LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION MINUTES FROM MARCH 26, 2025 OPEN SESSION

MINUTES OF MARCH 26, 2025 OPEN SESSION OF THE LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION HELD IN BATON ROUGE, 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 March 26, 2025, convening at 9:17 a.m., and adjourning at 11:22 p.m., Baton Rouge, Louisiana, with the above-name members of the Commission and Executive Secretary Brandon Frey present.

Ex. 1	Executive Counsel Kathryn Bowman reminded everyone that the April Business & Executive Session will be held in Many, LA at Cypress Bend Resort on April 16, 2025 at 10:00 AM.
	Vice Chairman Skrmetta introduced his new Executive Assistant, Dylan Mauberret. He also announced that the Atlantic Council will be hosting the Frontier's Initiative on Friday, March 28, 2025, at 9 A.M. in Baton Rouge.
N/A	Commissioner Lewis congratulated his Alma Mater, McNeese State, on its first round victory in March Madness. He also commented on the State's position on the ACEEE 2025 scorecard and that we were one of the most improved states in energy efficiency.
	Secretary Frey read an editorial piece written by Commissioner Campbell with regards to his opposition to Amendment No. 2 on the upcoming election.
	Jennifer Vosburg introduced the new General Manager of Pointe Coupee Electric Cooperative, Craig Magruder.
	Commissioner Coussan welcomed West Feliciana Parish President, Kenny Havard. He also wished his Executive Assistant, Grayson Walsh, a Happy Birthday.
Ex. 2	T-37409 - Louisiana Public Service Commission vs. Tiger Airport Shuttle, LLC. In Re: Alleged violation of R.S. 45:161 through 180.1 and General Order dated April 25, 2012 by engaging in activities related to transporting passengers intrastate without LPSC authority.
	In re: Discussion and possible vote pursuant to Rule 57 on Affidavit and Stipulation executed by the carrier.
TRANS	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.
	On motion of Chairman Francis, seconded by Vice Chairman Skrmetta, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to accept the Affidavit and Stipulation executed on February 26, 2025 for fines and fees totaling \$525.
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Ex. 3	R-31106 - 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.
MAY B&E	In re: Discussion and possible vote to pause the Statewide Energy Efficiency program authorized in Commission General Order dated April 24, 2024.
	DEFERRED TO MAY B&E
Ex. 4	R-31106 - 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.
	In re: Discussion and possible vote to retain an EM&V Contractor.
OGC/	After discussion, on motion of Chairman Francis, seconded by Commissioner Lewis, with Commissioner Coussan concurring, and Vice Chairman Skrmetta and Commissioner Campbell opposing, the Commission voted to retain Tetra Tech for a total not to exceed budget of \$7,238,549. The motion passed 3:2.
DONNA	Present for Questions/Comments: Larry Hand - Vice President for Regulatory & Public Affairs for Entergy Louisiana Jim Clarke – President of Asyndant Energy Debra Miller - Energy Efficiency & Consumer Programs Manager for SWEPCO MaryAnne Muschatt – Together LA - Constituent of New Orleans
Ex. 5	R-31106 - 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.
	In re: Discussion and possible vote to approve proposed budget increase Chris Justin due to scope expansion.
OCC	Exhibit 4 on the February 19, 2025 B&E.
OGC/ DONNA	After discussion, on motion of Chairman Francis, seconded by Commissioner Lewis, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to retain Chris Justin for a budget of \$72,000 in fees and \$12,000 in expenses, for a total not to exceed budget of \$84,000.
	Present for Questions/Comments: Chris Justin, Staff Consultant
Ex. 6	R-35462 - Louisiana Public Service Commission, ex parte. In re: Rulemaking to Research and Evaluate Customer-Centered Options for all Electric Customer Classes as well as Other Regulatory Environments.
APRIL B&E	In re: Discussion and possible vote on Entergy Louisiana LLC's Motion for Commission Guidance and Consideration.
	DEFERRED

