

**TRANSCRIPT OF THE LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION BUSINESS
AND EXECUTIVE OPEN SESSION HELD ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2026 IN BATON
ROUGE, LOUISIANA. PRESENT WERE: CHAIRMAN ERIC SKRMETTA, VICE
CHAIRMAN JEAN-PAUL COUSSAN, COMMISSIONER DAVANTE LEWIS,
COMMISSIONER MIKE FRANCIS, AND COMMISSIONER FOSTER CAMPBELL.**

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2 **BUSINESS AND EXECUTIVE OPEN SESSION HELD ON SEPTEMBER**
3 **16, 2026 IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA. PRESENT WERE: CHAIRMAN**
4 **ERIC SKRMETTA, VICE CHAIRMAN JEAN-PAUL COUSSAN,**
5 **COMMISSIONER DAVANTE LEWIS, COMMISSIONER MIKE**
6 **FRANCIS, AND COMMISSIONER FOSTER CAMPBELL.**

7 **CHAIRMAN ERIC SKRMETTA:** I'm going to go ahead and call the meeting to
8 order. Since we're going to do a video, we're going to go ahead and get started. The
9 rest of the Commissioners will be here in a little bit. We're going to go ahead and
10 begin with prayer by Commissioner Francis, and I will lead the Pledge of
11 Allegiance.

12 **[COMMISSIONER MIKE FRANCIS LEADS IN PRAYER]**

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

14 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Okay. Welcome. Kathryn, you want to go ahead and
15 read? I think we'll skip the announcements first. And we'll wait for Commissioner
16 Campbell if he has any announcements. Wait, okay. Nice try. So anyway -- but,
17 we'll go ahead and move to exhibit -- was it the last one, I think it is?

18 **MS. KATHRYN BOWMAN:** So it's Exhibit 13. It's the --

19 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Jefferson Davis Co-op?

20 **MS. BOWMAN:** Yes, sir. But I'm just now seeing that we do not have the laptop,
21 so I don't know if we could project the video.

22 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Oh, so we're not ready for it?

1 **MS. BOWMAN:** I'm looking at IT. And I -- to be fair, I did not speak to Stephen,
2 I spoke to another IT person. So we may not -- we may have had a disconnect on
3 presentation. So let me try to fix that real quick.

4 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Okay. Let's go ahead with announcements. Any
5 announcements from any of the Commissioners?

6 **COMMISSIONER DAVANTE LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One
7 announcement that we have is many of you are aware of Senate Resolution 148 that
8 was authored by Senator Barrow and Senator Allain, which created the Utility
9 Assistance Coordination Task Force, that tasks the Commission with coordinating
10 and staffing this. I have worked with Senator Barrow and we will convene our first
11 meeting September 30. Time and location will be announced later. But if you are
12 one of the appointee entities that have not given either the Commission or my
13 Executive Assistant, Charlotte Cravins, your appointee's name, please make sure
14 that you do that sometime in the near future so we can make sure that those
15 correspondence get out to all of those. But we will convene -- the first task force
16 under Senator Pro Tem -- Senator Barrow, on September 30. So for all of our
17 utilities who have been appointed to the task force, just be on the lookout for that
18 information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

19 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Any other announcements?

20 **VICE CHAIRMAN JEAN-PAUL COUSSAN:** No, sir.

21 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** A couple of announcements for me. First one is, I
22 want to remember in everybody's thoughts, my dear friend, Pat Patrick's mother,
23 who was 97 years old, passed away this -- last week. And, you know, should we all

1 should be so lucky to live so long. So sorry, Pat, for your loss. Second thing is, the
2 Rule to Show Cause in Docket Number T-38069, originally scheduled to convene
3 immediately upon the adjournment of today's B&E, has been continued to
4 Thursday, October 22, upon adjournment of the Commission's October B&E. This
5 is because of the counting method for rules of procedure. And then, lastly, October
6 22 will be the Public Service Commission in New Orleans, at the Louisiana State
7 Supreme Court. It will convene at 10 A.M. So, also, since I just heard a phone ring,
8 please everybody double check their phone and silence it. And anything from --

9 **VICE CHAIRMAN COUSSAN:** I do -- I do have something.

10 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Oh, and then, JP. Go ahead, Commissioner.

11 **VICE CHAIRMAN COUSSAN:** Mr. Chairman, I'd just like the Staff to look into
12 what procedural vehicle we need to ensure that we don't have meetings outside of
13 the Greater Baton Rouge area during legislative session or right -- immediately
14 before legislative session. Last year, we had at least one conflict. I think maybe
15 more than one conflict where we were out of town with important pending
16 legislation, where either one of us or our Staff was required to be testifying at the
17 legislature. And so I think it would behoove us to, you know, put off any of our out
18 of town meetings during that timeframe. And before our new members join us in
19 the spring, I just kind of want to put something in place since we have the benefit
20 of our experience and knowing that it's important for us to be, you know, be able
21 to testify at hearings and not be four or five hours away.

22 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Okay.

23 **COMMISSIONER MIKE FRANCIS:** Mr. Chairman.

1 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Yes.

2 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** I'll second that behovement. Okay.

3 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Okay. Well, good. That's not a problem.

4 **SECRETARY BRANDON FREY:** Yeah. And that was -- I seem to recall when

5 that happened. But that should be simple enough when we do the schedule for next

6 year. In fact, we were contemplating, since we will have two new members. You

7 know, traditionally, I send out a proposed schedule to y'all to vote on in December

8 for the following calendar year. I think, what we'll do is in December vote on the

9 January date and maybe wait on the remainder of the year to vote on the January.

10 Unless -- I guess we will know who the two members are then. So to the extent we

11 can get them to sign off, we might vote on the full schedule. But, I want to make

12 sure we take that into consideration. And we'll just note that whenever I send that

13 notice out that, I guess, presumably, the March, April, and May meetings, we will

14 make sure those are in Baton Rouge. I think June, we're done with the session.

15 February is probably early enough to where it shouldn't be an issue.

16 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Okay. I will tell -- as part of Exhibit 13, when we do

17 the video, pending presentation of the video by Jefferson Davis Co-op,

18 Commissioner Francis would like the members of the co-op, representation to come

19 to the table in case there's some questions about that.

20 **MS. BOWMAN:** And I've reached out --

21 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Have you been able to determine that we have the

22 ability to show the video?

23 **MR. BELLO:** I have reached out to our IT Staff, and they have not responded.

1 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Okay. All right. Well, proceed with the regular
2 docket.

3 **MS. BOWMAN:** And Staff does have announcements. Both --

4 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Okay. Staff has announcements?

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

6 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Go ahead.

7 **MS. LAUREN EVANS:** Good morning, Commissioners. Lauren Evans on behalf
8 of Staff. I did want to announce a save the date for the Public Utilities Section CLE.
9 We will be meeting on Thursday, December 3, at the City Club, and I think we're
10 going to have a really good lineup this year. So everyone save the date. We'd love
11 to have you there.

12 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Okay. All right. And how many hours can they get?

13 **SECRETARY FREY:** Five or six, I think, typically.

14 **MS. EVANS:** Yeah. I don't know yet, but it's usually around five to six.

