### BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

) ) )

)

In the Matter of the Application of NextEra
Energy Transmission Southwest, LLC for a
Certificate of Public Convenience and
Necessity to Construct, Install, Own, Operate,
Maintain, and Otherwise Control and Manage
a 345 kV Transmission Line and associated
facilities in Barton and Jasper Counties,
Missouri

Case No. EA-2022-0234

### **COMPLIANCE FILING**

Pursuant to the December 8, 2022 Order Approving Settlement issued in Docket No. EA-2022-0234, NextEra Energy Transmission Southwest, LLC ("NEET Southwest") hereby submits its quarterly update on the construction progress of the Wolf Creek-Blackberry 345 kV Transmission Project that spans Barton and Jasper counties in Missouri, as well as five counties in Kansas.

Pursuant to the Protective Order in this docket, certain information in the attached Compliance Filing has been marked as Highly Confidential as it contains information that is competitively sensitive for the purpose of future bidding for transmission facilities.

NEET Southwest has not yet commenced construction activities in earnest, but in the interest of transparency and to ensure compliance with the Commission's reporting requirements, NEET Southwest is hereby filing this quarterly update.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See Case No. EA-2022-0234, Unopposed Settlement Agreement, ¶ 28 (November 7, 2022). NEET Southwest is also required to file annual outage reports pursuant to Paragraph 30 of the Unopposed Settlement Agreement. Such annual reports will be filed after the Wolf Creek to Blackberry Project begins operation.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Andrew O. Schulte Anne E. Callenbach (#56028) Andrew O. Schulte (#62194) Polsinelli PC 900 W. 48th Place, Suite 900 Kansas City MO 64112 (816) 572-4760 acallenbach@polsinelli.com aschulte@polsinelli.com

ATTORNEYS FOR NEXTERA ENERGY TRANSMISSION SOUTHWEST, LLC

### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the above document was filed in EFIS on this 30th day of January,

2024, and electronically delivered to all counsel of record.

#### Missouri Public Service Commission

Staff Counsel Department 200 Madison Street, Suite 800 P.O. Box 360 Jefferson City, MO 65102 staffcounselservice@psc.mo.gov

#### Office of the Public Counsel Marc Poston 200 Madison Street, Suite 650 P.O. Box 2230 Jefferson City, MO 65102

opcservice@opc.mo.gov

#### Office of the Public Counsel Nathan Williams 200 Madison Street, Suite 650 P.O. Box 2230 Jefferson City, MO 65102 nathan.williams@opc.mo.gov

#### **Evergy Missouri Metro**

James M Fischer 101 Madison Street, Suite 400 Jefferson City, MO 65101 jfischerpc@aol.com

### **Evergy Missouri Metro**

Roger W Steiner 1200 Main Street, 16th Floor P.O. Box 418679 Kansas City, MO 64105-9679 roger.steiner@evergy.com

Evergy Missouri West James M Fischer 101 Madison Street, Suite 400 Jefferson City, MO 65101 jfischerpc@aol.com

#### Evergy Missouri West Roger W Steiner 1200 Main Street, 16th Floor P.O. Box 418679 Kansas City, MO 64105-9679 roger.steiner@evergy.com

Liberty (Empire) Diana C Carter 428 E. Capitol Avenue, Ste. 303 Jefferson City, MO 65101 <u>Diana.Carter@LibertyUtilities.c</u> om

#### Missouri Public Service Commission Ron Irving 200 Madison Street, Suite 800 P.O. Box 360 Jefferson City, MO 65102 ron.irving@psc.mo.gov

#### NextEra Energy Transmission Southwest, LLC Andrew O Schulte Anne E Callenbach 900 W. 48th Place, Suite 900 Kansas City, MO 64112 acallenbach@polsinelli.com aschulte@polsinelli.com

Southwest Power Pool, Inc. Terry M Jarrett 306 Monroe St. Jefferson City, MO 65101 terry@healylawoffices.com

Southwest Power Pool, Inc. Heather H Starnes 12 Perdido Circle Little Rock, AR 72211 heather@healylawoffices.com

/s/ Andrew O. Schulte



January 30, 2024

Nancy Dippell, Secretary Missouri Public Service Commission 200 Madison Street, P.O. Box 360 Jefferson City, MO 65102

RE: EA-2022-0234 NextEra Energy Transmission Southwest, LLC

Dear Hon. Dippell:

Pursuant to the December 8, 2022 *Order Approving Settlement* issued in Docket No. EA-2022-0234 ("Order"), NextEra Energy Transmission Southwest, LLC ("NEET Southwest") hereby submits its quarterly update on the construction progress of the NEET Southwest Wolf Creek-Blackberry 345 kV Transmission Project that spans Barton and Jasper counties in Missouri, as well as five counties in Kansas ("Project").

