

**TRANSCRIPT OF THE LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION BUSINESS AND EXECUTIVE OPEN SESSION HELD ON MARCH 15, 2023 IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA. PRESENT WERE: CHAIRMAN FOSTER CAMPBELL, VICE CHAIRMAN MIKE FRANCIS, COMMISSIONER ERIC SKRMETTA, COMMISSIONER CRAIG GREENE, AND COMMISSIONER DAVANTE LEWIS.**

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1 **TRANSCRIPT OF THE LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**  
2 **BUSINESS AND EXECUTIVE OPEN SESSION HELD ON MARCH 15,**  
3 **2023 IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA. PRESENT WERE: CHAIRMAN**  
4 **FOSTER CAMPBELL, VICE CHAIRMAN MIKE FRANCIS,**  
5 **COMMISSIONER ERIC SKRMETTA, COMMISSIONER CRAIG**  
6 **GREENE, AND COMMISSIONER DAVANTE LEWIS.**

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7 **CHAIRMAN FOSTER CAMPBELL:** Good morning. We'll get started here if  
8 you can take a seat. Thank you for coming this pretty spring morning. I see  
9 everybody up here is wearing bright colors, so that makes me feel good. I sort of  
10 felt bad wearing purple. I said everybody's going to say that's a little bit too much,  
11 but what the hell, it's Easter, you know, and wear what you want to wear. Hey,  
12 we'll first start out with a prayer and get Mr. Francis to lead us in that and Mr.  
13 Greene will say the Pledge of Allegiance.

14 **[VICE CHAIRMAN MIKE FRANCIS LEADS IN PRAYER]**

15 **[COMMISSIONER CRAIG GREENE LEADS IN THE PLEDGE]**

16 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** We've had some losses since we met last time.  
17 David Guerry's mother, Leah, passed away. I knew her well. She worked in the  
18 legislature. She was a lawyer, and she worked for the Louisiana Trial Lawyers  
19 Associations, a real nice lady, and very smart. Katherine King's mother passed  
20 away. She's was 98 years old, and she was another lovely woman who lived -- they  
21 lived in Winnfield. And then one of my predecessors, Ed Kennon was a  
22 Commissioner here for 12 years, he was from Minden and he passed away. So you  
23 knew all these people, so if you would say a prayer for them and their families and

1 they were all nice folks, good people, and we -- they're all familiar with our family  
2 here. I don't mean to call y'all all family, but that's basically what we are and these  
3 are people that meant something to all of us. Thank you. Listen, I wanted to tell  
4 you something. There was a farmer up my way, and he had a wife that talked a lot,  
5 she never shut up. She talked all the time. So he was in the field plowing and the  
6 mule kicked the lady in the head and killed her. And so he was all distraught, you  
7 know, because he lost his wife. So he -- at the funeral, he stood up by the casket  
8 and people came by and all the women were going -- talking to him about how his  
9 wife was a nice woman, they enjoyed being with her in Sunday School, church, all  
10 that. And he shook his head like this (nodding head up and down) just like this, he  
11 kept shaking his head like this. They were praising his wife. And all the men came  
12 by and he started shaking his head like this (shaking head side to side). So it  
13 confused the preacher. And the preacher said, look, I got to know something, man,  
14 he said, why when all the women come by you shake your head like this (nodding  
15 head up and down) and when all the men come by, you shake your head like this  
16 (shaking head side to side)? He said, well, that's easy. He said, well, let me have  
17 it, what is it? He said, well, when the women come by they told me how nice my  
18 wife was and how much they enjoyed her and she was a lovely woman, and I shook  
19 my head like this (nodding head up and down). And he said what did you do when  
20 the men went like this -- you shook your head like this (shaking head side to side)?  
21 He said when all the men came by, they wanted to know did I want to sell my mule.  
22 I don't blame him. He didn't want to sell the mule.  
23 **COMMISSIONER CRAIG GREENE:** The mule hadn't jumped the fence.

1     **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** No, but he killed his wife. All right. If we can go  
2     with the Exhibit Number 2. All you women don't get mad now, but, you know,  
3     that happens sometimes. That's a pretty light one on y'all so far so let's leave it  
4     alone. Okay. Exhibit Number 2.

5     **MS. KATHRYN BOWMAN:** Well, I think we have --

6     **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** One.

7     **MS. BOWMAN:** -- couple more announcements.

8     **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** I'm sorry.

9     **MS. BOWMAN:** Can we turn Commissioner Skrmetta's microphone on, please?

10    **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Okay. I got it.

11    **COMMISSIONER ERIC SKRMETTA:** Okay. Got it. I just want to make an  
12    announcement. The upcoming SEARUC meeting is going to be June 3<sup>rd</sup> through  
13    the 6<sup>th</sup> in New Orleans. My understanding is the room block is now open at the  
14    Higgins Hotel if y'all want to book a room, and also we are trying to work out  
15    getting the ballroom on that Wednesday the 6<sup>th</sup> for free because the meeting at  
16    SEARUC should end early in the morning like about 10:00 and have the ability if  
17    we wanted to move the B&E there so we could just pile it -- in case anybody wants  
18    to be there for the SEARUC, we could just do that and move the meeting from the  
19    14<sup>th</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup> and Staff is working on it right now to see if we can get enough time  
20    in the ballroom to have the meeting there. And I think we can kind of make it a  
21    little be more efficient, so -- but in the meantime, if you want to book a room, now's  
22    the time to do it as they've opened up the block. Thank you. It's at the Higgins  
23    Hotel by the World War II Museum.

1     **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** I have something to say if it's okay. It's been a  
2 concern of mine for 20 years since I've been here, and it's been a long time since  
3 I've said this. I wish that all you guys that are -- use all the acronyms, y'all could  
4 sort of backup off of those acronyms and just talk language that people can  
5 understand. I know y'all know all about it. I'm all -- I'm impressed with it. I got  
6 it and y'all have all this verbiage and all this language that only y'all understand,  
7 but I remind you we're on television and people back home watch us. And they  
8 don't know what all these acronyms are and probably people up here don't know  
9 them all. So if you could hold back on the acronyms and just speak in language  
10 that people could understand, I think it would all be better. The next thing I want  
11 to talk to you about is -- I want to open up a docket. I don't know -- we tried to pass  
12 this -- Mr. Skrmetta was -- helped with it last time, I think. There's a program in  
13 the United States for train safety, and we need to enact that in Louisiana.  
14 Mississippi has it, Texas has it, and all the train accidents that's happened in the  
15 last two or three weeks, the railroads have always not been for it. I can understand.  
16 They don't want anybody going on their yards inspecting trains and all that, but we  
17 need it. We have more accidents in Louisiana than we need. We used to be one of  
18 the highest states in the country. I don't know -- I don't have the statistics. But this  
19 program that we can get in gives us three, as I remember, three inspectors, and  
20 they're paid by the United States government and we could have them and they  
21 could go on the train yards, inspect trains, and do this. And I think it's a good  
22 chance they might save some people's lives. So I'd like to check into that program  
23 and let's see if we can enact that. You remember that, Brandon?

1    **SECRETARY BRANDON FREY:** I do, Commissioner. I think you said it was  
2    about 15 years ago there was -- there were two areas they were -- the legislature  
3    attempted to give us jurisdiction. One was on the closing of private crossings,  
4    which we did get, and also on that safety piece. And Kathryn and I and Staff will  
5    look and see where that was left off and I know there might have been some  
6    challenges on it legally but we'll --

7    **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Yeah. I understand, but it's a great program and  
8    they inspect -- I mean, if you have three people working for us --

9    **SECRETARY FREY:** Correct.

10   **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** -- they could work for Mr. Francis or Mr. Skrmetta  
11   or Mr. Greene, if he's having problems, they can check out the tracks  
12   [INAUDIBLE] Mr. Davis, and they could do that to help us. They work for us. I  
13   don't think it costs us money. It's just something that's a precaution, that it's a tool  
14   out there that the railroads have never been for. I can understand. They don't want  
15   anybody inspecting their tracks and they don't want to be inspected in the yards. I  
16   understand these people have authority to go in a railroad yard and look at all the  
17   trains and things like that. Other states have it. I don't see why Louisiana doesn't  
18   have it, and it's a good precaution. And I think we ought to check into that. I had  
19   --

20   **VICE CHAIRMAN MIKE FRANCIS:** Get a report on that at the next meeting.