15 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Is it three for -- three ethics --

16 **SECRETARY FREY:** Yes.

17 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** -- two professionalism, or something like that?

18 **MS. EVANS:** We usually have one ethics, one professionalism.

19 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Okay. All right. Well, there you go. So take
20 advantage of it if you're an attorney. And if not, you can just still take advantage
21 of it.

1 **MR. THOMAS BROADY:** Good morning, Commissioners. I would also like to
2 take an opportunity to announce our new Staff Auditor joining us this morning, Mr.
3 Kaelan Merrifield.

4 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Okay. And can he stand up, please?

5 **SECRETARY FREY:** Yeah. Stand up.

6 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** There you go. Well, welcome. All right.

7 **SECRETARY FREY:** And just one thing, when you talked about the October
8 B&E, just a reminder, for those of you haven't been there, the security to get into
9 Supreme Court is pretty difficult, so don't get there too close to the time or you
10 won't make it in in time.

11 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** It's recommended that you get there at least 30, 40
12 minutes ahead of time --

13 **SECRETARY FREY:** Yes.

14 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** -- so you can take time to clear security and go
15 upstairs and get to the meeting room -- to the courtroom. All right. All right, so. All
16 that being said, why don't we go ahead and proceed with Exhibit 2. But as soon as
17 you hear from --

18 **MS. BOWMAN:** They're pulling it right now, so they should be 5, 10 minutes.

19 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** As soon as you have it, we'll proceed to Exhibit 13.

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

21 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Okay. All right.

22 **MS. BOWMAN:** So -- oh, and I'm sorry. There is one exhibit item that is deferred
23 this month, and that is Exhibit 3.

1 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Okay.

2 **MS. BOWMAN:** So moving to Exhibit Number 2 is Docket Number T-37947.

3 This is the Commission versus Clark Moving Specialists regarding an alleged

4 violation of General Order dated April 3, 2008 as amended for failure to include

5 their Public Service Commission common carrier certificate number in all

6 advertising. It's a discussion and possible vote pursuant to Rule 57 on affidavit and

7 stipulation executed by the carrier. As a result of an investigation by Transportation

8 Staff, a citation was issued to Clark Moving Specialists on June 2 of this year. And

9 in response to that citation, the owner of the company executed an affidavit and

10 stipulation on behalf of the company admitting to violating all violations and agreed

11 to the imposition of a \$25 citation fee and a \$500 fine, with 250 of that being

12 suspended, contingent on execution of the affidavit and stipulation as well as

13 payment of the 275, and including their correct common carrier certificate on all of

14 their website advertising and invoices as well as displaying their correct common

15 carrier certificate number on all trucks. Staff recommends that the Commission

16 exercise its original and primary jurisdiction under Rule 57 to consider the affidavit

17 and stipulation and accept that affidavit and stipulation executed on August 4, 2026,

18 for fines and fees totaling \$275.

19 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Chair moves to bring the matter up under Rule 57.

20 Any seconds?

21 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Second.

1 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Seconded by Commissioner -- excuse me. Any
2 opposition? [NONE HEARD] Hearing none, Chair moves to accept Staff
3 recommendation. Any seconds?

4 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Second.

5 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Seconded by Commissioner Lewis. Any opposition?
6 [NONE HEARD] The matter's approved. Next item, please.

7 **MS. BOWMAN:** Exhibit Number 4 is Docket Number S-37932. This is Delta
8 North Louisiana Gas Company, Delta South Louisiana Gas Company, and Delta
9 Capital Gas Company's application for a blanket financing authorization. It's a
10 discussion and possible vote on Staff's Report and Recommendation. On May 19
11 of this year, the Delta companies filed the instant application for the issuance of a
12 long-term secured and unsecured debt. Notice of the proceeding was published in
13 the Commission's Official Bulletin and no interventions were filed. In the request,
14 Delta seeks approval of a blanket financing authorization effective from the date of
15 a Commission order through December 31, 2030, up to a ceiling not to exceed the
16 following per-company limits: for Delta North, up to 200 million; for Delta South,
17 up to 195 million; and for Delta Capital, up to 70 million. These amounts include
18 all of Delta's specifically projected incremental term debt financing needs and an
19 approximately 25% margin for less forecastable additional financing requirements.
20 On July 23, 2026, Staff filed its Report and Recommendation into the record, which
21 found that the blanket financing transaction is in the best interest of the public, and
22 recommends that the Commission expresses non-opposition to Delta's request,
23 subject to conditions contained in Staff's Recommendation, including that the

1 treatment under the blanket financing authorization will not be available for
2 extraordinary or special debt offerings, and proceeds from the debt issues shall be
3 only for Delta Utilities purposes, and for the benefit of its retail customers. On
4 August 14, Delta filed a response indicating three clarifications to Staff's
5 recommendations, and on August 31 of this year, Staff filed formal responses
6 indicating review and acceptance of those clarifications. Staff recommends that the
7 Commission accept the Staff Report and Recommendation filed into the record on
8 July 23, 2026, subject to the revisions and clarifications recommended by Delta
9 Gas filed into the record on August 14, 2026.

10 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Chair moves to accept Staff recommendation. Any -
11 -

12 **VICE CHAIRMAN COUSSAN:** Second.

13 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Seconded by Commissioner Coussan. We have
14 questions from Commissioner Lewis, so if Delta representatives would come to the
15 table.

16 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I'm -- first question
17 I do have is for Staff if you can answer this for me. I just want to make sure I'm
18 clear that this vote is not authorizing any new financing, and is simply -- each new
19 line of credit will still go before the Commission's review?

20 **MR. ARVIND VISWANATHAN:** Commissioner, Arvind Viswanathan on behalf
21 of Staff. I'll defer to Ms. Pendergrass.

22 **MS. ROBIN PENDERGRASS:** Yeah. What this does is that -- they still have to
23 come to us and provide notice that they are -- basically, what it does is it takes away

1 the long process of coming for pre-approval for every single loan. They come to
2 us. They let us know this is what we're doing. If there's anything egregious, then
3 we can nix it. But everything is also reviewed in the FRP period every year.

4 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Okay. So this would include regular reporting,
5 leverage ratio, credit ratings, any concurrent or projected capital structure? All of
6 that would be reviewed, it's just kind of a more blanket process; is that correct?

7 **MS. PENDERGRASS:** Yes. Yes.

8 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Thank you. And, Jim, just a simple question for you.
9 As I bring up these different parts of the proposal just because I want to make sure
10 that I'm -- we're not doing a fast track process here, but we're doing something that
11 is, and I want to protect the safety and modernization. And so this process would
12 still allow for Staff to raise objections to the proposed loan and give the
13 Commission the ability prior to closing to understand all of the terms and
14 agreements of the loan that Delta would take out?

15 **MR. JIM DICHARRY:** Yeah. Jim Dicharry on behalf of Delta Utilities. Exactly.
16 So prior to any long-term debt issuance, we come to the Commission, provide
17 information on the projected loans for these entities. Once that loan does close,
18 we'll -- we would have to seek approval. Once that approval is -- we follow up with
19 details on that loan. In addition, we do have annual reporting requirements to
20 provide information about our finances.

