

LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
MINUTES FROM MAY 19, 2021
OPEN SESSION

MINUTES OF MAY 19, 2021 OPEN SESSION OF THE LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION HELD VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE FROM BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA. PRESENT IN BATON ROUGE WERE CHAIRMAN CRAIG GREENE AND EXECUTIVE SECRETARY BRANDON FREY. VICE CHAIRMAN ERIC SKRMETTA, COMMISSIONER FOSTER CAMPBELL, COMMISSIONER LAMBERT BOISSIERE, AND COMMISSIONER MIKE FRANCIS PARTICIPATED REMOTELY.

In accordance with La. R.S. 42:17.1, the Commission gave notice that the May 19, 2021 Business and Executive Session would be conducted remotely and involve matters permitted under La. R.S. 42.17.1(A), and provided an opportunity for public participation. Therefore, the Open Session on May 19, 2021, convened at 11:00 a.m., and adjourning at 1:06 p.m., via videoconferencing from the Galvez Building, 602 North 5th Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, with Chairman Greene and Executive Secretary Brandon Frey present and the remaining above-named members of the Commission participating remotely.

<p>Ex. 1</p>	<p>Commissioners provided updates on the flooding in South Louisiana.</p> <p>Chairman Greene congratulated Vice Chairman Skrmetta’s son on his accomplishments of being a 2021 high school graduate.</p> <p>Commissioner Francis asked for thoughts and prayers for the family of former Governor Buddy Roemer who recently passed away. Commissioner Boissiere requested a moment of silence for a dearly departed relative.</p> <p>Executive Counsel Kathryn Bowman introduced new employees, Staff Attorney Noah Hoggatt and Law Clerk Hannah Greer.</p> <p>Commissioner Campbell discussed the average residential rates of electric utilities in Louisiana, and raised concern that the rates were increasing.</p>
<p>Ex. 2</p>	<p>U-35565 – Entergy Louisiana, LLC, ex parte. In re: Application for Extension and Modification of Formula Rate Plan.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote pursuant to Rule 57 on uncontested stipulated settlement.</p> <p>On motion of Vice Chairman Skrmetta, seconded by Commissioner Francis, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to assert its original and primary jurisdiction and take the matter up pursuant to Rule 57.</p> <p>On motion of Vice Chairman Skrmetta, seconded by Commissioner Francis, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to accept uncontested stipulated settlement filed into the record on April 23, 2021.</p>

<p>Ex. 3</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 retain an engineer for District I.</p> <p>On motion of Vice Chairman Skrmetta, seconded by Commissioner Francis, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to retain Linfield, Hunter & Junius, Inc. for a total budget not to exceed of \$27,277.32.</p>
<p>Ex. 4</p>	<p>R-35136 – Louisiana Public Service Commission, ex parte. In re: Rulemaking to Determine Need for Rate Schedules and Programs Offering Demand Response Products, Development of Such Rate Schedules and Programs, Determination of Customer Participation in Such Programs, Allocation and Recovery of Program Costs, and Whether Such Programs Shall be Mandatory or Voluntary for Utilities as set Forth in Section 3 of the Rule Adopted in the General Order Dated March 7, 2019 in Docket No. R-34948.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Staff Final Report and Recommendation.</p> <p>On motion of Chairman Greene, seconded by Commissioner Campbell, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to accept Staff’s Final Report and Recommendation (Revised) filed into the record on May 14, 2021.</p>
<p>Ex. 5</p>	<p>S-35579 – Water Treatment & Controls Company d/b/a Peoples Water Service Company of Bastrop and Peoples of Bastrop, LLC, ex parte. In re: Request for Letter of Non-Opposition and/or Approval to Transfer and Sell Water Utility System, Incur Indebtedness, Grant Security Interest, and Amend LPSC Order No. U-34690.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Amended Staff Report and Recommendation.</p> <p>On motion of Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Chairman Greene, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to accept Staff’s Amended Report and Recommendation filed into the record on May 5, 2021.</p>
<p>Ex. 6</p>	<p>S-35841 – AMG Technology Investment Group, LLC d/b/a NextLink Internet, ex parte. In re: Application for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Staff Report and Recommendation.</p> <p>After discussion by Commissioners and Commission Staff, Vice Chairman Skrmetta made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Francis, and unanimously adopted, to accept Staff’s Report and Recommendation filed into the record on May 6, 2021.</p>
<p>Ex. 7</p>	<p>S-35844 – Starlink Services, LLC., ex parte. In re: Application for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Staff Report and Recommendation.</p> <p>After discussion by Commissioners and Commission Staff, Chairman Greene made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Campbell, and unanimously adopted, to accept Staff’s Report and Recommendation filed into the record on April 19, 2021.</p>

