

TRANSCRIPT OF THE LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION BUSINESS AND EXECUTIVE OPEN SESSION HELD ON JANUARY 15, 2025 IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA. PRESENT WERE: CHAIRMAN MIKE FRANCIS, VICE CHAIRMAN DAVANTE LEWIS, COMMISSIONER ERIC SKRMETTA, COMMISSIONER JEAN-PAUL COUSSAN, AND COMMISSIONER FOSTER CAMPBELL.

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1 **TRANSCRIPT OF THE LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**
2 **BUSINESS AND EXECUTIVE OPEN SESSION HELD ON JANUARY 15,**
3 **2025 IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA. PRESENT WERE: CHAIRMAN**
4 **MIKE FRANCIS, VICE CHAIRMAN DAVANTE LEWIS,**
5 **COMMISSIONER ERIC SKRMETTA, COMMISSIONER JEAN-PAUL**
6 **COUSSAN, AND COMMISSIONER FOSTER CAMPBELL.**

7 **CHAIRMAN MIKE FRANCIS:** Call our meeting to order. Welcome to
8 downtown Baton Rouge to another meeting of the Public Service Commission. A
9 new year, January 2025. Let's open with a word of prayer, as we always do on our
10 meetings, and I'll take that privilege as Chairman today.

11 **[CHAIRMAN MIKE FRANCIS LEADS IN PRAYER]**

12 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Okay. Commissioner Skrmetta, lead us in the pledge.

13 **[COMMISSIONER ERIC SKRMETTA LEADS IN THE PLEDGE]**

14 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** All right. We'll start out with I think the first
15 introduction. I'd like to welcome, seat to my left, Jean-Paul Coussan. And let me
16 turn on all the mics here.

17 **COMMISSIONER ERIC SKRMETTA:** I have an announcement, too, Mr.
18 Chairman, when you're done.

19 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Okay. Jean-Paul, welcome to the crew.

20 **COMMISSIONER JEAN-PAUL COUSSAN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** My neighbor there. I live in Crowley and he lives in
22 Lafayette, so a lot of you guys are in trouble. We're going to give you a hard time.

23 **COMMISSIONER COUSSAN:** We may see each other more than we'd like.

1 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Amen.

2 **COMMISSIONER COUSSAN:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I just want to thank you
3 for welcoming me. I want to thank the Commissioners for welcoming me. I want
4 to thank the Staff for preparing me and many of the stakeholders for just letting me
5 know what is in store. I want to thank District 2 for electing me, and I want to thank
6 my family for letting me serve. So, with that let's get to work.

7 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Amen. Amen. Okay. Commissioner Skrmetta.

8 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Yeah. I want to both welcome JP Coussan to
9 the Public Service Commission. JP is obviously going to be a breath of fresh air.
10 In his two terms in the House, he earned the reputation as a true conservative. His
11 votes in the House were consistently pro-business and pro-family, which bodes well
12 for the ratepayers of Louisiana because JP will be a consumer champion here on
13 the Commission. So, JP I'm personally excited to have you here as another
14 watchdog, and I don't just mean watching our buddy, Foster. I mean watching out
15 for the ratepayer and making sure that we are a pro-business state. So, thank you
16 for being here.

17 **COMMISSIONER COUSSAN:** You're hired as my next consultant.

18 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** There you go.

19 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Okay. Commissioner Lewis.

20 **VICE CHAIRMAN DAVANTE LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First, I
21 want to welcome Commissioner Coussan, who I've had the privilege to hassle at
22 the Capitol for some years and I'll let you know, I'll probably still do that here, just
23 from a different post. So, I want to welcome you. I look forward to working with

1 you in a collaborative way to work towards a stronger electric system. I see, Mr.
2 Chairman, the Acadiana region gained someone. So, I guess the Baton Rouge
3 Capitol region, I'm now solo by myself, but I'll still work with you, Representative
4 -- excuse me, Commissioner Coussan on that. Well, I have a -- while we welcome
5 Commissioner Coussan, I also want to welcome someone new to the District III
6 office. As you can see, my Technical Assistant and Policy Director, Edward, is not
7 here today. That is because his wife and him had their first child, Giles West
8 Yeilding, or as we call him, Guy, was born on December 3rd at 6 pounds and 8
9 ounces. For all of you who know Edward, you know he loves to read, so it was the
10 same day that the CCO Phase 2 report dropped. So, he got a child and a big docket
11 to read. So, I want to wish Edward and Allie the best as they continue to maneuver
12 with their new baby boy, Guy, and the entire Yeilding Family. Just for you all to
13 know, Edward's brother, also had his first child on December 30th as well. So, the
14 Yeilding Family brought in two young men into the family. So, I'll give
15 congratulations and welcome to the entire Yeilding Family. And that's all my
16 announcements, Mr. Chairman.

17 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** I had the privilege today to have a -- welcome,
18 Commissioner Campbell. I'm glad you made it, man. I had the privilege of having
19 my Staff here today. I'd like for them to stand up and put them on the spot. It's a
20 -- ladies and gentleman, you all stand. We got Callie Bates, Amy Abraham, and
21 Clint Person. And of course, everybody knows Captain Eric Duplechain now.
22 Okay. The head of that Staff. So, welcome y'all. And we're glad to see
23 Commissioner Campbell here. I'm glad -- I know that it's a long trip from

1 Shreveport. Hopefully, there wasn't any ice on the road yet at the time. No ice,
2 huh?

3 **COMMISSIONER FOSTER CAMPBELL:** Not yet.

4 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Okay. Not yet. All right. And, Mr. Campbell, we're
5 in the part about announcements. I know you've always been no short on words,
6 so what's going on in Shreveport?

7 **COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL:** Well, what's going to go on is 22 degrees, 18-
8 degree weather, coming in first of the week. So, last cold spot we got out of it
9 pretty good. So, this time we might have some trouble with some ice and that is a
10 problem.

11 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** All right. Any other announcements?

12 **MS. KATHRYN BOWMAN:** We just have a couple of housekeeping, related to
13 the agenda. Of the 16 items, we have Exhibit 11 being deferred to next month.
14 Exhibit 10 is pulled, and then we are going to move the two reports under Exhibit
15 14 and Exhibit 16 up after we handle the election of Officers for the Commission.

16 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** All right. So, 14 will follow --

17 **MS. BOWMAN:** Six.

18 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** -- after Exhibits 2 through 6.

19 **MS. BOWMAN:** Yes, sir.

20 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** All right.

21 **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY BRANDON FREY:** And one other
22 announcement. Just to kind of piggyback on what Foster said, we're watching the
23 models. Jessica is -- yeah, Jessica's here. So, I would see us likely being activated

1 at GOHSEP. Hopefully, we don't deal with outages. But, yeah, the models are
2 hinting at some very, very cold weather next week with the possibility of frozen
3 stuff. So, just kind of keep that on your radar.