21 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Thank you. Thank you. And so I'm not opposed to
22 this, I just wanted to be open and plain that the authorization will not change the
23 approach or at least my approach to review an evaluation of new debt moving

1 forward but I do appreciate the amount of time that you've given my Staff and I on
2 discussing this issue. So I want to thank you for that.

3 **MR. DICHARRY:** Yeah. Absolutely. Thank you for the time.

4 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** The matter has been moved by the Chair, seconded
6 by Commissioner Coussan. Any opposition? [NONE HEARD] Hearing none, the
7 matter's approved. Next item, please.

8 **MS. BOWMAN:** Sure. And, IT's here, but I can go through Exhibit 5 while IT sets
9 up the laptop.

10 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Yeah. Do that while they set up. Let's keep going.

11 **MS. BOWMAN:** Exhibit Number 5 is Docket Number U-36625. This is Entergy's
12 application for approval of the Entergy Future Ready Resilience Plan, Phase I. It's
13 a discussion and possible vote on a scope expansion for United Professionals
14 Company. At the Commission's February 2023 Business and Executive Session,
15 the Commission retained UPC to assist in reviewing Entergy's resilience plan. The
16 order in that docket was issued approving a framework that consisted of grid
17 hardening projects over five years. Those projects have been ongoing since
18 Commission approval with UPC reviewing the framework's rider and cost recovery
19 pursuant to the terms in Order Number U-36625. In July, the Commission received
20 a notice letter from Entergy indicating its plans to file a request for an extension of
21 Phase I in the third quarter of this year, known as Phase I-A, which is described as
22 a bridge plan because it intends to leverage the work completed in Docket Number
23 U-36625, and largely adopts the same framework with slight modifications to the

1 rider. Given UPC's knowledge and experience with the framework, including the
2 rider, Staff sought a budget expansion from UPC to assist in the bridge plan and
3 review those rider modifications. Staff seeks UPC's assistance pursuant to the
4 Commission's General Order dated November 10, 2014. Based on Staff's
5 solicitation, UPC submitted a proposed budget increase of 105,000, which does
6 anticipate a fully litigated proceeding. Staff recommends that the Commission
7 increase UPC's budget due to scope expansion for an additional 102,000 --
8 \$102,500 in fees, and 2,500 in expenses for a total budget not to exceed \$105,000.
9 And we do have one yellow card on this one.

10 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** I'm going to take a break and welcome
11 Commissioner Campbell back.

12 **MS. BOWMAN:** Yes.

13 **VICE CHAIRMAN COUSSAN:** Welcome back, my friend.

14 **COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL:** Thank you. Thank you. Can I say something?

15 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Absolutely.

16 **COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL:** Thank you for all your support that you've
17 given me through the last three months. I've had a hell of a time. I got very sick. I
18 didn't know if I was going to hang around or not, but I'm back.

19 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** Amen.

20 **COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL:** So anyway, thank you for all the kind words
21 you said, letters you wrote, telephone calls, they helped me. I'm reminded when I
22 was teaching school at Houghton, I had two students up there. One's his name is
23 Charlie Red and the other one's name was Redman. Charlie Red had a bad, bad,

1 bad wreck. And I asked his brother, I said, how is Charlie Red doing? Oh, Mr.
2 Campbell, he's on his way back. So I'm on my way back. And I appreciate all the
3 kindness that you've shown me. Never dreamed that I could get that sick that fast,
4 but I did. It happened. I was very, very sick, but I am on my way back and I'm glad
5 to be back with you guys. I tried to stay in touch as much as I could. Thank Joe
6 Shyne for helping me. He told me about what was going on down here, and I talked
7 to Davante, and I talked to the Chairman, and everybody, you know, very nice to
8 me. And I appreciate you so much. So thank you, and I'm sorry that I'm 10 minutes
9 late. See you later.

10 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** And just one comment. Never let it be forgotten
11 about the power of prayer. So welcome back, Commissioner. So anyway, continue
12 with what -- where you were.

13 **MS. BOWMAN:** Yes. Yes, sir. So we have Exhibit 5 and I read Staff's
14 recommendation, but we do have one yellow card from --

15 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Right. I want to go ahead and put a motion on the
16 floor, and then we'll hear from the yellow card, and then we'll get through that. So
17 the Chair moves to accept Staff recommendation. Any seconds?

18 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Second.

19 **VICE CHAIRMAN COUSSAN:** Second.

20 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Second from Commissioner Lewis. So we have a
21 motion and a second. We have a yellow card, so please call --

22 **MS. BOWMAN:** Yeah. Ms. Rebecca Jones, if you're here.

1 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Just state your name and you have to push the button
2 on the microphone until it turns green.

3 **MS. REBECCA JONES:** Yes. Okay. Thank you.

4 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** There you go.

5 **MS. JONES:** Hi. My name is Rebecca, and I'm with Louisiana PSL, that's Party
6 for Socialism and Liberation, and also part of the campaign for Take Back the
7 Power. I'm here to comment on Entergy's Future Ready Resilience Plan. I agree
8 we need climate resilience, but the five-year plan stated should come from
9 Entergy's overpaid executives and the wealth of billionaires instead of ratepayers
10 footing the bill. This plan doesn't account for the strain data centers will even put
11 on Entergy's grid, especially Hyperion's Data Center, which will use seven times
12 the amount of energy as New Orleans. Take Back the Power has four demands, and
13 number two states: We demand enforceable limits on residential rate increases. The
14 cost of their business shouldn't be placed on working-class families. Entergy has
15 proved time and again they're incapable of actually dealing with real climate
16 resilience. Take Back the Power is a campaign demanding real accountability from
17 Entergy. This plan states the increase for about 5 years, but this could increase to
18 10 years. This rate increase should be paid by Entergy's profits and salaries of their
19 CEOs, not paid for by the people, and we would like some more clarity on this
20 timeline. Thank you.

21 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Thank you.

22 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Ms. Rebecca, just -- I just want to note for the record
23 that what we did today is we just hired a consultant. So I would advise you stay

1 engaged with Docket Number 36625 as we start to review their applications. So
2 today, we are -- we hired a consultant to help us review that application, so we
3 would love to have your comments and your thoughts as we go through the process
4 of evaluating that application. But I wanted to just give you the timeline of process
5 since you asked that question.

6 **MS. JONES:** Thank you.

7 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Thank you.

8 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** All right. We have a motion and a second on the
9 floor. Any opposition? [NONE HEARD] Hearing none, the matter's approved.
10 Next item, please.

11 **MS. BOWMAN:** So now --

12 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Are we going to move into 13?

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

14 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Okay.

15 **MS. BOWMAN:** On Exhibit 13, it's the report of Jefferson Davis Electric
16 Cooperative regarding the construction of its new 230 kV transmission line. We
17 just need to --

18 **COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL:** We're on two?

19 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** We're moving to 13.

20 **MS. BOWMAN:** Yeah.

21 **MS. KARA KANTROW:** Are we starting? Good morning, Commissioners. This
22 is a video put together for Jeff Davis that highlights the storm damage that we've
23 been through through the years, as well as our new 230 kV. I have Mike Heinen

1 with me, CEO of Jeff Davis and Michael Pugh, CEO of Royal Engineering, the
2 firm that's helped us with a big portion of rebuilding it, so enjoy. Do we need to
3 press play?

