

TRANSCRIPT OF THE LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION BUSINESS AND EXECUTIVE OPEN SESSION HELD ON NOVEMBER 19, 2025 IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA. PRESENT WERE: CHAIRMAN MIKE FRANCIS, VICE CHAIRMAN ERIC SKRMETTA, COMMISSIONER DAVANTE LEWIS, COMMISSIONER JEAN-PAUL COUSSAN, AND COMMISSIONER FOSTER CAMPBELL.

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2 **BUSINESS AND EXECUTIVE OPEN SESSION HELD ON NOVEMBER 19,**
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4 **MIKE FRANCIS, VICE CHAIRMAN ERIC SKRMETTA,**
5 **COMMISSIONER DAVANTE LEWIS, COMMISSIONER JEAN-PAUL**
6 **COUSSAN, AND COMMISSIONER FOSTER CAMPBELL.**

7 **CHAIRMAN MIKE FRANCIS:** All right. Let's get started. Y'all all stand up,
8 please. As usual, we'll honor the Creator. I'll take that privilege today.

9 **[CHAIRMAN MIKE FRANCIS LEADS IN PRAYER]**

10 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Okay. Commission Skrmetta, do the pledge, please.

11 **VICE CHAIRMAN ERIC SKRMETTA:** In the month of Veteran's Day, please
12 honor the flag with the pledge.

13 **[VICE CHAIRMAN ERIC SKRMETTA LEADS IN THE PLEDGE]**

14 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** All right. Thank you. You all be seated. We'll start
15 out with a resolution in the announcements for --

16 **VICE CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Commissioner Lambert.

17 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** -- Commissioner Lambert. Louis Lambert. I tell you
18 what, Kathryn, you have a copy of that?

19 **SECRETARY BRANDON FREY:** I got it, and I'll read it out because I put it
20 together. I think she prefers me to read it.

21 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** All right.

22 **MS. KATHRYN BOWMAN:** Hey, hey. Guys, we've started. Guys.

1 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Time out up there. There's the backdoor if y'all want
2 to go outside and talk. Other than that, we're going to keep this thing in order. Isn't
3 that right, Kathryn?

4 **MS. BOWMAN:** I'm trying.

5 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** All right.

6 **SECRETARY FREY:** And before I read this resolution, I want to share a funny
7 story about Commission Lambert who I started after he was no longer a
8 Commissioner, but he was in the Senate at the time and carried a lot of legislation.
9 I know Foster as well, for the PSC, but he was representing a trucking company in
10 front of the Commission to get one of those permits that, you know, we use to talk
11 about. It wasn't the Rolex permit, but there was the fight to get one of those permits
12 and it was time sensitive. So the Commission delegated Tubby the authority to
13 appoint a hearing examiner to handle the case rather than go through the ALJ, and
14 I had the honor of being appointed the hearing examiner. So I put on one of the
15 robes and presided over Commissioner Lambert's hearing. He was the attorney
16 putting on the case. So fast forward to the legislative session, Tubby and Tubby's
17 assistant and I go over to the Capitol to work on a piece of legislation. And as they
18 walk up he says, Tubby, Ken, Your Honor, and they -- it drove him nuts. So he
19 called me Your Honor every time. So that's just the kind of guy he was. He had a
20 great sense of humor. And I was thinking about that when I wrote the resolution.
21 So I'll read this out to y'all. And one other thing that was kind of interesting, and
22 it's referenced in here, Commissioner Lambert was actually a Commissioner when
23 we had three Commissioners and then the Constitution of '74 changed it to add --

1 to expand it to five. So he was actually part of three and part of five. So really
2 interesting time to serve. So here's a resolution to express the condolences upon
3 the passing of Louis J. Lambert, Jr., and to further express gratitude for his services
4 to the Louisiana Public Service Commission and the state of Louisiana. Whereas
5 the members of Louisiana Public Service Commission, we're saddened to learn of
6 the passing of Louis J. Lambert Jr. on September 27, 2025. Whereas Louis J.
7 Lambert Jr. was a graduate of Louisiana State University and Loyola University
8 School of Law. And whereas prior to his service with the Louisiana Public Service
9 Commission, he began his public service when he was elected to Louisiana State
10 Senate in 1971. And whereas Louis J. Lambert Jr. was elected as a member of the
11 Constitutional Convention in 1974, which resulted in the creation of the Louisiana
12 Constitution that we currently act under. And whereas immediately following his
13 service at the constitutional convention, he was elected as a member of the
14 Louisiana Public Service Commission, embarking on a career to culminate with
15 three terms and 18 years of service. Whereas Commissioner Lambert had the
16 unique distinction of serving on both a three-member and five-member
17 Commission as the LPSC transitioned in according with the change in the
18 Constitution. And whereas Commissioner Lambert during his tenure at the
19 Commission was instrumental in the adoption of a number of rules and regulations
20 involving regulated utilities and common carriers, many of which are still in effect
21 today, including regulations on promotional practices, fuel and power cost
22 adjustments, billing errors and adjustments, and certification of power plants, just
23 to name a few. And whereas Commissioner Lambert during his tenure oversaw

1 substantial changes in the regulation of motor carriers, electric cooperatives, and
2 telecommunication industry transformative changes which still are applicable
3 today. And whereas Commissioner Lambert in 1979 ran for governor, narrowly
4 losing to David Treen, further cementing his status as statewide acknowledged
5 public servant. And whereas Commissioner Lambert returned to the Louisiana
6 Senate in 1994, serving until 2004. And whereas Commissioner Lambert during
7 his second tenure in the Senate continued championing the calls of the Commission
8 and its constituents. And whereas Commissioner Lambert maintained a legal
9 practice included representing public utilities and common carriers before the
10 Commission for a number of years. And whereas Commissioner Lambert was
11 appointed to Louisiana State University Board of Supervisors furthering a legacy
12 of public service. And whereas Louis J. Lambert Jr.'s lifelong legacy of public
13 service was formally acknowledged with his induction to the Louisiana Political
14 Hall of Fame in 2024. Now, therefore, it be resolved that the Louisiana Public
15 Service Commission does hereby express its deepest sympathies and sincere
16 condolences to the family of Commissioner Lambert and does hereby offer best
17 wishes, hopes, and prayers for comfort to those who mourn his passing. Be it
18 further resolved that the Louisiana Public Service Commission does hereby express
19 its deepest gratitude to the family of Commissioner Louis J. Lambert Jr. for the gift
20 and lasting legacy of his service to the Louisiana Public Service Commission and
21 the people of state of Louisiana. And be it further resolved that a suitable copy of
22 this resolution be transmitted to his family. And we will print it on the nice paper
23 and make sure his family gets a copy of it.

1 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** All right. Is there any family members here for Louis
2 Lambert?

