**STF-DEA-2-13**

Question:

Please refer to p. 171 of the “2024 GA ITS Ten-Year Plan” within “2025 IRP Volume 3 TRADE SECRET,” regarding the Ashley Park - Wansley 500kV Line and respond to the following questions:

1. What federal and state approvals are required for the construction of the Ashley Park - Wansley 500kV transmission line?
2. How will the project mitigate environmental and land use concerns associated with developing a new 35-mile corridor?
3. What specific load forecasting models were used to justify the need for this transmission expansion?
4. How will the Ashley Park - Wansley 500kV project reduce grid congestion and support future power demand growth in Georgia?
5. What alternative routing and right-of-way (ROW) considerations were explored to minimize environmental and community impact?

Response:

1. The specific federal and state approvals required for environmental and cultural resources compliance for the Ashley Park – Wansley transmission line depend on final project siting and routes, which have not yet been finalized. The approval requirements will be thoroughly assessed during the siting process. Various environmental approvals may be required for this project, including but not limited to: environmental and cultural resources reviews through the National Environmental Policy Act (“NEPA”) and National Historic Preservation Act (“NHPA”), Waters of the U.S. (“WOTUS”) permits, impacts to state or federally listed species and/or their habitat, construction stormwater permits, stream buffer variances, and easements on any publicly-owned land.
2. Throughout the engineering, design, and siting process, the Company works to avoid and minimize impacts to natural resources, identified historic properties, and other locations of land use concern to the extent feasible and practical.  Some general examples of avoidance and minimization include utilizing existing rights of way (“ROW”) where possible, spanning identified resources as well as modification of structure design to result in a smaller footprint within the sensitive area. If impacts to resources are required, the Company will engage with federal and state agencies and obtain the appropriate permitting and mitigation to minimize impacts and allow the line to be constructed.

1. Please refer to Section II, Table 5 & Figure 3 of Section D1, 2024 GA ITS Ten-Year Plan, in Technical Appendix Volume 3 for the 2024 Series ITS Load Forecast and Total 2024 Series ITS Summer Coincident Load Forecast, respectively.
2. Please refer to Appendix C, Tables 17 & 18 (p 273) of Section D1, 2024 GA ITS Ten-Year Plan, in Technical Appendix Volume 3.
3. Refer to the Company’s responses to subparts (a)-(b).