4 **MR. MICHAEL PUGH:** Yeah, I thought -- you can press it.

5 **MS. KANTROW:** I'm assuming you just -- yeah. There you go.

6 **[VIDEO PRESENTATION BEGINS]**

7 **[VIDEO PRESENTATION ENDS]**

8 **MS. KANTROW:** All right. Thanks for the time, watching it, I appreciate it.

9 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Commissioner --

10 **MR. MICHAEL HEINEN:** Let me say this video is not just a testament to Jeff
11 Davis Electric Co-op. It's a testament to everyone in this room that does what we
12 do. Be it investor-owned, be it a co-op, be it anyone that goes through any storms
13 of any kind. I'm sure everyone recognizes the pictures and the time and the
14 dedication we have to members, consumers, whoever it may be. So this is for
15 everyone that does this kind of work. So thank you. We appreciate it.

16 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** Yeah. Mike, congratulations, and I love Cameron
17 Parish. And what was the price tag on this project?

18 **MR. HEINEN:** It's -- huh? About 400, 400 million.

19 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** About 400 million. And where did the money
20 come from to pay for this?

21 **MR. HEINEN:** It's come from FEMA. For a big --

22 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** It all --

23 **MR. HEINEN:** -- a big part of it.

1 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** FEMA going to pay for all of it?

2 **MR. HEINEN:** Most of it. We're still getting some funds from CDBG funds from
3 the state, and working on funds from the state.

4 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** Will the -- your ratepayers be assessed any kind
5 of storm damage for this?

6 **MR. HEINEN:** At the end of the day, we're hoping no. We're fighting for
7 everything we can both federally and with the state to try and get the price.

8 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** Now, I know you have an east and a west lateral
9 off this loop.

10 **MR. HEINEN:** Yes.

11 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** The west lateral, does it go all the way to the river,
12 Sabine river?

13 **MR. HEINEN:** All the way to the Texas line.

14 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** Okay. And, how about back the other way toward
15 Vermilion? I know you have the wildlife refuge there?

16 **MR. HEINEN:** All over the Grand Chenier and the --

17 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** Is that the property line for Cameron Parish, but
18 basically there at the reserve?

19 **MR. HEINEN:** Well, we go into Vermilion Parish.

20 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** What's that?

21 **MR. HEINEN:** We go into Vermilion Parish in that area.

22 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** This 230 goes into Vermilion?

23 **MR. HEINEN:** Not the 230. The distribution lines.

1 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** Oh, okay. Okay.

2 **MR. HEINEN:** Yeah.

3 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** So it's stops about at the property -- at the parish

4 line, more or less?

5 **MR. HEINEN:** It stops -- I don't -- I don't know how far Grand Chenier is from

6 the parish line.

7 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** Okay.

8 **MR. HEINEN:** That's where it stops is in Grand Chenier. We have a substation

9 there.

10 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** You know there's some other co-ops who have

11 coastline problems and challenges like this. I know for Royal. Has there been any

12 talk with FEMA that possibly we would have strengthened the lines on the co-ops

13 from some of these other areas of Louisiana?

14 **MR. HEINEN:** I'm going to let you answer that.

15 **MR. PUGH:** Yeah. Yeah. It's --

16 **SECRETARY FREY:** Make sure you hit the button.

17 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** You have to use your mic.

18 **MR. PUGH:** Mic? Yeah. That's been some discussions. We're waiting on the

19 federal government to roll out this reform of FEMA with the idea that there would

20 be funds to do resiliency during peacetime instead of waiting for a storm.

21 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** I know it hadn't been that long since we got hit

22 down in the Terrebonne/Lafourche area, and it devastated the systems down there

23 too, and I'm not sure what FEMA did in reaction to that.

1 **MR. PUGH:** A lot.

2 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** But we need to ask the federal government to --

3 if we're going to do this in Cameron Parish, we need to do the whole Gulf Coast

4 with -- where the co-ops are.

5 **MR. HEINEN:** Since you mentioned that, FEMA reform is at the top of our to-do

6 list, and visiting federal government, getting FEMA reform passed to where it is

7 much easier to get funds than what you -- the fight that we've had to go through.

8 **MS. KANTROW:** Right. An important thing with the co-ops, while FEMA does

9 participate and help, there's always a cost share. That comes down on the

10 membership. And so that's always something that we have to deal with when we're

11 determining what is in the best interest of the membership to move forward. But

12 we're grateful for FEMA. And Michael's done a great job with Royal, and Heinen's

13 done a great job with Jeff Davis on this project.

14 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** Okay. I don't have anything else.

15 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** JP, anything?

16 **VICE CHAIRMAN COUSSAN:** A year ago, we had the report and you had given

17 us kind of a snapshot of where you were, and at the end of this, it said you'll be

18 done this fall. So is this the announcement of the completion of the project, or is

19 there going to be kind of a -- another final event or, you know, announcement, or,

20 you know, is there anything formal that we need to do or that you're going to be

21 doing?

22 **MR. HEINEN:** Not at this point but there will be another -- there will be another

23 formal ending of this project, but it's not now. We're still -- have some things to do

1 before we -- we're actually quote finished. But once we do get finished, and
2 everything is done, we plan on having y'all all there with us to do a dedication.

3 **MS. KANTROW:** Just to reiterate, we're hopeful that this will be complete in
4 October '26, but we'll have post-construction activities continuing through,
5 probably, first quarter of 2027.

6 **VICE CHAIRMAN COUSSAN:** And there's some new --

7 **MR. PUGH:** But the line -- but the line will be hot all the way around within the
8 next 30 --

9 **VICE CHAIRMAN COUSSAN:** And there's new projects that this may end up
10 benefiting as well, so we're excited about the potential for the future.

11 **MR. HEINEN:** As well as we are, yeah.

12 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** You know, I'd just like to add one little thing, which
13 is, you know, Coastal Louisiana is becoming part of the nation's critical
14 infrastructure between LNG, and now with the addition of SpaceX, and so the
15 transmission system of Coastal Louisiana is going to be something that, you know,
16 is going to be a very important thing in the next coming few years, and decades to
17 come. So I think it's going to be important for the, you know, how we look at this
18 and how the federal government looks at this. So it's going to be interesting.

19 **MR. HEINEN:** And I think we have the --

20 **VICE CHAIRMAN COUSSAN:** Can you bring your mic up a little bit?

21 **MR. HEINEN:** We have the best pattern that you could find.

22 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Yeah.

23 **MR. HEINEN:** We have a 65-mile-an-hour wind rating.

1 **MR. PUGH:** One hundred and sixty-five.

2 **MR. HEINEN:** I'm sorry. What did I say?

3 **MR. PUGH:** Sixty-five.

4 **MR. HEINEN:** Oh, hell no. You can do that in a Category 1, so 165-mile-an-hour

5 annual rating --

6 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** I knew what you meant.

7 **MR. HEINEN:** -- substations. Yeah.

8 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** I'm an interpreter. I knew what you meant.

9 **MR. HEINEN:** You knew what I meant. Thank you.

10 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Well, okay. Well, thank you very much. Any

11 questions?

