

LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 20, 2024
OPEN SESSION

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 20, 2024 OPEN SESSION OF THE LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION HELD IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA. PRESENT WERE CHAIRMAN MIKE FRANCIS, VICE CHAIRMAN DAVANTE LEWIS, COMMISSIONER FOSTER CAMPBELL, COMMISSIONER ERIC SKRMETTA, COMMISSIONER CRAIG GREENE, AND EXECUTIVE SECRETARY BRANDON FREY.

Open Session of November 20, 2024, convening at 9:08 a.m., and adjourning at 2:03 p.m., Baton Rouge, Louisiana, with the above-name members of the Commission and Executive Secretary Brandon Frey present.

Ex. 1	<p>Executive Counsel Kathryn Bowman announced that the December B&E would be held in Natchitoches, Louisiana.</p> <p>Executive Secretary Brandon Frey announced and congratulated Tom Brice, Vice President of Regulatory and Finance for SWEPCO, on his retirement after 32 years with the company. The Commissioners thanked Tom and congratulated him on his retirement.</p> <p>Deputy General Counsel Lauren Evans introduced and welcomed the Legal Division’s new Transportation attorney, Hayden Sheuermann. She announced the birth of Legal Staff Attorney Braeden Smith’s new baby boy, William Joseph. She also announced that the Public Utilities CLE will be held Thursday, December 5, 2024 at the City Club in Baton Rouge. Registration is online only at www.lsba.org/cle.</p> <p>Commissioner Greene introduced District 2 Commissioner-elect Jean-Paul Coussan and congratulated him on his successful campaign.</p>
Ex. 2	<p>T-37176 - Louisiana Public Service Commission vs. Sylvester Fleming dba Sk8tXpress. In re: Alleged violation of R.S. 45:161 through 180.1 and General Order dated April 25, 2012 by engaging in activities related to transporting passengers intrastate without LPSC authority.</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 Commissioner Skrmetta, seconded by Vice Chairman Lewis, with Chairman Francis and Commissioner Campbell concurring, and Commissioner Greene temporarily absent, the Commission voted to exercise its original and primary jurisdiction pursuant to Rule 57.</p> <p>On motion of Commissioner Skrmetta, seconded by Vice Chairman Lewis, with Chairman Francis and Commissioner Campbell concurring, and Commissioner Greene temporarily absent, the Commission voted to accept the Affidavit and Stipulation executed on October 3, 2024, for fines and fees totaling \$525.</p>
Ex. 3	<p>I-36242 - Southwestern Electric Power Company, ex parte. In re: 2021 Request to Initiate Integrated Resource Planning Process Pursuant to the General Order (Corrected) in Docket R-30021 Dated April 20, 2012.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Staff Report and Recommendation.</p> <p>After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Skrmetta,</p>

	<p>with Chairman Francis concurring, Vice Chairman Lewis opposing, and Commissioner Greene temporarily absent, the Commission voted to acknowledge that SWEPCO’s Final IRP Report complies with the Commission’s IRP Order. The motion passed 3:1.</p> <p>Present for Questions/Comments: Tom Brice - Vice President, Regulatory and Finance, SWEPCO Bobby Gilliam - Counsel for SWEPCO Marie Fagan – Staff Consultant, London Economics</p>
<p>Ex. 4</p>	<p>R-35595 - Louisiana Public Service Commission, ex parte. In re: Review of the Schedule of Prescribed Rates and Requirements for Towing and Recovery services in General Order dated August 05, 2016.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Staff's Final Report and Recommendation (Corrected). (Ex. 3 on the October Business and Executive Session Agenda.)</p> <p>Commissioner Skrmetta made a motion to accept Staff’s Final Report and Recommendation, with modifications, which failed for a lack of a second.</p> <p>After discussion, on motion of Vice Chairman Lewis, seconded by Commissioner Greene, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to adopt the Final Report and Recommendation filed into the record on October 7, 2024.</p> <p>Vice Chairman Lewis also directed Staff to continue to work with the regulated towing industry in reviewing the current rate structure and regulations, with the goal of identifying potential modifications to ensue the industry’s rates are not only reasonable, but commensurate with the industry’s services. There was no opposition to the directive.</p> <p>Present for Questions/Comments: Rudy Smith, Rudy Smith Service, Inc. Jared Varnado, President of Towing Professionals of Louisiana, Inc. Caley Joyner – Member of TRPL Vicki Marshall – Self Kristy Jaeger – Ascension Towing James Mericle – Member of TRPL, and owner of Mericle’s Towing Noel Williamson – Cotton’s Towing</p>
<p>Ex. 5</p>	<p>S-37187 - CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp., Delta Utilities No. LA, LLC and Delta Utilities S. LA, LLC. In re: Joint Application for all necessary authorizations and approvals for Delta Utilities No. LA and Delta Utilities S. LA to acquire the assets of CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp. and for authority of Delta Utilities No. LA, LLC and Delta Utilities S. LA, LLC to operate as Local Distribution Companies.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Staff's Report and Recommendation.</p> <p>On motion of Commissioner Skrmetta, seconded by Commissioner Greene, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to accept the Staff Report and Recommendation filed into the record on October 22, 2024.</p>