3 **SECRETARY FREY:** And I had reached out, I did not hear anything back, so.
4 But I have a contact, and I'll make sure that his daughter gets a copy of it.

5 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Okay. Commissioner Campbell.

6 **COMMISSIONER FOSTER CAMPBELL:** Thank you, Mr. President. Louis
7 was a friend of mine when I ran for the Senate in 1976, '77. Louis helped me, I got
8 elected, and we've been friends ever since. He served two terms in the Senate and
9 he was always a nice fellow. The best thing about him, he was -- he wasn't real
10 argumentative. He got along with everybody. People liked him. He was a very
11 kind person, I thought. So anyway, I'm sorry to see him pass, but under his
12 conditions, things work out for the best. So got to say something about him. He
13 had a nice wife, I knew his wife. And I knew his brother Billy and he had passed
14 just a little bit before he did. So Louis helped me get elected to the Public Service
15 Commission and I'll never be -- I'll always be grateful. Thank you.

16 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** I met Louis about 1980, '81, along in there. He was a
17 Commissioner and I went before the Commission for one of those Rolex trucking
18 permits and had asked him to it. He was a nice guy. I really enjoyed visiting with
19 him. Commissioner Lewis, you have something?

20 **COMMISSIONER DAVANTE LEWIS:** Nope.

21 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Okay. Commissioner Skrmetta, anything else?

22 **VICE CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Actually, I only got to meet Commissioner
23 Lambert -- I'm sorry. You're looking -- can you hear me? Okay. All right. I only

1 got to meet Commissioner Lambert when I first became a member of the Public
2 Service Commission -- or actually right before and, you know, as a practicing
3 attorney. And he was a standup guy. And so glad to meet him and glad to have the
4 opportunity to engage with him even on a little bit as he was practicing before the
5 Commission in 2009, 2010. So sad to see him go and glad to see him recognized.

6 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Okay. And we have -- I think we had the passing of
7 another prominent citizen. Is that you wanted to say something about --

8 **VICE CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Jim Bernhard? Did you want to say anything
9 about Jim Bernhard?

10 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Jim Bernhard. Yeah. Do we have anything written up
11 about Jim Bernhard?

12 **SECRETARY FREY:** Nothing yet. I know that happened just recently, so.

13 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Okay.

14 **SECRETARY FREY:** But obviously he has a role in regulating utilities, so we
15 will work on that as well.

16 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Okay. All right.

17 **COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL:** I'd like to say a few words.

18 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** All right.

19 **COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL:** I was sorry to hear about Mr. Bernhard. He
20 seemed like he was an awful young guy to pass away. He did a lot of good for this
21 community and this state. He was very smart, very industrious. And every time I
22 ran, he always helped me. That didn't make him a good fellow, but he always
23 helped me and I appreciate it very much. I think he was a very giving guy, as the

1 community would attest to, because there's lots of things in Baton Rouge that he
2 sponsored. And I hope that his family is at peace and that's a great loss. And he
3 was interested -- at one time he was chairman of the Democratic Party for a small
4 period and I was glad to see him there. But I hope people remember the Jim
5 Bernhard I knew was a good guy, a caring fellow. I don't know if you knew this
6 or not, he started out as a plumber. His dad was a plumber, and he was always
7 proud of that heritage. I think his brother has a plumbing company in Lafayette.
8 But his dad was a plumber, and he was always proud of that. Thank you.

9 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Okay. I think Jean-Paul Coussan is on his way, should
10 be here at any time. And also I understand the group coming down from SWEPCO
11 is -- had some fog issues and they should be here shortly. And we can move their
12 -- what was that? Number two on there?

13 **SECRETARY FREY:** Number two, yes.

14 **MS. BOWMAN:** Yes, sir. They're Exhibit 2.

15 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Move them down to the last if -- see if there's no
16 objection for that. [NONE HEARD] Okay. Kathryn, you have some
17 announcements?

18 **MS. BOWMAN:** I do. Yes, sir. So just two quick reminders. One is that the
19 Public Utility Section CLE will be Thursday, December 4, at the Baton Rouge City
20 Club. And if you have any questions or need to get the information to register,
21 reach out to Jonathan McCartney. The second reminder is that the December B&E
22 will be in Natchitoches at the Natchitoches Event Center and that will be on
23 Wednesday, December 17.

1 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Okay. Commissioner Lewis, you have anything?

2 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** I'm good, Mr. Chairman.

3 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** You're out of form today. You usually have something

4 to say.

5 **VICE CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Do you have any announcements? Any

6 announcements?

7 **COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL:** No.

8 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** I'm good.

9 **VICE CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Okay. None from us.

10 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** So let's -- I guess we need to get started. Exhibit --

11 **MS. BOWMAN:** Exhibit Number 3 is Docket Number U-36986. This is the audit

12 of Entergy Louisiana's Quick Start energy efficiency rate rider, pursuant to the

13 Commission's energy efficiency rules, for program years seven and eight, ending

14 December 31 of 2021 and 2022, respectively. It's a discussion and possible vote

15 on a joint report and draft order. Staff initiated this audit on September 27, 2023

16 pursuant to the Commission's rules to determine whether the costs passed through

17 riders were reasonable and prudent, and whether the costs were appropriate and

18 eligible for recovery through the energy efficiency riders. After conducting its

19 review, Staff issued its audit report on January 24 of 2025, which was published in

20 the Commission's Official Bulletin with the Louisiana Energy Users Group timely

21 intervening. Staff's audit report determined that the costs charged for program

22 years seven and eight were reasonable and prudent and were appropriate for

23 recovery consistent with the Commission's then energy efficiency rules. And upon

1 review, ELL agreed with Staff's audit report and LEUG has indicated it does not
2 oppose the audit report. As there are no unresolved issues, Staff and Entergy filed
3 a joint report and draft order into the record on October 20 of 2025 seeking
4 Commission approval and issuance of a draft order with LEUG indicating no
5 opposition. Staff recommends that the Commission accept the joint report and issue
6 the draft order filed into the record on October 20, 2025.

7 **VICE CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Move to accept Staff recommendation.

8 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Second.

9 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Move to accept by Commissioner Skrmetta, seconded
10 by Commissioner Lewis. Is there any conversation or discussion? [NONE
11 HEARD] I see that SWEPCO's here.

12 **MS. BOWMAN:** Want to go back to Exhibit 2?

13 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Let's go back to Number 2 and -- but this -- Number 3
14 is passed.

