

**LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 17, 2025**  
**OPEN SESSION**

***MINUTES OF DECEMBER 17, 2025 OPEN SESSION OF THE LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION HELD IN NATCHITOCHES, LOUISIANA. PRESENT WERE CHAIRMAN MIKE FRANCIS, VICE CHAIRMAN ERIC SKRMETTA, COMMISSIONER FOSTER CAMPBELL, COMMISSIONER DAVANTE LEWIS, COMMISSIONER JEAN-PAUL COUSSAN, AND EXECUTIVE SECRETARY BRANDON FREY.***

**Open Session of December 17, 2025, convening at 10:06 a.m., and adjourning at 1:14 p.m., at the Natchitoches Event Center, 750 2nd St., Natchitoches, LA 71457, with the above-name members of the Commission and Executive Secretary Brandon Frey present.**

<b>Ex. 1</b>	<p>Commissioner Campbell welcomed everyone to Natchitoches and thanked them for attending. Chairman Francis welcomed back Deputy General Counsel Lauren Evans from maternity leave, and welcomed his long-time friend, Paul Palmer.</p> <p>Commissioner Lewis asked utility companies to be cautious of disconnections during the holiday season, and Executive Secretary Frey reminded utilities of the Commission's General Order dated October 5, 2007 regarding disconnections during extreme weather.</p> <p>Commissioner Coussan welcomed State Representative Mark Wright to the meeting. He also expressed gratitude to all the Commissioners, LPSC Staff, and utility companies on welcoming and educating him on his first year as a Commissioner.</p>
<b>Ex. 2</b>	<p><b>Undocketed - 2026 Proposed Business and Executive Session Schedule</b></p> <p><b>In re: Discussion and possible vote to accept the 2026 proposed schedule.</b></p> <p>On motion of Vice Chairman Skrmetta, seconded by Commissioner Lewis, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to accept the following 2026 proposed B&amp;E schedule:</p> <p>January 14 February 25 March 18 April 15 – Chairman Francis' District - Alexandria May 13 June 17 <b>July – No Meeting</b> August 12 September 16 October 21 – Vice Chairman Skrmetta's District -TBD November 18 December 16</p>

Ex. 3	<p><b>I-37764</b> - Entergy Louisiana, LLC, ex parte. In re: 2025 Request to initiate Integrated Resource Planning process pursuant to the General Order (Corrected) dated August 24, 2024 (R-36262).</p> <p><b>I-37765</b> - Cleco Power LLC, ex parte. In re: 2025 Request to initiate Integrated Resource Planning process pursuant to the General Order (Corrected) dated August 28, 2024 (R-36262).</p> <p><b>TBD</b> - Southwestern Electric Power Company, ex parte. In re: Request to initiate 2025 Integrated Resource Planning process pursuant to General Order (Corrected) dated August 28, 2024 (R-36262).</p> <p><b>In re: Discussion and possible vote to hire an outside consultant.</b></p> <p>On motion of Vice Chairman Skrmetta, seconded by Commissioner Coussan, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to retain United Professionals Company for \$147,000 in fees and \$3,000 in expenses for a total not to exceed budget of \$150,000.</p>
Ex. 4	<p><b>R-31106</b> - Louisiana Public Service Commission, ex parte. In re: Rulemaking to study the possible development of financial incentives for the promotion of energy efficiency by jurisdictional electric and gas utilities.</p> <p><b>In re: Discussion and possible vote to rehear General Order dated August 28, 2025, pursuant to Commission Rule 43.</b></p> <p>On motion of Vice Chairman Skrmetta, seconded by Chairman Francis, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to exercise its original and primary jurisdiction pursuant to Rule 43 and rehear General Order dated August 28, 2025.</p> <p>On motion of Vice Chairman Skrmetta, seconded by Chairman Francis, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to amend General Order dated August 28, 2025, specifically Attachment B as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Section I – Funding and Cost Recovery shall be amended to state that the public entity program budget shall be set to 0.50% of the utility’s 2023 total revenue; and</li> <li>2) Section II – Application Process, second subset b. shall be amended to require a guarantee from the contractor on all parts, labor, and power units for a project based upon industry standards.</li> </ol>
Ex. 5	<p><b>R-31106</b> - Louisiana Public Service Commission, ex parte. In re: Rulemaking to study the possible development of financial incentives for the promotion of energy efficiency by jurisdictional electric and gas utilities.</p> <p><b>In re: Discussion and possible vote to retain Tetra Tech as the Commission's EM&amp;V Contractor pursuant to General Order dated August 28, 2025.</b></p> <p><b>DEFERRED</b></p>
Ex. 6	<p><b>R-31106</b> - Louisiana Public Service Commission, ex parte. In re: Rulemaking to study the possible development of financial incentives for the promotion of energy efficiency by jurisdictional electric and gas utilities.</p> <p><b>In re: Discussion and possible vote to retain an engineer for District I pursuant to the General Order dated August 28, 2025.</b></p> <p>On motion of Vice Chairman Skrmetta, seconded by Chairman Francis, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to retain Linfield, Hunter &amp; Junius to assist District I with the 2026 political subdivision energy efficiency program for a total not to exceed budget of 1% of District I’s total budget for its public entities program.</p>