<p>Ex. 6</p>	<p>U-36669 - Southern Spirit Transmission LLC, ex parte. In re: Request for certification, or in the alternative exemption, of the Southern Spirit Transmission Project pursuant to the Commission's General Order dated October 10, 2013 (The Transmission Siting Order).</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Motion by the Marston Family for Rehearing.</p> <p>After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Vice Chairman Lewis, with Commissioner Greene concurring, and Chairman Francis and Commissioner Skrmetta opposing, the Commission voted to defer the item until the December B&E. The motion passed 3:2.</p> <p>DEFERRED</p>
<p>Ex. 7</p>	<p>U-37087 - Southwest Louisiana Electric Membership Corporation, ex parte. In re: Request for an Increase in Base Rates.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Uncontested Stipulated Settlement.</p> <p>On motion of Vice Chairman Lewis, seconded by Commissioner Campbell, with Commissioner Skrmetta and Commissioner Greene concurring, and Chairman Francis temporarily absent, the Commission voted to accept the Uncontested Stipulated Settlement filed into the record on September 27, 2024.</p>
<p>Ex. 8</p>	<p>U-37196 - Washington - St. Tammany Electric Cooperative, Inc., ex parte. In re: Formula Rate Plan Annual Report 2023 Test Year filing.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Joint Report and Draft Order.</p> <p>On motion of Commissioner Skrmetta, seconded by Vice Chairman Lewis, with Commissioner Campbell concurring, and Chairman Francis and Commissioner Greene temporarily absent, the Commission voted to accept the Joint Report and Draft Order filed into the record on October 28, 2024.</p>
<p>Ex. 9</p>	<p>U-37197 - Evangeline Gas Company, Inc., ex parte. In re: Request for approval to establish a pipeline replacement rider.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote pursuant to Rule 57 on Uncontested Stipulated Settlement.</p> <p>On motion of Commissioner Skrmetta, seconded by Vice Chairman Lewis, with Chairman Francis and Commissioner Campbell concurring, and Commissioner Greene temporarily absent, the Commission voted to exercise its original and primary jurisdiction pursuant to Rule 57.</p> <p>After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Skrmetta, seconded by Vice Chairman Lewis, with Chairman Francis and Commissioner Campbell concurring, and Commissioner Greene temporarily absent, the Commission voted to accept the Uncontested Stipulated Settlement filed into the record on November 6, 2024.</p> <p>Present for Questions/Comments: Gordon Polozola – Counsel for Evangeline Gas Company, Inc.</p>

