

LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
MINUTES FROM APRIL 16, 2025
OPEN SESSION

MINUTES OF APRIL 16, 2025 OPEN SESSION OF THE LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION HELD IN MANY, 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 April 16, 2025, convening at 10:19 a.m., and adjourning at 3:11 p.m., Many, Louisiana, with the above-name members of the Commission and Executive Secretary Brandon Frey present.

<p>Ex. 1</p>	<p>The Commissioners thanked everyone for attending the meeting at Cypress Bend Resort in Many.</p> <p>Executive Counsel Kathryn Bowman announced the May Business & Executive Session has been moved to Monday, May 19, 2025, and Commissioner Coussan announced that the meeting would be held at the Lafayette Consolidated Government.</p> <p>Chairman Francis wished Dana Shelton a Happy Birthday, and welcomed Commissioner Campbell’s previous Executive Assistant, Bill Robertson, to the meeting.</p> <p>Vice Chairman Skrmetta announced he would like to host a meeting in his district for the October Business & Executive Session. Details will be forthcoming.</p>
<p>Ex. 2</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Exhibit 24 on the March 2025 B&E.</p> <p>After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Coussan, seconded by Vice Chairman Skrmetta, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to take Rosefield’s motion under advisement for a future B&E.</p> <p>Present for Questions/Comments: Jamie Watts – Counsel for Rosefield Fourchon Operating Chris Capsimalis – Senior Vice President of Rosefield Fourchon Operating Steve Kramer – Liquid Energy Pipeline Association Jay Cruz – International Liquid Terminals Association Matthew D. Simone – Outside Counsel for Cantium, LLC Kelly Perrier – General Counsel for Cantium, LLC</p>

<p>Ex. 3</p>	<p>T-37357 - Louisiana Public Service Commission vs. Benson Dupre Moving Services LLC In re: Alleged violation of Order T-37085, by engaging in activities related to moving household goods prior to complying with the requirements of La. R.S. 45:164 (E) and General Order dated March 16, 2021 and for failure to comply with the requirements of General Order dated April 3, 2008 as amended.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote pursuant to Rule 57 on Affidavit and Stipulation executed by the carrier.</p> <p>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 exercise its original and primary jurisdiction pursuant to Rule 57.</p> <p>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 Affidavit and Stipulation executed on February 20, 2025 for fines and fees totaling \$525.</p>
<p>Ex. 4</p>	<p>T-37449 - Louisiana Public Service Commission vs. Smitty Express Service, LLC. In re: Alleged violation of Louisiana Revised Statutes Title 45:1177 and 1179 and General Order dated November 22, 2011 for failure to file inspection & supervision fee returns and/or pay to the state proper fees for the years 2022 and 2023 for the inspection, control, and supervision of its business service and rates authorized in Common Carrier Certificate No. 8085.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote pursuant to Rule 57 on Affidavit and Stipulation executed by the carrier.</p> <p>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 exercise its original and primary jurisdiction pursuant to Rule 57.</p> <p>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 the Affidavit and Stipulation executed on March 6, 2025 for fines and fees totaling \$275.00.</p>
<p>Ex. 5</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Entergy Louisiana LLC's Motion for Commission Guidance and Consideration.</p> <p>Exhibit 6 on the March 2025 B&E.</p> <p>On motion of Commissioner Skrmetta, seconded by Commissioner Campbell, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to defer this matter until the May B&E.</p> <p>DEFERRED</p>