Ex. 7	<p><b>R-31106</b> - Louisiana Public Service Commission, ex parte. In re: Rulemaking to study the possible development of financial incentives for the promotion of energy efficiency by jurisdictional electric and gas utilities.</p> <p><b>In re: Discussion and possible vote to retain an engineer for District II pursuant to the General Order dated August 28, 2025.</b></p> <p>On motion of Vice Chairman Skrmetta, seconded by Chairman Francis, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to retain D. Hicks Consulting to assist District II with the 2026 political subdivision energy efficiency program for a total not to exceed budget of 1% of District II's total budget for its public entities program.</p>
Ex. 8	<p><b>R-31106</b> - Louisiana Public Service Commission, ex parte. In re: Rulemaking to study the possible development of financial incentives for the promotion of energy efficiency by jurisdictional electric and gas utilities.</p> <p><b>In re: Discussion and possible vote to retain an engineer for District III pursuant to the General Order dated August 28, 2025.</b></p> <p>On motion of Vice Chairman Skrmetta, seconded by Chairman Francis, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to retain Bonton and Associates to assist District III with the 2026 political subdivision energy efficiency program for a total not to exceed budget of 1% of District III's total budget for its public entities program.</p>
Ex. 9	<p><b>R-31106</b> - Louisiana Public Service Commission, ex parte. In re: Rulemaking to study the possible development of financial incentives for the promotion of energy efficiency by jurisdictional electric and gas utilities.</p> <p><b>In re: Discussion and possible vote to retain an engineer for District IV pursuant to the General Order dated August 28, 2025.</b></p> <p>On motion of Vice Chairman Skrmetta, seconded by Chairman Francis, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to retain D. Hicks Consulting to assist District IV with the 2026 political subdivision energy efficiency program for a total not to exceed budget of 1% of District IV's total budget for its public entities program.</p>
Ex. 10	<p><b>R-36227</b> - Louisiana Public Service Commission, ex parte. In re: Assessment of Louisiana's current electric utility infrastructure for resilience and hardening for future storm events.</p> <p><b>In re: Discussion and possible vote on a scope expansion for David Williams.</b></p> <p><b>Exhibit 9 of the November 19, 2025 Business and Executive Session.</b></p> <p><b>DEFERRED</b></p>
Ex. 11	<p><b>S-37736</b> - CP-TEL Network Services, Inc., ex parte. In re: Petition for designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") within Louisiana for the limited purpose of offering lifeline services.</p> <p><b>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Staff Report and Recommendation.</b></p> <p>On motion of Vice Chairman Skrmetta, seconded by Commissioner Coussan, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to accept the Staff Report and Recommendation filed into the record on November 24, 2025.</p>