12 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** No. None, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to thank you

13 for the work and I've been watching this project. As you know, I'm from that area,

14 so I know the people down there in Cameron, and Calcasieu, and Vermilion very,

15 very closely. And, as you know, I made resiliency one of the top issues that I'm

16 focused on and so I think this is a good step. And I agree with you. I think part of

17 our next iteration is not only being reactive but being proactive and now looking at

18 our systems and our infrastructures and how we not only make our system reliable,

19 but also resilient in looking at the changing weather that we're seeing. I mean, I

20 think it is -- I took in my great aunts. I remember going from Delta and Laura, in

21 that timespan, especially, what it did to Lake Charles. And so it's not a question of

22 if anymore, but it's a question of when. And so I think that the work that we need

23 to do as a body and with the utilities together on this resiliency is important and this

1 is a, I think, a project that can showcase the promise of what we do when we think
2 about the changing of our electric grid. That hasn't been tested this way probably
3 since its creation in the early 1920's. So, but, thank you. And, Mike, from the video
4 it seems like you've weathered the storms quite a bit. Changing hair, changing all
5 kind of stuff there, I see you my friend. But you're still here. You're still here.

6 **MR. HEINEN:** I'll tell you what one of my board members said after he saw the
7 video. He said, just goes to show you what stress does to a man, so.

8 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Well, I appreciate it. You know, as a kid, my father
9 built a lot of seafood plants in Cameron and Chenier and I got to work in them and
10 got to spend a lot of time down there, so I'm glad to see the community spring back
11 and the system being done. So I'm very happy for you.

12 **MR. HEINEN:** Thank you.

13 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** So thank you very much, and we'll go ahead and
14 move back into the regular docket.

15 **MS. KANTROW:** I appreciate it. Thank y'all.

16 **MS. BOWMAN:** So next agenda item is Exhibit Number 6, which is Docket
17 Number U-37394. This is South Louisiana Electric Cooperative's petition for
18 approval of an abandonment of electrical facilities located in Terrebonne and
19 Lafourche Parishes pursuant to Commission General Order dated July 9, 2008. It's
20 a discussion and possible vote on a final recommendation on remand of the
21 Administrative Law Judge. In this matter, SLECA seeks Commission approval to
22 abandon certain electrical facilities pursuant to the Commission's General Order.
23 Originally, the facilities at issue were located at Lake De Cade, Lake Fields, Island

1 at the end of Four Point road, and Grand Pass. At the Commission's March B&E
2 this year, the Commission took under consideration the Administrative Law
3 Judge's February 27, 2026 Proposed Recommendation issued in this proceeding.
4 The Commission voted to grant SLECA's request to abandon the Lake De Cade
5 segment, found that SLECA failed to make a prima facie case, and, therefore, had
6 not met its burden of proof regarding the abandonment of the other three lines, and
7 remanded SLECA's request to abandon the remaining lines back to the ALJ to
8 allow SLECA to offer additional evidence to address evidentiary deficiencies, and
9 to make a prima facie case. At the outset, the ALJ determined as the General Order
10 encourages utilities to file petitions for abandonment only as a last resort, there is a
11 heightened burden of proof. Further, previous Commission abandonment decisions
12 were for the abandonment of natural gas utility services, whereas this proceeding
13 seeks the abandonment of electrical service. Additionally, the Commission's
14 previous abandonment proceedings were uncontested and handled on a Staff level
15 without intervention, protest, adversarial hearing, or Administrative Law Judge
16 recommendations. The ALJ concluded that the evidence presented on remand
17 attempted to define the public interest in terms of financial impact with little
18 consideration given to the other factors. Most of which were considered after the
19 decision to abandon had already been made. Hurricane Ida made landfall on August
20 2021. SLECA removed the infrastructure in 2022. SLECA attained the engineering
21 analysis in '24 and then developed the economic analysis based on a full upgrade
22 reconstruction. According to the ALJ, the record indicates that SLECA made very
23 limited attempts at exhausting reasonable alternatives prior to seeking

1 abandonment, such as other potential funding sources, other debt financing, such
2 as securitization, segmented or partial restoration, or in-kind restoration. The ALJ
3 determined that despite the extensive volume of additional evidence, the actual
4 content proved insubstantial. The ALJ concluded that SLECA's argument that it
5 presented sufficient evidence to satisfy the requirements of the General Order were
6 unconvincing. The ALJ recommends that because SLECA failed to sufficiently
7 support its request for abandonment, and based upon the testimony and evidence
8 presented in this matter, SLECA's petition for approval of proposed abandonment
9 of the remaining Lake Lines should be denied. The ALJ clarified that nothing in
10 the recommendation should be construed as an approval of any costs associated
11 with rebuilding the remaining Lake Lines, as the determination is limited to whether
12 or not SLECA's petition meets the requirements of the General Order. Further, the
13 ALJ's recommendation does not predetermine what regulatory approvals are
14 necessary or how SLECA should serve the remaining Lake Lines. And we do have
15 three yellow cards.

16 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** We'll go ahead and put a motion on the floor and
17 then we'll move to the cards. Any motions?

18 **VICE CHAIRMAN COUSSAN:** Yes, sir. I'd like to move to accept the ALJ's
19 recommendation.

20 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Any seconds?

21 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** I'll second.

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

1 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Seconded by Commissioner Francis, moved by
2 Commissioner Coussan. And we have cards?

3 **MS. BOWMAN:** Yes. Yes, sir. We have Ms. Sara Boudreaux, Ms. Donna
4 Boudreaux, and Mr. Grady Covington. You guys can come up, please.

5 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Okay. Y'all can all come up, because there's three
6 seats up here, if you want. And just --

7 **SECRETARY FREY:** Just remember to hit the button, that your green light's on.

8 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** -- press the button on the microphone, and you can
9 begin when you want. Just state your name. Who would like to go first? Rock,
10 paper, scissor. There you go.

11 **MR. GRADY COVINGTON:** I'll go. My name is Grady Covington. I reside in
12 Denham Springs, Louisiana, but I own a camp at the island of Four Point at the end
13 of the road there. It's -- this camp has been in our family since the '50s. I took it
14 over from my uncle after Hurricane Rita. We had to rebuild. We own the property.
15 We have running city water there, and we've had electricity since the '60s. Been
16 many storms come through since then and we were always -- got our service back.
17 The whole system was not torn down during this storm. We had one pole down.
18 We're a very small part. We had one pole tore down, and we had three still standing.
19 The camps were still hooked -- the service was still hooked to the pole until SLECA
20 tore it all down. I'm here asking for help. Our property value has dropped with the
21 loss of electricity. You pretty much can't sell the camp if you wanted to. The way
22 of life down there has changed. You know, it's -- one of my goals was to retire and
23 spend a lot of time down there, but it's very difficult at 70 years old to haul fuel and

1 do what you got to do live. Everybody knows in Louisiana what it's like to live
2 with a generator. It's tough. We do it, and I'm going to do it as long as I can, but
3 we feel like we should have power back. We've always had our power back. And
4 then it's very frustrating to sit here and watch what's done in other parts of the state,
5 and the solution from SLECA for us is to abandon us. I appreciate your time, and I
6 appreciate your consideration here. Thank you.