4 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Well, we might get some green heads come down here
5 to Louisiana, huh?

6 **MR. FREY:** Let's hope for it. I'll be out there.

7 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** All right. Since there's no other announcements,
8 Francis, the Chairman, has a motion to put before the five Commissioners. It'll
9 cover Exhibit 2 through Number 6. And my motion says, I move that we -- the
10 positions of -- for 2025, for the year of '25, remain the same as last year, with the
11 exception of nominating Commissioner Skrmetta as ERSC Representative, due to
12 the Commissioner Greene's departure. So, I'll make that in the form of a motion
13 and covet a second.

14 **VICE CHAIRMAN LEWIS:** I'll second.

15 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Seconded by Commissioner Lewis. And is there any
16 discussion or objection to my motion? [NONE HEARD] Hearing none, we're
17 starting off with a great, smooth 2025 year and I want to thank all of you. It's been
18 my privilege to serve as Chairman. I've been here eight years, and many of you
19 out in this crowd have tutored me and answered my calls. And like a redneck from
20 Jena, I say, you've answered a lot of my redneck, dumb questions, you know, and
21 I'm working on it. I'm not near where I want to be, but with God's blessings, we'll
22 continue to grow. This is going to be a great year. A lot of challenges, but I'm
23 looking forward to it and I appreciate Mr. Lewis at my right hand and my new

1 friend, Coussan, at my left hand. And for Mr. Skrmetta and Mr. Campbell, same
2 thanks to you, and I've really enjoyed working with you. And we're going to kick
3 some butt in '25, okay? So, moving on, let's do -- we'll go to Exhibit 14?

4 **MS. BOWMAN:** Yes, sir. So, under Exhibit 14, we have two reports today. The
5 first is the report from the Idaho National Lab's Frontiers Collaboration on the
6 LANCE report filed in Commission Docket Number X-36987. And if you guys
7 would come to the podium. Just introduce yourself before speaking, please, and
8 there's a button on the mic -- yes, sir. And there's a button on the microphone, turn
9 it green, and you're hot.

10 **MR. PAUL KJELLANDER:** I was told I didn't have to be sworn in. So, I was
11 joking with Lauren; that's means I can lie? It's a pleasure to be here today and see
12 all of you. And thanks for allowing us back into your hearing room to present the
13 LANCE report to you. My name is Paul Kjellander. I am on contract as a Senior
14 Advisor with the Idaho National Lab and have been working with my colleague,
15 Steve Aumeier, who is actually the brains behind the Frontiers Collaboration
16 through INL. He's in the back of the room because he's wise, and he won't be
17 joining me here unless I get in some deep trouble. So, if you have serious technical
18 questions, I would advise you to talk to the Ph.D. with nuclear engineering
19 background. He also has an MBA. He's got a couple of good jokes, too, but I'd
20 say talk to him out in the hallway. My background, too, also includes a long stint
21 as a Commissioner in the state of Idaho. I served 20 years as a Commissioner in
22 Idaho. Had a chance to also be actively engaged in NARUC and was President of
23 NARUC before I left, and quickly left, to go work with the Idaho National Lab

1 because they were looking at the one resource that I saw as being perhaps the most
2 challenging, but also the most promising as it relates to providing carbon-free
3 baseload generation resources throughout the country. And as the nation's premier
4 nuclear lab, the Idaho National Lab has a big task in front of it in terms of wanting
5 to really deal with outreach. Because the key is, as we look at nuclear power and
6 we look at advanced nuclear specifically, as we look down the road -- and it's down
7 the road, a lot of things have to happen. But if we wait until the technology is ready,
8 or the NRC is ready, we've missed our opportunity. So, the whole goal behind this
9 effort, the LANCE effort, the Louisiana Advance Nuclear Competitive Edge effort,
10 that we put together through a lot of the work from Commissioner Skrmetta to pull
11 this together, was to help Louisiana, through the Louisiana Public Service
12 Commission, to put together a framework that would, in essence, put Louisiana at
13 the forefront to do the necessary capacity building now. To look at three basic
14 pillars associated with nuclear technology and its future deployment. And that's to
15 look at generation, supply chain, and value chain. A year ago -- less than a year
16 ago, we were in this very hearing room when we launched our first -- we'll call it a
17 nuclear 101. Many of you were here, and really appreciate your support at that
18 time. Was to set out a baseline of facts as honest brokers, as honest as we can be,
19 to lay out what the hurdles were, what the opportunities were, and then to start to
20 bring together the necessary parties moving forward. So, that first initial 101, was
21 an excellent opportunity to, one, meet the right folks, simply put, and then take the
22 next step. The next step happened in Metairie, Louisiana, where we brought
23 together for two days of panels that we put together, scoping panels, and in those

1 meetings, we brought in your utilities, which were on board, very helpful. Putting
2 together these panels, a lot of stakeholders, other state agencies, and brought in
3 some vendors and designers in the nuclear space to really start to take a Louisiana-
4 centric look at what advanced nuclear might mean from an energy-driven economic
5 opportunity perspective for the state of Louisiana. That led to this report. That in
6 less than a year, because of the fact that you all worked very, very quickly, move
7 forward, brought the right people together -- oh, let me start over now. The mic is
8 closer. As we look at this, you have the LANCE report in front of you, and there
9 are a ton of recommendations with each one of those pillars. And I hope it's an
10 easy read. I wrote it, so there's no big words in it because my vocabulary is pretty
11 thin. But as you look at it, it really is a guidepost to set up what I think could help
12 Louisiana become a national leader in this space, and you have the ability. You're
13 already an energy state. Now, what's the next step look like? So, as you look at
14 those recommendations -- and they're recommendations. They're not -- there's no
15 -- the word shall does not show up there. It's all: What do you want to do? So, as
16 you look at the recommendations that are there, it really is about the next step. And
17 the next step is: How do you want to prioritize those things? Which are at the top
18 of the list? And then, how do you want to fund those things? And how do you
19 bring in other stakeholders within the state government to be engaged? Some of
20 those meetings have already started. Commissioner Skrmetta and I were in a
21 meeting with the Governor in December, and all of his Cabinet was there. And
22 they're looking at this report and saying it's a good starting point. That's what is
23 though, it's a starting point. An opportunity now to figure out what do you want to

1 prioritize, what do you want to fund, and how do you want to get there. Because,
2 again, that capacity building needs to happen now. If you wait until this technology
3 is ready to come off the shelves of Home Depot and Lowe's, you've waited too
4 long. So, this, I hope, lays out some guideposts moving forward. From the
5 regulatory perspective, there are some items that are in the document itself that sort
6 of lay out some opportunities for regulatory preapproval, as a case and point, to
7 make sure that utilities are made whole. You are in a unique position in Louisiana,
8 in which you actually regulate -- price regulate, almost every utility in the state.
9 That's unique. You have the ability to also help assure your utilities that they'll get
10 cost recovery. That's a big thing right now. I just got back from Hawaii, from what
11 I thought was a vacation, turned out to be a working thing. I met with their
12 commission. They're dealing with wildfire. The impact that that is having on that
13 state, as it relates to purchase power agreements moving forward, isn't just on the
14 utility. It's on those independent power producers as well. They're being
15 downgraded. The opportunity now to help assure the utilities that they can get
16 recovery as they start to explore and move down this path is extremely important.
17 So, I will come up for air now, and say thank you for the opportunity to be here and
18 present this. I'm willing to address any questions that you have. If they're difficult,
19 I've got Steve Aumeier back there, and I'll definitely bring him up here. But you
20 need to swear him in. I've had dinner with him before.