21   **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Yeah. That'll be fine. If you could find out and let  
22   us know where we're at.

23   **SECRETARY FREY:** Sure. Absolutely.



1 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Okay. Number 2. Wait, wait, I got another question  
2 for you, Brandon. This is stuck in my head. I hope this doesn't happen anymore.  
3 Did we ever pass a rule that you could not slip a rate increase under the door? And  
4 that's what happened here before, just slip it under the door and if you don't catch  
5 it, it goes into effect. That's happened here before, and that's a terrible thing,  
6 without a vote of this Commission. So we have a rule now in effect saying any rate  
7 increase that occurs has to be voted on by this Commission?

8 **SECRETARY FREY:** That's correct. And that would go across all of the different  
9 areas. We've got specific tariff filing rules on the electric side that were adopted  
10 about a year and a half ago now, I believe. On the water and wastewater similar,  
11 we've got rules that are clear on that. What you're referring to would have been on  
12 the telecom side, and that was actually modified as well following that and we've  
13 got that rule in place as well.

14 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Yeah, I know. They slipped the rates under the door  
15 and nobody caught it and they got a rate increase. So you're telling me that can't  
16 happen anymore?

17 **SECRETARY FREY:** It cannot. In that industry, that is correct.

18 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Can I say something? If we approve a rate  
19 increase, can't we approve a -- to take a rate increase away?

20 **SECRETARY FREY:** We can.

21 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Huh?

22 **SECRETARY FREY:** Yes, we can.

1 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Okay. All right. Good. All right. Just wanted  
2 to know that. All right.

3 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** I'm glad to hear that because really troubling when  
4 that happened. It was not -- it looked terrible for us to let that happen, but if it can't  
5 happen again, I'm fine.

6 **COMMISSIONER DAVANTE LEWIS:** Mr. Chairman, I got something.

7 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Mr. -- okay. Mr. Davis.

8 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Thank you. I just want --

9 **MS. BOWMAN:** Wait.

10 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** I'm sorry. I gotcha. Mr. Lewis.

11 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** No problem. Thank you. I wanted to introduce two  
12 new hires in the District III office. I'll start with one who is not present right now,  
13 and so Edward Yeilding has -- I have hired as my new Technical Assistant and he's  
14 already hard at work, so he's at a meeting in New Orleans. But Edward brings a  
15 lot of experience, a native of Alabama, has recently lived in Colorado, just moved  
16 to Louisiana with his wife and lives in New Orleans. But he graduated from  
17 Williams & Mary with a degree in environmental science. He went on to John  
18 Hopkins and got a masters in environment and climate policy, and then went on to  
19 the University of Colorado and received a certificate in energy data analytics and  
20 so I'm really proud to have him on our team and as I said, he's in New Orleans  
21 right now in a meeting. And then I would also like to introduce Charlotte Cravins  
22 who is my new executive assistant. She graduated from Southern Law in 2007 and  
23 then began serving as a staff attorney in the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, then

1 she served as a legislative staff attorney in the House of Representatives where she  
2 worked on the insurance and commerce committee. And so I am really honored to  
3 now have her on my team and wanted to introduce her to all of you, so thank you.

4 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Mr. Lewis, Ms. Cravins has worked for me before,  
5 and she is a hard worker and a nice, nice person. Her uncle and her dad are both  
6 friends of mine, so I'm glad to see you here. It's always glad to see a few friends.  
7 I need all I can get up here. But she's a fine woman, and she did a great job for us  
8 when she worked for us. [INAUDIBLE]. Anything else?

9 **MS. BOWMAN:** Staff has a couple of announcements. Reminder for the April  
10 B&E, it will be held in Crowley at the Opera House and that's on April the 26<sup>th</sup>, so  
11 just a reminder of that. Also, a happy belated birthday to Commissioner Lewis; his  
12 birthday was yesterday. And then we have 21 agenda items today. I recommend  
13 that we move Exhibit 18 last since it has an executive -- a potential executive  
14 session. So if no other announcements, we can move on to Exhibit Number 2.

15 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Go ahead.

16 **MS. BOWMAN:** So Exhibit Number 2 is Docket Number T-36556. It's the Public  
17 Service Commission versus Exquisite Diamond Transportation regarding alleged  
18 violations of Revised Statutes 45:1177 and 1179 for failure to pay to the state proper  
19 fees for the years 2018, '19, and '20 for the inspection, control, and supervision of  
20 its business services and rates authorized in Common Carrier Certificate Number  
21 8045 pursuant to General Order dated November 22, 2011. It's a discussion and  
22 possible vote pursuant to Rule 57 on an affidavit and stipulation executed by the  
23 carrier, so this will need two votes. As a result of a routine review of the

1 Department of Revenue's ISF logs by Audit Staff, a citation was issued to Exquisite  
2 on October 25, 2022 based on the aforementioned allegations. In response to the  
3 citation, the owner of the company executed an affidavit and stipulation on behalf  
4 of the company admitting to the violations alleged. Further, the carrier agreed to  
5 the imposition of a \$1,000 fine and \$25 citation fee with 500 of that being  
6 suspended contingent on the following conditions: That the carrier not violate  
7 Revised Statute 1177, as amended, for three years; filing all outstanding inspection  
8 and supervision fee returns for the years '18 through '20 to the Department of  
9 Revenue with copies of said returns to be provided to the Commission; and paying  
10 all outstanding inspection and supervision fees for the years of '18 through '20; and  
11 executing this -- and submitting the affidavit and stipulation along with all fines  
12 and fees totaling \$525 to the Commission by March 1, 2023. Staff recommends  
13 that the Commission: 1) Exercise its original and primary jurisdiction under Rule  
14 57 to consider the affidavit and stipulation; and 2) Accept the affidavit and  
15 stipulation executed on February 10, 2023 for fines and fees totaling \$525.

16 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Move to bring the matter up under Rule 57.

17 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Second. It's a motion to bring the Rule 57 under  
18 consideration. I second it. No objections? [NONE HEARD]

19 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Move to accept Staff recommendation.

20 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** There's also -- it's a motion to accept Staff  
21 recommendation and a second by Mr. Skrmetta. No objections? [NONE HEARD]

22 Next order.

1 **MS. BOWMAN:** Exhibit Number 3 is Docket Number 36608. It's the  
2 Commission versus Bolgiano & Shotwell Properties doing business as A & L  
3 Movers regarding a cancellation of Common Carrier Certificate Number 8056 for  
4 failure to obtain 2022 vehicle identification stamps, as required by Revised Statute  
5 45:161 through 180.1 and to pay a citation fee of \$25. It's a discussion and possible  
6 vote on a recommendation of the Administrative Law Judge. The Commission  
7 Staff alleged that the carrier was in violation of Revised Statute 45:169(A) by  
8 failing to obtain vehicle identification stamps for the year of 2022. Commission  
9 Staff sought cancellation of the Common Carrier Certificate Number 8056 pursuant  
10 to Revised Statute 45:166, assessment of a citation fee in the amount of \$25  
11 pursuant to Commission's General Order dated June 7, 2006, and a requirement  
12 that the carrier pay vehicle identification stamp fees in the amount \$10 per vehicle  
13 for 2022 in the event the carrier seeks reinstatement of its authority. The  
14 Commission issued a citation to the carrier ordering the carrier to appear at a  
15 hearing on February 2, 2023 to show cause why its common carrier certificate  
16 should not be cancelled and the \$25 citation fee be assessed. When the hearing was  
17 convened, the Commission Staff appeared and presented evidence in support of the  
18 allegations. The carrier did not appear. Having considered the applicable law and  
19 the evidence presented at the hearing, the Administrative Law Judge issued a  
20 Recommendation of the Administrative Law Judge on February 22, 2023. The ALJ  
21 recommendation concludes that the carrier is a household goods mover subject to  
22 the Commission's jurisdiction; thus, it is required to pay to the Commission by  
23 February 1<sup>st</sup> of each year \$10 per vehicle in exchange for vehicle identification

1 stamps. After considering the applicable law and the evidence presented at the  
2 hearing, the Administrative Law Judge makes the following recommendations: 1)  
3 That the carrier be found guilty of violating Revised Statute 45:169(A) for failure  
4 to obtain vehicle identification stamps for 2022; 2) That the Common Carrier  
5 Certificate Number 8056 currently issued to Bolgiano Properties doing business as  
6 A & L Movers should be cancelled; and 3) that the carrier should be required to  
7 pay the Commission a \$25 citation fee.