<p>Ex. 8</p>	<p>S-35851 – Charter Fiberlink LA-CCO, LLC, ex parte. In re: Application for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Staff Report and Recommendation.</p> <p>After discussion, including Mr. Rob Rieger on behalf of Charter, and upon request of Charter, this matter was deferred.</p> <p>DEFERRED</p>
<p>Ex. 9</p>	<p>S-35895 – CenturyLink Communications, LLC, ex parte. In re: Application for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Staff Report and Recommendation.</p> <p>On motion of Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Chairman Greene, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to accept Staff’s Report and Recommendation filed into the record on April 22, 2021.</p>
<p>Ex. 10</p>	<p>S-35904 – CableSouth Media III, LLC, ex parte. In re: Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Staff Report and Recommendation.</p> <p>On motion of Commissioner Boissiere, seconded by Commissioner Francis, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to accept Staff’s Report and Recommendation filed into the record on April 19, 2021.</p>
<p>Ex. 11</p>	<p>U-35800 – Concordia Electric Cooperative, Inc., ex parte. In re: Request for Extension of Formula Rate Plan.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote pursuant to Rule 57 to accept Proposed Uncontested Stipulated Settlement.</p> <p>On motion of Commissioner Francis, seconded by Commissioner Campbell, with Chairman Greene concurring and Commissioner Boissiere and Vice Chairman Skrmetta temporarily absent, the Commission voted to assert its original and primary jurisdiction and take the matter up pursuant to Rule 57.</p> <p>After discussion, Commissioner Campbell made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Francis, with Chairman Greene and Commissioner Boissiere concurring and Vice Chairman Skrmetta temporarily absent, the Commission voted to accept Proposed Uncontested Stipulated Settlement filed into the record on April 21, 2021.</p>
<p>Ex. 12</p>	<p>U-35807 – Cleco Power LLC, ex parte. In re: Application for Recovery in Rates of Certain Storm Damage Costs Incurred as a Result of Hurricanes Laura, Delta, and Zeta.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Uncontested Stipulated Settlement.</p> <p>After discussion and comments from Paul Zimmering of Stone Pigman, Vice Chairman Skrmetta made a motion, which was seconded by Chairman Greene, and unanimously adopted, to accept the Uncontested Stipulated Settlement filed into the record on May 6, 2021.</p>

<p>Ex. 13</p>	<p>U-35936 – Southwestern Electric Power Company, ex parte. In re: Application for Certification of the Trinity Solar Project.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote to hire an outside consultant.</p> <p>DEFERRED</p>
<p>Ex. 14</p>	<p>TBD – Southwestern Electric Power Company, ex parte. In re: Request for Proposals of diverse resources, including natural gas, solar and/or wind renewable energy resources.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote to retain United Professionals Company.</p> <p>On motion of Vice Chairman Skrmetta, seconded by Commissioner Campbell, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to retain United Professionals Company for a total budget not to exceed \$365,000, consisting of \$350,000 in fees and \$15,000 in expenses.</p>
<p>Ex. 15</p>	<p>1) Reports</p> <p>Report from Charter Spectrum regarding efforts to provide service to the Talisheek community.</p> <p>DEFERRED</p> <p>2) Resolutions 3) Discussions 4) ERSC/OMS/SPP</p> <p>Discussion and possible vote to ratify the 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 Chairman Greene, seconded by Commissioner Boissiere, with Commissioner Campbell and Commissioner Francis concurring, and Vice Chairman Skrmetta abstaining, the Commission voted to ratify Vice Chairman Skrmetta’s votes taken on April 15, 2021 as the Louisiana Public Service Commission’s representative to the OMS Board of Directors.</p> <p>5) Directives</p> <p>Directive to Staff regarding Docket No. R-31106 related to jurisdictional electric cooperatives.</p> <p>At the request of Vice Chairman Skrmetta.</p> <p>LPSC Staff is currently working on Phase II rules for Energy Efficiency, and as a part of those efforts, Vice Chairman Skrmetta directed Staff to look at including participation from the electric cooperatives in the same manner as the investor-owned utilities participate in the Commission’s energy efficiency program. Staff should also look at whether Phase II rules should be mandatory.</p> <p>There was no opposition.</p> <p>Directive to Staff regarding Docket No. R-31106 related to the energy efficiency residential programs.</p> <p>At the request of Vice Chairman Skrmetta.</p>