21 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Mr. Chairman?

22 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Yes, sir, go ahead.

1 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Yeah. Thanks, Paul. Look, first off, I want
2 to thank the Governor because when we had our meeting with the Governor, after
3 looking at our report that you crafted, looking at, sort of, this pathway that we begin
4 to generate, the Governor fully looked at this and said that the Public Service
5 Commission has identified the pathway, the way we have to move forward. And
6 from this point forward, we're going to need the utilities to come forward and tell
7 us where we need to go on resource planning. What do they see the pathway for
8 this? Because, you know, we'll work with them and we'll work with guys like you
9 in the future when we start talking about regulatory, finance, the issues that we
10 move forward. But, you know, in just adding a few things. Look, I'm very proud
11 of the work that the Commission has done to engage stakeholders and interested
12 parties in this matter and to provide them with opportunities, you know, to hear
13 from industry leaders that we met with and experts about the role advanced nuclear
14 plays in this driver for economic development for the future of energy supply in
15 Louisiana. And reason I mention about that is, the more energy we have: A) The
16 more industry and business development we're going to get in Louisiana. And the
17 industrials are clamoring for net zero power. This is our pathway to net zero in
18 combination with natural gas and nuclear. We get the net zero, our products get
19 the stamp of net zero on them for export. We're going to not just have products
20 being exported, we're going to have demand for exported products. Plus, these new
21 AI data processing facilities are going to be wanting to move here for that type of
22 capacity because that's the demands they make. And much to the credit of Entergy
23 and the way they've negotiated, in particularly, the Meta project, these companies

1 are going to self-fund these devices, which will take a great burden off of the
2 ratepayers. But our Staff worked well with other state agencies and with the
3 Governor's office, and we do appreciate the Governor's interest and his support for
4 these endeavors. Now, we've taken the first step by putting together this LANCE
5 report. But I do think it's important that we continue this relationship with all the
6 stakeholders and interested parties, and establish another -- basically, another
7 technical conference as we move into this. And I've suggested we talk about the
8 re-regulation concepts and on finance. I think that's going to be a critical aspect.
9 And also, work out with other agencies including LED, Economic Development; I
10 mean, Office of Energy, that's under a subpart of the Governor's office; the DNR;
11 the LSU Center for Energy Studies, which is going to add a curriculum in chemical
12 nuclear -- chemical engineering. And look at critical factors in taking the next step
13 because it is necessary, not only to stay in the game, but Louisiana is effectively a
14 leader in the nation now in looking at how we are going to implement new nuclear
15 technology and nuclear power in the United States. Now, as for the LPSC, you
16 know, we seek to reap these benefits of how we've gotten this LANCE framework
17 developed, and I see it as [INAUDIBLE] to keep coordinating with stakeholders
18 and interested parties. So, let's maximize this energy-driven economic opportunity
19 for Louisiana. Now, towards this objective, I think it's important for the next step
20 is prioritizing use of the cases identified in this framework that you've developed.
21 And I asked the Staff to -- and particularly, Lauren, who's, you know, at the
22 spearpoint of this -- to ask her to continue to explore and support the potential
23 funding opportunities and partnerships that we can advance on this and move

1 through the development of high-priority use cases that'll help Louisiana become
2 and continue to be a national leader in the area of advanced nuclear energy and
3 deployment. And for you to engage with the -- not only the investor-owned utilities
4 who have expressed sincere interest in how we're going to move forward on this,
5 but also with -- some co-ops have expressed an interest in this depending on how
6 the finance models come into place. And also, how we work with our own state
7 department of the military because of their interest in some of the micronuclear
8 technology for the military bases. And also, how we look with our federal
9 contingent on the Department of Defense on what they want to do with nuclear in
10 the United -- in Louisiana for the bases here. But other than that, Paul, I want to
11 thank you and Dr. Aumeier for all your hard work, and thank you very much.

12 **MR. KJELLANDER:** Thank you. And it's been a privilege to be a part of this.
13 I have gained an enormous amount of respect for the Louisiana Public Service
14 Commission, and quite honestly, I think I know more about the energy landscape
15 in Louisiana than I do in my own home state now. It has been a pleasure. Thank
16 you. And you mentioned Lauren and Brandon; your Staff is fantastic
17 [INAUDIBLE].

18 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** I left Brandon out of it.

19 **SECRETARY FREY:** Thank you, Paul.

20 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Commissioner Lewis?

21 **VICE CHAIRMAN LEWIS:** Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Paul, good
22 to see you, and thank you so much for all your work on the LANCE report. It was
23 actually an easy read, I will tell you. So, you did well there, my friend. I'm really

1 kind of interested in what you've undercover, and I guess one of the questions, kind
2 of big picture, that I'm thinking about is the importance. And I think you mentioned
3 it as well as Commissioner Skrmetta mentioned it, about really utilizing the
4 integrated resource planning process as a way to evaluate this. I mean, I think when
5 we get to cost recovery, I think that's a place where we can -- we can get ahead of
6 the game. And so, I just kind of want you to speak, if you can, from what you see
7 here, from what we should be doing in our integrated resource plans, but what
8 you're kind of seeing broadly across the country as we evaluate nuclear as an option
9 for net zero generation.

