

LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
MINUTES FROM MAY 25, 2022
OPEN SESSION

MINUTES OF MAY 25, 2022 OPEN SESSION OF THE LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION HELD IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA. PRESENT WERE CHAIRMAN LAMBERT BOISSIERE, VICE CHAIRMAN MIKE FRANCIS, COMMISSIONER FOSTER CAMPBELL, COMMISSIONER ERIC SKRMETTA, COMMISSIONER CRAIG GREENE, AND EXECUTIVE SECRETARY BRANDON FREY.

Open Session of May 25, 2022, convening at 9:15 a. m., and adjourning at 1:05 p.m., the Galvez Building, 602 North 5th Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, with the above-named members of the Commission and Executive Secretary Brandon Frey present.

<p>Ex. 1</p>	<p>Chairman Boissiere called on Vice Chairman Francis to lead us in prayer, and welcomed Constable Terrica Williams of the East Baton Rouge Parish Constable’s Office to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.</p> <p>Commissioner Greene welcomed Pastor Carter LeBlanc to lead an additional prayer.</p> <p>Chairman Boissiere welcomed former Commissioner Jay Blossman, and Helena Moreno, New Orleans City Councilmember At-Large</p> <p>Executive Secretary Brandon Frey announced the June B&E Session will be held as originally scheduled on June 22, 2022.</p> <p>Executive Counsel Kathryn Bowman announced there were two internal promotions. Bill Foster accepted the position of IT Programming Director and Lauren Evans accepted the position of Deputy General Counsel.</p> <p>Commissioner Skrmetta announced the NARUC Annual Meeting will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana in November, 2022. He asked Staff to look into rescheduling the November B&E Session originally scheduled on November 22, 2022, in Baton Rouge for Tuesday, November 15, 2022, in the New Orleans area to coincide with the NARUC Annual Meeting.</p> <p>Commissioner Skrmetta also announced that his daughter graduated from college and will attend law school in the fall.</p> <p>Chairman Boissiere announced that Entergy Louisiana’s System Restoration Bonds for Hurricanes Laura, Delta, and Zeta, and Winter Storm Uri, as well as the establishment of a dedicated storm reserves for Hurricane Ida costs and future storms closed on May 19, 2022 with an overall return at 4.28%. The total costs of the bonds sold was \$3,193,505,000 and results in estimated savings of \$2,046,485,263 for Entergy customers.</p>
<p>Ex. 2</p>	<p>U-35131 – Louisiana Public Service Commission, ex parte. In re: Investigative Audit into the Managerial and Financial Activities of Dixie Electric Membership Corporation.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Joint Report and Draft Order.</p> <p>On motion of Commissioner Greene, seconded by Chairman Boissiere, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to require DEMCO to submit to a follow-up audit in 2024.</p>

<p>Ex. 3</p>	<p>U-36129 – Southwest Louisiana Electric Membership Corporation, ex parte. In re: Supplemental and Restated Application for Recovery in Rates of Storm Damage Costs Incurred as a Result of Hurricanes Laura and Delta and for Recovery of Costs Incurred in Preparation for Hurricane Ida.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Uncontested Stipulated Settlement.</p> <p>After discussion, Commissioner Greene made a motion to accept the Uncontested Stipulated Settlement with the following modifications:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The rates authorized in this proceeding begin on August 1, 2022 and end on August 31, 2024; and 2) SLEMCO shall notify customers of the impending rate change through a bill insert within 60 days of the Commission’s order in this proceeding. <p>On motion of Commissioner Greene, seconded by Commissioner Campbell, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to accept the Uncontested Stipulated Settlement filed into the record on April 19, 2022, with amendments.</p>
<p>Ex. 4</p>	<p>U-36301 – Atmos Energy Corporation, ex parte. In re: Amended Application requesting the creation of an infrastructure expansion program for Atmos Energy Corporation’s Louisiana Regulatory Division.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote to retain an outside consultant.</p> <p>On motion of Commissioner Greene, seconded by Commissioner Campbell, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to retain United Professionals Company for \$159,000 in fees and \$6,000 in expenses for a total budget not to exceed \$165,000.</p>
<p>Ex. 5</p>	<p>U-36339 – South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association, ex parte. In re: Request for interim and final emergency rate relief.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Interim Rate Increase pursuant to Rule 57.</p> <p>At the request of Commissioner Greene.</p> <p>On motion of Commissioner Greene, seconded by Vice Chairman 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>Commissioner Greene made the following motion: In order to allow the cooperative to service its debt obligations pending the final outcome in its emergency rate case, I move that the Commission approve SLECA’s request for interim rates, allowing a 6.92 mills increase in the company’s rates, effective July 1, 2022 until such time that the Commission renders a full decision on the merits, subject to Staff’s recommendations for bonding requirements, which is estimated to be in the amount of \$2,504,877. Further, SLECA shall notify customers of the impending rate change through a bill insert within 15 days of this Commission vote. Without objection from Commissioner Greene, Commissioner Skrmetta added to Commissioner Greene’s motion that revenue received from the sale of Total Environmental Solutions, Inc. shall be transferred to SLECA and applied to offset this interim rate request.</p> <p>On motion of Commissioner Greene, seconded by Commissioner Skrmetta, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to approve the request for interim rate relief, subject to bonding requirements, as read into the record.</p>

