



Informal Conference Long-term Debt Applications

January 10, 2024 Case # 2023-00397 & 2023-00398

## Requested Authorizations

- During the period 2024 thru 2027:
  - Requesting authorization to incur indebtedness as follows:
    - LG&E: Up to \$1,150,000,000
    - KU: Up to \$1,350,000,000
  - Requesting authorization to maintain and renew their syndicated revolving credit facilities for up to five years from the date of each amendment date:
    - LG&E: Up to \$750,000,000
    - KU: Up to \$650,000,000



### Use of Proceeds

- Repayment of short-term debt primarily incurred for the financing of ongoing capital expenditures, including expenditures related to the retirement of certain fossil fuelfired generation as approved in the recent CPCN (Case No. 2022-00402)
- Refinancing of long-term debt
- General corporate purposes







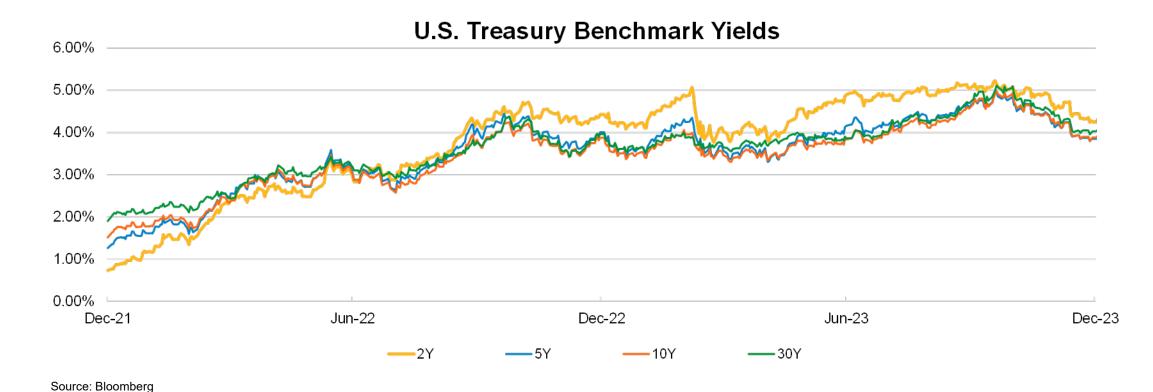
## Capital Markets Backdrop

- Persistent concerns over inflation led the Federal Reserve to aggressively increase rates during the first half of 2023
- Unexpected U.S. regional bank crisis in early 2023
- Potential economic slowdown and fears of a recession
- Geopolitical instability around the world
- Expected easing of monetary policy by the Federal Reserve beginning in 2024
- Upcoming U.S. Election