10 **MR. KJELLANDER:** Commissioner, thank you for the question. And I saw that
11 Larry Hand walked up as you were saying that. And what I will say is that what
12 Entergy has done with the Louisiana Public Service Commission, in terms of
13 putting out that they intend to take a deeper dive in their integrated resource
14 planning process to look at nuclear, is a tremendous first step. As I look at the
15 national landscape, there are states that are moving in positive directions in this
16 arena. One of the most recently that I took a deeper look into is North Carolina.
17 And North Carolina looked specifically at regulatory preapproval as it related to
18 the integrated resource planning for Duke Entergy, and in that, they took a first
19 step. The first year, they said, look, we're going to give you preapproval for several
20 million dollars to begin to, you know, explore the path. And in the LANCE report,
21 we have paths that if you wanted to say this is a priority, you could take a look at
22 what North Carolina did. And then Duke came back a year later and said here's
23 what we think, and then they got regulatory preapproval to move forward up to a

1 certain dollar amount. Now, it's not cheap. It's expensive, but the dividends that
2 it could pay back to the broader group of customers is ultimately what you're about.
3 And again, the ability to drive from an energy-driven economic opportunity is the
4 entire framework that is in front of you now is what does this mean in terms of
5 bringing in more jobs, more business, and industry? And there has to be an
6 investment, and I think North Carolina is one example. There are other states, too,
7 that have moved in different directions, and there are a lot of examples out there.
8 One of the things that's a recommendation within this report is to take a deeper dive
9 of what the states are doing. The Nuclear Energy Institute, which was a tremendous
10 stakeholder in this process, actually is a good resource to begin to look at what
11 some of those other states are looking at doing. I know that Texas has done some
12 work, and I also know that Kentucky is about ready to launch into something very
13 similar to what you've already accomplished. I would also recommend that, to the
14 extent you can be engaged with NARUC, is to be the leaders there, take the
15 opportunity. This is not a partisan issue. This is all about electrons, and electrons
16 do not have Rs or Ds tattooed to them. It is about serving the customers. So, at the
17 end of the day, I think Louisiana is positioned very, very well to help drive the cart
18 forward, and I would encourage you to take every opportunity you can to do that.
19 I know you asked me a yes or no question [INAUDIBLE].

20 **VICE CHAIRMAN LEWIS:** Paul, you know, I don't give yes or no answers
21 either, so I understand that. But just one last question, I think, for you, for those
22 watching. I know one of the challenges, and I'll definitely ask Mr. Hand this, about
23 nuclear that we've heard from people is just the cost factor. So, could you walk

1 through just -- throughout the LANCE report and what are some of those
2 suggestions about reining in the cost. I mean, I know we look and people are
3 examining what we saw, the cost overruns at Vogtle and for Georgia Power, and so
4 I think those are some of the concerns we've heard about nuclear. But because of
5 this work, I would love you to kind of address broadly what you see in terms of
6 cost mechanisms around SMRs or more nuclear facilities across the generation mix.

7 **MR. KJELLANDER:** Cost is always a concern, and affordability has to be a
8 concern. I mean, that's what you all are about, and it's the same with the utilities.
9 It's all about what's the next best resource that we can put in play, and you can only
10 get financing for those things you can build tomorrow. So, when you start to talk
11 about cost with nuclear, that's always going to be an issue. And when you look at
12 these big public works projects, like Vogtle, they are challenging. If you want
13 examples of ways in which state regulatory entities have addressed it, I would look
14 to the Georgia Commission. The current president of NARUC, Tricia Pridemore,
15 I love her last name, more pride. She has, with the Georgia Commission, really --
16 they stuck to it. We've all seen projects go under and the impact that has as a
17 stranded investment, with those cost [INAUDIBLE] we recovered without a single
18 electron being produced. They held to it, they kept everybody engaged, and as they
19 moved through that project, the Commission was actively -- I won't say partnered,
20 but actively ensuring that, step by step, they knew what was happening. So, that
21 when challenges emerged, they were monitoring it. Now, there are different reactor
22 sizes and types. So, you've got the huge gigawatt scale, of which you'd have two
23 reactors in the state of Louisiana today, and now you're looking at advanced

1 technologies coming in that are down to the microreactor nuclear battery space.
2 Obviously, the smaller ones are going to have less risk. But I think the key to all
3 this is to, one, recognize, and you do, your responsibility in terms of affordability.
4 But then to put the seed money in place so that the people that know what they're
5 doing -- and it's not me, you've got these electricity factories, they're called utilities
6 -- make sure that they have the tools they need to move forward and to advise you
7 appropriately, so that you can call the balls and strikes. It's a challenge, but it's one
8 worth pursuing, and again, I just appreciate the opportunity to have been involved
9 in this space. Thank you.

10 **VICE CHAIRMAN LEWIS:** Well, thank you, Paul. And I look forward -- I
11 know over my two years, I've had the pleasure of working with you and, of course,
12 seeing you multiple times at NARUC. So, I look forward to continuing these
13 conversations and the work with you. So, thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

14 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Okay. Paul, I have a few constituent questions for you
15 to answer. Keeping us --

16 **PAUL:** Yes, this is the true color of my hair.

17 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Yeah. I like the KISS method: Keep it simple, stupid,
18 you know, when I look in the mirror. Avoided cost on average -- and we've got
19 your Entergy here. Avoided cost on average versus what this nuclear energy,
20 what's the -- because it is a better value. That's a lesser cost to generate with
21 nuclear; isn't that right?

22 **MR. LARRY HAND:** And good morning, Commissioners. Larry Hand on behalf
23 of Entergy Louisiana. It's a tough question to answer, right? So, a combined-cycle,

1 combustion turbine unit or, you know, one-on-one, two-in-one, that's kind of the -
2 - what we've used, most recently deployed. It's relatively economic in terms of the
3 installed cost of -- relative to nuclear, right? Just the capital you deploy to build a
4 combined-cycle unit, it moves around, but just for an example, we built in your area
5 Lake Charles Power Station, 980-megawatt combined-cycle unit. We came in
6 probably, you know, less than a thousand dollars per kW. Keep in mind, that was
7 five years ago we completed it. A new nuclear unit, depending on the size, the
8 technology, it's going to be more like \$10,000 a kW. So, the upfront capital cost
9 of nuclear at Georgia Power is a good example of it. It's enormous. Hopefully, a
10 small molecular reactor is better. But once you get there, once you deploy that
11 technology, the fuel cost, that's where you -- that's where the value comes in, the
12 lack of emissions, the fuel cost. Nuclear fuel probably, in a dollar per megawatt-
13 hour basis, is about less than \$10 a megawatt-hour. If you think about a combined
14 cycle unit, if gas is \$3, the fuel for a megawatt-hour is probably \$18-\$19 a
15 megawatt-hour. So, the fuel savings -- that's the long-term value proposition, the
16 lack of emissions for nuclear, but the upfront capital cost is [INAUDIBLE].

17 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Thank you. That was a lot further up than my KISS
18 method. Paul, Paul, another question. What's the size -- SMR, that's small modular
19 reactors; is that right? For the public unknowing what SMR is. Okay.

20 **MR. KJELLANDER:** Yes.

21 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** What's the average size of a -- that you predict for a
22 megawatt output of a small modular reactor? How many megawatts?

1 **MR. KJELLANDER:** So, SMRs are typically, if you look at a natural gas
2 combined combustion turbine, in that range. So, you're looking at between --
3 normally 300 to 600 megawatts is considered small modular, but anything above
4 50 megawatts is by definition considered small modular. Below that, you get into
5 the microreactor space and the nuclear batteries, which can be anywhere from 1
6 megawatt up to 50, to fall within that definition. The one thing that I would like to
7 add --

8 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** No, wait. That's -- keep it simple. How many --

9 **MR. KJELLANDER:** No, no. I want to add one thing, if I could, just to what
10 Mr. Hand said. The simplest way that I could put it, and it's a drum that I beat, is
11 that from a regulatory perspective we need to, as we look at any advanced
12 technology that we're looking as a generation resource, whether it's nuclear or
13 anything else, is we need to start moving away from just unit cost per kilowatt and
14 start looking at whole system benefit. Because when you're really looking at the
15 whole system benefit, you're starting to identify --

16 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** That's what we do. That's our job. That's what we do.