15 **MS. BOWMAN:** Exhibit Number 2 is Docket Number U-35989. This is the
16 Commission's audit of fuel cost of SWEPCO associated with the February 2021
17 winter storm event. It's a discussion and possible vote on a joint report and draft
18 order. This docket was initiated via directive from the Commission at the April
19 2021 B&E for Staff to open dockets to audit and review the actions taken and
20 decisions made by the investor-owned utilities and the natural gas distribution
21 companies during the February 2021 Winter Storm, as well as review of the
22 temporary modifications to the Fuel Adjustment Clause General Order authorized
23 by Special Order 19-2021. Staff filed its audit report on August 21 of this year

1 finding that SWEPCO's fuel and purchased power costs during February 2021 were
2 more than 10 times the average of previous February fuel costs and other winter
3 months during 2021, but that these costs were appropriate and eligible for recovery.
4 Staff found that the costs were appropriate as they were necessary for the provision
5 of service to customers and that SWEPCO's actions leading up to and during the
6 February 2021 Winter Storm were reasonable. Staff indicate -- excuse me.
7 SWEPCO indicated it does not oppose Staff's audit report via filing on October 31
8 of this year. And as there are no unresolved issues, Staff and SWEPCO filed a joint
9 report and draft order into the record on November 5, 2025. Staff recommends that
10 the Commission accept the joint report and issue the draft order filed into the record
11 on November 5, 2025.

12 **COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL:** I make a motion --

13 **VICE CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Second.

14 **COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL:** -- that we accept Staff recommendation.

15 **VICE CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Second.

16 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Motion to accept Staff recommendation by
17 Commission Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Skrmetta. And I think
18 Commissioner Lewis has a question.

19 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Yes. Bobby, if you could come see really quickly.

20 **MR. BOBBY GILLIAM:** Good morning Commissioners.

21 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Good morning.

22 **MR. GILLIAM:** Bobby Gilliam representing SWEPCO.

23 **MS. BOWMAN:** Bobby, use the mic.

1 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Click the button.

2 **MR. GILLIAM:** Good morning. Bobby Gilliam representing SWEPCO. Thank
3 you.

4 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Thank you, Bobby. Just a quick question, kind of
5 prospective here. I know that we're now facing more winter storms and I have no
6 questions with the audit, I'm just kind of curious on SWEPCO's plans going
7 forward with the potential of winterization and more freezes that we've seen more
8 frequently. I was just curious if there's been discussions about looking at your spot
9 base procurement or hedging? Just what -- now that we've gone through Winter
10 Storm Uri, what have been -- or what has been some of the proactive steps that
11 SWEPCO's taken in regards to any potential future winter storms?

12 **MR. GILLIAM:** Right, Commissioner. Yeah, that was a unusual storm. It wasn't
13 like a ice storm. It was the ice storm. I've never seen anything like it in my life.
14 So it was one that we did learn from. And one of the things you look at is units
15 available. And in this storm, we were able to -- they were under maintenance, but
16 we were able to pull them back quickly. So you always look a little more closely
17 at that when you put a unit out for maintenance or not. So that's one thing we've
18 learned. And we've been -- we also are about to file -- I'll tell you, everyone -- a
19 major resilience plan here, maybe by the end of this week is our goal, like Friday.
20 So we have a plan to address all kinds of issues, but it's a further complement to
21 our vegetation plant that y'all approved a while back, and we've been implementing
22 that as we speak. So we're going to phase two. But we got a lot of lot of emergency
23 plans in place and contingencies that we developed as a result of this prior storm.

1 And I will say this, I remember it well, because I walked out -- and at my house, it
2 was literally four inches thick of ice on the roadway. It wasn't like there was some
3 ice. It was solid ice. It was an amazing circumstance.

4 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Yeah, no. No, thank you so much. And that was
5 just my curiosity as we -- this has been a growing topic among Commissioners
6 around winterization. It's a different style of resiliency and reliability concerns,
7 and so I was just kind of curious what proactive steps since Winter Storm Uri that
8 you all have taken. And I look forward to reading your plan and continuing working
9 with you. So thank you.

10 **MR. GILLIAM:** We definitely are. Okay. Thank you, Commissioner.

11 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Thank you, Bobby. All right. Anything else? Any
12 other questions or comments? [NONE HEARD] Hearing none, Number 2 is
13 approved.

14 **MS. BOWMAN:** Exhibit Number 4 is Docket Number U-37468. This is
15 Entergy's application for recovery in rates of costs related to Hurricane Francine
16 and other related relief. It's a discussion and possible vote on an uncontested
17 stipulated settlement. On September 11, 2024, Hurricane Francine made landfall
18 causing damage to Entergy's infrastructure throughout southeast Louisiana. On
19 December 30, 2024, Entergy filed this application seeking recovery of
20 approximately \$183 million in costs related to Hurricane Francine, as well as
21 interim rate relief. Notice of the application was published in the Commission's
22 Official Bulletin and timely interventions were received from LEUG and the
23 Alliance. At the February 2025 B&E, the Commission voted to approve Entergy's

1 request for interim relief, subject to certain conditions. After discovery and the
2 submission of testimony, Entergy and Staff entered into an uncontested stipulated
3 settlement, and LEUG and the Alliance do not oppose this stipulation. The major
4 terms are as follows. The costs incurred by Entergy in restoring service and
5 repairing its facilities in the wake of Hurricane Francine are reasonable, necessary,
6 and prudently incurred and therefore eligible for recovery from customers. As to
7 the Francine distribution capital costs, which totaled approximately \$142 million,
8 the company is approved to recover the functionalized Francine distribution costs
9 pursuant to its terms of the distribution recovery mechanism and its rider FRP
10 except for the cap, including the carrying costs at the company's WAC. Of the
11 Francine O&M costs and the carrying costs of approximately \$33 million that was
12 withdrawn by the company in February of 2025, approximately 1.8 million of that
13 shall be returned as a refund. Entergy will also make a test year adjustment to the
14 DRM in its test year 2025 annual filing of its rider FRP, that is to be made in 2026,
15 to reflect the difference between accrued amounts and amounts actually paid to
16 third parties. Staff recommends that the Commission approve the uncontested
17 stipulated settlement filed into the record on September 29, 2025.

18 **VICE CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Move to approve and accept the Staff
19 recommendation.

20 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Move to approve by Commissioner Skrmetta, seconded
21 by the Chair.

22 **COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL:** I'll second.

1 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Okay. Commissioner Campbell seconds. And, let's
2 see, I think Commission Lewis had some questions for the folks here at Entergy.

3 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Mr. Hand, can I see you for a second?

4 **MR. LARRY HAND:** Good morning.

5 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Good morning. Good morning. Just a few quick
6 questions because I know this is a conversation a lot of my constituents ask about
7 hurricane recovery. And can you explain just briefly the different recovery process
8 we're using in this one than what we have done in previous hurricane recovery
9 cost?

