated feedback from the Director's report on its previous IRP, along with insights from the annual Contemporary Issues Conference hosted by the IURC. The 2025 Conference topics proved especially timely - highlighting considerations for large load coordination and planning. Discussions underscored the importance of flexibility and preparation to account for the impacts of large load within our planning process. Careful consideration was taken to ensure that the time spent was mutually beneficial to all parties involved.

Based on this stakeholder engagement, CEI South made fundamental changes to the analysis in real-time to address concerns and strengthen the plan. IRP inputs and several of the evaluation measures used to help determine the Preferred Portfolio were updated through this process. CEI South held meetings with interested stakeholders willing to sign an NDA ahead of and in between public stakeholder meetings. This, along with providing modeling inputs, helped to allow for a more productive dialogue throughout the process. CEI South appreciates the time and attention provided by each group that participated in this process.

CEI South utilized stakeholder information to create boundary conditions that were wide enough to produce plausible future conditions that would favor opposing resource portfolios, including the addition of a possible future, the alternate high regulatory scenario. CEI South updated the scorecard to measure risks in each of the five pillars (Affordability, Environmental Sustainability, Reliability, Resiliency, Stability) with a separate section for other market risks. Per the Director's report, CEI South added the 5th percentile of Net Present Value Revenue Requirements ("NPVRR"). CEI South worked closely with stakeholders to consider relevant risks to be included within the scorecard, adding an affordability metric (electric energy burden) that illustrated the 5-10 year incremental impact to energy burden (incremental residential bill impact in 2030 and 2035 divided by Vanderburgh County median household income). This measure highlights near to mid-term price pressure that customers may face for each portfolio. Additionally, CEI South added measures for Dynamic VAR Support ("MVAR") and Short Circuit Ratio ("SCR") from its updated transmission reliability analysis. CEI South also added SOx and NOx emissions and capacity sales/purchases to the scorecard. Adjustments were also made to modeling inputs and assumptions based on direct stakeholder feedback. The following table shows key stakeholder requests made during the process and CEI South's response.

Topic	Stakeholder Comments/Feedback	CEI South Updates/ Responses
Scorecard	Under the Environmental Sustainability Objective: Remove CO_2 intensity, keep CO2-e tons	CEI South believes that there is value in keeping CO_2 intensity, as well as CO_2-e metrics. CO_2 intensity allows the reader to compare CO_2 levels across scenarios.
Scorecard	Include metrics for SOx and NOx	CEI South has added metrics that includes combined tons of SOx and NOx.
Scorecard	Under the Affordability Objective: consider adding an energy burden calculation	CEI South proposes to add electric energy burden, defined as the 5-Year [5] residential rate impact as of July 1, 2025 divided by the Vanderburgh County Median Household Income.
Resource Options	Are the Demand Response proposals subject to discussion/change with Demand Side Management (DSM) Oversight Board	CEI South continues to discuss Demand Response with members of the DSM Oversight Board
Resource Options	Is CEI South considering what the resource mix could be if a resource incentive (updated EDG rate) is included in the IRP?	CEI South is conducting a sensitivity considering a $500 per kW incentive for Distributed Generation solar resource.
Load Forecast	Provide a breakout of peaks by customer class	See graph in 3/19/2025 Stakeholder meeting notes posted at www.centerpointenergy.com/irp
Load Forecast	Why is CEI South using historical rather than forecast temperature, e.g., Purdue University temperature forecast?	CEI South used a linear projection of temperature based on historical data; it is not significantly different from the Purdue University study for the IRP period.
Load Forecast	Requested CEI South to revisit the estimated 12,000 miles for EVs used in the forecast	Itron EV assumption for reference forecast. The 12,000 miles per year for EVs was revised to 9,500 miles per year. This revision is noted in the 5/14/2025 Stakeholder meeting slides

[5] *CEI South ultimately added a 5 and 10 year incremental energy burden per stakeholder request.*