<p>Ex. 10</p>	<p>U-37211 - Dixie Electric Membership Corporation, ex parte. In re: Formula Rate Plan Annual Report for 2023 Test Year filing.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Joint Report and Draft Order.</p> <p>On motion of Commissioner Skrmetta, seconded by Vice Chairman Lewis, with Chairman Francis and Commissioner Campbell concurring, and Commissioner Greene temporarily absent, the Commission voted to accept the Joint Report filed into the record on September 24, 2024.</p>
<p>Ex. 11</p>	<p>U-37425 - Entergy Louisiana, LLC, ex parte. In re: Application for approval of generation and transmission resources in connection with service to a single customer for a project in North Louisiana.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote to retain United Professionals Company.</p> <p>After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Skrmetta, seconded by Commissioner Campbell, with Chairman Francis and Vice Chairman Lewis concurring, and Commissioner Greene temporarily absent, the Commission voted to retain UPC for \$650,000 in fees and \$25,000 in expenses, for a total not to exceed budget of \$675,000.</p> <p>Present for Questions/Comments: Lane Sisung – Staff Consultant, United Professionals Company</p>
<p>Ex. 12</p>	<p>U-37425 - Entergy Louisiana, LLC, ex parte. In re: Application for approval of generation and transmission resources in connection with service to a single customer for a project in North Louisiana.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote to retain Stone Pigman Walther Wittman L.L.C.</p> <p>After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Skrmetta, seconded by Vice Chairman Lewis, with Chairman Francis and Commissioner Campbell concurring, and Commissioner Greene temporarily absent, the Commission voted to retain Stone Pigman for \$760,000 in fees and \$28,000 in expenses, for a total not to exceed budget of \$788,000.</p> <p>Present for Questions/Comments: Dana Shelton – Staff Counsel, Stone Pigman</p>
<p>Ex. 13</p>	<p>Undocketed - Cleco Power LLC's Request for Proposals for the Acquisition of Generating Capacity and Energy Resources.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote to retain an outside consultant.</p> <p>On motion of Commissioner Skrmetta, seconded by Vice Chairman Lewis, with Chairman Francis and Commissioner Campbell concurring, and Commissioner Greene temporarily absent, the Commission voted to retain United Professionals Company for a bid of \$162,000 in fees and \$12,500 in expenses, for a total not to exceed budget of \$174,500.</p>
<p>Ex. 14</p>	<p>1) Reports</p> <p>- Presentation by SERC on transmission planning, storm hardening, and grid resilience. SERC representatives Brian Thumm and Rhiannon Gomes gave a presentation.</p> <p>-Report from Correctional Institute Service Providers regarding rates and the effect of the Martha Wright Reed Act.</p> <p>Present for Questions/Comments: Walker Estes – Citizen Representing Deaf Inmates</p>

Amelia Herrera – Families of Incarcerated Loved Ones
Michael Cahoon – The Promise of Justice Inca
Stephanie Laborde – Securus Technologies
Michael Lozich – Securus Technologies
Terry Bessent – Securus Technologies
Felicia Hall – ViaPath Technologies
Sara Gozalo – Promise of Justice
Checo Yawcy – VOTE
Bruce Rally – VOTE
Nziki Wiltz – VOTE
Craig Storer – NCIC Correctional Services
William Pope – NCIC Correctional Services
Dr. Mai Kennedy – Deaf Community

(Ex. 13 on the October Business and Executive Session Agenda.)

2) Resolutions

3) Discussions

- Discussion with Hillcrest Builders on its billing practices.

Executive Secretary Frey read a statement by Commissioner Campbell: About a month ago, my office began receiving complaints regarding Hillcrest Builders, a wastewater provider in my district. Specifically, the company was attempting to collect allegedly unpaid amounts from customers through door-to-door communications. The homeowners of that subdivision met with me, my staff and Kathryn regarding these concerns. Upon investigation, we also learned that the company is in non-compliance with the Commission on annual report filings and inspection and supervision fees. A cease and desist order was issued to the company regarding the billing issues, and it also included dates by which the company needed to provide information to the Commission. Finally, given the questions raised at the homeowners meeting, and the company’s compliance issues, I asked Staff to send a letter requesting the Mr. John “Rusty” Miller, owner of the company, attend today’s meeting. Mr. Miller declined to appear in person, preventing us from asking these important questions.

Given the above, I ask Staff to take any and all actions necessary to bring this company into compliance, including issuing citations.

4) ERSC/OMS/SPP

- Discussion and possible vote to ratify interventions of Louisiana Public Service Commission in RTO-Related or other Federal Energy Regulatory Proceedings.

On motion of Vice Chairman Lewis, seconded by Chairman Francis, with Commissioner Campbell and Commissioner Skrmetta concurring, and Commissioner Greene temporarily absent, the Commission voted to ratify the actions taken in FERC Docket Numbers ER24-3067, AC24-145, ER25-111, ER25-89, ER25-98, ER25-138, ER24-3141, and ER25-150.