17 **MR. KJELLANDER:** Yeah. And that's the plus.

18 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** What would you estimate, if you had a small nuclear
19 reactor to install in Louisiana in the future, about how many megawatts do you
20 think that output would be? Just take a shot from the hip guess. Two, three
21 hundred megawatts?

22 **MR. KJELLANDER:** It depends on your needs. It depends on the load growth.
23 I mean, we're seeing so much activity and relationship to load growth across the

1 country, whether it's for AI, data centers, it really depends. It's case by case. And
2 again, you've got experts here that deal with that on a daily basis.

3 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Okay. So, we have two nuclear reactors in Louisiana,
4 and we've really benefited from them. Would you speculate that, if we built a
5 SMR, would it be installed on one of those two locations, or would that be the
6 proper way to do it?

7 **MR. KJELLANDER:** Chairman Francis, one of the recommendations here is to
8 look at operating your existing facilities and also to look at collocating other
9 facilities there. Now, what size? Again, it's going to depend on what your load
10 growth projections are, but if you've got sites that are already there, you've already
11 got issues related to dealing with the fuel and the spent fuel. You're in a much
12 better position because you've already got the guns, guards, and gates.

13 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** I know we're doing a lot of research working on the
14 technology. How long do you think it would be before we would know -- we would
15 have the plan together where we could build one of these and install one in
16 Louisiana? Would it be five years, ten years?

17 **MR. KJELLANDER:** From what I hear from different vendors and designers,
18 and everything is subject to check and subject to reality, they say if you put in an
19 order today, within five to six years, you can be at a position to deliver power. I
20 think what's happened with the Vogtle scenario, where we've actually built
21 something that is delivering power, we hadn't built anything in 30 years. Three
22 decades without any real commercial activity. We're starting to get to the whole
23 issue of price, which is to -- the first of kind is always expensive. It's when you get

1 six, seven contracts down the road and you start to get to that nth of a kind price
2 where it makes more sense, financially. And when I say sense, I mean dollars and
3 cents. And so, it really is all dependent on first movers and next movers. So, if you
4 want to be a first mover or a next mover, you can help move the ball. There's a lot
5 that needs to happen at the federal level as well from the NRC as well as
6 Congressional action, and some of that is bullet-pointed within this LANCE report.
7 It really is up to you to see where you want to go.

8 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** All right. All right. Well, thank y'all for -- any other
9 questions from anybody? Thank you for coming.

10 **MR. HAND:** And, Commissioner, I owed a brief update, and happy to answer
11 questions. But as part of this LANCE initiative, you know, we participated,
12 followed up. One of the things we filed at the Commission probably in April,
13 maybe, of last year was kind of setting forth our expectation for nuclear. As
14 Commissioner Lewis said, we want to incorporate new nuclear in our next IRP
15 cycle. Kind of flesh out the cost, the -- all the things we need to start working on,
16 but one of the things we are currently working on is technology assessments. You
17 talked about small modular reactors, what they are. So, we committed to and are
18 in the process of doing more detailed, comprehensive technology assessments of
19 all of the new nuclear technologies that we think could be suitable for Louisiana.
20 So, we're looking at -- and frankly, you know, we're probably not going to go down
21 the route of -- and I can't -- I don't want to prejudge it, but we're not going to go
22 down the route of building an AP1000 generator like Georgia Power did. They're
23 1100 megawatts. I think they came in at -- they built two of them. They came in

1 at \$35 billion. That's 35 billion. If you added up the size of Entergy Louisiana,
2 CLECO, SWEPCO, I don't think our, you know, rate base is that big. So, we're
3 looking more small modular reactors for a few reasons. One is we think the cost
4 would better -- and also, when you site a generator of that size, and we have water
5 for IIIs, 1100 megawatts, Riverbend is close to 1000 megawatts, when you have a
6 large generator like that, you're concentrating, you know, risk. So, when they have
7 a planned outage for refueling, every 18 months or every 24 months, depending on
8 the technology, you lose that generator. And so if you do small modular reactors,
9 you lower that outage duration, that risk, and so that's where we're focusing. So,
10 the technology assessment, we're trying to wrap that up in the next month or two,
11 and then we're also layering on top of that site assessments. So, looking at specific
12 sites in Louisiana where we may want to deploy those generators and then come up
13 with site specific cost estimates, and that's the million-dollar question, or the
14 billion-dollar question: How much will this cost? And we're working to get there.
15 But as Paul said, when we get that before the Commission, we need to take steps
16 now as a utility and as a regulator, we need to work in partnership and figure out
17 how can we make this work for Louisiana. I'll be frank, I mean, we have Entergy
18 Louisiana, we have 1.1 million customers across the state that -- we're a sizeable
19 utility, but we're not Georgia Power. You know, we're not of that size where we
20 can just go build something like that, so we're looking at ways to partner. We need
21 to partner with you, as our regulator, you know, be very transparent what steps we
22 need to take, what it's going to cost, and start taking those steps. But we also need
23 to leverage partnerships with industrial customers, large users who want the nuclear

1 attributes. They're willing to pay some amount of money to get the emission-free
2 attributes, and we can come up with a partnership where we come to the
3 Commission and say a new nuclear plant is going to cost X, we have a customer
4 who's willing to pay, I'm making up a number, you know, \$40 a megawatt-hour to
5 get the attributes. And so, that will lower the burden on the rest of our customers.
6 And hopefully, between, you know, any federal funding, partnerships with
7 customers, and the Commission, we can come up with what is an attractive value
8 proposition for a new nuclear plant. And the thought of we're just going to build it
9 and make all our customers pay for it, that's not going to be a good solution for any
10 of us. And so, we're looking at those partnership opportunities, but the most
11 important partnership will be with you, the regulator, because it's a long process.
12 The licensing, all those things need to take place, we need to come get certification,
13 periodic reporting about how it's going. But the first energy from a new nuclear
14 plant in Louisiana, if we get there, is -- you know, it's a decade away because the
15 licensing with the NRC and other things that need to take place, the technologies,
16 they're proven. Like, I'm thinking about Gen III+ reactors not Gen IV, which is
17 when you use molten salt and things like that. Just light-water reactors, smaller,
18 it's proven, but those folks are working through, as Paul said. The first one's going
19 to be very expensive. That first of kind is very expensive, but once they get the
20 licensing from the NRC, the designs, the manufacturing, it gets better. So, we just
21 need to be fully, you know, transparent and aligned as we move down the steps,
22 and so we're taking those steps now, and the estimating space, we'll file a report. I
23 hope a detailed report with these costs estimates, you know, early second quarter