8 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Move to accept the Administrative Judge  
9 recommendation.

10 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** Second.

11 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** There's a motion to approve the recommendation  
12 by the Staff and also it's a second by Mr. Greene. Is there any objections? [NONE  
13 HEARD] No objections, carries. Next item.

14 **MS. BOWMAN:** Exhibit Number 4 is Docket Number R-36226. It's the  
15 Commission's evaluation of Louisiana's electric grid regarding status,  
16 maintenance, and whether there is more that could have been done and can be done  
17 to benefit Louisiana customers. This is a discussion and possible vote on a budget  
18 increase for Stone Pigman due to scope expansion. At the Commission's March  
19 2022 B&E, Stone Pigman was retained to assist the Commission with the above  
20 referenced docket. As work has progressed in Docket Number R-36626, there has  
21 been substantial overlap with Docket Number R-35394, which is the Commission's  
22 pole viability docket. The overlap is created by the rules and guidance  
23 contemplated in both dockets having similar implications and are anticipated to

1 have a direct relationship with one another. Further, CTC, the consultants for both  
2 dockets, have provided a combined analysis on the dockets, causing Stone Pigman  
3 to review all analysis and assist in creating rules for both dockets even though Stone  
4 Pigman was only retained for Docket Number R-36226. Given Stone Pigman's  
5 engagement in R-36626 and their assistance in reviewing a combined analysis by  
6 CTC, Staff is of the opinion that a scope expansion is necessary to allow Stone  
7 Pigman to efficiently draft proposed rules and guidance for Docket Number R-  
8 35394 alongside Docket Number R-36626 as both dockets will have implications  
9 on the other and guide the rules therein. Based on this, it is Staff's opinion that the  
10 dockets are substantially related by common factual and legal components and,  
11 therefore, no formal RFP is required. And based on Staff solicitation, Stone Pigman  
12 submitted a proposed budget increase of 149,000 in fees and no additional  
13 expenses. Staff recommends that the Commission grant the budget increase of  
14 Stone Pigman for 149,000 in fees and no additional expenses.

15 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Let me ask you something. Ms. Bowman, I see  
16 where you say recommended Stone Pigman ask for money rather than work for  
17 nothing. Have we ever let Stone Pigman ever work for nothing? I mean, have they  
18 ever worked for nothing? That's all. I'm just asking. I see --

19 **MS. BOWMAN:** They have likely gone over budget or not over budget but  
20 expended the budget that was allotted in the past and have not come back in and  
21 asked for additional budget --

22 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Okay.

1 **MS. BOWMAN:** -- in one particular docket. Since this is a separate docket, that  
2 wasn't contemplated. In my opinion, a solicitation was appropriate.

3 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Yeah, yeah. Okay. Well, I'm just -- the phrase,  
4 working for nothing, I don't think they've ever worked for nothing. And they do a  
5 good job, but I think we're their biggest client and they've gotten the state -- we  
6 pay them millions a year, probably recover a lot, but anyway that's beside the point.  
7 Is there a motion?

8 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** Motion to accept Staff recommendation.

9 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Second.

10 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** There's a motion by Mr. Greene, second by Mr.  
11 Skrmetta to accept Staff recommendation. Thank you. Number 5, please.

12 **MS. BOWMAN:** Exhibit Number 5 is Docket Number S-35903. It's the City of  
13 Lafayette, Louisiana doing business as LUS Fiber's petition for designation as an  
14 eligible telecommunications carrier. It's a discussion and possible vote on a Staff  
15 report and recommendation. On March 3, 2021, the City of Lafayette Louisiana  
16 doing business as LUS Fiber filed a petition with the Commission seeking  
17 designation as an eligible telecommunication carrier. LUS Fiber's designation as  
18 an ETC is for the purpose of participating in federal low income lifeline program  
19 to be allowed to offer federal lifeline benefits to eligible and qualifying customers  
20 in additional census blocks located in Lafayette, Louisiana. Notice of the  
21 company's request was published in the Commission's Official Bulletin with no  
22 interventions or protests received. LUS Fiber is a trade name of the  
23 Communication System Department of the Lafayette City Parish consolidated



1 government, a political subdivision of the state of Louisiana. LUS Fiber currently  
2 operates 100 percent fiber optic network that is used to provide communications to  
3 retail and wholesale customers as well as within the city's utility systems, part of  
4 the Lafayette Parish local government, and the Lafayette Parish School System.  
5 Pursuant to section 214(e) in the act, state commissions are given the authority to  
6 designate as ETCs those common carriers that meet certain federal service  
7 requirements and who's designation would be consistent with public interest,  
8 convenience, and necessity. Consistent with the authority under federal law, the  
9 Commission issued its own ETC General Order, which created a list of public  
10 interest criteria to be applied on a case specific basis to all requests for ETC  
11 designations in areas served by rural telephone carriers. On February 23, 2023,  
12 Staff filed its Staff report and recommendation on the company's petition into the  
13 record of this proceeding finding that the company demonstrated it could comply  
14 with the requirements of the act, applicable FCC regulations in the ETC General  
15 Order. Therein, Staff also found that the designation of the company as an ETC in  
16 the designated service areas for the purpose of receiving lifeline support is in the  
17 public interest. Therefore Staff recommends that the Commission accept the Staff  
18 report and recommendation filed into the record on February 23, 2023.

19 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Mr. Francis.

20 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Do we have someone representing this company  
21 here? None here? If I -- I may have been asleep at the last meeting when they  
22 came, but I don't remember them visiting me, Mr. Greene, or Commissioner  
23 Skrmetta. I would ask that we move this over to the next month's meeting and

1 hopefully they would come speak to us about -- just want to make sure we got fair  
2 competition amongst the [INAUDIBLE] folks. Since this is a kind of a Lafayette  
3 corporation company versus Cox and AT&T and whoever might else be involved.  
4 Is that ok with you, Mr. Chairman?

5 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** If no objections.

6 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** No objection.

7 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** We'll put it on next month.

8 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** All right. Okay

9 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Thank you.

10 **MS. BOWMAN:** Exhibit number 6 is Docket number S-36601 - Advanced Tel,  
11 LLC dba REV's petition for designation as a lifeline only eligible  
12 telecommunications carrier on a statewide bases. This is a discussion and possible  
13 vote on Staff report and recommendation. On November 14, 2022 Advanced Tel  
14 doing business as REV filed a petition with the Commission seeking designation  
15 as an ETC. REV requested designation for the purpose of participating in state and  
16 federal low income lifeline programs to be allowed to offer state and federal lifeline  
17 benefits to eligible and qualifying customers on a statewide basis. Notice of the  
18 company's request was published in the Commission's Official Bulletin with no  
19 interventions or protests received. REV is a limited liability company formed in  
20 1985 and currently the company has authority to provide numerous  
21 telecommunication and internet services with the Commission. Pursuant to section  
22 214(e) in the act, state commissions are given the authority to designate ETCs those  
23 common carriers that meet certain federal service requirements and whose

1 designation would be consistent with the public interest, convenience, and  
2 necessity. Consistent with that authority, the Commission issued the ETC General  
3 Order which created a list of public interest criteria to be applied on a case specific  
4 basis to all requests for ETC designation in areas served by the rural telephone  
5 companies. On February 22, 2023 Staff filed its report and recommendation into  
6 the record finding that the company could meet the requirements of the act,  
7 applicable FCC regulations, and the ETC General Order and also found that the  
8 designation of the company as an ETC in the designated service areas for purpose  
9 of receiving lifeline support is in the public interest. Therefore, Staff recommends  
10 that the Commission accept the Staff report and recommendation filed into the  
11 record on February 22, 2023.