Ex. 7	S-37391 - 1803 Electric Cooperative, Inc., ex parte. In re: Request for a Letter of Non-Opposition authorizing a loan in order to acquire certain transmission assets of its member cooperatives.
	In re: Discussion and possible vote on Staff Report and Recommendation.
LEGAL	After discussion, on motion of Chairman Francis, seconded by Commissioner Campbell, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to accept the Staff Report and Recommendation filed into the record on March 13, 2025.
	Present for Questions/Comments: Kyle Marionneaux – Counsel for 1803 Electric Cooperative Brian Hobbs, CEO of 1803 Electric Cooperative
Ex. 8	S-37410 - Dixie Electric Membership Corporation, ex parte. In re: Request for Letter of Non-Opposition authorizing DEMCO to secure a loan for a four-year construction work plan and mortgage assets associated therewith.
	In re: Discussion and possible vote on Staff Report and Recommendation.
LEGAL	After discussion, on motion of Vice Chairman Skrmetta, seconded by Chairman Francis, with Commissioner Campbell and Commissioner Lewis concurring, and Commissioner Coussan temporarily absent, the Commission voted to accept the Staff Report and Recommendation filed into the record on February 17, 2025.
	Present for Questions/Comments: Kara Kantrow – Counsel for Dixie Electric Membership Corporation Jeff Andry - Chief Strategy & Regulatory Officer, Dixie Electric Membership Corporation
Ex. 9	S-37461 - Brightspeed of Louisiana, LLC and Brightspeed of South Arkansas, LLC. In re: Request for Letter of Non-Opposition to issuance of guarantees and pledge of assets as security in connection with Refinancing Agreement of parent Connect Holding II LLC.
	In re: Discussion and possible vote on Staff Report and Recommendation.
LEGAL	On motion of Vice Chairman Skrmetta, seconded by Commissioner Lewis, with Chairman Francis and Commissioner Campbell concurring, and Commissioner Coussan temporarily absent, the Commission voted to accept Staff's Report and Recommendation filed into the record on March 5, 2025.
Ex. 10	U-37143 - Entergy Louisiana, LLC, ex parte. In re: Request for exemption under the Commission's General Order dated October 10, 2013 (the Transmission Siting Order) regarding the West Bank 230kV Transmission Project.
	In re: Discussion and possible vote on Uncontested Stipulated Settlement.
	Vice Chairman Skrmetta made the following motion: I move to approve the uncontested stipulated settlement which will approve a portfolio of projects referred to as the Westbank 230 KV Project. But, I want to provide some context to the public for why the Commission approves projects like these.
	Two days ago, President Trump and Governor Landry, joined by other Louisiana leaders and Hyundai Motor Group, announced from the Oval Office that Hyundai Motor Group has made a groundbreaking decision to invest \$5.8 billion in a new manufacturing facility in Louisiana. This first-of-its-kind site marks Hyundai's inaugural North American steel facility,

establishing a fully integrated, made-in-America supply chain to support its automotive manufacturing operations across the United States.

The ultra-low carbon steel production plant will be located on approximately 1,700 acres in Donaldsonville, Louisiana, anchoring the RiverPlex MegaPark on the Westbank of the Mississippi River in Ascension Parish. At approximately 17,000 acres, RiverPlex is the largest undeveloped tract along the deep-water segment of the Mississippi River. Hyundai Steel Company (HSC), a member of Hyundai Motor Group, is expected to create more than 1,300 direct new jobs with an average salary of \$95,000. Louisiana Economic Development estimates the project will result in about 4,100 indirect new jobs, for a total of 5,400 potential new jobs in the Capital Region.

With this announcement and the previously announced Meta investment, Louisiana is Winning and winning big. I want to thank Governor Landry for his leadership in positioning Louisiana for this moment. I also want to commend the LPSC and my fellow commissioners for our part in preparing Louisiana for this moment. Projects like Hyundai Steel would not be possible without the LPSC's oversight and approval of infrastructure projects like the Westbank 230kv Project. Not only does Louisiana need transmission investment to attract projects like these, but we also need an adequate supply of reliable and affordable generation. Through the Integrated Resource Planning process and our certification proceedings over the last decade, Louisiana is able to offer reliable and affordable power that is attractive to companies like Hyundai and others. In fact, the most recent Energy Information Administration report, December 2024 data, indicated that Louisiana had the lowest industrial rates in the nation. I want to underscore it: this enormous Hyundai investment in our state is a direct result of both our proactive approach to investment in our electric grid and also the competitiveness of our industrial rates. I am ready to roll up my sleeves and keep advancing the infrastructure needed to support Louisiana's economic development opportunity while ensuring cost-based, affordable rates for all residential, commercial and industrial customers.

After discussion, on motion of Vice Chairman Skrmetta, seconded by Chairman Francis, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to accept the Uncontested Stipulated Settlement filed into the record on February 11, 2025.

Present for Questions/Comments:

Larry Hand – Vice President for Regulatory & Public Affairs for Entergy Louisiana Phillip May – CEO of Entergy Louisiana

Randy Young – Louisiana Energy Users Group

Ex. 11

U-37184 - Golden Beams Power LLC, ex parte. In re: Petition for Jurisdictional Determination.

