



## *Louisiana Public Service Commission*

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Hurricane Isaac Update**

**BATON ROUGE** - Hurricane Isaac made landfall along the Louisiana coast Tuesday evening. As of mid-Thursday afternoon, close to 40% of Louisiana customers were without power. Municipal electric utilities, which comprise around ten percent of the state's customers, are not regulated by the Commission and their numbers are not reflected in these figures. The parishes of East Feliciana, St. Charles, St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Jefferson, Orleans, St. John, St. James, Terrebonne, and Tangipahoa have at least 75% of their customers without electricity. These outage numbers change by the minute as the storm moves through the state.

The Commission encourages residents to call or visit the website of their utility service provider for outages and downed power lines or poles but we stress safety and patience. Currently, the length of each outage cannot be determined until winds diminish sufficiently for them to safely deploy their crews. The utilities have been staged and ready to commence restoration since Tuesday and have begun restoration in areas where they can safely send their crews. Entergy has 10,000 personnel available to complete this task while Cleco, Swepco and the electric cooperatives have committed thousands of additional personnel to restore power as soon as possible.

The LPSC is currently stationed around the clock at the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness in Baton Rouge and working with all state agencies to get customers back on line as quickly and safely as possible.

“We want the utilities to do everything possible to restore power as quickly as they can, and we are monitoring outages throughout the state. I am especially concerned for people living in mobile homes, apartments and other places without good ventilation. August heat can be life-threatening if you don’t have air-conditioning or some type of relief,” Commission Chairman Foster Campbell of Elm Grove said.

“I’ve been in contact with all utilities and the Executive Secretary. They are doing all they can do to restore power. Utilities have begun scouting as early as last night. Please be patient,” said Commissioner Jimmy Field of Baton Rouge.

“My staff and I are working diligently with local officials along with utility companies to commence the safe and efficient restoration of all power. Please keep the families of those affected by this devastating hurricane in your thoughts and prayers,” added Commissioner Lambert Boissiere of New Orleans.

“All utility companies have numerous outside resources, staged and ready to start restoring power once the storm has passed and it is safe on the ground for utility workers to start restoration. The part of the state I represent is very rural and has yet to see the full impact of the storm. We are hopeful with these added resources that even rural areas can be restored efficiently,” stated Commissioner Clyde Holloway of Forest Hill.

“I have been monitoring the damage throughout District 1. I have been in constant communication with local law enforcement agencies and emergency preparedness centers to help expedite the process for allowing utility crews into neighborhoods for restoration,” stated Commissioner Eric Skrmetta of Metairie.

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