MEAN 2050 Vision of Carbon Neutrality

WHEREAS, MEAN is dedicated to its mission of providing reliable and affordable power supply to its Participant communities; and,

WHEREAS, MEAN is committed to assisting member communities in their desire and responsibility to balance environmental concerns with the duty to provide reliable, affordable power; and,

WHEREAS, MEAN’s 2017 Integrated Resource Plan established a clear directive to pursue future resources that minimize economic and environmental impacts while maximizing local benefit and reliability of service; and,

WHEREAS, MEAN is committed to an ambitious vision of the future and recognizes the need for future integration and innovation with non-carbon resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY the Board of Directors that MEAN staff is authorized and directed to actively work toward the MEAN 2050 Vision of carbon neutrality by the year 2050 while holding paramount its mission to provide reliable and affordable power supply.

MEAN staff will work in collaboration with Participants to construct policies around resource planning, portfolio optimization, and emissions reduction that utilize our public principles and guidelines to support future actions to achieve the 2050 carbon neutral goal.

These policies in total will form the plan by which we will strive toward 2050. The final formation of the plan will culminate in MEAN’s 2022 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), which details MEAN’s future resource needs and performs evaluations to determine the preferred resource plan. The actions pursuant to this plan will accumulate to achieve the final 2050 Goal of carbon neutrality.

MEAN’s strategy to reach its net-zero carbon goal articulated in the 2050 Vision will include an “all-of-the-above” outlook. All viable resource options will be considered through MEAN’s resource planning process using the same set of criteria and with the final goal of net zero carbon emissions. Any feasible options must maintain reliability and affordability of MEAN’s power supply.

Progress toward the 2050 Vision will encounter the constraints of our existing resource portfolio and the limitations of current resource technology and grid infrastructure. The Board acknowledges that the following developments must be realized in advance of meeting the 2050 Vision:

- Development of Dispatchable Renewable Baseload Energy Resources
- Increased Availability of Economical Energy Storage Solutions
- Affordable Deployment of Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage Technologies
- Market Structures to Effectively Accommodate Energy Storage
- Transmission Upgrades for Renewable and Distributed Generation Integration
- Introduction of an Organized Market in the West Region that Accommodates Carbon-Neutral Initiatives
- Widespread Installation of Advanced Metering for the Integration of Distributed Generation
- Economic Exit Strategies or Emissions Reduction Technologies at Existing Fossil-Fueled Resources