12 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Is there a motion?

13 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** I move to accept Staff's recommendation.

14 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Second.

15 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Mr. Lewis makes a motion to accept Staff  
16 recommendation, second by Mr. Skrmetta. No objections? [NONE HEARD] Next  
17 item.

18 **MS. BOWMAN:** Exhibit Number 7 is Docket number U-36542 --

19 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Hold on one second.

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

21 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** I apologize. We have somebody with us that is a  
22 friend of mine, this lady's uncle, Don Cravins is here. Don Cravins and I raised a  
23 lot of hell together in the State Senate, got beat most the time, but we did our best

1 to shake it up a little bit. Mr. Cravins, glad to see you come. We got your niece up  
2 here taking care of business.

3 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** I want to say something.

4 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Okay. Mr. Francis.

5 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Senator Cravins, I remember you very well back  
6 in your day. I was chairman of the Republican Party when you ran for the congress  
7 seat and you did not receive the endorsement of your party and I was very  
8 disappointed to -- although I was battling with the democrat party every day. I  
9 watched those guys pick another choice over you. You deserved that endorsement.  
10 Because you didn't get that endorsement, the Republican Party won that seat which  
11 they hold today. And I just wanted to say, for the record, your party did you a  
12 disservice and you're honorable man and you should have been elected a  
13 congressman at that time even if though it wasn't my party, but -- so my  
14 compliments to you and the service you did to the people of Louisiana. Okay. I  
15 thank you.

16 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Mr. Cravins, you hadn't got the religion yet and  
17 switched over there to that Republican Party, have you? Let me know when that  
18 happens. We won't be such good friends anymore. I appreciate the speech, but it  
19 --

20 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** I'm just hustling businessman, just hustling.  
21 Okay.

1 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** Senator Cravins, I don't know if you remember  
2 me. I'm Tom Greene's son. We'll accept you unconditionally in the party, so come  
3 on over.

4 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Okay. Let's get back to business here. This could  
5 get hot real quick. All right. Next issue.

6 **MS. BOWMAN:** Exhibit Number 7 is Docket Number --

7 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** Foster, we'll take you too.

8 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Hey, you know what, I'm like Senator Rayburn told  
9 me one time. He was a -- y'all don't know him, but he was a great senator and --  
10 he knows it. He was a senator for 50 years.

11 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** Bogalusa.

12 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** And he was a great speaker, he was the head of  
13 finance for 20 years or 30 years, knew more about the state government than  
14 anybody. But Rayburn told me about the same thing you're telling me, and I think  
15 it would apply to me. They don't want me and I don't want them. That's what he  
16 told me. Anyway, let's go ahead.

17 **MS. BOWMAN:** Exhibit Number 7 is Docket Number U-36542. Its CenterPoint  
18 Energy Entex's report of earnings and return on equity for the Louisiana division  
19 for the twelve months ending June 30, 2022, as adjusted. It's a discussion and  
20 possible vote on a joint report and draft order. On September 30, 2022 Entex filed  
21 its monitoring report for the twelve months ended June 30, 2022 reporting an ROE  
22 of 4.19 percent, which is below the allowed return. Additionally, pursuant to the  
23 Commission's Special Order Number 44-2020 dated July 1, 2020, Entex recorded

1 a regulatory asset for costs incurred from the suspension of disconnections and  
2 collection of late fees imposed by the Commission's disconnection orders. Entex  
3 requested recovery of this regulatory asset to be recovered on a one -- over a one  
4 year period in the amount of \$305,421. The company is also proposing to refund a  
5 regulatory liability balance of \$308,098 related to the change in state corporate  
6 income taxes through the gas supply rate over and under reconciliation. After  
7 Staff's review of in Entex's filing, Staff filed its report on March 1, 2023  
8 recommending several additional adjustments to Entex's 2022 operating expenses.  
9 And due to these disallowances and adjustments, Entex reported ROE increased  
10 from 4.19 percent to 4.27 percent, which is still below the established bandwidth  
11 and justify the rate increase to the bandwidth midpoint. As a result to these deficient  
12 earnings, Staff recommended that Entex be allowed to increase its rates to generate  
13 an increase in revenue of approximately \$3,829,197, when netting the required  
14 increase for the decrease due to the TCJA. Upon review of Staff's report, Entex  
15 stated no objections. If approved as recommended by Staff, Entex's overall RSP  
16 increase inclusive of the impacts of the TCJA and recovery of the regulatory asset  
17 would increase the average monthly residential bill by \$2.34 and the small  
18 commercial bill by \$12.20. As there are no unresolved issues, Staff and Entex filed  
19 a joint report and draft order into the record on March 3, 2023 requesting that the  
20 Commission issue an order accepting the joint report. Therefore, Staff recommends  
21 that the Commission accept the joint report and issue the draft order filed into the  
22 record on March 3, 2023.

23 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Move to accept Staff recommendation.

1     **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** There's a motion by Mr. Skrmetta to accept Staff  
2     recommendation. I'll make a second. And is there any objections? [NONE  
3     HEARD] No objections. Next, 8.

4     **MS. BOWMAN:** Exhibit Number 8 is Docket Number U- 36541. It's CenterPoint  
5     Energy Arkla's report on earnings and return on equity for the Louisiana division  
6     for the twelve months ending June 30, 2022, as adjusted. It's a discussion and  
7     possible vote on a joint report and draft order. On September 30, 2022, Arkla filed  
8     its monitoring report for the twelve months ending June 30, 2022 reporting an ROE  
9     of 7.05 percent, which is below the allowed return. Additionally, pursuant to the  
10    Commission's Special Order 44-2020, Arkla recorded a regulatory asset for costs  
11    incurred from the suspension of disconnections in collection of late fees imposed  
12    by the disconnection orders. Arkla requested recovery of this regulatory asset to  
13    be recovered over a one year period in the amount \$734,858. The company is also  
14    proposing a refund to a regulatory liability balance of \$389,793 related to the  
15    change in state corporate income taxes through the gas supply rate over/under  
16    reconciliation. After Staff's review of Arkla's filing, Staff filed its report on March  
17    1, 2023 recommending several additional adjustments to Arkla's '22 operating  
18    expenses. Due to the disallowances and adjustments, Arkla's reported ROE  
19    increased from 7.05 percent to 7.47 percent, which is still below the established  
20    bandwidth and justifies the rate increase to the bandwidth midpoint. As a result to  
21    these deficient earnings, Staff recommended that Arkla be allowed to increase its  
22    rates to generate an increase in the revenue of approximately \$1,196,555 when  
23    netting the required increase with the decrease due the TCJA. Upon review of

1 Staff's report, Arkla stated no objections. If approved as recommended, Arkla's  
2 overall RSP increase inclusive of the impacts of the TCJA and regulatory asset  
3 would increase the average monthly residential bill by \$.94 and a small commercial  
4 bill by \$5.34. As there's no unresolved issues, Staff and Arkla filed a joint report  
5 and draft order into the record on March 3, 2023 requesting that the Commission  
6 issue an order accepting the joint report. Therefore, Staff recommends that the  
7 Commission accept the joint report and issue a draft order filed into the record on  
8 March 3, 2023.

9 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Is there a motion?

10 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Move to accept.

11 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Mr. Skrmetta moves to accept Staff  
12 recommendation.

13 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** Second

14 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Second by Mr. Greene. No objections? [NONE  
15 HEARD] Next issue.

16 **MS. BOWMAN:** So Exhibit Number 9 is Docket Number U-36625. This is  
17 Entergy Louisiana's application for approval of the Entergy Future Ready  
18 Resilience Plan Phase 1. It's a discussion and possible vote to retain an outside  
19 engineering consultant. As Staff issued RFP 2308 seeking an engineering  
20 consultant to assist with the review and analysis of Entergy's request, and we  
21 received two qualifying bids. The first was CSRS for 123,500 in fees and 6,000 in  
22 expenses for a total budget not to exceed over of \$129,500. And the second is from  
23 CTC/E9 Insight for 369,125 in fees and 12,000 in expenses for a total budget not



1 to exceed of \$381,125. Staff makes no recommendation as both bidders are  
2 qualified.