	<p>Present for Questions/Comments: Joseph Ticheli, SLECA General Manager</p>
<p>Ex. 6</p>	<p>U-36350 – Entergy Louisiana, LLC, ex parte. In re: Application for recovery in rates of costs related to Hurricane Ida and for related relief.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote to retain outside counsel.</p> <p>Commissioner Skrmetta made a motion to retain Patrick Miller, LLC, which was seconded by Commissioner Campbell.</p> <p>Chairman Boissiere made a substitute motion to retain Stone Pigman for \$249,000 in fees and \$8,000 in expenses, for a total budget of \$257,000. The motion failed due to lack of a second.</p> <p>On Commissioner Skrmetta’s original motion, seconded by Commissioner Campbell, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to retain Patrick Miller, LLC for \$178,000 in fees and \$4,950 in expenses for a total budget of \$182,950.</p>
<p>Ex. 7</p>	<p>U-36350 – Entergy Louisiana, LLC, ex parte. In re: Application for recovery in rates of costs related to Hurricane Ida and for related relief.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote to retain an outside consultant.</p> <p>On motion of Vice Chairman Francis, seconded by Commissioner Skrmetta, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to retain Henderson Ridge Consulting, Inc. for \$173,600 in fees and \$3,600 in expenses, for a total budget not to exceed \$177,200.</p>
<p>Ex. 8</p>	<p>FERC Docket No. PL21-3-000 – Consideration of Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Natural Gas Infrastructure Project Reviews.</p> <p>In re: Possible Executive Session to discuss litigation strategy pursuant to La. R.S. 42:16 et sq.</p> <p>On motion of Commissioner Skrmetta, seconded by Vice Chairman Francis, with Chairman Boissiere and Commissioner Campbell concurring, and Commissioner Greene temporarily absent, the Commission voted to enter Executive Session.</p> <p>On motion of Chairman Boissiere, seconded by Commissioner Skrmetta, with Vice Chairman Francis concurring, and Commissioner Campbell and Commissioner Greene temporarily absent, the Commission voted to exit Executive Session.</p>