<b>Ex. 12</b>	<p><b>S-37737</b> - Brightspeed of Louisiana, LLC and Brightspeed of South Arkansas, LLC. In re: Request for a Letter of Non-Opposition for the parties issuance of guarantees and pledge of assets as security in connection with issuance of notes of Parent Connect Holding II LLC.</p> <p><b>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Staff Report and Recommendation.</b></p> <p>On motion of Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Vice Chairman Skrmetta, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to accept the Staff Report and Recommendation filed into the record on December 5, 2025.</p>
<b>Ex. 13</b>	<p><b>S-37762</b> - Magnolia Water Utility Operating Company, LLC, ex parte. In re: Request for a Letter of Non-Opposition to enter into a credit facility with CoBank, ACB.</p> <p><b>In re: Discussion and Possible vote on Staff Report and Recommendation.</b></p> <p>After discussion, on motion of Vice Chairman Skrmetta, seconded by Commissioner Campbell, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to accept the Staff Report and Recommendation filed into the record on December 3, 2025.</p> <p>Present for Questions/Comments:  Andy Ezell – Counsel for Magnolia Water Utility Operating Company, LLC  Connie Norris – Citizen of Slidell/CSWR Ratepayer</p>
<b>Ex. 14</b>	<p><b>U-36644</b> - Louisiana Public Service Commission, ex parte. In re: Audit of Fuel Adjustment Clause filings for Cleco Power LLC for the period of January 2020 through December 2022.</p> <p><b>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Joint Report and Draft Order.</b></p> <p>On motion of Commissioner Coussan, seconded by Commissioner Campbell, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to accept the Joint Report and issue the Draft Order filed into the record on December 5, 2025.</p>
<b>Ex. 15</b>	<p><b>U-37483</b> - Beauregard Electric Cooperative, Inc., ex parte. In re: Application for an increase in rates, approval of Formula Rate Plan, including modifications to standard Terms and Conditions, and for Interim Rate Relief.</p> <p><b>In re: Discussion and Possible vote on an Uncontested Stipulated Settlement.</b></p> <p>On motion of Vice Chairman Skrmetta, seconded by Commissioner Coussan, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to accept the Uncontested Stipulated Settlement filed into the record on November 3, 2025.</p>
<b>Ex. 16</b>	<p><b>U-37565</b> - Deepwoods Utilities, Inc., ex parte. In re: Application for an increase in water and wastewater rates.</p> <p><b>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Uncontested Stipulated Settlement.</b></p> <p>After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Vice Chairman Skrmetta, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to accept the Uncontested Stipulated Settlement filed into the record on November 17, 2025.</p>

<b>Ex. 17</b>	<p><b>U-37594</b> - Entergy Louisiana, LLC, ex parte. In re: Formula Rate Plan Annual Evaluation Report for Test Year 2024.</p> <p><b>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Joint Report.</b></p> <p>After discussion, on motion of Vice Chairman Skrmetta, seconded by Commissioner Lewis, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to accept the Joint Report filed into the record on December 9, 2025.</p> <p>Present for Questions/Comments:  Larry Hand – Vice President of Regulatory and Public Affairs, Entergy Louisiana, LLC  Ryan Jones – Director of Regulatory Affairs, Entergy Louisiana, LLC</p>
<b>Ex. 18</b>	<p><b>U-37704</b> - Utilities, Inc. of Louisiana, ex parte. In re: Request for: 1) review and adjustment of base rates following merger with French Settlement Water Company; 2) modification and extensions of Formula Rate Plan; 3) a depreciation study; 4) modifications to its tariff; and 5) interim rate relief.</p> <p><b>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Interim Rate Increase pursuant to Rule 57.</b></p> <p><b>At the request of Vice Chairman Skrmetta.</b></p> <p>On motion of Vice Chairman Skrmetta, seconded by Commissioner Coussan, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to exercise its original and primary jurisdiction pursuant to Rule 57.</p> <p>On motion of Vice Chairman Skrmetta, seconded by Commissioner Coussan, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to approve the interim rate increase, subject to refund and applicable bonding requirements.</p>
<b>Ex. 19</b>	<p><b>U-37799</b> - Dixie Electric Membership Corporation, Amite Solar, LLC and Amite Energy Storage, LLC. In re: Joint application for certification of a Battery Energy Storage Agreement and approval of the third amendment to the Amite Solar Power Purchase Agreement between DEMCO and Amite Solar.</p> <p><b>In re: Discussion and possible vote to retain an outside consultant.</b></p> <p>On motion of Vice Chairman Skrmetta, seconded by Commissioner Lewis, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to retain United Professionals Company for \$68,000 in fees and \$2,000 in expenses for a total not to exceed budget of \$70,000.</p>
<b>Ex. 20</b>	<p><b>TBD</b> - Entergy Louisiana, LLC, ex parte. In re: Request for Proposals for Stand-alone Battery Storage System Resources.</p> <p><b>In re: Discussion and possible vote to retain an outside consultant.</b></p> <p>On motion of Vice Chairman Skrmetta, seconded by Commissioner Campbell, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to retain United Professionals Company for \$58,000 in fees and \$2,000 in expenses for a total not to exceed budget of \$60,000.</p>
<b>Ex. 21</b>	<p><b>TBD</b> - Atmos Energy Corporation, ex parte. In re: Application for renewal of Rate Stabilization Clause Rider.</p> <p><b>In re: Discussion and possible vote to retain an outside consultant.</b></p> <p>On motion of Commissioner Lewis, seconded by Commissioner Coussan, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to retain J. Kennedy &amp; Associates for \$311,800 in fees and \$8,100 in expenses for a total budget of \$319,900.</p>

**1) Reports****- Update from Jefferson Davis Electric Cooperative on the construction of its 230 kV transmission line.**

Kara Kantrow, Counsel for Jefferson Davis Electric Cooperative, and Mike Heinen, General Manager for Jefferson Davis Electric Cooperative, presented a report on the construction of its 230 kV transmission line.