- Discussion and possible vote to ratify votes taken by Commissioner Skrmetta acting as the Commission's representative on the Board of Directors of the Organization of MISO States.

On motion of Chairman Francis, seconded by Vice Chairman Lewis, with Commissioner Campbell concurring, Commissioner Skrmetta abstaining, and Commissioner Greene temporarily absent, the Commission voted to ratify the LPSC votes taken on October 15, 2024 and November 11, 2024.

	<p>- Discussion and possible vote to ratify votes cast by Chairman Francis acting as the Commission's representative on the Regional State Committee of the Southwest Power Pool.</p> <p>After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Skrmetta, seconded by Vice Chairman Lewis, with Commissioner Campbell concurring, Chairman Francis abstaining, and Commissioner Greene temporarily absent, the Commission voted to ratify Chairman Francis' votes cast on October 28, 2024.</p> <p>5) Directives</p> <p>- Directive to Staff regarding Docket No. U-37425, Entergy Louisiana's request for approval of generation and transmission resources.</p> <p>At the request of Commissioner Campbell.</p> <p>Commissioner Campbell's directive read as follows: On October 30, 2025, Entergy Louisiana, LLC filed an application seeking approval of generation and transmission projects in connection with service to a large customer project in North Louisiana, which has been assigned Docket No. U-34725. I propose a directive to Staff and the Administrative Hearings Division to exercise best efforts in developing and adhering to a procedural schedule that results in an ALJ recommendation issued and provided to the Commission for consideration at the October 2025 B&E Meeting. Entergy Louisiana's filing asked for a Commission vote by the September 2025 B&E in order to meet the customer's project schedule. However, I believe providing an additional month – until October 2025 – is reasonable – and considers both the Staff and parties' need for adequate time to review the issues in the case and the Customer's need for a Commission decision that allows it to maintain its project schedule. Further, my proposed directive allows for nearly a full year from filing to consideration.</p> <p>There was no opposition to the directive.</p>
<p>Ex. 15</p>	<p>S-37393 - Magnolia Water Utility Operating Company, LLC, ex parte. In re: Request for Letter of Non-Opposition for CSWR, LLC, Magnolia's parent company, to enter into a term loan facility.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Staff Report and Recommendation.</p> <p>At the request of Commissioner Skrmetta.</p> <p>On motion of Chairman Francis, seconded by Commissioner Skrmetta, with Vice Chairman Lewis concurring, and Commissioner Campbell and Commissioner Greene temporarily absent, the Commission voted to accept Staff's Report and Recommendation filed into the record on November 8, 2024.</p> <p>Present for Questions/Comments: Josiah Cox – President of Central States Water Resources</p>

<p>Ex. 16</p>	<p>U-37213 - Cleco Power LLC, ex parte. In re: Request for a Commission Financing Order authorizing Cleco Power to finance, through a securitization financing transaction, the retirement costs associated with the Dolet Hills Power Station and the associated mines, as well as to establish an energy transition reserve.</p> <p>In re: Discussion and possible vote on Uncontested Stipulated Settlement, pursuant to Rule 57.</p> <p>At the request of Chairman Francis.</p> <p>On motion of Commissioner Skrmetta, seconded by Vice Chairman Lewis, with Chairman Francis concurring, and Commissioner Campbell and Commissioner Greene temporarily absent, the Commission voted to exercise its original and primary jurisdiction pursuant to Rule 57.</p> <p>After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Skrmetta, seconded by Vice Chairman Lewis, with Chairman Francis concurring, and Commissioner Campbell and Commissioner Greene temporarily absent, the Commission voted to accept the Uncontested Stipulated Settlement filed into the record on November 15, 2024, and approve the issuance of a Financing Order consistent with the terms of the Uncontested Stipulated Settlement filed into the record on November 15, 2024.</p> <p>Present for Questions/Comments: Mark Gooding – Staff Consultant, Estrada Hinojosa Lane Sisung – Staff Consultant, United Professionals Company</p>
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On motion of Commissioner Skrmetta, seconded by Vice Chairman Lewis, with Chairman Francis 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, December 18, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in Natchitoches, Louisiana.