## **GENERAL OVERVIEW**

NEET Southwest has continued to advance the development of the Project in the fourth quarter of 2023. NEET Southwest is continuing to advance land acquisition activities, as well as negotiation of necessary agreements with Barton and Jasper counties, and has not yet commenced construction activities. NEET Southwest's primary efforts in the fourth quarter of 2023 have included:

- Completed voluntary negotiations with landowners
- Barton and Jasper counties have signed and executed the Road Use Agreements and Construction Mitigation Payments
- Continuing to negotiate Interconnection Agreements with Evergy Kansas Central, Inc. ("Evergy") and Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc. ("AECI")

## PROJECT DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

NEET Southwest continues to utilize an experienced team made up of internal and external subject matter experts to develop and execute the Project.

## CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS UPDATE

The Project has not commenced construction in earnest at this time and has experienced zero safety incidents to date. However, the project contractor has mobilized on pre-construction activities such as tree clearing and building laydown yards.

## **REGULATORY UPDATE**

## FERC

NEET Southwest has not made any filings with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") in the fourth quarter 2023.

## **Southwest Power Pool**

NEET Southwest is continuing to negotiate Transmission Interconnection Agreements with AECI and Southwest Power Pool, Inc. ("SPP") for interconnection of the Project to the Blackberry Substation in Missouri, and with Evergy and SPP for interconnection to the Wolf Creek Substation in Kansas.

## Agreements with Missouri Jurisdictional Public Utilities

NEET Southwest has not signed any agreements with Missouri-jurisdictional public utilities at this time.

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

## **Project Budget – Highly Confidential**

The following is the estimated total budget for the Project. These estimates are subject to change as the Project continues to advance, including conducting preliminary engineering and determining the timing of materials procurement and construction planning.

The current total estimate for the Project,

# Spend to Date – Highly Confidential

As of January 1, 2024 NEET Southwest has spent a total of approximately \$	on the
development of the Project, which includes	

Cost Category	Amount Expected to Have Been Spent to Date	Amount Spent to Date	Explanation of Increase and/or Decrease in Budget
Total costs	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>	

# LAND UPDATE AND LANDOWNER COMMUNICATIONS

### **Easements Obtained**

As of January 30, 2024, NEET Southwest has obtained the following numbers of parcels in Kansas and Missouri:

State	Obtained	<b>Total Parcels</b>	Percentage Obtained
Kansas	237	256	92.6%
Missouri	21	26	80.8%
Total	258	282	91.5.4%

## Landowner Contacts and Communications

NEET Southwest's land representatives from Doyle Land Services ("Doyle"), working on behalf of NEET Southwest, have been contacting landowners directly by phone and email, as well as through in-person meetings at the request of the landowner, to advance easement negotiations and sign easement agreements. NEET Southwest's internal land agents have also coordinated with Doyle to meet directly with landowners when requested.

NEET Southwest is reviewing final micro-siting requests from remaining landowners. Through its discussions with landowners, NEET Southwest has identified areas where minor route alterations are feasible and landowner requests can be accommodated. NEET Southwest and landowners have found mutually agreeable solutions to the extent reasonable (*e.g.*, to adjust financial terms, easement language, or pole placement).

Landowners have also raised questions about how potential damages to crop- and pastureland and loss of use of agricultural land will be compensated. NEET Southwest has incorporated crop and pasture compensation clauses into landowner easement agreements to reimburse landowners for damage or loss of acreage. NEET Southwest continues to monitor landowner questions and concerns via the Project hotline. The hotline messages are forwarded to land agents to reach out directly to the landowners with additional follow-up from NEET Southwest personnel as needed.

## COUNTY AGREEMENTS AND OUTREACH

NEET Southwest has executed a Road Use Agreement with Jasper and Barton County in Missouri and. NEET Southwest continues to visit the counties and their commissioners to keep them apprised of status of the Project.

# AFFILIATE CONTRACTS

In the Order, the Commission required NEET Southwest to file a list of affiliate contracts related to operations, maintenance, and reliability. NEET Southwest is party to the affiliate contract below:

• Corporate Support Services, Shared Resources, and Operations and Maintenance Services Agreement, between NEET Southwest and NextEra Energy Resources, LLC, NextEra Energy Transmission, LLC, Florida Power & Light Company, and Lone Star Transmission, LLC, dated January 5, 2021

# **CONCLUSION**

Please feel free to contact me with any additional questions.

Thank you,

Jacquelyn O. Blakley, PMP Executive Director, Development NextEra Energy Transmission Southwest, LLC 700 Universe Boulevard Juno Beach, FL 33408 (561) 660-1800 jacquelyn.blakley@nexteraenergy.com