	<p>Vice Chairman Skrmetta directed Staff to look at the current configuration of the residential energy efficiency programs, to study alternative configurations that would include the Commission administering the residential portion, and to coordinate with the Commission during this study.</p> <p>Jessica Hendricks with the Alliance for Affordable Energy provided comments about the energy efficiency programs.</p> <p>There was no opposition.</p>
Ex. 16	<p>S-35938 – Cable One VoIP LLC d/b/a Sparklight, ex parte. In re: Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Staff Report and Recommendation.</p> <p>At the request of Chairman Greene.</p> <p>On motion of Vice Chairman Skrmetta, seconded by Commissioner Francis, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to accept Staff’s Report and Recommendation filed into the record on May 13, 2021.</p>
Ex. 17	<p>S-35965 – Jefferson Davis Electric Cooperative, Inc., ex parte. In re: Petition for Letter of Non-Opposition Authorizing Jefferson Davis Electric Cooperative, Inc. to Establish a Secured Consolidated Emergency Line of Credit.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Staff Report and Recommendation.</p> <p>At the request of Commissioner Francis.</p> <p>After discussion and comments from Mike Heinen, General Manager of Jefferson Davis Electric Co-op, Inc. and Mitch Andrus from Royal Engineering, Chairman Greene made a motion, which was seconded by Vice Chairman Skrmetta and unanimously adopted, to accept Staff’s Report and Recommendation filed into the record on May 17, 2021.</p>
Ex. 18	<p>Undocketed – Directive to Staff regarding the continued investigation in Docket No. R-34758 into transmission and generation issues occurring during the February 2021 Winter Storm.</p> <p>At the request of Chairman Greene.</p> <p>At the February B&E Session, the Commission directed Staff to conduct an investigation into the cost consequences of the 2021 winter storm and any decisions made by Louisiana utilities, in order to identify lessons learned in order to prepare for future events. As we continue to analyze the winter storms operational impacts and impacts on utility customers throughout Louisiana, I want to make sure that we consider all of the potential causes and effects of that event including those related to generation outages, transmission congestion and market mechanism. In that regard, prior to the finalization of any recommendations in the rulemaking Docket R-34758, I direct Commission Staff to work with the Commission consultants and counsel to make sure that the following issues are specifically considered and addressed in that final recommendation as well as provide a report specifically on these issues at the September B&E:</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify specific generators that experienced outages or deratings during the Winter Storm as well as explain the causes of those generator outages and what, if anything, could have been done to prevent any of these outages. This explanation should include generation units owned by utilities regulated by the LPSC as well as any other generating unit which the LPSC may otherwise be able to obtain the information about. 2. Any correlation of increased market prices to generation outages. 3. Causes for the divergence of market prices across the various pricing nodes of MISO and SPP, specifically including an analysis of the contribution of congestion charges to that divergence. 4. The contribution to the increased pricing resulting from any charging of the value of loss load (VOLL), as well as an explanation of the pricing impact caused by MISO’s declaration of a transmission emergency in the Western Load Pocket as opposed to a declaration of a capacity (EEA) emergency. 5. What role, if any, did the MISO Regional Directional Transfer (RDT) constraint contribute to the market prices experienced in MISO South, as well as what role the continued existence of load pockets in Louisiana played. 6. Any recommendations made by the MISO or SPP market monitor. 7. Were any recommendations set forth after the 2018 Winter Storm? If so, what have the utilities and/or MISO done in response to those recommendations? <p>Lane Sisung, of United Professionals Company, provided additional information to the Commission regarding Chairman Greene’s directive and Staff’s plan moving forward.</p> <p>There was no opposition.</p>
<p>Ex. 19</p>	<p>Undocketed – Directive to LPSC-jurisdictional gas companies regarding pipeline interruption mitigation plans.</p> <p>At the request of Vice Chairman Skrmetta and Commissioner Boissiere.</p> <p>Vice Chairman Skrmetta and Commissioner Boissiere directed all jurisdictional natural gas utilities to submit, subject to the Commission’s confidentiality rules, their respective plans to operate their distribution systems manually in the event of outside disruption. Additionally, these utilities should communicate with their gas suppliers to ensure those suppliers, likewise, have plans to maintain gas supply manually in the event of outside service disruption.</p> <p>There was no opposition.</p>

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

MEETING ADJOURNED

The next Business and Executive Session will be held on Wednesday, June 16, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. at the Galvez Building in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.