1 of this year, and our next IRP cycle I believe kicks off in October of this year, so
2 you will see this be fully -- you know, more fully fleshed out in that process. But
3 we look forward to, you know, continue to provide information and partnering with
4 the Commission to advance, you know, nuclear in Louisiana. And we are not, you
5 know, we have very significant -- we're blessed as a state to have a very significant
6 economic opportunity before us in terms of data centers that want to come here,
7 other industry, a lot of folks around the world like what you guys have done. And,
8 Commissioner Coussan, you can't take credit yet, but, you know, you can take it if
9 you want. But what's been -- the foundation that's been laid, it's great and I think
10 the decisions going forward is how do we keep that playing field looking attractive
11 to the world who wants to come here. And people are fighting one another to get
12 here as quickly as they can to get the reliability of the rates we have and we want
13 to keep pushing that forward. But also, that means we can't just say we're going to
14 nuclear or I'm just going to do solar. It's all of the above. It's wind, it's solar, it's
15 gas. We need to look at every opportunity, every option we have to bring
16 affordable, reliable power to our current customers, but also the customers,
17 industries that want to locate here and invest here. And I think when we grow, as
18 a state, with those new customers and we're really, you know, proud of the Meta
19 data center announcement. When you grow sales for utility, that means you have
20 the ability to lower the cost for all customers. When you grow that denominator, it
21 lowers the cost for all, and that's a really exciting opportunity for us. But it's going
22 to take a lot of work with the utilities and you guys, as regulators, to get there.

23 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Well, nuclear is still carbon-free; isn't it?

1 **MR. HAND:** Last I checked.

2 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** And we're getting a lot of requests from all our industry
3 in Louisiana.

4 **MR. HAND:** Yeah.

5 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Which is almost half of our electric demand to address
6 the carbon issue, so I guess we'll have a lot of the industrial people working with
7 us, prodding us, to work the IRP system. What's the length of your IRP? How
8 many years are your [INAUDIBLE] --

9 **MR. HAND:** I mean, the process or like how they -- planning horizon? The
10 planning horizon, we'll look out 20 years in the future, try to predict our load and
11 the resource we serve it, but the actual --

12 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** What are you predicting? How many years out are you
13 predicting to have your nuclear expansion?

14 **MR. HAND:** I mean, like I said, you know, it's 10 years at the earliest is when --

15 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Okay.

16 **MR. HAND:** -- if you started really making decisions today and making
17 investments today, it's a 10 year.

18 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** It's what I'd call long-range planning, huh?

19 **MR. HAND:** It is, and it's a challenge, you know, because it's -- the winds can
20 change. You know, when we -- in 2007, when gas prices, you know, before the
21 shale revolution, gas prices were \$10-12, you know. The world thought that natural
22 gas was in perpetual decline and gas prices went very high. So, we all, like Georgia
23 Power, I guess, South Carolina people started moving toward new nuclear. We did

1 that, too, but we stopped when prices changed. And I don't know how the future is
2 going to look, but I know in a 10-year build cycle for nuclear, things are going to
3 change. You know, gas can go up, go down, but we need to be lockstep,
4 transparent, and aligned as we move forward because you need to take steps now,
5 but you can't just start and forget about the changing dynamic. So, it's a challenging
6 endeavor. We're excited about the opportunity because carbon-free energy, solar
7 is great when the sun's shining. You know, wind is great when the wind is blowing.
8 But nuclear energy is one of the few things that you can count on 24/7. Baseload
9 carbon-free energy, it's what industry needs, it's what all of our customers need.
10 And so we need to get there, we just need to do it in a responsible way and an
11 affordable way for our customers.

12 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Okay. Listen, thank y'all for coming. I appreciate your
13 comments. Okay. We're up to Exhibit 7 now; is that right?

14 **MS. BOWMAN:** No, we're going to do Exhibit 16.

15 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** I'm sorry. Okay. Sixteen. Okay.

16 **MS. BOWMAN:** So, Exhibit 16 is undocketed. It's a discussion and possible vote
17 to intervene in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas suit by the state
18 of Texas, state of Utah, and Last Energy Inc. versus the United States Nuclear
19 Regulatory Commission. It was a complaint for declaratory relief and vacatur
20 under the Administrative Procedures Act. This was at the request of Commissioner
21 Skrmetta. So, the state of Texas, Utah, and Last Energy filed this lawsuit against
22 the Nuclear Regulatory Commission seeking a declaration that the Utilization
23 Facility Rule exceeds NRC's statutory authority. The two states and Last Energy

1 are seeking more efficient regulatory processes for the NRC for small modular
2 reactors, including to implement a new rulemaking that considers the statutory
3 limits around small reactors and to declare that Last Energy's proposed small
4 modular reactors and microreactors are not utilization facilities under the Atomic
5 Energy Act. Both Texas and Utah have recently announced their interest in
6 promoting the development of advanced nuclear technology, and as we just discussed,
7 the Commission opened Docket Number X-36987 to assess the development of
8 advanced nuclear power technology here in the state. Given the Commission's interest
9 in advancing nuclear technology and the potential of this complaint to make any
10 permitting or applications to build such technology in the United States more efficient,
11 it would benefit the Commission to intervene in the above referenced lawsuit to show
12 support. Staff recommends that the Commission authorize Staff to take whatever
13 means necessary, including hiring outside counsel should that be necessary, to
14 intervene in the state of Texas, state of Utah, and Last Energy's complaint against the
15 Nuclear Regulatory Commission to show support for the lawsuit.

16 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Mr. Chairman, my motion is to support the
17 Staff recommendation to do the intervention on whatever basis Staff sees fit.

18 **COMMISSIONER COUSSAN:** Second.

19 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** It'd be a -- this a motion by Commissioner Skrmetta,
20 seconded by Commissioner Coussan, and we got a question from Commissioner
21 Lewis or comment.

22 **VICE CHAIRMAN LEWIS:** Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have no plans
23 to object, but for the record, Mr. Frey, can you kind of explain the two issues that
24 are at hand in this lawsuit and as it pertains to the question that we're looking at?

1 **SECRETARY FREY:** Sure. So, this is the petition, it's about 76 pages. I know
2 you read it and I've read it a couple of times. It's actually pretty interesting. You
3 learn terms like millisievert. Did I say that right, Dr. Aumeier? I did. Okay. It's
4 interesting technology, but essentially Texas and Utah have two claims. The first
5 is as Kathryn described it, seeking the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to modify
6 the permitting rules for small modular reactors, saying that the existing rules are,
7 one, too onerous and are based on flawed reading of the statute. I think that's where
8 we would be in line with them. The second is both Texas and Utah have universities
9 that have reactors for teaching/research purposes. I think they're at the University
10 of Texas, Texas A&M, and University of Utah. And it's seeking a declaratory
11 ruling that those reactors should not be subject to the NRC permitting requirements.
12 I don't -- I'm not aware of any reactors here that would qualify there, so I think our
13 focus would be more on that first claim, looking to have the NRC rewrite the rules
14 as they apply to SMRs.