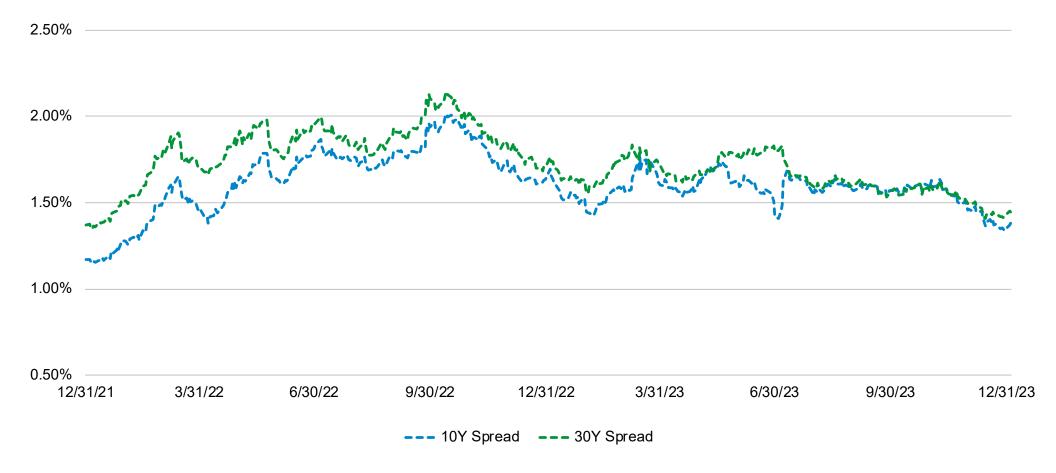
## Historical Interest Rates

#### An "inverted" yield curve persists in the U.S. bond market





# **Utility Credit Spreads**

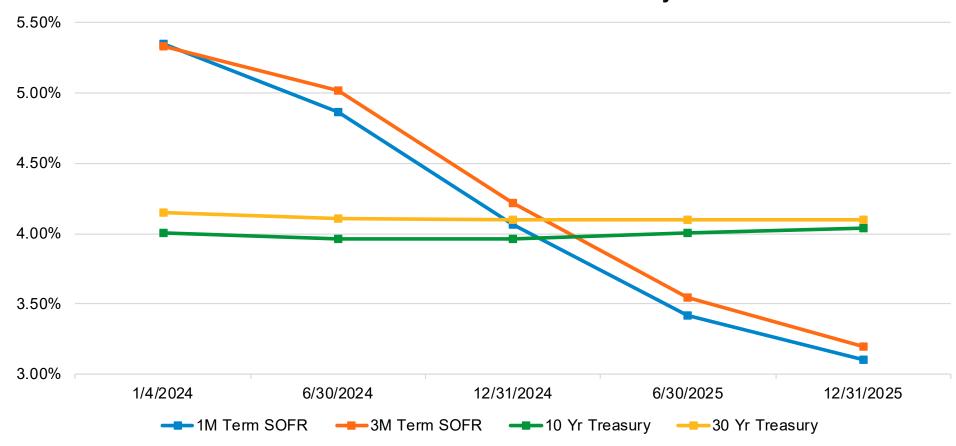






## Forward Looking Interest Rates

1M and 3M Term SOFR vs. 10Y and 30Y Treasury Forwards



Source: Bloomberg as of January 4, 2024



### **Debt Issuance Considerations**

- Prefunding
- Notional sizing
- Navigating blackout windows
- Sequencing of financing transactions
- Investor aversion to coal exposure
- Investor marketing



## LG&E and KU Debt Issuance

#### OFFERING DETAILS

Issuer: LG&E and Kentucky Utilities

Trade Date: March 9, 2023

Securities offered: First Mortgage Bonds

Tenor: 10-year

Amount: \$400M / \$400M

Maturity: 4/15/2033

Coupon: 5.45%

Yield: 5.479%

Price: \$99.772

Par Call: 3 month

Make-Whole Call: 25 bps

Settlement: March 20, 2023

Rating: A1/ A

Offering format: **SEC Registered** 

#### JOINT BOOK-RUNNING MANAGERS









#### TRANSACTION HIGHLIGHTS

- Completed investor marketing ahead of debt offering
- Initial investor sentiment was overall positive, but coal exposure continues to be a detracting factor resulting in some investors inability to participate
- LG&E/KU launched an offering for 10-year first mortgage bonds with IPT of T+180-185
- Priced at 155 bps, 30 bps of tightening
- Orderbooks were 5X oversubscribed
- Use of proceeds were the repayment of floating rate debt:
  - \$300 million Term Loan with a maturity of March 2024 at LG&E
  - \$300 million Term Loan with a maturity of March 2024 at KU



## Kentucky Marketing Feedback

"We likely can't get there due to coal."

"Likely a pass due to coal..."

"Constrained by our 30% net generation limit...they're not even close ...and they're not moving very quickly either..."

"Despite a plan to a net-zero goal in 2050, 50% coal generation mix by 2030...not a good fit for our portfolio...likely a pass due to coal."

"Unable to participate due to coal exposure."



## Rating Agencies

- Both S&P and Moody's find the regulatory environment in Kentucky generally supportive
- They also state that LG&E and KU have a high coal concentration in its generation fuel mix and have elevated environmental risk relative to peers
- Moody's categorizes LG&E and KU with a Standard Business Risk Profile, compared to the other PPL entities that are classified with a Low Business Risk Profile
- Business Risk Profiles assist to determine the level of credit metrics that are targeted to maintain certain ratings
  - LG&E and KU = CFO/ Debt Ratio: 20-25%
  - PA, RI = CFO/Debt Ratio: 18-22%



## **Key Take Aways**

- Authorization of multi-year debt issuances provide necessary flexibility to navigate uncertain market conditions
- Provides the ability to be nimble and optimize borrowing costs for ratepayers
- Coal exposure likely persists as an investor headwind, negatively impacting the cost of borrowing
- Multi-year approval reduces administrative costs for KPSC and the Companies
- Authorization request is consistent with other PPL jurisdictions (PA and RI)