10 **MR. HAND:** Happy to. And good morning. Larry Hand on behalf of Entergy
11 Louisiana. For Hurricane Francine, it's significant storm in terms of impact. We
12 had a quick recovery, thankfully. The total amount of damages was, as Kathryn
13 read, roughly 175, \$180 million, which is significant, but not the same catastrophic
14 type of damages we had in 2020 and 2021. And so for that reason, we looked at
15 the recovery differently and we said we wanted to maintain our storm escrow
16 reserve that had been funded for truly catastrophic events. And so the recovery that
17 we proposed about a year ago -- yeah, about a year ago, Commission approved was
18 interim recovery and we would use for the capital portion of the Francine cost
19 recovery that would be recovered through the distribution recovery mechanism in
20 the FRP. So it's not a separate line item on the bill like our securitization charges.
21 And with regard to the O&M component of that storm cost restoration -- or
22 restoration cost, we utilized about 30 million or so from the prefunded hurricane
23 storm escrow account. So the combination of those two we used, we thought it was

1 a good way to not only pay the contractors who worked in the storm, but also to
2 mitigate the bill impact. When we implemented cost recovery through the DRM,
3 it was about I believe \$0.80 a month for a 1,000 kWh customer. With the
4 recommendation from the LPSC Staff in the settlement here that monthly cost
5 recovery will go from approximately \$0.80 a month for a residential customer down
6 to \$0.75 a month. And the remainder of Staff's recommendation will be
7 implemented through a refund or a credit by Entergy, you know, shareholders, we
8 will put about \$1.8 million back into the storm escrow to kind of put that money
9 back because it was one of the recommendations from the Staff. So I don't know
10 that answers the question.

11 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** No, that does. Can you tell me where does the storm
12 escrow sit now with this additional 1.9?

13 **MR. HAND:** Ballpark?

14 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Yeah. Yeah. You don't have to be precise.

15 **MR. HAND:** I don't have it in front of me and my phone a friend is not here. I
16 believe it's around 240, 245 million.

17 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Okay. 245 million. And --

18 **MR. HAND:** Commissioner, I will follow up with you because I want to make
19 sure I have the right number, but I'll follow up after the meeting.

20 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** No. That's perfect because when I was looking, I
21 just wanted to make sure where we were. I know that was some of our previous
22 conversations when we were doing the interim rider was about the storm escrow,
23 so I was just curious where now we stand. We've made it out of hurricane season

1 this year, but I wanted to be cautious for next year. And briefly, can -- or maybe
2 this is a question for Bill Barta about the carrying cost miscalculation from
3 September to November. That was corrected, but can you explain just what was
4 seen there?

5 **MR. HAND:** I will do my best and Bill can certainly get into the details because
6 he's the one who discovered our error. But, you know, when we -- you know,
7 typical when we close capital to, you know, when we're constructing work in
8 process, we accumulate what's called an allowance for funds used during
9 construction. And so we had done that because of the capital components of the
10 Francine restoration, putting up a new pole, for example, to the extent that was
11 capital. We accrued AFUDC on that pursuant to our normal practices in preparing
12 the cost recovery application. We also calculated a carrying cost on storm cost like
13 we typically do and we inadvertently overlapped and overestimated the amount of
14 carrying cost. So that is the reduction that Mr. Barta identified and we agreed to
15 readily because it was an error on our part.

16 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Got you. Thank you. And lastly, the incentive
17 compensation has been excluded from the recovery consistent with Staff's
18 recommendations, correct?

19 **MR. HAND:** I'm sorry. Can you repeat your question?

20 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** The incentive compensation that is being excluded
21 from the recovery.

22 **MR. HAND:** So the incentive compensation -- the Staff's recommendation, Mr.
23 Barta identified in his testimony that about \$350,000 of incentive compensation

1 was captured in our storm cost accounting. And that's thinking about a line
2 superintendent who is out responding to the storm. That line superintendent gets
3 part of his or her compensation is incentive comp. And so it's a loader that attaches
4 to an hour that they build, and if they build an hour -- so it's about 350,000. Mr.
5 Barta identified it as an issue for consideration. The company -- the way we
6 scrubbed out the storm cost on incentive comp, we made sure we complied with
7 the Commission's most recent annunciation of that policy. In our most recent FRP
8 settlement that was approved by the Commission, we followed the exact
9 methodology on incentive comp that the Commission approved. So the cost
10 recovery does, and the stipulation does not adjust the incentive comp. In this case,
11 I think Mr. Barta was identifying that for an issue that maybe adjust in the future if
12 there is another storm.

13 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Got you. So in this agreement it doesn't -- we don't
14 exclude it, but it's identified as something for the Commission to consider.

15 **MR. HAND:** I think you -- well, I can't speak for Mr. Barta. I thought he identified
16 it in case it wanted to be addressed in future storms, but it is not -- it is not excluded
17 from the cost here.

18 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Okay. Bill, can you --

19 **MR. HAND:** And while he comes up, Commissioner, the reason why I believe
20 that's the right outcome, when we use a storm -- a mutual aid contractor from
21 Georgia Power, Florida Power and Light, whoever, those folks are kind enough to
22 loan us their people and they loan us to them at cost. And I pay a Florida Power

1 and Light or Georgia Power line superintendent, the same job my person performs,
2 I'm paying their actual cost, which includes this incentive comp.

3 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Got you. Okay.

4 **MR. HAND:** So we're just trying to make sure we treat our workers the same we
5 would treat Georgia Power --

6 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** The same as you would do with a contractor that
7 you --

8 **MR. HAND:** Yes.

9 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Bill, anything you want to add on what you
10 discovered? I was under the impression that it was excluded, so I'm just trying to
11 make sure I -- I have no issues right now with what Mr. Hand said. I just want to
12 make sure I'm understanding what was your recommendation.

13 **MR. BILL BARTA:** Good morning, Commissioners. Bill Barta on behalf of the
14 Staff. My recommendation in the direct testimony was to excluded the incentive
15 compensation and I think there was some valid positions that Staff had for that
16 exclusion. On the other hand, the company raised some good points as well that
17 it's been approved by the Commission on how to treat incentive compensation in
18 other dockets. I thought from the Staff perspective that maybe that would go out
19 the window considering this is an extraordinary event and wouldn't be under the
20 realm of those -- like an FRP docket for that treatment. At the end of the day, it
21 was \$350,000 and I thought it was immaterial to the overall \$180 million request
22 for recovery. So it was let's live to fight another day. I did preserve the
23 Commission's right to investigate incentive compensation in future applications --

1 storm applications in case it does become material, but right now they're consistent
2 with the Commission's ratemaking treatment for incentive compensation.

3 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Okay. Great. No, yeah. And, Mr. -- and I have no
4 issues, I just was -- I think my reading between your testimony and kind of getting
5 the record, I kind of got a little lost there, but.

6 **MR. BARTA:** And I understand that.