<p>Ex. 6</p>	<p>S-37126 - Riverside Transportation, Inc., ex parte. In re: Application to file amended tariff for Common Carrier Certificate No. 6247-A pursuant to General Order dated October 02, 2012.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Staff Report and Recommendation.</p> <p>DEFERRED</p>
<p>Ex. 7</p>	<p>S-37488 - American Broadband Holding Company, Cameron Communications, L.L.C., Elizabeth Telephone Company, L.L.C., Cameron Telephone Company, L.L.C., and LBH, L.L.C. In re: Request for Letter of Non-Opposition to issuance of guarantees and pledge of assets as security in connection with debt incurrence by American Broadband Holding Company.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Staff Report and Recommendation.</p> <p>On motion of Vice Chairman Skrmetta, seconded by Commissioner Coussan, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to express its non-opposition to the Request including the conditions contained in Staff’s Report and Recommendation filed into the record on March 20, 2025.</p>
<p>Ex. 8</p>	<p>U-36992 - Northeast Louisiana Power Cooperative, Inc., ex parte. In re: Application for an increase in rates, including interim rates, and for the establishment of an emergency reserve fund.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and Possible vote on an Uncontested Stipulated Settlement pursuant to Rule 57 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure.</p> <p>On motion of Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Vice Chairman Skrmetta, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to exercise its original and primary jurisdiction pursuant to Rule 57.</p> <p>On motion of Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Chairman Francis, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted accept the Uncontested Stipulated Settlement filed into the record on April 4, 2025.</p>
<p>Ex. 9</p>	<p>U-37074 - Southwestern Electric Power Company, ex parte. In re: Application for approval of a revised Renewable Energy Credit (REC) Tariff pursuant to Order No. U-35324.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and Possible Vote on Uncontested Stipulated Settlement.</p> <p>After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Vice Chairman Skrmetta, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to approve the Uncontested Stipulated Settlement filed into the record on March 21, 2025.</p> <p>Present for Questions/Comments: Bobby Gilliam – Counsel for SWEPCO Melissa Gage – Vice President of Regulatory & Finance, SWEPCO</p>

<p>Ex. 10</p>	<p>U-37222 - Jefferson Davis Electric Cooperative, ex parte. In re: Request for approval of a revenue adjustment, establishment of a Formula Rate Plan, continuation of its Storm Rider, with modifications, modifications to its Terms and Conditions and associated Rate Schedules, and for Interim Rate Relief.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Uncontested Stipulated Settlement.</p> <p>On motion of Chairman Francis, seconded Vice Chairman Skrmetta, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to approve the Joint Stipulation filed into the record on January 17, 2025.</p>
<p>Ex. 11</p>	<p>U-37422 - Cleco Power LLC vs. Southwest Louisiana Electric Membership Corporation. Complaint alleging violation of La. R.S. 45:123 and Commission General Order dated October 6, 2005 (300-foot rule).</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Uncontested Stipulated Settlement.</p> <p>On motion of Chairman Francis, seconded Vice Chairman Skrmetta, with Commissioner Campbell and Commissioner Coussan concurring and Commissioner Lewis temporarily absent, the Commission voted to accept the Uncontested Stipulated Settlement filed into the record on April 2, 2025.</p>
<p>Ex. 12</p>	<p>U-37483 - Beaugard 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>In re: Discussion and Possible vote on Interim Rate Increase and Tariff Revision pursuant to Rule 57 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure.</p> <p>At the Request of Chairman Francis.</p> <p>On motion of Chairman Francis, seconded by Commissioner Campbell, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to exercise its original and primary jurisdiction pursuant to Rule 57.</p> <p>After discussion, on motion of Chairman Francis, seconded by Vice Chairman Skrmetta, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to approve BECi’s interim rate increase, subject to refund and applicable bonding requirements. Further, BECi is required to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) File proof of the applicable bond requirements with the Commission; 2) File an updated tariff indicating the interim rate, its terms, and the requested changes to the HLF and HLF ASP tariff provisions, with the Utilities Division within 30 days of the order approving such interim rate; and, 3) BECi cannot begin charging the interim rate until proof of the applicable bond requirements and an updated tariff have been provided to, and approved by Staff. <p>Present for Questions/Comments: Kara Kantrow – Counsel for Beaugard Electric Cooperative, Inc. Mike Viator – General Manager, Beaugard Electric Cooperative, Inc.</p>
<p>Ex. 13</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Exhibit 23 on the March 2025 B&E.</p>