15 **VICE CHAIRMAN LEWIS:** Great. Thank you. And I know that just a few
16 months ago Congress passed the ADVANCE Act that was requesting the Nuclear
17 Regulatory Commission to actually look at this issue. Are we planning, within this
18 intervention to follow that docketed proceeding as it composed and putting
19 comments to NRC that is --

20 **SECRETARY FREY:** Absolutely. I think --

21 **VICE CHAIRMAN LEWIS:** -- effectively doing the same thing the lawsuit is
22 requiring?

1 **SECRETARY FREY:** Yes. I think it goes hand in hand as -- essentially, that's
2 the basis of that first claim is for them to rewrite the rule, so yes.

3 **VICE CHAIRMAN LEWIS:** Okay. Great. Thank you. Thank you, Mr.
4 Chairman.

5 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Mr. Frey, whenever you're talking about SMRs, I was
6 always assuming that's nuclear. It could be any kind of generator, right?

7 **SECRETARY FREY:** Well, no. I think -- when we're saying SMRs in this
8 context, we're talking small microreactors, so that's the one you were talking to --

9 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Nuclear?

10 **SECRETARY FREY:** Yes.

11 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Okay. All right. Yes. Okay. I appreciate
12 Commissioner Skrmetta having such a passion for the nuclear, and far as I'm
13 concerned, he's our in-house guy until we learn different. So, thanks, Skrmetta, for
14 that, your work. Okay. All right. Where we at now?

15 **MS. BOWMAN:** We can move on to Exhibit Number 7.

16 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Seven. Okay.

17 **MS. BOWMAN:** Exhibit Number 7 is Docket Number R-31106. It's the
18 Commission's rulemaking to study the possible development of financial
19 incentives for the promotion of energy efficiency by jurisdictional electric and gas
20 utilities. It's a discussion and possible vote to retain an engineer for District I. The
21 Commission adopted a statewide energy efficiency program which was
22 memorialized in General Order dated February 9, 2024, Corrected. The statewide
23 program is set to begin on January 1, 2026 with 2025 being a transition year that
24 maintains the utility's quick start programs, as well as the Commission's public entity

1 programs. Pursuant to the Commission’s General Order dated December 2, 2021, each
2 Commissioner can nominate a qualified engineering firm to provide professional
3 services for each district for the political subdivision energy efficiency program,
4 subject to the Commission’s confirmation vote and approval. Commissioner Skrmetta
5 nominates Nathan Junius of Linfield, Hunter & Junius to serve as the engineering firm
6 for District I for 2025. Based on the Commission’s General Order and the allocation
7 of political subdivision portion of the energy efficiency program to District I, Linfield,
8 Hunter & Junius’ budget to provide engineering services to District I shall not exceed
9 \$23,936.35. Staff recommends that the Commission approve Commissioner
10 Skrmetta’s nomination for District I with the 2025 political subdivision energy
11 efficiency program for a total budget not to exceed of \$23,936.35.

12 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** I’ll move we should accept that bid.

13 **VICE CHAIRMAN LEWIS:** I’ll second.

14 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Seconded by Commissioner Lewis. Any discussion on
15 this? [NONE HEARD] Hearing none, Number 7 is approved.

16 **MS. BOWMAN:** Exhibit Number 8 is similar to Exhibit Number 7. It’s the same
17 Docket Number R-31106. It’s the Commission’s rulemaking to study energy
18 efficiency. This is a discussion and possible vote to retain an engineer for District
19 IV. Similar to last exhibit, pursuant to the Commission’s General Order of
20 December 2, 2021, each Commissioner can nominate a qualified engineering firm
21 to provide professional services for their district for the political subdivision energy
22 efficiency program. Chairman Francis nominates D. Hicks Consulting to serve as
23 the engineering firm for District IV for the year of 2025, and based on the allocation
24 of political subdivision portion of the energy efficiency program to District IV, D.

1 Hicks Consulting's budget to provide engineering services to District IV shall not
2 exceed \$29,592.63. Staff recommends that the Commission approve Chairman
3 Francis' nomination of D. Hicks Consulting for a budget not to exceed of \$29,592.63.
4 **COMMISSIONER COUSSAN:** Make a motion to adopt the [INAUDIBLE]
5 Staff's recommendation.
6 **MS. BOWMAN:** Just for the record, can you say it one more time? It's your --
7 yeah, there we go.
8 **COMMISSIONER COUSSAN:** Make a motion to adopt the Staff's
9 recommendation.
10 **VICE CHAIRMAN LEWIS:** I'll second.
11 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** A motion by Commissioner Skrmetta -- Commissioner
12 Coussan and seconded by Commissioner Lewis. Any question or discussion?
13 [NONE HEARD] Hearing none, Number 8 is passed.
14 **MS. BOWMAN:** Exhibit Number 9 is Docket Number S-36267. This is 1803
15 Electric Cooperative, Beauregard Electric Cooperative, Claiborne Electric
16 Cooperative, Northeast, South Louisiana Electric Cooperative, and Washington-St.
17 Tammany's petition for approval of letter of non-opposition for 1803 to establish a
18 revolving line of credit and for supporting guarantees by member cooperatives. It's
19 a discussion and possible vote to amend Order Number S-36267. On August 9,
20 2022, the Commission issued Order S-36267, which expressed the Commission's non-
21 opposition for 1803's request to establish a revolving line of credit and for supporting
22 guarantees by its member cooperatives. 1803 was allowed establish this credit facility
23 in the amount of \$75 million with National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance
24 Corporation, with the facility being secured by pledging all assets as collateral and by

1 providing a guarantee for each member cooperative to support their proportional share.
2 The term of the credit facility was for three years. Ordering paragraph of Order
3 Number S-36267 requires 1803 and the member cooperatives to review and approve
4 by the Commission for any significant changes in the credit facility. On January 2,
5 2025, 1803 filed correspondence into the record seeking an amendment to that order
6 just to extend the term of the credit facility for an additional three years with all other
7 terms and conditions remaining the same. Audit Staff reviewed the correspondence
8 and agrees that it should be extended for an additional three years. Audit Staff also
9 notes that 1803 is currently undergoing additional tariff reviews and revisions in
10 Docket Number U-37212, which would ensure they continue to recover revenue
11 sufficient to cover its current operational expenses and service this debt. Staff
12 recommends that the Commission amend Order Number S-36267 to extend the term
13 of the credit facility for an additional three-year term.

14 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** I'll make a motion that we accept Staff's
15 recommendation on Exhibit 9.