Topic	Stakeholder Comments/Feedback	CEI South Updates/ Responses
Load Forecast	Does the EV charging profile used for CEI South's load forecast account for remote work at home?	The NREL tool, EVI-Pro, documentation does not specifically state any assumptions regarding work from home. The "EVHome" charging profile on slide 61 of the 3/19/2025 stakeholder slides includes some level of charging between 11am-2pm. (slides posted at www.centerpointenergy.com/irp)
Load Forecast	Does CenterPoint have plans to electrify its fleet?	CenterPoint does have plans to electrify its fleet - please see the following link https://sustainability.centerpointenergy.com/energy-transition-goals/fleet/
Commodity Inputs	Does the natural gas forecast assume increased drilling under the current administration?	At this time, CEI South is uncertain how the current administration's policies will affect natural gas prices. Our vendors consider multiple factors when developing commodity forecasts. Utilizing a consensus forecast is an approach CEI South has taken in previous IRPs. These various perspectives allow us to capture the diversity in opinions for future market prices.
Generation Timeline	Regarding Salt Creek Wind, is this project going to service CenterPoint customers or just provide power to the MISO grid as accredited power? If it's going to be service to CenterPoint customers, what kind of transmission loss are you expecting since the power is coming from Iowa?	Please see Witness Swanson's public testimony in Cause No. 46218.
Objectives & Draft Measures	Will the electric energy burden separate electrically heated homes from gas heated homes, or will those be combined in the aggregate?	We'll look at both the customers with electrically heated homes and the customers with gas heated homes. However, either view will show the same relative difference among portfolios.

Topic	Stakeholder Comments/Feedback	CEI South Updates/ Responses
Scenarios	Suggest adding an option where load stays at base. In this scenario, generation capital costs could still be high.	CEI South conducted a lower load sensitivity analysis to evaluate how lower load may impact the scenario(s). An update is included in today's (9/11/2025) Stakeholder meeting.
Scenarios	When looking between high regulatory and alternative high regulatory, can you potentially do the same with low regulatory (an alternative low regulatory with low load)?	CEI South conducted a lower load sensitivity analysis to evaluate how lower load may impact the scenario(s). An update is included in today's (9/11/2025) Stakeholder meeting.
Supply-Side Resource	Can CEIS incorporate real coal price offers made to CenterPoint. The uncertainty variable is not the mining cost as much as the demand.	Due to the confidential and competitive nature of CEIS's contractual coal price this was discussed during the 8/20/2025 Tech to Tech meeting
Supply-Side Resource	How many bids did CEIS receive for storage?	There were 17 standalone storage bids. The 2024 All-Source RFP results were shared during the 3/19/2025 Stakeholder meeting. The presentation is available here: CenterPointEnergy.com/IRP.
Supply-Side Resource	Is CEIS accounting for all costs and benefits, including considerations such as health costs? Will these other benefits be incorporated into the IRP?	Health costs are captured within EPA regulations that are included in the applicable scenarios.
Supply-Side Resource	Has CEIS considered the water pressure nuclear option, such as the Westinghouse AP1000?	The general nuclear option included in the Tech Assessment is representative of a variety of future nuclear options. If you have information regarding technology performance or costs that you would like to see in the model, please email IRP@CenterPointEnergy.com

Topic	Stakeholder Comments/Feedback	CEI South Updates/ Responses
MPS	For the battery storage program, without large enough penetration of batteries, it's hard for benefits to outweigh the costs. Could we look at a battery storage equipment incentive?	We performed cost-effectiveness screening using a range of incentives and adoption rates. In all scenarios the Utility Cost Test ratio was less than 1, which is not cost-effective. Results are included in today's (9/11/2025) Stakeholder meeting.
MPS	For EVs, are customers bringing their own device for the charger? Would customers have to use specific technology to participate?	We are assuming that the customer would supply their own charger, and CenterPoint would provide an incentive to join the program, as well as an annual participation incentive. A managed charging program would require some sort of network connection, which could include Wi-Fi, cellular, or a wired connection. A specific technology would not be required, as control could happen through the charger or telematics through the EVs
MPS	Some DR measures like batteries and water heaters can be used for other grid services (ancillary services, resilience) – how are these benefits being considered in developing levelized costs and/or accounted for in the IRP? Is it possible to treat these like T&D benefits and reduce from the cost side?	When performing cost-effectiveness screening, the benefits include the avoided energy, capacity, and T&D. Resilience and ancillary services have not been a benefit of Demand Response captured in the IRP analysis.
Model Inputs	Is CEIS going to include Scope 3 emissions?	Scope 3 emissions are outside the scope of the IRP as it's related to emissions of the end-user and separate from electricity generation.