3 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** I got a question, I want a answer. It's a big  
4 difference here. What is the difference? I mean I know what the difference are  
5 mathematically, I can see that. But what are the -- what's the difference with so  
6 much money here? One's a hundred and something thousand and the other one is  
7 380,000, right? Does anybody know?

8 **MS. BOWMAN:** They both submitted scopes of work and plans to review  
9 Entergy's plan. I'm assuming CSRS believes they can do it for either less hours  
10 -- I mean, their hourly rates are pretty -- it's pretty equivalent to one another, so I  
11 don't think it's an hourly rate issue. It's just CT -- excuse me, CSRS believes they  
12 can do it for less effort or less time.

13 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** How much did they bid?

14 **MS. BOWMAN:** CSRS bid \$129,500.

15 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Okay.

16 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** So does one include monitoring and one not?

17 **MS. BOWMAN:** Neither include monitoring. I excluded that from the RFP.

18 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** So if we want to add monitoring later, that would  
19 be a separate add on?

20 **MS. BOWMAN:** Yes.

21 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** But we could do that if we wanted to?

22 **MS. BOWMAN:** Yes. And the justification for that was, given the large request  
23 that Entergy is making, which is approximately the \$5 billion, it, you know, the

1 Commission may not approve that entire \$5 billion. So if the Commission just says,  
2 hypothetically, we're only going to give them \$2.5 billion, well, we don't need  
3 monitoring for a full 5 million.

4 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** I hear you.

5 **MS. BOWMAN:** So it just made sense to let's see what the Commission approves  
6 as the plan before we implement any monitoring.

7 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** Mr. Chairman, I'd like to motion to accept low  
8 bid.

9 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Mr. Greene --

10 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Second.

11 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** -- makes a motion to accept -- what's the name of  
12 the company? CSRS?

13 **MS. BOWMAN:** CSRS.

14 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** And second by Mr. Skrmetta. Is there any  
15 objections? [NONE HEARD] No objections, passed. Next item.

16 **MS. BOWMAN:** Exhibit Number 10 is Docket Number U-36658. This is Atmos  
17 Entergy Corporation's application for renewal over rate stabilization clause rider.  
18 It's a discussion and possible vote to hire an outside consultant. We issued an RFP  
19 2307 seeking consultants and we received two qualifying bids. The first is Larkin  
20 & Associates for 80,200 in fees and \$4,650 in expenses for a total budget not to  
21 exceed of \$84,850. And then the second is a joint proposal by Henderson Ridge  
22 Consulting and United Professionals Company of 337,050 in fees and 10,000 in

1 expenses for a total budget not to exceed of \$347,050. And Staff makes no  
2 recommendation as both bidders are qualified.

3 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Let me ask a question now, you know this. One of  
4 them is 330,000, the other one is 84,000. One of them is almost \$300,000 cheaper.  
5 What's the deal there?

6 **MS. BOWMAN:** There is a difference in these two bids. Larkin & Associates,  
7 which is the low bid, had two things missing from their bid that Henderson Ridge  
8 and UPC had in it. One is Larkin & Associates did not seem to anticipate a  
9 contested hearing in the docket. And two, Larkin & Associates did not provide  
10 budget to handle the three years of the extension of the formula -- the rate  
11 stabilization clause, should the Commission approve it. So that's the difference in  
12 these two budgets.

13 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Is it \$300,000 worth, you think?

14 **MS. BOWMAN:** In my opinion, yes.

15 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** I motion to accept Henderson Ridge and UPC.

16 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** I second.

17 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Second

18 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** There's a motion to accept Henderson Ridge. Two  
19 seconds, two seconds, not one, Mr. Lewis and Mr. Skrmetta.

20 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** Everybody is paying attention?

21 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** So it's no object -- nobody is going to object today,  
22 you got to be crazy. Everybody's for this. Okay.

1 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Well, they're not going to spend that  
2 secondary amount unless they go into the three years, right? I'm sorry. They're  
3 not going to have go into that extra -- I think I'm not on yet. They're not going to  
4 have to go in that three year unless it's necessary?

5 **MS. BOWMAN:** Correct. Unless the Commissioner approves it.

6 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** So it's a pre-approval, but may not be  
7 necessary.

8 **MS. BOWMAN:** Correct.

9 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Okay.

10 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Hearing -- Mr. Francis.

11 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Ms. Bowman, so did Larkin not understand what  
12 the whole RFP said? They didn't bid the whole RFP; is that true?

13 **MS. BOWMAN:** I don't want to say if they understood or didn't understand  
14 because I did not have a conversation with them. I will tell you the RFP was clear  
15 that there should have been a contemplation of a contested hearing as well as should  
16 the Commission agree to the three years RSC, that this consultant would be hired  
17 for those three years. So it was clear what the scope of RF -- or in my opinion, the  
18 RFP was clear.

19 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** I mean, it kind of appears that maybe they  
20 didn't really bid for everything in our RFP request, why there was such a difference  
21 in the price, you know. So okay, I'm good. Thank you.

22 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** No objections? [NONE HEARD] No objection.  
23 Next item, passed.

1 **MS. BOWMAN:** Exhibit Number 11 is Docket Number X-35764. This is the  
2 Commission's cybersecurity monitoring for Commission jurisdictional utilities.  
3 It's a discussion and possible vote on a budget increase for the McQ Group due to  
4 a scope expansion. So this will need two votes, and I'll explain it after I read a little  
5 bit of the explanation. So at the last B&E, Staff was directed to request a budget  
6 from the McQ Group for continued monitoring of cybersecurity issues as well as a  
7 budget to assist Commission Staff in other dockets where cybersecurity issues are  
8 raised, which currently would include the electric vehicle rulemaking docket of  
9 Docket Number R-36131 and the resiliency rulemaking docket, which is Docket  
10 Number R-36627. Based on this directive, Staff discussed the request with the  
11 McQ Group and per Staff's request, the McQ Group submitted two proposals. The  
12 first proposal is for continued monitoring of cybersecurity activities for a total  
13 budget of \$73,450, which is for two years of additional monitoring. The second  
14 proposal is for assistance in the Commission dockets related to cybersecurity issues  
15 for a total budget of \$68,750. So Staff recommends that the Commission: 1)  
16 Accept the budget increase for the McQ Group in the amount of 71,500 in fees and  
17 1,950 in expenses for a total budget not to exceed of \$73,450 for an additional two  
18 years of monitoring cybersecurity issues. And we'll entertain a motion and a  
19 second for that first.

20 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** That's the first one?

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

22 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** All right.

1 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Move to accept the proposal for the additional  
2 two years of monitoring for cyber.

3 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** We have a second? Mr. Skrmetta makes a motion.  
4 Is there a second?

5 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** I'll second.

6 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Second by Mr. Francis. Is there any objections?  
7 [NONE HEARD]. I'm going to go along with this. I didn't vote for the first, but I  
8 have some serious questions. But anyway, hope it works out right. Okay. No  
9 objections. Passed.

10 **MS. BOWMAN:** So also on Exhibit Number 11, the second recommendation by  
11 Staff is that the Commission accept the budget increase of the McQ Group in the  
12 amount of 67,150 in fees and 1,600 in expenses for a total budget of \$68,750 for  
13 assistance in other Commission dockets where cybersecurity issues are raised. And  
14 again, that's the EV, electric vehicle rulemaking docket and the resiliency  
15 rulemaking docket.

16 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Is this the one that we want a second --

17 **MS. BOWMAN:** A second motion -- we'll entertain a motion and a second for  
18 this one as well.

19 **SECRETARY FREY:** Correct.

20 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Wait a minute. Is this the one we want to bid out  
21 again, Brandon?

22 **SECRETARY FREY:** I know that's what you discussed, wanting to bid this one  
23 out as opposed to, you know --

1     **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** I would like to bid this out again because this is two  
2     of them, its two separate items under one docket. I'd like to make a motion that we  
3     bid the second proposal out.

4     **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Mr. Chairman.

5     **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Yes.

6     **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Can I --

7     **MS. BOWMAN:** The mic please. Oh, you turned it off.