7 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** But thank you. Thank you, Mr. Hand. Thank you,
8 Mr. Barta. Mr. Chairman, I'm done.

9 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Okay. Thank y'all. Y'all are dismissed.

10 **MR. HAND:** Thank you, Commissioner.

11 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** All right. Hearing no other opposition to that, this
12 passed. Okay. Number 5.

13 **MS. BOWMAN:** So Exhibit Number 5 is Docket Number U-37479. This is Cleco
14 Power's application for authorization of a phase one comprehensive hardening
15 plan, related rate recovery, and expedited treatment. It's a discussion and possible
16 vote on an uncontested stipulated settlement. Cleco filed this application on
17 December 30, 2024, requesting authorization of the phase one of it's hardening
18 plan. The plan as proposed was compromised of the projects intended to commence
19 in the first five years of the plan and represented approximately \$257 million in
20 capital investment. The application was noticed in the Commission's Official
21 Bulletin and timely interventions were filed by PCA and the Alliance. SREA later
22 intervened pursuant to a petition to intervene out of time which was granted.
23 Subsequent to the filing of Cleco's application, Staff and intervenors conducted

1 discovery in all filed testimony. The parties further conducted extensive
2 discussions and negotiations regarding the company's application. The parties
3 have achieved consensus regarding the issues presented by the application and
4 accordingly, subject to the terms and conditions specified in the settlement and to
5 the reservation of rights by Staff, intervenors, and Cleco Power as described in the
6 settlement, resolve all issues in this proceeding. The intervenors indicated they do
7 not have opposition to the settlement. The settlement was filed into the record on
8 November 3, 2025. The major terms of the settlement are as follows. Cleco Power
9 is authorized to construct the resilience plan projects, which will be constructed
10 during a five-year period expected to commence in 2026 and last through 2030 at
11 an approximate cost of \$200 million. Notwithstanding the Commission's approval
12 of the plan today, the Commission shall retain the authority to suspend or cancel
13 any noncommitted projects if it determines completion of those projects is no
14 longer in the public interest. Cleco Power is authorized to implement the grid
15 resilience rider. The resilience plan projects are subject to uphold performance
16 metric and fee which is triggered under specific conditions laid out in the
17 settlement. The Commission shall monitor the implementation of the project plans
18 within. Cleco Power is authorized to create a regulatory asset for addressing
19 recovery of and on, if applicable, the remaining net book value of assets that are
20 replaced through those plans -- resilience plan projects. And Staff recommends
21 that the Commission accept the uncontested stipulated settlement filed into the
22 record on November 3, 2025.

23 **VICE CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Move to accept Staff recommendation.

1 **COMMISSIONER JEAN-PAUL COUSSAN:** Second.

2 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Move by Commissioner Skrmetta, seconded by
3 Commissioner Coussan. Is there any discussion or questions about it, anybody?
4 Okay. Commissioner Lewis. Somebody -- you want to talk to Cleco?

5 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Yeah. Just -- yeah, Mark. Just really quickly just
6 clarifying some things once again. Thank you and thank you for also meeting with
7 me and kind of answering most -- majority of my questions. I just wanted to
8 reiterate some points on the record. So can you define, as we talked about, what --
9 how you classify critical customers and how you came up with the 1.5 BCR?

10 **MR. MARK KLEEHAMMER:** Certainly. Mark Kleehammer on behalf of Cleco
11 Power and with me I have Austin Finn. So what we -- I'll just start back a little bit.
12 We've been doing an awful lot over the years to maintain reliability. Cleco has met
13 or exceeded all of your metrics ever since inception. We strive to exceed the SAIDI
14 and SAIFI -- SAIDI and SAIFI goals by at least 20% annually. In addition to that,
15 in the last two years we've initiated an enhanced vegetation management program
16 which has really allowed us to shore up the backbone of our system and we think
17 that's going to be very important. In addition to that, as we know, we have
18 hurricanes in the state and extreme weather events, so we looked at the overall
19 resilience of our system. We looked with consultants -- 1898 consultants who
20 actually did the -- performed the analysis for Entergy. Same study, very similar
21 type request. And we looked at, over a horizon, how many storms would come in.
22 Monte Carlo simulation. Thousands of different opportunities. What assets would
23 be destroyed or damage, what the cost would be to restore that, and how many

1 customer units would be out. So when we looked at it, we took all of that
2 information to come up with a benefit to cost ratio. When we filed our application,
3 we said anything that has a positive benefit to cost is worth doing, there's a value
4 there for our customers. During the pendency of the case, we had had a -- anything
5 with a 1.0 would be something that we thought was in the public interest. The Staff
6 -- their testimony said we should probably look at something that's a little bit more
7 robust, maybe looking at the more cost beneficial projects, which would be
8 anything over a 1.5. We went back and forth and then we said, okay, let's not
9 necessarily only hone in on projects, let's look at circuits because you don't want
10 the weakest link to fail. And so ultimately, we landed on what is essentially circuits
11 that have a 1.5 or greater BCR. I will say the whole program has greater than a 2.
12 It's about 2.3, 2.4% -- 2.4 times BCR, benefit to cost ratio. So we anticipate avoided
13 costs in excess of \$400 million during this project. So that was the first component
14 that we looked at. Then we looked at our transmission projects that we had in the
15 application, and the Staff concurred and agreed that we should go forward with all
16 those transmission projects because they benefit various communities. And then
17 we looked at the circuits that serve critical infrastructure. Those that serve
18 hospitals, police stations, fire stations, sewer lift stations. Things that you really
19 don't want to lose power to in any form and we agreed and came to the conclusion
20 that those should all be included as well. And so that ended up getting us to the set
21 of about 565 projects, which is just shy of \$200 million.

22 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Thank you. And as you know, I've been a big
23 supporter of resiliency and hardening in the grid. I think one of the questions I

1 always have about as we move in this direction is safeguarding what would be
2 routine maintenance from now being reclassified as capital work. So can you just
3 explain how internally you are looking at traditional O&M versus some of the
4 reliability, grid hardening investments and how you are differentiating between
5 what should be just classic maintenance versus what would be capital recovery in
6 the terms of resiliency?

7 **MR. KLEEHAMMER:** Yes. I anticipate that our traditional O&M will stay
8 pretty much where it is, you know, the types of projects, the number of projects.
9 This really is layered on completely different and apart from that. And in our
10 reporting, we will break this out completely different and apart from that. And the
11 reporting that we're going to do with the Commission and the Commission Staff
12 will have quarterly reports on what we've done, both the costs and the projects that
13 have been completed, we will do a -- we will do a every six-month update on the
14 rider recovery of that and an every six-month face-to-face with Staff to go through
15 all of those projects and cover exactly what you're asking for.