**2) Resolutions****3) Discussions****4) ERSC/OMS/SPP****-Discussion and possible vote to ratify the vote cast by Vic Chairman Skrmetta acting as the Commission's representative on the Board of Directors of the Organization of MISO States.**

On motion of Commissioner Coussan, seconded by Chairman Francis, with Commissioner Campbell and Commissioner Lewis concurring, and Vice Chairman Skrmetta abstaining, the Commission voted to ratify Vice Chairman Skrmetta's votes taken on November 11, 2025 as the Commission's representative on the Board of Directors of the Organization of MISO States.

**-Discussion and possible vote to ratify interventions of the Louisiana Public Service Commission RTO-Related or other Federal Energy Regulatory Proceedings.**

On motion of Commissioner Coussan, seconded by Vice Chairman Skrmetta, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to ratify the actions taken in ER26-263, ER26-247, ER26-407, ER26-414, ER26-408, RM26-4, ER26-513, and ER26-26.

**5) Directives****- Directive on Commission's Lightning Initiative.****At the request of Commissioner Coussan.**

Commissioner Coussan's directive read as follows: Governor Landry's *Louisiana Lightning Speed Initiative* calls on state agencies to work with Louisiana Economic Development (LED) with the goal to accelerate the timelines required for major employers to invest, build, and grow in Louisiana.

In many subject areas, Louisiana looks to competing states for best practices in public policy. However, Louisiana is now ranked as a top-10 state by the Area Development Magazine for doing business, including #1 for energy cost and #4 for energy availability.

Louisiana is indeed well-positioned, but to maintain and expand our advantage, we must continue to modernize our regulatory tools and processes. As Louisiana Public Service Commissioners, we now have a unique opportunity to create a regulatory pathway that enables Louisiana to be a consistent leader in attracting major employers.

To that end, I would like to implement an initiative designed for speed-to-market and economic-development-driven power needs while also ensuring protections for existing ratepayers. This LPSC Lightning initiative will set the standard for public policy and be the model that other states seek to emulate.

**LPSC Lightning Amendment to the General Order**

To support the Governor's initiative and ensure utilities can meet the power needs of new and expanding load, I request that the Louisiana Public Service Commission adopt the following

regulatory pathway:

1. The requirements of General Order 10-14-2024 (R-34247) are considered waived for a proposed capacity addition where the following factors are demonstrated and proven in the certification proceeding:

- a. A signed electric service agreement (“ESA”) with a new or expanding load with a requested initial in-service date within five years of the certification application;
- b. Without the proposed capacity, the utility is projected to be short of the energy or capacity needed to meet the customer's electric requirements on the requested in-service dates;
- c. A letter from the Secretary of Louisiana Economic Development confirming the customer’s interest and the importance of power availability within the five-year initial in-service date;
- d. The ESA has a term of at least 15 years, with an option to renew; and
- e. The ESA ensures a level of fixed revenue over the term of the ESA that will cover at least one-half of the fixed revenue requirement associated with the requested capacity during the term of the customer ESA.

2. Further, for any certification proceeding that is filed consistent with the requirements of this directive, I direct Staff to take reasonable steps to ensure that those applications are reviewed and processed on a timely basis, including retention of counsel and consultants as necessary, and handling any matters that arise with interventions, with the objective of the Commission being able to vote within 8 months of an application. Any utility seeking to take advantage of this regulatory pathway shall communicate with the Executive Counsel at least 60 days prior to any filing made at the Commission.

3. Nothing herein shall be construed to relinquish the Commission's authority over the proposed capacity additions, including, but not limited to the determination of whether the capacity addition serves the public interest and the prudence of the utility's management of the procurement, construction, or contract administration associated with such capacity additions. Further, nothing herein shall be construed as restricting or limiting any party’s participation in a certification proceeding that is filed pursuant to this directive.

Commissioner Coussan made the above directive, with Chairman Francis, Vice Chairman Skrmetta, and Commissioner Campbell concurring, and Commissioner Lewis opposing. The directive passed 4:1.