Topic	Stakeholder Comments/Feedback	CEI South Updates/ Responses
Model Inputs	Since CEIS is considering nuclear, does CEIS want to run a stochastic process for uranium?	We are currently using publicly available data sources for uranium pricing forecasts. Uranium pricing is not expected to be a major differentiator in the portfolio risk assessment when compared with other cost drivers. Given this, we do not anticipate that running a stochastic process for uranium will materially change the outcomes of the analysis.
Model Inputs	Is CEIS planning to use the MISO published 2025/2026 indicative DLOL results for the solar and wind accreditation assumptions?	We have revised the accreditation values to interpolate between the first season of DLOL and 2035. Providing a smoother shift in accreditation. Revised Solar and Wind capacity accreditation forecasts are included in the 9/11/2025 presentation's Appendix.
Model Inputs	Recommendation to analyze two DER resource portfolios, Distributed Capacity Procurement (DCP) and Virtual Power Plants (VPPs) in CEI South's 2025 IRP	CEI South's evaluated demand response programs that align with the intent of both DCP and VPP programs as well as a DG Solar incentive during the IRP process. Updates on the evaluations are included in today's (9/11/2025) Stakeholder meeting.
Modeling	Scenario Portfolios – Explain why manual modifications applied to scenario portfolios to align with the Reference Case load	1898 & Co. posted documentation to the IRP File Share site for technical stakeholders. However, following Stakeholder feedback, CEI South decided to remove the manual modification.
Modeling	Scenario Portfolios – Request to re-run the capacity expansion simulation instead of the production cost simulation	1898 & Co. posted documentation to the IRP File Share site for technical stakeholders. However, following Stakeholder feedback, CEI South decided to remove the manual modification.

Topic	Stakeholder Comments/Feedback	CEI South Updates/ Responses
Modeling	Scenario Portfolios – Request to share documentation illustrating manual modifications made to the scenario portfolios	1898 & Co. posted documentation to the IRP File Share site for technical stakeholders. However, following Stakeholder feedback, CEI South decided to remove the manual modification.
Modeling	Build Limits – Request for CEI South to consider running scenarios with relaxed limits	CEI South ran a simulation and chose to relax limits to allow more resources to be selected within the capacity expansion model.
Modeling	Consider a study with FB Culley 3 retiring in 2030	Given the unprecedented amount of uncertainty at this time and future transmission upgrades that will help with system reliability and resilience, it would not be prudent to consider retirement prior to 2031/2032, as is being considered within this IRP.
Affordability Measure	Request for energy burden calculation	CEI South will make the energy burden workpaper available to technical stakeholders with a signed NDA.
Rates	Request to provide guidance on bill itemization	Please see the CenterPoint website, where is shows an explanation of the bills. https://www.centerpointenergy.com/en-us/residential/customer-service/resource-hub/understanding-your-bill?sa=in

Meeting materials for each meeting can be found at **CenterPointEnergy.com/IRP** and in Technical Appendix Attachment 4.2 Stakeholder Materials.

Next Steps

CEI South's flexible plan provides two paths forward, depending on what the future holds. If a large load customer agreement is not made prior to the next IRP in 2028, CEI South will move forward with the Preferred Portfolio. With this path, there are a few items that must be done in the short-term action plan.

First, CEI South will continue to implement the generation transition that was identified in prior IRPs. CEI South is currently pursuing three renewable projects that are scheduled to be online in 2026: 147 MW Galesburg Wind (approved PPA), 150 MW Wheatland Solar (approved PPA), and 170 MW Salt Creek Wind (approved PPA). These projects will continue to diversify CEI South's generation mix.

Secondly, CEI South will conduct two RFPs to determine current pricing for capacity and battery storage for replacement of F.B. Culley 2 interconnection in the next three years. Having run past its useful life, F.B. Culley unit 2 (coal) is slated for suspension at the end of this year. FERC rules allow for replacement of the interconnection within 3 years of suspension. CEI South will continue to evaluate the proper path forward with consideration for Indiana's five pillars. Should CEI South choose to reutilize the interconnection, it will seek approval in a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPCN") before the IURC and modify its Attachment Y with MISO to an Attachment X.

Third, CEI South will file for a DSM plan, consistent with the results of the Preferred Portfolio.

Finally, CEI South will continue to engage with economic development opportunities to help strengthen southwestern Indiana. Should a large load addition materialize, CEI South would diligently work to implement its Alternate Preferred Portfolio that would potentially require multiple CPCNs and approval of a contract with the IURC. These filings will be consistent with the Preferred Portfolio paths. However, the assumptions included in any IRP can change over time, causing possible changes to resource planning. Changes in commodities, regulations, political policies, customer need and other assumptions could warrant deviations from the Preferred Portfolio.

CEI South's plan must be flexible, as several items are not certain at this time, including but not limited to: MISO DLOL, EPA greenhouse gas regulations, cost of resources, policy change, the potential for large load additions, and regulatory risk.