16 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Perfect. Great. And lastly, can you just confirm
17 what's the bill impact -- the residential bill impact for an average customer of
18 Cleco?

19 **MR. KLEEHAMMER:** Sure. So from this -- this is a five-year project, so in
20 2026, we anticipate about a 37-cent bill effect for a 1,000 kilowatt-hour customer.
21 Our average customer is probably more like 1,250, in that range, and so that would
22 be a 47-cent bill effect. In year two -- because each year you're compounding and
23 you're adding slightly less than a dollar to the customer bill. In year two, for a

1 1,000 kilowatt-hour customer, it'd be \$1.13, \$1.94, 2.55, and 3.25. That's in 2027,
2 '28, '29, and '30. To your question, for the average customer that's a little bit north
3 of 1,250, it goes from first year, 47 cents, to \$1.43, \$2.45, 3.23, and we're
4 estimating \$4.11 bill effect on a monthly basis in 2030.

5 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Okay. Great. Thank you.

6 **MR. KLEEHAMMER:** Thank you.

7 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Do you know, Mark, with this hardening, that should
9 give a little relief to the O&M if you have a stronger system, you should have less
10 maintenance [INAUDIBLE]? Okay.

11 **MR. KLEEHAMMER:** Potentially, yes. And I think it'll give -- it could give a
12 little relief there. We'll make sure that we're putting everything in the right
13 buckets, but I think that the broader thing is we're hardening for storms, but you're
14 going to see reliability benefits. And as I've said, we've already exceeded your
15 targets for every year that you've had these metrics in place. It's our objective to
16 exceed those targets by 20% and we are really pleased that by collaborating with
17 the Commission here, I think we can bring a lot more value to customers because,
18 you know, it is -- there are costs incurred when you are restoring in the heat of a
19 storm. We know that. We got to bring in crews from all of the country. That's a
20 big deal, but the biggest issue is when our customers are inconvenienced and much
21 more than inconvenienced when the power's out. And there will be a lot of benefits
22 to them on a normal course and on extreme weather events.

1 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Well, I think you deserve an attaboy from the
2 Commission for the good SAIDI numbers, so keep them going and challenge your
3 other cohorts in Louisiana, the other leaders, to do the same thing. So thank you.

4 **MR. KLEEHAMMER:** Thank you.

5 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Any other questions, anybody? [NONE HEARD]
6 Okay. All right. Thank y'all.

7 **MR. KLEEHAMMER:** Thank you very much.

8 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Okay. We up to -- this is in the books. Number 6.

9 **MS. BOWMAN:** Well, we had a motion on the floor and a second. Just make
10 sure there was no opposition.

11 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Oh, okay. Is there any opposition? [NONE HEARD]
12 That's all right there.

13 **MS. BOWMAN:** Okay. Perfect.

14 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Hearing none --

15 **MS. BOWMAN:** So Exhibit Number 6 is a to be determined docket. It's Jefferson
16 Davis Electric Cooperative's request for a transmission determination, approval of
17 transfer or operational control of transmission assets to MISO. It's a discussion
18 and possible vote to retain United Professionals Company for an under \$50,000
19 solicitation. At the December 2014 B&E, and then renewed at the February '21
20 B&E and October '24 B&Es, UPC was retained by the Commission to actively
21 participate and provide oversight to the markets, planning, and other activities
22 within MISO, OMS, and ERSC. Based on the specific facts and circumstances
23 provided by JDEC, Commission Order Number U-36661 exempted JDEC from the

1 Commission's Transmission Siting Order for good cause shown related to the
2 construction of a 230-kV transmission line to rebuild transmission facilities lost and
3 damaged as a result of Hurricane Laura. Order Number U-36661 also included a
4 condition that should JDEC desire to sell or change control of these lines, JDEC
5 must seek Commission approval prior to. JDEC recently submitted a pre-filing
6 notice letter indicating plans to file a request with the Commission to transfer
7 operational control of those assets to MISO and confirm that the assets meet the
8 requirements to be considered a transmission facility under the standards set forth
9 by FERC, including the seven-factor test contained in FERC Order Number 888.
10 Based on the preliminary review of JDEC's request and prior similar requests from
11 electric cooperatives, Staff is of the opinion that a review and initial
12 recommendation based on JDEC's filing can be completed for less than \$50,000.
13 This assumption does not include a contested hearing. Based upon Staff's opinion
14 and that the scope of services can be completed for less than 50 and UPC's
15 assistance on FERC and MISO proceedings, Staff solicited UPC for an under
16 50,000 solicitation. UPC provided a proposal of 49,000 in fees and 1,000 in
17 expenses. Staff recommends that the Commission retain United Professionals
18 Company for 49,000 in fees and 1,000 in expenses for a total budget not to exceed
19 of 50,000.

20 **VICE CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Move to accept Staff recommendation.

21 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Second.

22 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Commissioner Skrmetta moves to accept Staff
23 [INAUDIBLE], seconded by Commissioner Lewis. Any comments or questions?

1 [NONE HEARD] And, you know, I think this Jefferson Davis Electric Co-op is in
2 my district and this line is really special to me in Cameron. Looks like we should
3 be -- have everything running by our next meeting and I'd like to ask Jeff Davis to
4 give us a report and come boast a little bit about how well it's being done in
5 Cameron. So at the next meeting in Natchitoches, give us a good report on that.
6 Thank you. Okay. So it's no objection, it's passed. Number 7.

7 **MS. BOWMAN:** Exhibit Number 7 is for the same docket, but it's a discussion
8 and possible vote to retain Stone Pigman. Stone Pigman was retained by the
9 Commission at multiple B&Es and renewed at the October 2024 B&E to assist the
10 Commission with marketing, planning, and other activities related to MISO, OMS,
11 and ERSC. Based on Staff's opinion that this docket could be completed for less
12 than \$50,000 and Stone Pigman's assistance on FERC and MISO proceedings,
13 Staff solicited Stone Pigman for an under 50 solicitation. Based on Staff's
14 solicitation, Stone Pigman provided a proposal of 48,000 in fees and 1,200 in
15 expenses. Staff recommends that the Commission retain Stone Pigman for 48,000
16 in fees and 1,000 in expenses for a total not to exceed budget of 49,200.

17 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Move to accept Staff recommendation.

18 **VICE CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Second.

19 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Staff's recommendation moved by Commissioner
20 Lewis, seconded by Commissioner Skrmetta. Is there any discussion or objection?
21 [NONE HEARD] Hearing none, it's passed.