16 **COMMISSIONER COUSSAN:** Second.

17 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Seconded by Commissioner Coussan. Any discussion
18 or objection? [NONE HEARD] Hearing none, Number 9 passed.

19 **MS. BOWMAN:** Exhibit Number 10 is pulled, Exhibit Number 11 is deferred, so
20 the next exhibit item we have is Exhibit Number 12.

21 **COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL:** What did you say about 10?

22 **MS. BOWMAN:** It's pulled. Exhibit Number 12 is Docket Number U-37442.
23 It's Entergy Louisiana's application for approval of quantification and treatment of
24 costs incurred associated with the Commission Special Orders Number 22-2020,

1 28-2020, 43-2020, and 44-2020. It's a discussion and possible vote to retain an
2 outside consultant. Staff issued RFP 24-11 seeking an outside consultant; however,
3 no bids were received. Since no bids were received through the RFP process, Staff
4 solicited Hender Ridge Consulting given the company's knowledge and experience
5 with not only Entergy, but also with prudence reviews of Entergy's request for cost
6 recovery. In response to Staff solicitation, Henderson Ridge submitted a total
7 proposal of \$64,600. Staff recommends that the Commission retain Henderson
8 Ridge Consulting for 62,400 in fees and 2,200 in expenses for a total budget not to
9 exceed of 64,600.

10 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Make a motion to accept this bid.

11 **COMMISSIONER COUSSAN:** Second.

12 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Seconded by Commissioner Coussan. Is there any
13 discussion, objection? [NONE HEARD] Hearing none, Number 12 is passed.

14 **MS. BOWMAN:** Exhibit Number 13 is Docket Number U-37468. This is
15 Entergy's application for cost recovery associated with Hurricane Francine. It's a
16 discussion and possible vote to retain an outside consultant. Staff issued RFP 24-
17 12 seeking outside consultant and one qualified bid was received. It was from
18 Henderson Ridge Consulting and 184,400 in fees and 4,200 in expenses for a total
19 budget not to exceed of \$188,600. And Staff makes no recommendation as the sole
20 bidder is qualified.

21 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Make a motion that we accept this bid from Henderson
22 Ridge Consulting.

23 **VICE CHAIRMAN LEWIS:** I'll second.

1 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Seconded by Commissioner Lewis. Any discussion or
2 objection? [NONE HEARD] Hearing none, it's passed.

3 **MS. BOWMAN:** We have one more item under Exhibit 14. It is a discussion and
4 possible vote to ratify interventions of the Commission in RTO-related or other
5 FERC proceedings. Pursuant to the scope of work approved in connection with the
6 retention of Stone Pigman and UPC at the February 2021 B&E for -- in MISO, SPP,
7 and ERSC participation, and due to short deadlines allowed for these interventions,
8 if advanced Commission approval is not possible, the Executive Secretary on the
9 recommendation of Stone Pigman or UPC may authorize the initial interventions,
10 comments, or protests, subject to a ratification. Interventions were filed on behalf
11 of the Commission for the purpose of monitoring issues related to MISO events in
12 FERC Docket Number ER25-565, ER25-593, and ER25-594. Staff recommends
13 that the Commission ratify these actions.

14 **VICE CHAIRMAN LEWIS:** Move to ratify Staff's interventions.

15 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** We have a second?

16 **COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL:** I'll second it.

17 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** A second by Commissioner Campbell. Any
18 discussion? [NONE HEARD] Hearing none, it's passed.

19 **MS. BOWMAN:** And Exhibit Number 15 is similar to Exhibit Number 7 and 8
20 earlier. This is Docket Number R-31106. It's the Commission's rulemaking to
21 study the possible development for energy efficiency. It's discussion and possible
22 vote to retain an engineer for District II. This is at the request of Commissioner
23 Coussan. Pursuant to the Commission's General Order dated December 2, 2021,

1 each Commissioner can nominate a qualified engineering firm to provide
2 professional services for their district, subject to confirmation and approval and
3 vote. Commissioner Coussan nominates D. Hicks Consulting to serve as the
4 engineering firm for District II for 2025, and based on the Commission's General
5 Order and the allocation of political subdivision portion of the energy efficiency
6 program to District II, D. Hicks Consulting's budget to provide these services shall
7 not exceed \$17,830.11. Pursuant to the Commission's general order, Staff
8 recommends that the Commission approve Commissioner Coussan's nomination
9 of D. Hicks Consulting for a total budget not to exceed of \$17,830.11.

10 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** I'll motion to accept Commissioner Coussan's request.

11 **VICE CHAIRMAN LEWIS:** I'll second.

12 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Seconded by Commissioner Lewis.

13 **COMMISSIONER COUSSAN:** Quick question, what was the number you gave
14 just now? Because my exhibit was different. What did you say was the total not
15 to exceed?

16 **MS. BOWMAN:** \$17,830.11.

17 **COMMISSIONER COUSSAN:** Okay. Thank you.

18 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Right number? All right. Okay. It passed. All right.
19 It's passed.

20 **MS. BOWMAN:** That's all the agenda we have today.

21 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** What?

22 **MS. BOWMAN:** That's it.

1 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** It's not been -- 10:20. Okay. Mr. Campbell --
2 Commissioner Campbell.
3 **COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL:** No.
4 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** What's that? Well, I guess we could --
5 **MS. BOWMAN:** We do need a motion to adjourn.
6 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** We need a motion to adjourn.
7 **MS. BOWMAN:** Yes, sir.
8 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Come on now.
9 **COMMISSIONER COUSSAN:** I'm going to move adjourn my first meeting.
10 **CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** I'll second it, as Chair. Okay. It's over.

11

12

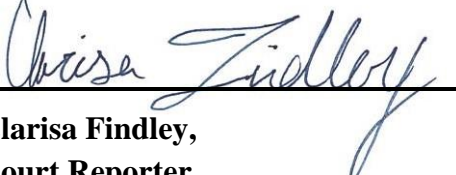
(WHEREUPON THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED)

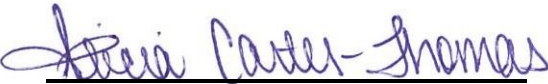
13


1 I certify that the foregoing pages 1 through 35 are true and correct to the best
2 of my knowledge of the Open Session of the Business and Executive Meeting
3 held on January 15, 2025 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

4 *****

5 **Rough Draft prepared by:**


6  January 29, 2025
7 Clarisa Findley, Date
8 Court Reporter

9  January 29, 2025
10 Alicia Carter-Thomas, Date
11 Court Reporter

12  January 29, 2025
13 Key-Anna Freeman, Date
14 Court Reporter

15 *****

16 **Proofed by:**

17  January 30, 2025
18 Alicia Carter-Thomas, Date
19 Court Reporter

20 **Finalized by:**

21  January 30, 2025
22 Clarisa Findley, Date
23 Court Reporter