7 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Hang on one second. Let them go first.

8 **COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL:** Okay.

9 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Go ahead.

10 **MS. SARA BOUDREAUX:** Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Sara
11 Boudreaux. I just sat through the Jefferson Davis presentation, and I thought there
12 were so many things that were brought up that was very important as well to this
13 docket. You know, Jefferson Davis had damage. They did investigative funding --
14 investigative funding. They contacted FEMA twice a week for five years. They
15 pushed and pushed and pushed. And today you just saw the results of what they did
16 for their people in Jefferson Davis. I appreciate the Commission's decision today
17 to adopt the final recommendation. After nearly two years of participating in this
18 process, I am grateful that the record has been heard, and that SLECA has not been
19 permitted to abandon Lake Fields on the showing it made. Whatever happens with
20 Grand Pass and Four Point, I ask that Lake Fields be allowed to move forward on
21 its own record. It is not the Terrebonne lines, and the Commission does not have to
22 reach the same result for every remaining Lake Line. You've already demonstrated
23 that in March. Second, denial cannot mean more limbo. Lake Fields has already

1 been without power for five years. We have gone through discovery hearings,
2 briefs, a remand, additional testimonies, Staff review, and two ALJ
3 recommendations. Now that abandonment has been denied, I respectfully ask this
4 Commission to also determine what happens next. Give SLECA firm, short
5 timelines to do what this Commission requires. Please do not send Lake Fields
6 home today with another open-ended process and no end in sight. This decision
7 matters beyond Lake Fields. A utility cannot make the decision first, conduct the
8 required analysis later, make limited attempts to exhaust reasonable alternatives,
9 and then use the absence of their restoration plan as the reason that abandonment
10 would be granted. That missing plan cannot become SLECA's escape hatch. My
11 mom wrote something in her notes after SLECA's exceptions that has stayed with
12 me. Please respect and honor this process. Today, you have done that, and I
13 appreciate that. But please, finish the job for Lake Fields. Give us a clear path
14 forward. Put firm, short timelines on whatever comes next. Thank you.

15 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Yes, ma'am. And, ma'am.

16 **MS. DONNA BOUDREAUX:** Hello. My name is Donna Boudreaux and I am a
17 retired -- and we're not related.

18 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** You're all related. Trust me.

19 **MS. DONNA BOUDREAUX:** Somewhere, way back. I am a retired educator after
20 34 years serving in the public school system. I have been a member, a SLECA
21 member, for more than 20 years. I've continued to follow this case, and what
22 concerns me most is that evidence now shows that this could ultimately add \$12 a
23 month to a member's electric bill within 10 years, and would go up from there. And

1 I know \$12 doesn't sound much, but I can speak from personal experience, I am
2 responsible for five bills in my -- of my family's residence for power. We've had
3 businesses there. We've had streetlights. So I receive -- and I pay, personally pay,
4 for five bills. So that would mean 72 additional dollars per month. And over, you
5 know, -- excuse me, \$60 per month. In over a year, that's \$720. So as a retired
6 educator, and retirees, people on fixed incomes, such as myself, that money matters.
7 Particularly, when we're talking about paying it for years. I will have to come to
8 the decision, if this goes through, and we don't have the abandonment of the lines,
9 that I'll have to make a decision. Do I shut the power, take the streetlights out? Do
10 I cut the power off for the buildings that I have on my property that are no longer
11 using? It's a safety issue for me. So I'll have to determine, do I value -- do I focus
12 on my finances, or do I focus on my safety? That's a decision I think at my
13 residence. While I empathize and I feel for those people that -- the camp owners,
14 but you also have to consider the other thousands of other SLECA members who
15 live within the financial consequences of this decision. I support the board's
16 decision to seek abandonment, and I ask that you do also.

17 **COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL:** You support --

18 **MS. SARA BOUDREAUX:** Can I respond?

19 **VICE CHAIRMAN COUSSAN:** This isn't a debate.

20 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** It's not a debate. It's just presentation. Anyway,
21 Commissioner Campbell, you have a question?

22 **COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL:** You support the abandonment?

23 **MS. DONNA BOUDREAUX:** The abandonment, yeah. Uh-huh.

1 **COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL:** Let me ask a question. And if it's redundant, I
2 apologize. Did they offer you, the company SLECA, did they offer you a
3 settlement?

4 **MR. COVINGTON:** They offered us \$1,000.

5 **COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL:** How much?

6 **MR. COVINGTON:** \$1,000.

7 **COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL:** One thousand. What about generators? Did
8 they offer a generator?

9 **MR. COVINGTON:** No, sir. One thousand was the only offer we got.

10 **COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL:** Would you be interested in a compromise?

11 **MR. COVINGTON:** I strongly want power back. A compromise would have to
12 be something way more than \$1,000.

13 **COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL:** Well I understand that -- say is there -- what
14 do you think would be fair to everybody concerned, to the people who have to pay
15 for it, everybody has to pay for it, and to the people who lost power? What would
16 be -- what do you think would be something that we could work? We've done this
17 before. I recall a issue we had up in Webster Parish where people lost natural gas,
18 not electricity. And the company was coming up with a \$3,000, but we
19 compromised it and got it to 5,000, and everybody was -- could live with it. Is there
20 any compromise with your people?

21 **MR. COVINGTON:** I'm not saying there's no compromise, but \$5,000 wouldn't
22 even buy me a generator that would run my camp.

23 **COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL:** How much would a generator cost?

1 **MR. COVINGTON:** I haven't priced one like that. I'm assuming -- the best I could
2 tell you would be 15 to 20,000 to run my camp.

3 **COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL:** Well, that wouldn't -- that wouldn't -- and
4 you'd have to pay for -- everybody else would have to pay for that. That's not
5 possible I don't think. That's all.

6 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Commissioner Lewis.

7 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First, Ms. Boudreaux, I
8 want to personally once again thank you for your involvement in this proceeding.
9 I've read all of your briefs, your replies, your responses, and I can tell you
10 sometimes your responses have been better than some of the paid companies here
11 responses in my tenure at the Commission. So I want to just once again thank you
12 for your dedication and your willingness to be an active participant in this
13 proceeding. And I know when I was reading your response to the exceptions filed
14 by SLECA, part of your concerns was the economics, and I came to part of the trial.
15 I didn't get to stay for the full trial and heard -- and correct me if I'm wrong, one
16 of the issues that you kind of always kept raising, that there was uncorroborated,
17 kind of, economic evidence from SLECA that they didn't have, provide any bids,
18 invoices, vendor information, labor costs, or underlying documents. And so that is
19 your -- one of your biggest concerns about evaluating whether or not the price is
20 that we can't really determine whether the price that was submitted into the record
21 by SLECA as evidence, and I think the ALJ even concluded that in her
22 recommendation, can be verified because there was no supporting documents for
23 that information?

1 **MS. SARA BOUDREAUX:** That is correct.