8     **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** There we go. I'd recommend that we try to  
9     keep these together because the information that I know that the McQ Group is  
10    getting from their general cyber monitoring over the electric cybersecurity is  
11    directly related to the EV cyber issues that are being presented. And I don't want  
12    to get into over detail but in the issues of hacking the EV systems and causing  
13    potential back to the transmission and distribution system for the electric grid. So  
14    they are inter-related. And so instead of creating two separate paths of consultants  
15    who will eventually have to interact anyway, to keep it on one path with one group.

16   **MS. BOWMAN:** And maybe I can provide a little more clarity on this. So, it --  
17   we already have consultants on those other two rulemakings and they're working  
18   through those dockets and going to provide recommendations and policies to the  
19   Commission. In those dockets, a couple of issues have come up related to  
20   cybersecurity. And so it made sense to tap our consultant on cybersecurity, which  
21   is the McQ Group, just to be on call to answer a couple of questions or to help  
22   clarify some components in those rulemakings that's associated with cybersecurity.  
23   So it's also easier for our financing department if the budget stays separate, so we

1 can track the cybersecurity monitoring and know how much McQ Group is working  
2 on the monitoring component, which is this docket and then being on call for the  
3 other two rulemakings as needed. And it may be that he's not needed as much as  
4 we anticipate him needing on those and then that budget just sits there, but it's not  
5 utilized unless Staff actually reaches out to him and needs more assistance.

6 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Mr. Greene.

7 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** So can the consultants that we already have not  
8 take care of cybersecurity within those dockets?

9 **MS. BOWMAN:** So for EV, no. Resiliency, it's a question, but again, because  
10 the McQ Group is working on cybersecurity issues for us and has interacted with  
11 all the electric utilities as well as some of the federal agencies, it made sense for  
12 him to, again, be on call. It's not as if he's going to come into the docket and take  
13 over the docket itself, but it's just answering some potential questions related to  
14 cybersecurity.

15 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** So on the budget piece, we would only pay him  
16 if we used him?

17 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Correct.

18 **MS. BOWMAN:** Correct.

19 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** It's like a -- it's similar to the UPC on the  
20 other one. We only go into that 160,000 --

21 **MS. BOWMAN:** For the three year renew-

22 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** -- if he was required.

23 **MS. BOWMAN:** Yes, absolutely.



1 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** So this is a preapproved budget, if necessary,  
2 but not necessarily going to be used. So I move to accept.

3 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** I'll second.

4 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** A question. I've got a question.

5 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** I've got a question, too, but go ahead. There's a  
6 motion to accept and there's also a second on that motion. Any objections? [NONE  
7 HEARD] No objection. Go ahead.

8 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Ms. Bowman, who's the Staff person? Is it  
9 Lauren Evans?

10 **MS. BOWMAN:** So Ms. Evans is on the cybersecurity docket, which is this  
11 docket. Noah Hoggatt is on the resiliency rulemaking and then Justin Bello is the  
12 EV rulemaking, so it's a group effort.

13 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Three of you. Wow. Well my question would  
14 be to them, we've hired these folks to assist you guys on doing your job, y'all are  
15 on Staff. What's your opinion about rebidding part of this or you think you're  
16 happy with keeping the same group on Staff working for you? You want to rebid  
17 or not?

18 **MS. LAUREN EVANS:** This is Lauren Evans on behalf of Staff. Commissioner  
19 Francis, I've been working with the McQ Group on cybersecurity issues for the last  
20 three years, and I can say they've done a very good job, they're very attentive. They  
21 provide Staff with consistent updates, and I think for what we need in those other  
22 rulemakings, McQ Group can handle with limited additional background

1 information, which if we went out for an RFP, those people would need to play  
2 catch up.

3 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Okay. You know, this reminds me of the books  
4 I read on management, you know. You've got top down management and you got  
5 bottom up, you know. You guys are at the bottom, you know. I'm asking y'all to  
6 help us. Which way would you go? So you're saying you're good with McQ, to  
7 don't rebid, so I would support that motion that my friends have given.

8 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Let me say this: I question Mr. McQ. I question --  
9 this is me talking. So I'm skeptical when you're giving somebody another 60,000,  
10 80,000. How much was it? Tell me how much it was.

11 **MS. BOWMAN:** 68,750.

12 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Okay. I have not had the best experience with his  
13 honesty, truthfulness, but that's beside the point. That was on another issue. We'll  
14 talk about it later. I'll give you the proof. So anyway, one thing does bother me,  
15 though, I talked to you about it, Ms. Bowman, that we add on things without taking  
16 them out for a bid. This is another example of how we're doing that. We did it --  
17 tell me when we did it a couple of months ago, a month ago, we added on somebody  
18 without a bid. I just think when you bid jobs with hundreds of thousands of dollars,  
19 it's a safety there. That's fine. But I hear you. There's been a motion and a second.  
20 There's no objections. Is there any objection? [NONE HEARD] No objections.

21 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Wait. I've got a question on it.

22 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Mr. -- okay. Mr. Lewis. A question.

1 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** For Staff, my theory is, I think cybersecurity is  
2 going to be an ongoing issue that is going to pop up, I think, in any -- or every  
3 docket that we do from now on, so I would be very curious if we, in the interim,  
4 start thinking of a long-term solution because, I mean, I think it's just going to be  
5 an ever changing option. And I appreciate the debate up here, but I think, for me,  
6 I'm looking long-term and saying that we may need to build some in-house  
7 expertise on this, right. This may be where we have to relook at the budget and  
8 bring on a cybersecurity expert to be in-house. And so that is just some of my  
9 thoughts about where this debate's going.

10 **MS. EVANS:** I understand and I would love for us to be able to do that, so.

11 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Can you get Governor Edwards to give us  
12 more money?

13 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Hey, look, I'm going to work on all the budget this  
14 year. I'm going to get us a lot more money.

15 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Take care of that.

16 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** I got you.

17 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Add in a few other people, too, while you're  
18 at it.

19 **SECRETARY FREY:** So on that point, Commissioner Lewis, we actually have -  
20 - I'm on the cyber task force, which is a number of government agencies, National  
21 Guard, State Police, et cetera. We're actually meeting at 1:00 today, so I can float  
22 that right now because we're -- clearly this touches everything, to your point. I  
23 mean, it's not just utilities, and it's all utilities, it's not just electric, it's the water

1 systems and -- I'm not going to say anything more there, but higher education,  
2 we've seen that recently and all that, so it is a big issue and I hear what you're  
3 saying and, yes, I think we would like to have someone as well, so.

4 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** What would be the paygrade for that job?

5 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Don't know.

6 **SECRETARY FREY:** I'll look at my IT guys, what do y'all think? Six figures.  
7 Six figures, that's what they're saying.

8 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Get enough money to hire somebody that can do  
9 the job.

10 **SECRETARY FREY:** Yes.

11 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** All right.

12 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Ms. Bowman, I'd like to know this personally. I  
13 hear that nobody's going to use the money. Would you -- I'm going to ask you to  
14 do this for me. Let me know if this money's used or it's not used.

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

16 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** I'm willing to bet you that the money gets used and  
17 I just want to know about it and if it does and it's without a bid, I don't like doing  
18 things without bids, I think people ought to bid. And I don't want to -- this money  
19 will be spent and it's given without a bid. So next item. It's passed.

20 **MS. BOWMAN:** So the next several items are additional hires on some fuel audits  
21 we are opening. The first is Exhibit Number 12 which is Docket Number X-36643.  
22 This is the Commission's audit of fuel adjustment clause filings for Entergy  
23 Louisiana for January 2020 through December of 2022. It's a discussion and

1 possible vote to hire an outside consultant. We issued an RFP and we received  
2 three qualifying bids. ReSolved Energy Consulting of 46,800 in fees and 1,800 in  
3 expenses for a total budget not to exceed of 48,600. London Economics  
4 International of 58,845 in fees and \$3,608 in expenses for a total budget not to  
5 exceed of \$62,453. United Professionals Company of 80,000 in fees and 1,500 in  
6 expenses for a total budget not to exceed of \$81,500. Staff makes no formal  
7 recommendation as all three bidders are qualified.

8 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Is there a motion here?

9 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** I motion to accept London Economics bid of  
10 \$58,845.

11 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** I'll second.