MAY B&E

In re: Discussion and possible vote on Staff Recommendation.

Exhibit 7 at February 19, 2025 B&E.

DEFERRED TO MAY B&E

Ex. 12

U-37208 - Panola-Harrison Electric Cooperative, Inc., ex parte. In re: Request for modifications to its base rates and its standard Terms and Conditions.

In re: Discussion and possible vote on Joint Stipulated Settlement.

LEGAL

After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Chairman Francis, with Commissioner Lewis and Commissioner Coussan concurring, and Vice Chairman Skrmetta temporarily absent, the Commission voted to approve the Joint Stipulation filed into the record on January 8, 2025.

Ex. 13	U-37209 - South Coast Gas Company, Inc., ex parte. In re: Request for an interim Operating Revenue Rider.
	In re: Discussion and possible vote on Motion for Amendment of Interim Cost Recovery Rider for South Coast Gas Company, Inc.
LEGAL	After discussion, on motion of Chairman Francis, seconded by Commissioner Lewis, with Commissioner Campbell and Commissioner Coussan concurring, and Vice Chairman Skrmetta temporarily absent, the Commission voted to accept South Coast's motion to amend Order No. U-37209 and South Coast's Interim Cost Recovery Rider.
	Present for Questions/Comments: Randy Young - counsel for South Coast Gas Company, Inc.
Ex. 14	U-37341 - Pointe Coupee Electric Membership Corporation, ex parte. In re: Application for increase of base rates, including request for interim rate relief, request for associated Tariff modifications, and request to establish a formula rate plan and emergency reserve fund.
LEGAL	In re: Discussion and possible vote on an Uncontested Stipulated Settlement.
	On motion of Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Coussan, with Chairman Francis and Commissioner Lewis concurring, and Vice Chairman Skrmetta temporarily absent, the Commission voted to approve the Uncontested Stipulated Settlement filed into the record on February 18, 2025.
Ex. 15	U-37345 - CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp. d/b/a CenterPoint Energy Entex, ex parte. In re: Request for renewal of rate stabilization plan rider for an additional three-year term.
	In re: Discussion and possible vote pursuant to Rule 57 on Staff's Report and Recommendation.
LEGAL	On motion of Commissioner Coussan, seconded by Commissioner Lewis, with Chairman Francis and Commissioner Campbell concurring, and Vice Chairman Skrmetta temporarily absent, the Commission voted to exercise its original and primary jurisdiction pursuant to Rule 57.
	On motion of Chairman Francis, seconded by Commissioner Coussan, with Commissioner Campbell and Commissioner Lewis concurring, and Vice Chairman Skrmetta temporarily absent, the Commission voted to approve the Staff Report and Recommendation filed into the record on January 31, 2025.
Ex. 16	U-37346 - CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp. d/b/a CenterPoint Energy Arkla, ex parte. In re: Request for renewal of rate stabilization plan rider for an additional three-year term.
	In re: Discussion and possible vote pursuant to Rule 57 on Staff's Report and Recommendation.
LEGAL	On motion of Chairman Francis, seconded by Commissioner Lewis, with Commissioner Campbell and Commissioner Coussan concurring, and Vice Chairman Skrmetta temporarily absent, the Commission voted to exercise its original and primary jurisdiction pursuant to Rule 57.
	On motion of Chairman Francis, seconded by Commissioner Coussan, with Commissioner Campbell and Commissioner Lewis concurring, and Vice Chairman Skrmetta temporarily absent, the Commission voted to approve the Staff Report and Recommendation filed into the record on January 31, 2025.