2 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** And so that is primarily one of your big concerns,
3 and I appreciate your request, and I think that is something we would have to talk
4 to SLECA, but looking at the abandonment General Order, which I do think may
5 need some work, because I don't believe when it was written it contemplated
6 electric abandonments. As I've told you before, I've -- me and my Staff have
7 searched. I have not found another proceeding in any other Commission regarding
8 an electric abandonment versus a gas abandonment, which has its own sharing of
9 resources. But I hear your request, and I think that is something, the Commission,
10 we must discuss about, if we do adopt the ALJ's recommendation, SLECA does
11 have an obligation to serve under the regulatory compact. And I think it's time for
12 them to present a plan rather than anything else, but I just wanted to personally,
13 while you were at the table, once again thank you for your commitment, and thank
14 -- to all of the members. I know there was multiple intervenors who participated,
15 who showed up to the trial. I see you in the audience today. So I just want to thank
16 you for your participation in this process and know that your voices were heard and
17 listened to by this body. So thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Sure. And, I'd just like to add, before we go ahead
19 and call the vote, that understand that there is an obligation, and I think that -- I
20 think that, you know, we are in a position that you will find that there is going to
21 be, one way or another, a method to find service. And I think that the Commission's
22 in a position where it can come back shortly and it can direct the hiring of its own
23 expert to make determinations. I think that's an option for the Commission to take

1 under consideration and to find a pathway. There are other simpler ways to do it,
2 but I think that there's ways to do this. So I do think that you'll find that the
3 Commission is committed to finding a pathway for a resolution on this. So we've
4 had a motion and a second. We've heard the commentary. Are there any oppositions
5 to the motion and order? I mean, I'm sorry. The motion. [NONE HEARD] Hearing
6 none, the motion's approved. The ALJ's recommendation is affirmed. Thank you
7 very much. Next item, please.

8 **MR. COVINGTON:** Thank you.

9 **VICE CHAIRMAN COUSSAN:** Yes, sir.

10 **MS. BOWMAN:** Exhibit Number 7 is Docket Number U-37463. This is
11 SWEPCO's application for approval to construct the Hallsville natural gas plant
12 and to convert the Welsh Units 1 and 3 to natural gas. It's a discussion and possible
13 vote on an Uncontested Stipulated Settlement. On December 18, 2024, SWEPCO
14 filed the instant application, which was published in the Commission's Official
15 Bulletin and no interventions were received. SWEPCO seeks certification and
16 approval pursuant to the Commission's MBM Order and the 1983 General Order
17 to construct the 450-megawatt nameplate Hallsville Natural Gas Plant, located at
18 the former Pirkey site, as well as to convert Welsh Power Plant Units 1 and 3 from
19 coal to natural gas, preserving approximately 1,050 megawatts of nameplate
20 capacity. After review of SWEPCO's application and supporting testimony, Staff
21 filed its testimony and recommendation on June 17, 2025, which concluded that
22 SWEPCO demonstrated a need for the accredited capacity based on its RFP process
23 and SWEPCO presented the least cost capacity option. Staff recommended that the

1 Commission issue certificates of public convenience and necessity subject to
2 conditions listed therein. On August 15, 2025, SWEPCO filed rebuttal testimony
3 and Staff and SWEPCO subsequently entered into an Uncontested Stipulated
4 Settlement on July 27, 2026, which approved certification of both projects. Staff
5 recommends that the Commission accept the Uncontested Stipulated Settlement
6 filed into the record on July 27 of this year.

7 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Chairman moves to accept Staff recommendation.
8 Any seconds?

9 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** Second.

10 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Sorry. Seconded by --

11 **COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL:** Can you get Mr. Gilliam to come up here?

12 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Yeah. We're going to bring the guys. SWEPCO
13 people, please come up. Second by Commissioner Francis. And Commissioner
14 Campbell has questions. Are -- all of y'all attorneys, right?

15 **MS. LYNN FERRY-NELSON:** No.

16 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** You're not an attorney? Does she need a card?

17 **MS. BOWMAN:** Yeah. She can do it after. It's fine, Lynn.

18 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Okay. Commissioner Campbell has questions for
19 you.

20 **COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL:** Mr. Gilliam.

21 **MR. BOBBY GILLIAM:** Good morning. Good morning.

22 **SECRETARY FREY:** Bobby, make sure that it's --

23 **MR. GILLIAM:** Yeah. I'm Bobby Gilliam and this --

1 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** You can pull them close -- you can pull it closer, the
2 mics.

3 **MR. GILLIAM:** -- Lynn Ferry-Nelson from SWEPCO, and this is Dreda Smith,
4 senior counsel from SWEPCO.

5 **COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL:** Could you explain to me or to the people here
6 in the audience, basically, what SWEPCO is trying to do here? You're trying to
7 reconstruct and then -- some power plants, or a power plant? Can you tell us exactly
8 what's going on?

9 **MS. FERRY-NELSON:** Yes, sir. So we --

10 **COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL:** Speak closely.

11 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Can y'all hear in the back? You need to pull the
12 microphones closer to you, please.

13 **MS. FERRY-NELSON:** Yes. We are proposing construction of a 450-megawatt
14 gas fired combustion turbine at Hallsville, which is the site of the --

15 **COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL:** Hallsville, right? Go ahead.

16 **MS. FERRY-NELSON:** -- former Pirkey plant.

17 **COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL:** Yeah.

18 **MS. FERRY-NELSON:** In addition, converting two units at Welsh, Unit 1 and 3
19 from coal combustion to gas fired generation.

20 **COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL:** Pretty simple, right? This is a pretty simple
21 operation.

22 **MS. FERRY-NELSON:** Yes, sir.

23 **COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL:** It's been recommended by the Staff?

1 **MS. FERRY-NELSON:** Yes.

2 **COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL:** Okayed by the Staff.

3 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** That's it?

4 **COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL:** Yeah.

5 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** So no other comments? Go ahead, Commissioner

6 Lewis.

7 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And, one, I want to thank

8 you for meeting with me yesterday regarding this and then answering the questions.

9 One of the questions that I did have is when you were in your RFP process, you

10 assessed different bids and you got the capital cost per megawatt, and that can be

11 compared pretty simply, apples to apples. But, I'm curious on how do you weigh

12 the FAC in your analysis and account for the fuel costs variabilities that may affect

13 the ultimate price that customers pay?

14 **MS. FERRY-NELSON:** Sure. While I'm no expert on the modeling that takes

15 place, they do account for low, high, and then regularly forecasted fuel costs as part

16 of the modeling that they perform.

17 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Wonderful. Thank you. And so I know that these are

18 single-cycle. Was there a reason or any -- in the analysis why a combined-cycle

19 wasn't also considered for the plants?

20 **MS. FERRY-NELSON:** So we continued to look at a combined-cycle option at

21 the facility, but while this was being proposed initially, there was only a need for

22 capacity. We didn't need the extra energy that would come out of the combined

23 cycle, so we proceeded with the combustion turbine path at that point.

1 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Thank you. And I know that capacity has been a
2 challenge, so I'm just kind of briefly curious on the other ways that you were
3 looking at addressing the growing capacity shortfalls. I mean, are you looking at
4 any demand response programs, distributive energy resources, or grid enhancing
5 technologies, or expanding energy efficiency of this? We know that's not going to
6 be an ultimate solution to meet the demand on the capacity shortage, but is that also
7 a bridge that is being looking at as well as generation build up?

