

Santee Cooper IRP Stakeholder Process 2024-2026

Stakeholder Working Group Meeting #1 – Meeting Summary

Date: April 25, 2024

Time: 1:00 – 5:00 pm EDT

Location: Virtual Meeting via Zoom, Vanry Associates hosting

In this summary:

- Meeting Information & Materials
- Session Participation
- Topics, Presenters and Discussion
- Meeting Action Items
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 - A: List of External Stakeholder Working Group Members & Attendees

Meeting Information & Materials

Santee Cooper convened the first meeting of the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) Stakeholder Working Group on Thursday, April 25, 2024. The formation of the IRP Stakeholder Working Group (or working group) is an integral part of Santee Cooper's commitment to creating a robust Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) process and to continually engage stakeholders to solicit feedback.

The presentation for the meeting is available on the stakeholder webpage¹. The meeting was facilitated by Stewart Ramsey, Vanry Associates.

Session Participation

The Stakeholder Working Group has a set membership of organizations and individuals representing diverse interests and perspectives including government, regulatory agencies, environmental, social, customer classes, etc. Each organization was invited to join the working group by the Santee Cooper team and asked to assign a primary and secondary member. See Appendix A for a list of organizations and meeting attendees.

Topics, Presenters and Discussion

Welcome

– *Rahul Dembla, Chief Planning Officer, Santee Cooper*

Rahul Dembla welcomed all those attending and expressed appreciation for the investment of time and resources for the many in attendance who also participated and intervened in Santee Cooper's 2023 IRP process. Rahul then reviewed the 2023 IRP process and Santee Cooper's preferred portfolio.

Introductions and Meeting Outcomes

- *Clay Settle, Manager Resource Planning, Santee Cooper*
- *Stewart Ramsay, Meeting Facilitator, Vanry Associates*

¹ <https://www.santeecooper.com/about/integrated-resource-plan/2026-irp-stakeholder-process/>

Stewart Ramsay introduced the core group of people involved in the working group for Santee Cooper:

- Rahul Dembla, Chief Planning Officer, Santee Cooper
- Jane Campbell, Sr. Director Resource Planning, Santee Cooper
- Clay Settle, Manager Resource Planning, Santee Cooper
- Will Brown, Administrator Resource Planning, Santee Cooper
- Bob Davis, Executive Consultant, nFront Consulting
- Jonathan Nunes, Executive Consultant, nFront Consulting

All members in attendance were asked to introduce themselves and share their name, organization, role, and prior IRP experience. Members were also encouraged to turn on their cameras and leave them on throughout the session.

A review of the agenda and meeting outcomes followed introductions. The two key outcomes were to have:

1. successfully launched the working group, including confirming that members understood the commitment required of them to participate, the commitments required of Santee Cooper from the 2023 IRP and that members had the opportunity to provide input on priority topics for future meetings; and
2. members provide feedback on the current Santee Cooper load forecast updates.

Member Discussion of the Working Group

– *Clay Settle, Manager Resource Planning, Santee Cooper*

Clay Settle touched on key elements of the working group charter, specifically the mission, objectives, in- and out-of-scope topics and proposed working group logistics. Questions and discussion focused largely on what may be in- and out-of-scope for working group meetings.

Stakeholder Engagement Plan

– *Jane Campbell, Senior Director Resource Planning, Santee Cooper*

Jane Campbell provided an overview of the IRP stakeholder engagement plans through Santee Cooper's next filing of its Triennial IRP in September of 2026. Jane welcomed feedback based on members' participation in other IRP processes and working groups. Discussion touched on the openness and collaboration of the IRP process and the value for all members and resource planning to share varying opinions.

Santee Cooper Resource Planning Update

– *Rahul Dembla, Chief Planning Officer, Santee Cooper*

Rahul Dembla covered Santee Cooper's current and future IRP planning initiatives and discussed the intersection of statutory obligations, the Coordination Agreement with Central and PSC approval requirements.

2023 IRP Public Service Commission Order and Short-Term Action Plan

– *Clay Settle, Manager Resource Planning, Santee Cooper*

Clay Settle presented the requirements from the 2023 IRP PSC Order² and then provided an overview of Santee Cooper's short-term action plan from the 2023 IRP. Discussion covered a wide range of topics including the retirement of coal units, transmission planning analysis, deployment of carbon-free resources, compliance with EPA 111 rule and more.