22 **MS. BOWMAN:** Exhibit Number 8 is our reports, resolutions, discussions.
23 We've already handled the resolution honoring late former Commissioner Louis

1 Lambert. We do have two ratifications this month. The first is discussion and
2 possible vote to ratify votes cast by Chairman Francis acting as the Commission's
3 representative on the Regional State Committee of the Southwest Power Pool. This
4 is on the agenda for ratification of votes cast on November 3 of this year by
5 Chairman Francis. Staff followed the protocols set forth in Special Order 17-2019
6 to consult the Vice Chairman and the Secretary prior to the vote. The protocols
7 also require that the votes cast be ratified at a future B&E. There were several
8 voting items. Chairman Francis voted in favor of RR697, which is a long-term
9 transmission congestion rights netting of flows. He also voted in favor of RR719,
10 which is a network resource interconnection service base plan funding
11 opportunities. He voted in favor of 655, which was a outage criteria which was
12 governing documents that once SP authorized an outage, it remains authorized as
13 long as no changes were made. RR707 was conventional resource performance
14 based accreditation revisions and Chairman Francis voted in favor of that item.
15 And the last one that Chairman Francis voted in favor of was FERC Order 1920
16 recommendation. The Staff recommends that the Commission ratify those votes
17 cast by Vice Chairman -- excuse me, Chairman Francis on November 3, 2025 as
18 the Commission's representative to the SPP RSC.

19 **VICE CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Move to ratify the vote of Chairman Francis.

20 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Second.

21 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Move by Commissioner Skrmetta, seconded by
22 Commissioner Lewis. And --

23 **MS. BOWMAN:** [INAUDIBLE]

1 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** What's that?

2 **MS. BOWMAN:** You abstain?

3 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** And I abstain, of course, yes. Is there any other
4 addition? I want to make one comment. These bills are very complicated. It's not
5 a one-man show, I'll assure you. I don't think God's created anybody to understand
6 every moving part here. And Dana Shelton and Lane Sisung assist me in these --
7 all these votes and I really appreciate their help. So they're still training, I'm still
8 learning, but we're moving ahead, so give thanks. And so hearing that's there no
9 other objection, it's -- y'all agree with the votes. Okay.

10 **MS. BOWMAN:** There's also some FERC ratifications this month. It's a
11 discussion and possible vote to ratify interventions of the Commission in RTO-
12 related or other FERC proceedings. This matter is on the agenda for ratification
13 pursuant to the scope of work approved in connection with the retention of Stone
14 Pigman and UPC at the February 2021 B&E. Due to the short deadlines allowed
15 for these interventions, if advanced Commission approval is not possible, the
16 Executive Secretary on the recommendation of Stone Pigman or UPC, or on his
17 own determination, may authorize the initial interventions, comments, or protests,
18 subject to ratification at a following B&E. Staff recommends that the Commission
19 ratify the interventions taken on the Commission's behalf in FERC Docket
20 Numbers ER25-3515, ER25-3516, ER25-3543, ER25-3560, ER23570, and ER26-
21 139.

22 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Move to ratify.

23 **VICE CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Second.

1 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Move by Commissioner Lewis and seconded by
2 Commissioner Skrmetta. Any discussion or objection? [NONE HEARD] Hearing
3 none, it's passed.

4 **MS. BOWMAN:** We have two directives this month. The first is a directive to
5 Louisiana jurisdictional investor-owned electric utilities regarding nuclear power.
6 This was at the request of Vice Chairman Skrmetta. Pursuant to the Commission's
7 constitutional authority to ensure reliable, long-term energy resources and in
8 support of state and federal energy policy, all investor-owned electric utilities,
9 subject to this Commission's jurisdiction, are hereby directed to evaluate prudent
10 locations within the state for future nuclear power plants. The IOUs are to report
11 back to the Commission within 90 days with a preliminary plan to either initiate an
12 early site permit or combined construction and operating license application with
13 the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission under 10 C.F.R. Part 52 for potential new
14 nuclear generation sites. This directive is not intended to trigger Commission
15 General Order dated May 18, 2007 regarding ratemaking and generation planning
16 for nuclear power plants. Actual applications for site approval will be determined
17 after presentations by the IOUs regarding suggested future sites.

18 **VICE CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** This is a step before a step. We have
19 opportunities -- look like they could come to the state for the benefit of our state
20 and also for our IRP and for our public with new investment by folks. And so it's
21 just a step towards understanding where we would put new power plants that are
22 nuclear in nature in the future. So it's a step forward, so.

23 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Got a motion?

1 **MS. BOWMAN:** We don't need a --

2 **VICE CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** It's a -- no, it's a directive.

3 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Oh, I'm sorry.

4 **SECRETARY FREY:** As long as no opposition.

5 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Is there any objection to this directive? [NONE

6 HEARD] Hearing none, it's so ordered.

7 **COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL:** Wait, wait, hold on. Talk to me about the

8 nuclear power situation.

9 **VICE CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Yeah. This is just a telling the folks to go

10 and begin the process of coming forward and telling us what they would have to do

11 about looking for site approval for the future. Just about where sites could go.

12 **COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL:** Not where they're going?

13 **VICE CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Not where they're going. About where they

14 could go because we know that there's some potential where they could put them

15 on the site where they are now. Like River Bend, there's room for another one.

16 But there are opportunities that might require other ones, so they're going to take

17 the step towards the next step, which would be to actually go out and look for where

18 the sites could go. It's a stage step that they have to do.

19 **COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL:** I don't mind if they put them where they are.

20 I don't know about new sites.

21 **VICE CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Right. Well, we're not going to know --

22 we're going to know that, but we're also going to know if they have suggestions

23 for other stuff because they're also -- the military is looking at putting one at

1 Barksdale, one at Polk, and one at Joint Reserve Base Bell Chase on smaller ones.
2 And the military wants them, but they have to go through several stages of process
3 to even look and see if that can work through site, so this is just one step forward.
4 **COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL:** I'm going to object.
5 **VICE CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Okay. Roll call vote requested. And do we
6 have to do a motion on this?
7 **MS. BOWMAN:** You're objecting?
8 **VICE CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Yes, he's objecting.
9 **MS. BOWMAN:** Oh, I'm sorry. Okay.
10 **SECRETARY FREY:** Don't have to do a motion or second, just a roll call since
11 it's a directive.
12 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Okay. Commissioner Lewis?
13 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Yes.
14 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Commissioner Coussan?
15 **COMMISSIONER COUSSAN:** Yes.
16 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Commissioner Campbell?
17 **COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL:** No.
18 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Okay. Commissioner Skrmetta votes as yes.
19 **VICE CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Yes.
20 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** And Chair votes yes, so it's four to one. It passed.
21 Okay. Moving on to next item.
22 **MS. BOWMAN:** The second directive is a directive to Louisiana jurisdictional
23 water systems on water balance and unaccounted for water. And this is at the