Present for Questions/Comments:

Andrew Carnegie-Baker – Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance

Logan Burke – The Alliance for Affordable Energy

Randy Young – Louisiana Energy Users Group

**-Directive to Staff to open a rulemaking to consider a framework for establishing new large load.**

**At the request of Commissioner Lewis.**

	<p>Commissioner Lewis’ directive read as follows: There is a growing opportunity and challenge in Louisiana’s electricity sector related to the demand of larger single loads, known as hyperscalers, with their unique needs changing the energy landscape for years to come. Recognizing these developments, the people, businesses, and government of our state have all taken a keen interest, often with some concern, in how we responsibly accommodate these new projects. Through these conversations, it has become clear that the Commission should establish policies that provide large new loads with a clear and stable environment in which to pursue their projects in Louisiana while also protecting existing ratepayers, preventing cost-shifts, and supporting long-term reliability.</p> <p>Therefore, I direct staff to open a rulemaking docket to investigate and propose a regulatory model that addresses the key elements of how large loads connect to the grid, procure energy capacity, and share costs. The resulting framework should provide a strong baseline for the expectations of new projects while preserving maximum adaptability to accommodate the unique demands and prerogatives of new customers. The docket should look at, but not be limited to, an examination of: (1) defining large load customers; (2) guaranteeing strong protections for existing customers through cost-causation measures, minimum bills, cost caps, or other contract terms; (3) requiring large load customers to contribute towards programs and riders that benefit the greater electricity system; (4) enabling faster, more transparent grid access (5) incentivizing new flexibility and demand management programs as it relates to these large loads; (6) incorporating novel energy procurement arrangements; and (7) enhanced stakeholder processes. One of the goals of establishing this framework would be to ensure the public interest is considered in a transparent and deliberative process while balancing economic development, improving grid reliability, and protecting affordable rates.</p> <p>Further, Staff is authorized to seek outside assistance, if determined necessary, to assist in this rulemaking to be conducted in a thorough manner and concluded expeditiously.</p> <p>On motion of Commissioner Coussan, seconded by Chairman Francis, with Vice Chairman Skrmetta and Commissioner Campbell concurring, and Commissioner Lewis objecting, the Commission voted to defer the directive until the January B&amp;E.</p> <p>Present for Questions/Comments: Lane Sisung – Outside Consultant for Staff</p> <p><b>DEFERRED</b></p>
<p><b>Ex. 23</b></p>	<p><b>T-37136</b> - Cantium, LLC vs. Rosefield Fourchon Operating, LLC. In re: Complaint against Rosefield for transportation and terminaling of crude oil as a Common Carrier without a tariff on file with the Commission at rates that are excessive and request that Rosefield pay reparations, refunds and damages for charges above just and reasonable rates.</p> <p><b>In re: Possible Executive Session to discuss litigation strategy, pursuant to La. R.S. 42:17, regarding Civil Suit No. 765932, Rosefield Fourchon Operating, LLC v. the Louisiana Public Service Commission.</b></p> <p>On motion of Vice Chairman Skrmetta, seconded by Commissioner Lewis, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to enter into Executive Session.</p> <p>On motion of Vice Chairman Skrmetta, seconded by Commissioner Lewis, with Chairman Francis and Commissioner Coussan concurring, and Commissioner Campbell temporarily absent, the Commission voted to exit the Executive Session.</p> <p>On motion of Vice Chairman Skrmetta, seconded by Commissioner Lewis, with Chairman Francis and Commissioner Coussan concurring, and Commissioner Campbell temporarily absent, the Commission directed the parties in the pending matter to file briefs within 30 days</p>



	<p>of the availability of the appellate transcript with reply briefs to be filed 15 days thereafter. The briefs shall be on the issue remanded back to the Commission, which is the applicability of revised La. Revised Statute 45:251 to the facts in Docket No. T-37136.</p> <p>Present for Questions/Comments:  Jamie Watts – Counsel for Rosefield Fourchon Operating, LLC</p>
<b>Ex. 24</b>	<p><b>U-37467</b> - Entergy Louisiana, LLC, ex parte. In re: Application for certification of the West Bank 500kV Transmission Project pursuant to General Order dated September 10, 2024 (Transmission Siting Order).</p> <p><b>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Final Recommendation of the Administrative Law Judge.</b></p> <p><b>At the request of Vice Chairman Skrmetta.</b></p> <p>After discussion, on motion of Vice Chairman Skrmetta, seconded by Chairman Francis, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to accept the Final Recommendation of the Administrative Law Judge filed into the record on December 8, 2025.</p> <p>Present for Questions/Comments:  Larry Hand - Vice President of Regulatory and Public Affairs, Entergy Louisiana, LLC  Randy Young - Louisiana Energy Users Group</p>

On motion of Vice Chairman Skrmetta, seconded by Chairman Francis, with Commissioner Lewis and Commissioner Coussan concurring, and Commissioner Campbell absent, the Commission voted to adjourn.

## **MEETING ADJOURNED**

The next Business and Executive Session will be held on Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.