	<p>At the request of Vice Chairman Skrmetta and Commissioner Campbell.</p> <p>On motion of Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Vice Chairman Skrmetta, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to exercise its original and primary jurisdiction pursuant to Rule 57.</p> <p>After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Vice Chairman Skrmetta, with Chairman Francis and Commissioner Coussan concurring, and Commissioner Lewis opposing, the Commission voted to approve SWEPCO’s interim increase in vegetation management, subject to refund and applicable bonding requirements. Further, SWEPCO is required to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) File proof of the applicable bond requirements with the Commission; 2) File an updated tariff indicating the interim rate, and its terms, with the Utilities Division within 30 days of the order approving such interim rate; and 3) SWEPCO cannot begin charging the interim rate until proof of the applicable bond requirements and an updated tariff have been provided to, and approved by Staff. <p>The motion passed 4:1.</p> <p>Present for Questions/Comments: Bobby Gilliam – Counsel for SWEPCO Melissa Gage – SWEPCO’s Vice President of Regulatory & Finance Lane Sisung – Staff Consultant</p>
<p>Ex. 14</p>	<p>U-37537 - Concordia Electric Cooperative, Inc. and GridLiance Louisiana, LLC. In re: Joint Application for: 1) qualification of certain Concordia assets as transmission facilities; 2) approval of the transfer of Concordia's designated transmission facilities to GridLiance; and 3) Commission determination of GridLiance as an Independent Transmission Company subject to the Commission's jurisdiction.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote to retain Stone Pigman for an under \$50,000 solicitation.</p> <p>On motion of Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Lewis, with Chairman Francis and Commissioner Coussan concurring, and Vice Chairman Skrmetta temporarily absent, the Commission voted to retain Stone Pigman for \$49,000 in fees and \$2,500 in expenses for a total not to exceed budget of \$51,500.</p>
<p>Ex. 15</p>	<p>U-37537 - Concordia Electric Cooperative, Inc. and GridLiance Louisiana, LLC. In Re: Joint Application for: 1) qualification of certain Concordia assets as transmission facilities; 2) approval of the transfer of Concordia's designated transmission facilities to GridLiance; and 3) Commission determination of GridLiance as an Independent Transmission Company subject to the Commission's jurisdiction.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote to retain United Professionals Company for an under \$50,000 solicitation.</p> <p>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 retain United Professionals Company for \$47,500 in fees and \$2,000 in expenses for a total not to exceed budget of \$49,500.</p>

<p>Ex. 16</p>	<p>U-37538 - Southwest Louisiana Electric Membership Corporation and GridLiance Louisiana, LLC. In re: Joint Application for: 1) qualification of certain SLEMCO assets as transmission facilities; 2) approval of the transfer of SLEMCO's designated transmission facilities to GridLiance; and 3) Commission determination of GridLiance as an Independent Transmission Company subject to the Commission's jurisdiction.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote to retain Stone Pigman for an under \$50,000 solicitation.</p> <p>On motion of Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Coussan, with Chairman Francis concurring, and Vice Chairman Skrmetta and Commissioner Lewis temporarily absent, the Commission voted to retain Stone Pigman for \$49,000 in fees and \$2,500 in fees for a total not to exceed budget of \$51,500.</p>
<p>Ex. 17</p>	<p>U-37538 - Southwest Louisiana Electric Membership Corporation and GridLiance Louisiana, LLC. In re: Joint Application for: 1) qualification of certain SLEMCO assets as transmission facilities; 2) approval of the transfer of SLEMCO's designated transmission facilities to GridLiance; and 3) Commission determination of GridLiance as an Independent Transmission Company subject to the Commission's jurisdiction.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote to retain United Professionals Company for an under \$50,000 solicitation.</p> <p>On motion of Chairman Francis, seconded by Commissioner Coussan, with Commissioner Campbell concurring, and Vice Chairman Skrmetta and Commissioner Lewis temporarily absent, the Commission voted to retain UPC for \$47,500 in fees and \$2,000 in expenses for a total not to exceed budget of \$49,500.</p>
<p>Ex. 18</p>	<p>X-35764 - Louisiana Public Service Commission, ex parte. In re: Cybersecurity Monitoring for Commission-Jurisdictional Utilities.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote on budget renewal.</p> <p>After discussion, on motion of Vice Chairman Skrmetta, seconded by Chairman Francis, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted renew McQ Group's budget for continued cybersecurity monitoring for fees of \$158,500 and expenses of \$3,300, for a total not to exceed budget of \$161,800.</p> <p>Present for Questions/Comments: Scott McQuaig – McQ Group</p>
<p>Ex. 19</p>	<p>1) Reports</p> <p>Report from Louisiana Water Utilities operations of the French Settlement Water Company assets.</p> <p>Aaron Accardo with Louisiana Water Utilities gave a report.</p> <p>2) Resolutions 3) Discussions 4) ERSC/OMS/SPP</p> <p>Discussion and possible vote to ratify a vote taken by Vice Chairman Skrmetta acting as the Commission's representative on the Board of Directors of the Organization of MISO States.</p>