1 request of Vice Chairman Skrmetta. To enhance system efficiency, reduce non-
2 revenue water loss, and inform future infrastructure planning, the Commission
3 hereby establishes a standardized quarterly reporting requirement for all regulated
4 drinking water systems under its jurisdiction. This directive enables the
5 identification and quantification of water leakage, operational losses, and
6 unaccounted-for water, supporting data-driven decisions on pipeline rehabilitation,
7 replacement, and resource conservation. Effective January 1, 2026, and continuing
8 each quarter thereafter, every jurisdictional public drinking water system shall
9 submit a quarterly water balance report containing the following data for the
10 preceding calendar quarter: Total volume of fresh water introduced into the system,
11 source water intake, in gallons; total volume of fresh water delivered to customers,
12 billed metered consumption, in gallons; and the differential volume of unaccounted
13 for water, calculated as intake minus delivered volume, expressed in gallons as a
14 percentage of total intake. Reports shall be filed electronically in the form
15 prescribed by the Commission's Utility Division no later than 30 days after the end
16 of each calendar quarter, i.e., April 30, July 30, October 30, and January 30. The
17 Utilities Division shall develop and distribute standardized reporting templates,
18 instructions, and submission protocols by January 15, 2026. In addition, the Utilities
19 Division shall conduct reviews and provide technical assistance to utilities as needed
20 to ensure accurate and consistent reporting. Jurisdictional water systems shall maintain
21 supporting records, such as the production logs, meter readings, leak detection reports,
22 for a minimum of three years and make them available to the Commission upon
23 request. No additional contracts for hire are anticipated to implement this directive.
24 However, if operational demands exceed current staffing capacity, the Executive

1 Secretary is authorized to prepare and present to the Commission a formal request for
2 supplemental personnel or resources, accompanied by a detailed justification and cost
3 analysis.

4 **VICE CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Now, the purpose of this is -- actually, this is
5 information that's already provided to LDH, the Louisiana Department of Health, on
6 water information. I'd like to have it also provided to the Public Service Commission.
7 You know, one of the things we need to look at because of we know we have problems
8 with water systems is to make determination if we're seeing that there are increased
9 leakages that we can at least know ahead of time that we can make planning for pipeline
10 replacement. And it'll give us a heads up on looking at the various water companies
11 to see if we're going to have to do plans for infrastructure replacement. It'll give us, I
12 think, a good advanced notice of this. So it's information that's already collected for
13 the state through LDH and it's just a mechanism for them to deliver it to the Public
14 Service Commission. So no big difference. That's it.

15 **MS. BOWMAN:** Any objections?

16 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Any other discussion about this? Okay.

17 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Just real quick question for Staff. So would -- or maybe
18 this is for Utilities Division. Would this just be kind of standard with the reports we
19 get from LDH on their grading system and we just attach it to there? I'm just curious
20 on how we think we're going to --

21 **SECRETARY FREY:** I think it would -- I mean I'll get with Donnie and his Staff on
22 that, but I think probably the first step will be coordinating with LDH, see the form
23 they have it, and if it's as simple as you're saying how -- I mean, obviously the grading
24 system is going to -- that they sent us, encompasses every utility. So what we'll
25 probably do is take that list, sift out the ones we regulate because it's only about 10%

1 of the total system. So obviously we're not going to want the ones we don't regulate
2 because that would be a ridiculous amount of information. But, yeah, I think we'll use
3 that as a template, the starting point, and come up with rules that -- this is at least the
4 way I would suggest we handle it, rules that just allow us to take whatever method they
5 have it currently, whether it's electronic, whatever form it is, and just have copies of
6 those. So, yeah, I think to your point, how they share them and also how, you know,
7 we get notices of violations from LDH or DEQ. They just forward those to us, so
8 maybe we'll come up with a standard way of just aggregating that information.

9 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** That sounds great. And the only other request I would
10 make is if possible, when we have a U water docket in front of us, if that could be
11 attached --

12 **SECRETARY FREY:** I think that makes perfect sense.

13 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** -- attached with it, so we can see it as we look at --

14 **SECRETARY FREY:** They're shaking their head.

15 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Okay. Great. Thank you.

16 **VICE CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Yeah, no problem.

17 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** So I would assume next meeting maybe you'd have us a
18 report on -- follow up on this?

19 **SECRETARY FREY:** We'll try. I think we have until January, so.

20 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Oh, I'm sorry. Okay. All right. All right.

21 **VICE CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** They got all the time they need.

22 **MS. BOWMAN:** Maybe January B&E.

23 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Sorry about -- I missed that. I'm from the real business
24 world. Okay.

25 **SECRETARY FREY:** But we'll see if we can do it for December.

1 **VICE CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Okay. No opposition?

2 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** No opposition? [NONE HEARD] Hearing no opposition,

3 it's done.

4 **VICE CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** And, Kathryn, I'm going to postpone the Exhibit

5 9, other one that I put on here about the infrastructure thing until December.

6 **MS. BOWMAN:** Okay.

7 **VICE CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Okay.

8 **MS. BOWMAN:** So Exhibit 9 is deferred.

9 **VICE CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** And move to adjourn.

10 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Motion to adjourn.

11 **COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL:** Let me say something.

12 **VICE CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Oh, wait. Foster had something he wants to say.

13 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Okay. Commissioner Foster.

14 **COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL:** Next month we're going to be meeting in

15 Natchitoches. It's a nice town. Oldest town in Louisiana. Older than New Orleans by

16 two years. And a lot of good food. Lot of nice people. Look forward to seeing you

17 up there. It's always a nice time in Christmas. All the lights are on. And if you bring

18 anybody, let me know if you need any place to stay. I'll try to help you arrange all

19 that.

20 **VICE CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Stay at Foster's house.

21 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Okay. Stay at Foster's house. [INAUDIBLE]

22 **COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL:** I got plenty of room at my house.

23 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** We're all going. So I've got a motion by Commissioner

24 Skrmetta to adjourn. Is there a second?

25 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Second.

1 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** It's done.

2

3 **(WHEREUPON THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED)**

1 I certify that the foregoing pages 1 through 37 are true and correct to the
2 best of my knowledge of the Open Session of the Business and Executive
3 Meeting held on November 19, 2025 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

4 *****

5 Rough Draft prepared by:

6 Clarisa Findley November 20, 2025
7 Clarisa Findley, Date
8 Court Reporter

9 Alicia Carter-Thomas November 20, 2025
10 Alicia Carter-Thomas, Date
11 Court Reporter

12 Key-Anna Freeman November 20, 2025
13 Key-Anna Freeman, Date
14 Court Reporter

15 *****

16 Proofed by:

17 Key-Anna Freeman November 20, 2025
18 Key-Anna Freeman, Date
19 Court Reporter

20 Finalized by:

21 Clarisa Findley November 20, 2025
22 Clarisa Findley, Date
23 Court Reporter
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