Priority Topics for the Working Group

– *Clay Settle, Manager Resource Planning, Santee Cooper*

Clay Settle presented to members a proposed agenda for the next working group meeting, tentatively scheduled for late-June, which included assumptions and portfolios for the 2024 Annual IRP Update. Clay

² Order No. 2024-171 available at <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Attachments/Order/570747c3-463a-49ed-b890-ab20f5d4244e>

continued by providing an overview of proposed priority topics for future working group meetings. Discussion related to the priority topics acknowledged the need for continuous updates to the list and review at each working group meeting as circumstances evolve.

Technical Presentation on Load Forecast Methodology

- Greg McCormack, Senior Manager Financial Forecast, Santee Cooper
- Carl Ciullo, Financial Analyst, Santee Cooper

Greg McCormack and Carl Ciullo discussed the status and plans for Santee Cooper's current load forecast. Members discussed the complexity of load forecasting in a dynamic environment and conversation identified the need for a technical meeting.

Closing

- Clay Settle, Manager Resource Planning, Santee Cooper
- Stewart Ramsay, Meeting Facilitator, Vanry Associates

Stewart Ramsay reviewed the action items captured during the meeting and confirmed them with members. He then discussed homework assignments, which include reviewing the priority topics, the IRP webpage and forum and the meeting summary. Stewart committed Vanry to sending the summary out to members on or before May 7th and requested member feedback no later than May 17th.

Finally, Stewart checked with the group to assess how well the meeting objectives were met and invited members to fill out the five-question survey upon leaving the zoom meeting.

Meeting Action Items

The following is a summary of action items agreed to at the close of the meeting.

ACTION ITEMS	RESPONSIBLE PARTY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Santee Cooper Resource Planning to follow up with the Coastal Conservation League representative on ideas for involving low-income views in IRP development and potentially share that feedback internally with appropriate groups and bring it back to the group. 	Santee Cooper Resource Planning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource Planning will formulate action plans to best address intervenor recommendations with the support of the working group. 	Santee Cooper Resource Planning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource Planning will flag site-specific geographic location as a conversation topic to consider transmission constraints and availability. 	Santee Cooper Resource Planning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Santee Cooper will review and respond about the level of confidentiality required regarding the transmission study related to the Cross retirement. 	Santee Cooper Resource Planning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource Planning will schedule a technical meeting and invite all interested parties. Members are requested to email Will Brown by end-of-day April 26 if they are interested in participating in the Load Forecast or battery energy storage systems (BESS) technical meetings. 	Santee Cooper Resource Planning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a standing commitment to circulate a draft meeting summary for working group members to review before submitting it to the Public Service Commission. 	Vanry Associates

APPENDIX A

List of External Stakeholder Working Group Members and Attendees

Organization or Individual	Member / Attendee
Office of Regulatory Staff	Findlay Salter Jeffery Gordon Shane Hyatt
South Carolina Dept. of Consumer Affairs	Jake Edwards
South Carolina Dept. of Natural Resources	Elizabeth Miller
South Carolina Dept. of Health and Environmental Control	Robert Brown
Central Electric	Caleb Bryant Marcus Harris
J. Pollock	Jonathan Ly
Century Aluminum	Michael Early Stephen Thomas
Nucor	Bradley Powell Denny Boyd
Messer	Steve Castracane
Google	Katie Ottenweller Will Cleveland
South Carolina Assoc. of Municipal Power Systems	Did not attend
Individual	Charles Hucks
Individual	Richard Berry
Individual	Diane Bell
Carolina Clean Energy Business Association	Hamilton Davis John Burns
Conservation Voters of South Carolina	Erin Siebert
Coastal Conservation League	Taylor Allred
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy	Eddy Moore Maggie Shober
Southern Environmental Law Center	Did not attend
Sierra Club	Dori Jaffe
Energy Futures Group	Chelsea Hotaling
Santee Cooper Resource Planning	Clay Settle Jane Campbell Rahul Dembla Will Brown
Santee Cooper Corporate Communications	Mollie Gore Nicole Aiello
nFront Consulting	Jonathan Nunes
Vanry Associates	Stewart Ramsey Peter Claghorn Yvette Smith
Santee Cooper Financial Forecast	Carl Ciullo Greg McCormack