12 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** London Economics International; is that what you  
13 said?

14 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** Yes.

15 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** There's a motion to accept Number 2, London  
16 Economics International for 58,845. Is there a second? I'll second it.

17 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Second.

18 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** You'll second it? Mr. Lewis seconds it. Any  
19 objection? [NONE HEARD] No objections. Next item.

20 **MS. BOWMAN:** Exhibit Number 13 is Docket Number X-36644. This is the  
21 Commission's audit of the fuel adjustment clause filings for Cleco Power for the  
22 period January of 2020 through December of 2022. It's also a discussion and  
23 possible vote to hire an outside consultant. Staff issued an RFP and we received

1 four qualifying bids. The first is ReSolved Energy Consulting of 46,800 in fees  
2 and 1,800 in expenses for a total budget not to exceed of \$48,600. The second is  
3 London Economics International of 58,845 in fees and 3,608 in expenses for a total  
4 budget not to exceed of \$62,453. The third is J. Kennedy and Associates of 67,000  
5 in fees and 1,900 in expenses for a total budget not to exceed of 68,900. And the  
6 fourth is United Professionals Company of 66,000 in fees and 1,500 in expenses  
7 for a total budget not to exceed of \$67,500.

8 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** Motion to accept London Economics at \$62,453.

9 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** There's a motion to accept Number 5, London  
10 Economics International, for 58,845. Is there any objection?

11 **MS. BOWMAN:** We need a second.

12 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Is there a second? I'll second it. No objections?

13 [NONE HEARD] Next item.

14 **MS. BOWMAN:** Exhibit Number 14 is Docket Number X-36645. This is the  
15 Commission's audit of the fuel adjustment clause filings for Southwestern Electric  
16 Power Company for January of 2021 through December of 2022. This is a  
17 discussion and possible vote to hire an outside consultant. We issued an RFP and  
18 we received four qualifying bids. ReSolved Energy Consulting, 42,000 in fees,  
19 1,800 in expenses for a total budget not to exceed of \$43,800. Second is from  
20 London Economics of 58,845 in fees and 3,608 in expenses for a total budget not  
21 to exceed of 62,453. Third is United Professionals Company of 66,000 in fees and  
22 1,500 in expenses for a total budget not to exceed of 67,500. And the fourth was J.  
23 Kennedy and Associates for 77,000 in fees and 1,900 in expenses for a total budget

1 not to exceed of \$78,900. Staff makes no formal recommendation as all bidders  
2 are qualified.

3 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** Motion to accept the bid of UPC of 67,500.

4 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Second.

5 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** There was a motion by Mr. Greene to accept United  
6 Professionals, second by Mr. Skrmetta. Any objections? [NONE HEARD]  
7 Hearing none, next item.

8 **MS. BOWMAN:** Exhibit Number 15 is Docket Number X-36646. This is the  
9 Commission's audit of purchased gas adjustment filings for the Natural Gas  
10 Division of Entergy Louisiana for January of 2021 through December of 2022. It's  
11 a discussion and possible vote to hire an outside consultant. We issued an RFP and  
12 received three qualifying bids. The first is Exeter and Associates of 25,300 in fees  
13 and 1,200 in expenses for a total budget not to exceed of 26,500. The second was  
14 United Professionals Company of 26,000 in fees and 500 in expenses for a total  
15 budget not to exceed of \$26,500. And the third was London Economics  
16 International of 58,845 in fees and \$3,608 in expenses for a total budget not to  
17 exceed of \$62,453. Staff makes no recommendation as all bidders are qualified.

18 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** Motion to accept United Professionals at 26,500.

19 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Second.

20 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** There's a motion by Mr. Greene, second by Mr.  
21 Skrmetta to accept United Professionals at \$26,000. Any objections? [NONE  
22 HEARD] No objections.

1 **MS. BOWMAN:** Exhibit Number 16 is Docket Numbers X-36647 and X-36448.  
2 It's the Commission's audit of purchase gas adjustment filings for CenterPoint  
3 Arkla for the period of January '21 through December of '22 and the Commission's  
4 audit of purchase gas adjustment filings for CenterPoint Entex for the period of  
5 January '21 through December of '22. It's a discussion and possible vote to hire  
6 an outside consultant. Staff issued an RFP and three qualifying bids were received.  
7 The first is United Professionals Company of 33,000 in fees and 500 in expenses  
8 for a total budget not to exceed of 33,500. The second was Exeter and Associates  
9 of 40,800 in fees and 1,200 in expenses for a total budget not to exceed of \$42,000.  
10 And the third was London Economics International of 73,505 in fees and \$3,608 in  
11 expenses for a total budget not to exceed of \$77,113. Staff makes no formal  
12 recommendation as all bidders are qualified.

13 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** I want to say something. I want to congratulate you,  
14 Ms. Bowman. At one time I might have been a little tough on you and Mr. Frey.  
15 Y'all are getting people to bid. See what happens when you get people to bid?  
16 They get down on the money. We were, for a long time, just getting one person to  
17 bid and this and that and I think it's open now. That's good. That's good for the  
18 people. So you got a choice here and it's getting tighter and tighter. You know  
19 what that means? Somebody's grading people's papers. That's all that means. I  
20 congratulate you and if I got on you, I didn't mean, but maybe it did a little good.  
21 I don't know. But anyway.

22 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** Whatever you're doing, though, keep doing it  
23 because you just got an apology and a congratulations all in one sentence.



1 **MS. BOWMAN:** I know, right.

2 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** I motion to accept low bid at 33,500.

3 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Second.

4 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Got a motion by Mr. Greene, second by Mr.

5 Skrmetta to accept the low bid. We're getting along today without one fight so far.

6 **SECRETARY FREY:** Uh-oh.

7 **MS. BOWMAN:** Stop, you just jinxed it.

8 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** So far.

9 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** So far. Number 17.

10 **SECRETARY FREY:** And Commissioner Campbell, to your point though, and

11 look, we've been doing these for a long time. We've never had this many

12 consultants who consistently bid, so it is a good thing, to your point. When I first

13 started, there were one or two firms that did all the work, and as you can see, we've

14 got quite a bit of qualified people bidding on lots of dockets now.

15 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** You know what that means? That means they don't

16 think it's fixed. They think that they've got a good shot at getting the work and

17 that's the way it has to be. Okay. Thank you.

18 **MS. BOWMAN:** Exhibit Number 17 is a docket to be determined. This is Cleco

19 Power's upcoming rate proceeding, to be filed in March of 2023 as required by

20 Commission Order Number U-35299. It's a discussion and possible vote to retain

21 an outside consultant. We did issue an RFP and we received two qualifying bids.

22 The first is from a newly qualified consultant, Emrydia Consulting Corporation for

23 \$161,562.50 in fees and \$3,790 in expenses for a total budget not to exceed of

1 \$165,352.50. And the second is from Untied Professionals Company of 267,500  
2 in fees and 5,000 in expenses for a total budget not to exceed of \$272,500. And  
3 Staff makes no recommendation as both bidders are qualified.

4 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** I motion to accept the UPC.

5 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Second.

6 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Okay. There's a motion and a second to accept  
7 United Professionals. I got a question. Tell me what the difference is. I can  
8 subtract it, I know what it is, it's \$106,000. Where's that come, the difference  
9 between these two bids?

10 **MS. BOWMAN:** So my guess is the low bid is a new consultant, so they may not  
11 understand the complexity of some of our rate cases. UPC has worked on Cleco's  
12 prior rate case as well as the merger and is familiar with all of the moving pieces  
13 related to Cleco Power and its rates right now, so my assumption is UPC  
14 understands the complexity that the rate case will bring.

15 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Okay. There's a motion and a second to accept  
16 United Professionals Group. Any objection? [NONE HEARD] No objections.  
17 Next issue. Item, whatever you want to call it.

18 **MS. BOWMAN:** So if everyone is okay, we'll move Exhibit 18 to the end, being  
19 that it has a possible executive session, so we'll move on to Exhibit 19.

20 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Okay. Good deal. Thank you.

