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Landry: Order protects resources, ratepayers



STAFF FILE PHOTO BY SOPHIA GERMER

Meta and Entergy have disputed a consultant's report for the Public Service Commission that says ratepayers would be picking up the tab for a \$1.8B plant primarily needed for Meta's data center.

Measure comes after questions arise about Entergy's plans

BY ANDREA GALLO and SAM KARLIN
 Staff writers

Gov. Jeff Landry signed an executive order Thursday while flanked by Louisiana utility company executives saying that data center projects must have their benefits to residents "evaluated and balanced" against their use of electric generation, water and land.

The "Ratepayer and Community Protection Framework for Large Load Investments" assigns the Louisiana Economic Development Office to ensure that future projects "adequately protect Louisiana's resources, ratepayers, and communities," according to the text of the order. LED should come up with the criteria for companies to protect ratepayers, contribute to local tax bases and more within the next 90 days, the order states.

"These resources are vital to the welfare of our citizens and to the future of our economy, and that is why our approach demands thoughtful and responsible stewardship," Landry said.

The order comes on the heels of questions around Entergy's plans to purchase a \$1.8 billion power plant in Texas, which



STAFF FILE PHOTO BY JAVIER GALLEGOS

Gov. Jeff Landry signed an executive order on Thursday to ensure future project benefits are evaluated and balanced against their use of state resources.

a consultant for the state's Public Service Commission said is largely needed for Meta's north Louisiana data center. The gas-fired Cottonwood plant would

cost average residential ratepayers \$8 a month, according to records. Entergy

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Governor vetoes over \$12 million in local projects

About half of the funding was slated for N.O. area

BY MEGHAN FRIEDMANN
 Staff writer

Gov. Jeff Landry used his veto power to cut over \$12 million in state funding for local governments and community organizations in blue-leaning areas of the state, with roughly half the cuts affecting New Orleans.

The cuts, which also impact Baton Rouge, Shreveport, Monroe, Lake Charles and Opelousas, touch everything from programs for at-risk youth and economic development initiatives to local law enforcement and educational initiatives.

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UL vice president salaries receive criticism following budget cuts

Board approves third VP making at least \$245K

BY CLAIRE TAYLOR
 Staff writer

The University of Louisiana Board of Supervisors on Thursday approved a third vice president at the Lafayette campus earning at least \$245,000 this year, drawing criticism from faculty who say they have gone three years without a cost-of-living raise.

That's not sitting well with some faculty, said Beth Stauffer, president of the UL chapter of the American Association of University Professors.

Faculty have not received a cost-of-living raise in three years, she said,

► See **SALARY**, page 5A

Venezuelans search rubble for survivors after earthquakes

Pair of powerful tremors kill at least 188, trap over 200

BY MEGAN JANETSKY, ANDRY RINCÓN and JUAN PABLO ARRAEZ
 Associated Press

LA GUAIRA, Venezuela — Venezuelans searched for survivors beneath collapsed buildings Thursday and res-

cue teams raced to northern areas rocked by a pair of powerful earthquakes that officials say killed at least 188 people and left more than 200 trapped.

More were feared dead from the 7.2- and 7.5-magnitude earthquakes that

struck Wednesday evening — among the strongest in Venezuela in more than a century and felt throughout the region. Some 1,500 people were injured, thousands were reported missing and buildings were evacuated as far away as Brazil's Amazon.

In cities across northern Venezuela, panicked residents poured into the streets and searched for the missing in the debris. Injured children, animals and civilians covered in dust and blood were pulled out of concrete rubble.

One mother sobbed and collapsed in grief as the bodies of her 3- and 10-year-old

children were wrapped in blankets and carried away. Others screamed the names of missing loved ones. Some stood in silent shock.

The coastal region of La Guaira — north of the capital, Caracas — suffered some of the heaviest damage and casualties, and it's there that the country's main airport was damaged

and closed, complicating aid efforts.

Retired schoolteacher Juan Alberto Mendaño climbed through wreckage in La Guaira and past a dead body when he spotted a woman who was trapped and signaling with her hand for help.

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ACA Friday