Ex. 17	U-37385 - CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp. dba CenterPoint Energy Arkla, ex parte. In re: Rate Stabilization Plan Earnings and Equity Report for the Twelve Months Ending June 30, 2024.
	In re: Discussion and possible vote on Joint Report and Draft Order.
LEGAL	After discussion, on motion of Chairman Francis, seconded by Commissioner Coussan, with Commissioner Campbell and Commissioner Lewis concurring, and Vice Chairman Skrmetta temporarily absent, the Commission voted to accept the Joint Report and issue the Draft Order filed into the record on March 13, 2025.
	Present for Questions/Comments: Jim Dicharry - Manager of Regulatory Affairs, CenterPoint Energy Ryan King – Counsel for Delta Utilities
Ex. 18	U-37386 - CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp. dba CenterPoint Energy Entex, ex parte. In re: Rate Stabilization Plan Earnings and Equity Report for the Twelve Months Ending June 30, 2024.
	In re: Discussion and possible vote on Joint Report and Draft Order.
LEGAL	After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Lewis, seconded by Chairman Francis, with Commissioner Campbell and Commissioner Coussan concurring, and Vice Chairman Skrmetta temporarily absent, the Commission voted to accept the Joint Report and issue the Draft Order filed into the record on March 13, 2025.
	Present for Questions/Comments:
	Jim Dicharry – Manager of Regulatory Affairs, CenterPoint Energy
	Ryan King – Delta Utilities
Ex. 19	U-37407 - Southwestern Electric Power Company, ex parte. In re: Application for approval of a natural gas Capacity Purchase Agreement.
	In re: Discussion and possible vote on Uncontested Stipulated Settlement.
LEGAL	On motion of Chairman Francis, seconded by Commissioner Campbell, with Commissioner Lewis and Commissioner Coussan concurring, and Vice Chairman Skrmetta temporarily absent, the Commission voted to approve the Uncontested Stipulated Settlement filed into the record on February 12, 2025.
Ex. 20	U-37479 - Cleco Power LLC, ex parte. In re: Application for Authorization of Phase I of the Comprehensive Hardening Plan; (II) Related Rate Recovery; and (III) Expedited Treatment.
PULLED	In re: Discussion and possible vote to retain an engineering consultant.
	PULLED
Ex. 21	U-37479 - Cleco Power LLC, ex parte. In re: Application for Authorization of Phase I of the Comprehensive Hardening Plan; (II) Related Rate Recovery; and (III) Expedited Treatment.
	In re: Discussion and possible vote to retain an outside consultant.
OGC/ DONNA	On motion of Chairman Francis, seconded by Commissioner Lewis, with Commissioner Campbell and Commissioner Coussan concurring, and Vice Chairman Skrmetta temporarily absent, the Commission voted to retain United Professionals Company for a bid of \$130,000 in fees and \$4,000 in expenses, for a total not to exceed budget of \$134,000.

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Ex. 22	U-37502 - Southwestern Electric Power Company, ex parte. In re: Application for extension of Formula Rate Plan, Service Quality Improvement Program, and request for interim increase in vegetation management.
OGC/ DONNA	In re: Discussion and possible vote to retain United Professionals Company.
	On motion of Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Chairman Francis, with Commissioner Lewis and Commissioner Coussan concurring, and Vice Chairman Skrmetta temporarily absent, the Commission voted to retain United Professionals Company for \$197,000 in fees and \$8,000 in expenses, for a total not to exceed budget of \$205,000.
Ex. 23	U-37502 - Southwestern Electric Power Company, ex parte. In re: Application for extension of Formula Rate Plan, Service Quality Improvement Program, and request for interim increase in vegetation management.
APRIL B&E	In re: Discussion and possible vote on interim increase for vegetation management pursuant to Rule 57 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure.
	Exhibit 14 on the February 2025 B&E.
	DEFERRED
Ex. 24	T-37136 - Cantium, LLC Vs. Rosefield Fourchon Operating, LLC. In re: Complaint against Rosefield for transportation and terminalling 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.
APRIL B&E	In re: Discussion and possible vote on Rosefield Fourchon Operating LLC's Motion for Immediate Review of Interlocutory Ruling and Motion for a Stay of Proceedings Pursuant to Rule 57.
	DEFERRED
Ex. 25	1) Reports 2) Resolutions 3) Discussions 4) ERSC/OMS/SPP
LEGAL	- Discussion and possible vote to ratify interventions of Louisiana Public Service Commission in RTO-Related or other Federal Energy Regulatory Proceedings.
	On motion of Commissioner Lewis, seconded by Commissioner Campbell, with Chairman Francis and Commissioner Coussan concurring, and Vice Chairman Skrmetta temporarily absent, the Commission voted to ratify the interventions in ER25-1147 and D.C. Cir. Nos 25-1045 & 25-1066.
	5) Directives

Ex. 26	Undocketed - Directive to Staff on Cybersecurity.
	At the request of Vice Chairman Skrmetta.
LEGAL	Vice Chairman Skrmetta's directive reads as follows: I direct Staff to look into the potential effects data centers can have on utility infrastructure, specifically from the cybersecurity perspective. This should be done in connection with our current cybersecurity monitoring docket, Docket No. X-35764. Depending on the information garnered, and if deemed necessary, Staff is directed to open a rulemaking docket to look at establishing safeguards for jurisdictional utilities in connection with potential cybersecurity threats. In conducting this research, Staff is also directed to coordinate with our current team on cybersecurity. There was no opposition to the directive.

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

MEETING ADJOURNED

The next Business and Executive Session will be held on Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at 2000 Cypress Bend Parkway, Many, Louisiana 71449.