	<p>On motion of Commissioner Coussan, seconded by Commissioner Lewis, with Chairman Francis and Commissioner Campbell concurring, and Vice Chairman Skrmetta abstaining, the Commission voted to ratify Vice Chairman Skrmetta's vote taken on March 31, 2025.</p> <p>Discussion and possible vote to ratify interventions of Louisiana Public Service Commission in RTO-Related or other Federal Energy Regulatory Proceedings.</p> <p>On motion of Vice Chairman Skrmetta, seconded by Chairman Francis, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to ratify the actions taken in FERC dockets EL25-44, RM25-3, and ER25-1674.</p> <p>5) Directives</p> <p>Directive to Staff to open a rulemaking regarding customer energy usage data.</p> <p>At the request of Commissioner Lewis.</p> <p>Commissioner Lewis' directive read as follows: I direct Staff to open a rulemaking to evaluate current utility practices related to customer energy usage data access across jurisdictional electric and gas utilities. This review should include: (1) the types of usage data collected and maintained by utilities; (2) current procedures for customers and authorized third parties to access that data; (3) utility handling of aggregated data requests for multi-metered properties; and (4) whether rule changes are needed to support consistent, secure, and standardized access to customer data for the benefit of the grid and the end user. Further, Staff is authorized to seek outside assistance, if determined necessary, to assist in this rulemaking.</p> <p>After discussion, on motion of Chairman Francis, seconded by Commissioner Campbell, and unanimously adopted, the directive was deferred to the May B&E Session.</p>
<p>Ex. 20</p>	<p>U-37067 - Louisiana Public Service Commission, ex parte. In re: Evaluation of Southwestern Electric Power Company's decision to retire the Pirkey Power Plant pursuant to Commission Order No. U-36385-A.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Uncontested Stipulated Settlement.</p> <p>At the request of Commissioner Campbell.</p> <p>After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Vice Chairman Skrmetta, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to approve the Uncontested Stipulated Settlement filed into the record on March 7, 2025.</p> <p>Present for Questions/Comments: Bobby Gilliam – Counsel for SWEPCO Melissa Gage – Vice President of Regulatory & Finance, SWEPCO</p>
<p>Ex. 21</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote to end the Statewide Energy Efficiency program authorized in Commission General Order dated April 24, 2024.</p> <p>At the request of Chairman Francis.</p> <p>Chairman Francis' motion read as follows: At the January 2024 B&E, the Commission approved a Phase II Statewide Energy Efficiency Program to begin January 2026. Efforts are underway to develop a Statewide program, including the retention of Aptim as the Commission's Administrator, and recently TetraTech as the Statewide EM&V Contractor.</p>

Over the last several months, discussions have been had regarding the various ways to achieve energy efficiency. Chairman Francis' focus is to provide the most energy savings at the least reasonable costs, which in his opinion is achieved the greatest through the Commission's public entity program.

As such, Chairman Francis moved that the Commission cease working towards a Statewide Energy Efficiency Program, including providing written termination of its retention of Aptim and TetraTech. The Chair further directs Staff to publish a set of energy efficiency rules that pertain solely to a public entity program. These rules should require participation by the electric and group 1 gas utilities, shall allow industrials to opt out, and consider other options. Staff shall publish these rules within the next week to allow stakeholder feedback in time for a vote at the May B&E Session.

After discussion, Chairman Francis withdrew his motion.

On motion of Vice Chairman Skrmetta, seconded by Chairman Francis, with Commissioner Coussan concurring, and Commissioner Campbell and Commissioner Lewis opposing, the Commission voted to cease working towards a statewide energy efficiency program, including providing written termination of its retention of Aptim and Tera Tech, while maintaining the quick start programs through the end of calendar year 2025.

The motion passed 3:2.

Chairman Francis re-urged his directive, with Vice Chairman Skrmetta concurring, and Commissioner Campbell, Commissioner Lewis, and Commissioner Coussan opposing, the directive failed 2:3.

Present for Questions/Comments:

Logan Burke – The Alliance for Affordable Energy

Billy Anderson – Power Coalition of Equity and Justice

Mark Kleehammer- General Counsel & Chief Regulatory Office, Cleco Power LLC

Larry Hand – Vice President of Regulatory & Public Affairs, Entergy Louisiana, LLC

James Hiatt – Self

Lana Francis – CEO, LaSalle General Hospital

On motion of Vice Chairman Skrmetta, seconded by Commissioner Coussan, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to adjourn.

MEETING ADJOURNED

The next Business and Executive Session will be held on Monday, May 19, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at Lafayette Consolidated Government, 705 West University Avenue, Lafayette, LA 70502.