<p>Ex. 9</p>	<p>FERC Docket No. EL20-72 – Louisiana Public Service Commission, et al. v. System Energy Resources, Inc.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote on budget increase for Stone Pigman and United Professionals Company.</p> <p>On motion of Commissioner Skrmetta, seconded by Commissioner Greene, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to retain Stone Pigman for \$541,020 in fees and \$40,000 in expenses for an additional total budget not to exceed \$581,020, and United Professionals Company for \$495,000 in fees and \$0 in expenses, for an additional total budget not to exceed \$495,000.</p> <p>In re: Possible Executive Session to discuss litigation strategy pursuant to La. R.S. 42:16 et seq.</p> <p>On motion of Commissioner Skrmetta, seconded by Vice Chairman Francis, with Chairman Boissiere and Commissioner Campbell concurring, and Commissioner Greene temporarily absent, the Commission voted to enter Executive Session.</p> <p>On motion of Chairman Boissiere, seconded by Commissioner Skrmetta, with Vice Chairman Francis concurring, and Commissioner Campbell and Commissioner Greene absent, the Commission voted to exit Executive Session.</p>
<p>Ex. 10</p>	<p>1) Reports</p> <p>- Update from Eligible Telecommunications Carrier that received funding from the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund.</p> <p>Reports, discussion and comments were given from the following Eligible Telecommunication Carriers:</p> <p>Cable South Media - Jason Hunt Rural Electric (Southwest Arkansas) - Gordon Polozola Charter Fiberlink - Brent Golleher CenturyLink - Melissa Mann Nextier Consortium - Rob Rieger Allen’s Communications - Rob Rieger Cebridge/Altice/Suddenlink - Rob Rieger Volt Broadband - Luke Piontek Cox - Jamie Watts</p> <p>- Report from Staff regarding late fees charged by jurisdictional utilities pursuant to Commission General Order dated November 16, 1972.</p> <p>Executive Counsel Kathryn Bowman provided an update to the Commission regarding late fees charged by jurisdictional utilities pursuant to Commission General Order dated November 16, 1972.</p> <p>2) Resolutions</p>

3) Discussions

- **Discussion with Entergy Louisiana, LLC's CEO, Leo Denault.**

Present for Questions/Comments:

Leo Denault, CEO of Entergy
Phillip May, President and CEO of Entergy Louisiana
Mark Kleehammer, Vice President, Regulatory and Public Affairs for Entergy
Karen Freese, Vice President and Deputy General of Entergy
Michael Fontham, Special Counsel for Louisiana Public Service Commission

Commissioner Campbell requested Staff to coordinate with the following utilities so that each company's CEO will attend an upcoming B&E to answer questions:

- SWEPCO
- Cleco Power
- Atmos Energy
- CenterPoint Energy

4) ERSC/OMS/SSP

- **Discussion and possible vote to ratify LPSC interventions in RTO or ERSC related FERC proceedings.**

On motion of Commissioner Greene, seconded by Commissioner Campbell, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to ratify the Louisiana Public Service Commission's intervention filed in FERC proceedings ER22-1640 (docless intervention) and AD21-10 (late intervention).

- **Discussion and possible vote to ratify votes taken by Vice Chairman Francis acting as the Commission's representative on the Regional State Committee of the Southwest Power Pool.**

On motion of Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Greene, with Chairman Boissiere and Commissioner Skrmetta concurring, and Vice Chairman Francis abstaining, the Commission voted to ratify Vice Chairman Francis' votes taken on April 25, 2022 as the Louisiana Public Service Commission's representative to the SPP Regional State Committee.

5) Directives

- **Directive to Staff regarding tariff for pilot industrial shared solar tariff option featuring benefits for low and moderate-income residents.**

At the request of Chairman Boissiere.

DEFERRED

<p>Ex. 11</p>	<p>S-36302 – Southwest Louisiana Electric Membership Corporation, ex parte. In re: Request for a Letter of Non-Opposition to Borrow Funds and Related Mortgage.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Staff Report and Recommendation.</p> <p>At the request of Commissioner Greene.</p> <p>On motion of Commissioner Greene, seconded by Commissioner Skrmetta, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to accept Staff’s Report and Recommendation filed into the record on March 25, 2022.</p>
<p>Ex. 12</p>	<p>U-36165 – Southwestern Electric Power Company, ex parte. In re: Application for the Certification of the Kingston Area Reliability Project in Accordance with the Commission’s General Order Dated October 10, 2013.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Uncontested Stipulated Settlement.</p> <p>At the request of Commissioner Campbell.</p> <p>On motion of Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Greene, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to accept the Uncontested Stipulated Settlement filed into the record on May 18, 2022.</p>
<p>Ex. 13</p>	<p>Undocketed – In re: Directive to Staff to study the potential costs and feasibility of small/compact nuclear generation facilities in Louisiana.</p> <p>At the request of Commissioner Skrmetta.</p> <p>Consistent with the directive, Commissioner Skrmetta asked staff to have a report in 6 months if possible.</p> <p>There was no opposition.</p>

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

MEETING ADJOURNED

The next Business and Executive Session will be held on Wednesday, June 22, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at the Galvez Building in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.