21 **MS. BOWMAN:** Which is the reports, resolutions, discussions. We have one this  
22 month, and its discussion and possible vote to ratify interventions of the  
23 Commission in RTO or ERSC related FERC proceedings. This matter is on the

1 agenda pursuant to the scope of work approved in connection with the retention of  
2 Stone Pigman and United Professionals at the February 2021 Business and  
3 Executive Session for MISO, SPP, and ERSC participation. Due to short deadlines  
4 allowed for these interventions, if advanced Commission approval is not possible,  
5 the Executive Secretary, on the recommendation of Stone Pigman or UPC or on his  
6 own, may authorize initial interventions, comments, or protests subject to  
7 ratification at the following B&E. Interventions were filed on the LPSC's behalf  
8 in the following FERC dockets: EL23-8, AD22-8, EL23-40, ER23-636, AD22-5,  
9 ER23-865, ER23-904, ER23-1140, EC23-57, and ER23-1164. These interventions  
10 were filed for the purpose of monitoring issues related to MISO and/or SPP or other  
11 FERC proceedings. Staff recommends that the Commission ratify these actions.

12 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Move to ratify.

13 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Second.

14 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** There's a motion by Mr. Greene -- I mean, Mr.  
15 Skrmetta, second by Mr. Francis to ratify. Is there any objections? [NONE  
16 HEARD] Hearing none, next item.

17 **MS. BOWMAN:** Exhibit 20 is Docket Number U-35299. This is Cleco Power's  
18 application for implementation of change in rates to be effective July 1, 2020 and  
19 extension of existing formula rate plan. It's a discussion and possible vote on  
20 extension of a filing date at the request of Commissioner Skrmetta. On March 10,  
21 2023, Cleco Power filed a request to extend the filing date of its 2023 rate case from  
22 March 31, 2023 to June 30<sup>th</sup>. Order Number U-35299 required Cleco Power to  
23 submit its next rate case filing by March 31, 2023. Cleco Power requested the

1 extension in order to conduct further analysis that will help the company  
2 appropriately balance the needs of its customers for reliable power at a reasonable  
3 price with the continued financial stability of the company. Staff reviewed the  
4 request as well as Order Number U-35299 and does not oppose Cleco Power's  
5 request. Therefore, Staff recommends that the Commission extend the filing date  
6 of Cleco Power's 2023 rate case from March 31, 2023 to June 30, 2023.

7 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Move to accept Staff recommendation.

8 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Mr. Skrmetta has a motion to move that we accept  
9 Staff recommendation. I'll second it. Any objections? [NONE HEARD] Hearing  
10 no objections, it passes. Next item.

11 **MS. BOWMAN:** Exhibit 21 is Docket Number U-35982. This is Jamie Ponville  
12 Trucking doing business as Ridgeway Oxidation Pond. It's a petition for approval  
13 to increase sewer rates. It's a discussion and possible vote on an uncontested  
14 stipulated settlement pursuant to Rule 57, so this will need two votes, and it's at the  
15 request of Commissioner Lewis. On April 30, 2021, Jamie Ponville Trucking doing  
16 business as Ridgeway Oxidation filed a petition for approval to increase sewer  
17 rates. Notice of the petition was published in the Commission's Official Bulletin  
18 with no intervenors. Staff filed its report and recommendation on November 19,  
19 2021 and the company filed its response on December 17, 2021. On March 10,  
20 2023, the company and Staff filed their uncontested stipulated settlement into the  
21 record. Ridgeway provides wastewater services to approximately 50 customers in  
22 Assumption Parish and has charged its customers a flat rate of \$10 a month. The  
23 company is seeking the rate increase on the basis of rising costs, required testing,

1 and required maintenance. After a review of the company's request, Staff agreed  
2 to the monthly rate of \$30, subject to certain conditions. As part of the settlement,  
3 the company has agreed to or completed conditions within Staff's report and  
4 recommendation. Staff believes the increase is required for the company to  
5 continue its operations in a safe and reliable manner, is in the public interest.  
6 Therefore, Staff recommends that the Commission accept the uncontested  
7 stipulated settlement filed into the record on March 10, 2023.

8 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Mr. Chairman, I have a --

9 **MS. BOWMAN:** I'm sorry. Mic.

10 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Is the mic's on? Is it on now? Okay. Two  
11 things. One is I'd like to offer a substitute motion to -- an addition to this, to have,  
12 since the rate increase is triple the current rate, to have this instituted over a period  
13 of 90 days in parcel, so the public knows. So go from 10 to -- and divide it over  
14 equal three parts of the increase over 90 days. And also to require the company to  
15 give a letter in the billing to the consumer to tell them that the rate increase, what it  
16 is and what it's ultimately going to be. And otherwise, make a motion to accept.

17 **SECRETARY FREY:** We need a 57 motion first and I think Commissioner Lewis  
18 has something similar.

19 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Oh, move to bring up the matter under --  
20 sorry.

21 **SECRETARY FREY:** Yeah.

22 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** All right. Move to bring it up under 57.

23 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Second.

1 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** I'll second it. Any -- Mr. Lewis.

2 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Yes, I -- thank you. And Commissioner, I agree

3 with you, I was going to have a motion to have a 30 day notice, but I like your

4 motion better, so I'm not going to make it.

5 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** I think when you've got triple, I think you got

6 to go 90.

7 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Yeah, so I appreciate. I won't --

8 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** No objections?

9 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** No objections.

10 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** No objections.

11 **MS. BOWMAN:** So to clarify, it's not a substitute motion by Commissioner

12 Skrmetta, it is a motion by Commissioner Skrmetta --

13 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Same motion, but modified.

14 **MS. BOWMAN:** -- seconded by Commissioner Lewis?

15 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Modified, correct. Yes.

16 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** We're straight, right?

17 **SECRETARY FREY:** And I guess we need to make sure the company's okay

18 with that. They're okay. He waves.

19 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Okay. So we got to --

20 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** You can suck up 90 days. It's got a vacuum

21 truck.

22 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** We got a motion and a second. No objections?

23 [NONE HEARD]

1 **MS. BOWMAN:** No objections. Hearing none --

2 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** You passed your first --

3 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Got to do the in re now?

4 **MS. BOWMAN:** Yes.

5 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Mr. Lewis, you passed your first case. That's good.

6 **MS. BOWMAN:** So hearing none, we'll move back to Exhibit 18. I will read the

7 in re in and take a motion and a second to go into executive session. I ask everyone

8 to please stay seated until that time.

9 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Do we need a special session?

10 **MS. BOWMAN:** Yes.

11 **SECRETARY FREY:** We do for this one, yes.

12 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Okay.

13 **MS. BOWMAN:** So Exhibit Number 18 is FERC Docket Number EL21-156. It's

14 the Commission, et al versus System Energy Resources, Inc., et al. It's a possible

15 executive session to discuss litigation strategy pursuant to Louisiana Revised

16 Statute 42:16, et sec. And I will entertain a motion to go into executive session.

17 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Move to go into executive session.

18 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** No objection?

19 **MS. BOWMAN:** Second? Do I have a second? Seconded by Commissioner

20 Campbell. Executive session.

21 **[OFF THE RECORD]**

22 **[BACK ON THE RECORD]**

1 **MS. BOWMAN:** Can I get a motion to come out of executive session? Motion  
2 by Commissioner Lewis to come out of -- second by Skrmetta.

3 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Move to adjourn.

4 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** No objections?

5 **MS. BOWMAN:** We need a second to adjourn.

6 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Second.

7 **MS. BOWMAN:** Second by Commissioner Lewis.

8 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** No objections? [NONE HEARD]

9 **MS. BOWMAN:** No objections. Hearing none, we are adjourned.

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**(WHEREUPON THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED)**

14



1 I certify that the forgoing pages 1 through 45 are true and correct to the best  
2 of my knowledge of the Open Session of the Business and Executive Meeting  
3 held on March 15, 2023 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

4 \*\*\*\*\*

5 **Rough Draft prepared by:**

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7 Kayla Fiorenza, Date  
8 Court Reporter

9 *Precious Cummings* March 17, 2023  
10 Precious Cummings, Date  
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12 *Kathy Dykes* March 17, 2023  
13 Kathy Dykes, Date  
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15 \*\*\*\*\*

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17 *Precious Cummings* March 20, 2023  
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