8 **MS. FERRY-NELSON:** Absolutely. So we have a very robust energy efficiency
9 program here in Louisiana, and also in Texas and Arkansas. And then this summer,
10 we just began implementation of actual curtailment as part of a DER program. We
11 have about 20 megawatts signed up under that program in the three states. So we
12 have been curtailing quite significantly over the peaks forecasted each of the
13 summer months thus far. And then, additionally, we just recently issued a request
14 for proposals for additional generation. It was an all source RFP.

15 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Wonderful. Thank you. And I look forward to seeing
16 that. And the last question I have is just because, you know, this is where I typically
17 -- what is the projected bill impact together for these two plants now?

18 **MS. FERRY-NELSON:** Right. As originally proposed, it was about \$7.75 per
19 month, per customer average residential usage.

20 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Okay. Great. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Okay. Well, we have a motion and a second. And
22 any opposition?

23 **COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL:** What's the motion?

1 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** The motion is to approve.

2 **COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL:** Okay.

3 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** So the motion is made by the Chair. Second by

4 Commissioner Francis. Any opposition? [NONE HEARD] Hearing none, the

5 matter's approved. Next item, please. Thank y'all.

6 **MR. GILLIAM:** Thank you.

7 **MS. BOWMAN:** Exhibit Number 8 is Docket Number U-37859. This is

8 Claiborne's Formula Rate Plan Annual Report for the test year ending December

9 31, 2025. It's a possible discussion on a joint report and draft order. On March 2 of

10 this year, Claiborne filed its 2025 FRP filing, wherein it reported that it had an

11 MDSC with adjustments of 1.82. Notice of the matter was published in the

12 Commission's Official Bulletin and no interventions were filed. Claiborne's FRP

13 provides a midpoint of MDSC of 1.85 with a bandwidth of 1.75 to 1.95. Claiborne

14 is authorized to adjust its rates to the midpoint in a test year if the adjusted earnings

15 fall outside the bandwidth. Since Claiborne's MDSC ratio fell within the bandwidth

16 this year there was no change in rates or FRP revenue deemed required for this test

17 year. On August 31, 2026 Claiborne and Staff filed a joint report and draft order

18 into the record resolving all issues in this matter. Staff recommends that the

19 Commission accept that joint report and issue the draft order filed into the record

20 on August 31, 2026.

21 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Chair moves to accept the Staff recommendation.

22 Any seconds?

23 **COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL:** I'll second.

1 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Seconded by Commissioner Campbell. Any
2 opposition? [NONE HEARD] Hearing none, the matter is approved. Next item,
3 please.

4 **MS. BOWMAN:** Next item is Exhibit Number 9, which is Docket Number U-
5 37882. This is Entergy's application for certification of generation and transmission
6 resources and for other related -- other rate relief. It's a discussion and possible vote
7 on a joint motion of Entergy Louisiana, the Alliance for Affordable Energy, and
8 the Union of Concerned Scientists to vacate the August 6, 2026 ruling pursuant to
9 Rule 57. On March 25 of this year, Entergy filed this application, and on July 14,
10 the Alliance for Affordable Energy and the Union of Concerned Scientists filed a
11 Motion for Access to Attorney's Eyes-Only Information through which the NPOs
12 sought access to attorney's eyes-only information for certain representatives. On
13 July 17, Entergy filed its opposition and after a hearing on the matter, which Staff
14 did not take a position on, the Tribunal's ruling was issued on August 6 of this year
15 granting the motion. On August 11, Entergy timely filed a Motion for Immediate
16 Review of Interlocutory Ruling as well as a motion to stay pending that review, and
17 the NPOs filed an opposition. Following the issuance of the ruling, the NPOs and
18 Entergy worked collaboratively in an effort to resolve this dispute, and on
19 September 4, the NPOs and Entergy filed the Joint Motion to Vacate the August 6,
20 2026 pursuant to Rule 57. Wherein, the parties stated they have reached an
21 agreement resolving the issues raised in the NPO's motion as well as for Entergy's
22 motion for immediate review. Since all issues were resolved through the stipulation,
23 the NPOs and Entergy jointly requested that the Commission vacate the

1 Administrative Law Judge's ruling which would also moot Entergy's pending
2 motion. Staff does not make a recommendation, as it did not take a position on this
3 NPO's AEO motion or on Entergy's Motion for Immediate Review. But should the
4 Commission decide to exercise its original and primary jurisdiction under Rule 57
5 and accept the joint motion resolving the NPO's AEO motion, Staff recommends
6 that the Commission's acceptance vacate the August 6, 2026 ALJ ruling and deem
7 Entergy's pending motion for immediate review moot.

8 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** I move to bring the matter up under Rule 57.

9 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Second.

10 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Seconded by Commissioner Lewis. Any opposition?

11 [NONE HEARD] Hearing none, I move. That because ELL, the Alliance for
12 Affordable Energy, and the Union for Concerned Scientists have filed a stipulation
13 in the record on September 4, 2026 attached to the motion to vacate, that resolves
14 all issues raised in the NPO's AEO motion, as well as ELL's Motion for Immediate
15 Review. I move that we: 1) Grant the motion and accept the stipulation filed into
16 the record on September 4, 2026; 2) Vacate the August 6, 2026 ruling from the
17 ALJ; and 3) Deem ELL's pending Motion for Immediate Review moot. Any
18 seconds?

19 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Second.

20 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Second by Commissioner Lewis.

21 **MS. BOWMAN:** And I -- and before we --

22 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** And I understand, we're going to have questions?

23 **MS. BOWMAN:** Yes, sir. We do have one yellow card from Chris Justin.

1 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Right. We have that yellow card from Chris Justin.
2 You can come up. And we also have the NPOs that we'd like to bring up as well as
3 Entergy, that Commissioner Lewis would like to hear from. So he can go first, and
4 then we'll go after that.

5 **MR. CHRIS JUSTIN:** Good morning, Chairman, Commissioners. Good to see
6 y'all again. Chris Justin, licensed professional engineer, former consultant to the
7 Commission, and Public Service Commissioner candidate for District 1. This
8 docket is about transparency for the Meta data center. This joint recommendation
9 is not a win for transparency. It is a consolation prize. An extremely narrow carve
10 out for seven individuals who had to fight tooth and nail to be able to look at what
11 Entergy's hiding behind an unprecedented level of secrecy. The Public Service
12 Commission overruled the Judge on sharing Meta's jobs analysis, overruled the
13 Judge on electricity usage, and overruled the Judge on Meta's overall investment.
14 We still cannot see the contract on who is paying for what. It would be one thing if
15 these contracts were private dealings between two private companies, but they are
16 not. There are three parties in this contract. Meta, Entergy, and the public. All of
17 us. Entergy literally wrote the rules, Meta just wants the deal done fast, and we
18 everyday Louisianans are backstopping the rest of it. By Entergy's own admission,
19 there's \$3.85 billion that falls on us if everything goes according to plan according
20 to the contract that is written for this expansion alone. Louisianans are a silent third-
21 party to a contract between Entergy and Meta, backstopping billions of dollars,
22 acting as the payor of last resort, and we don't get to look at the contract. That
23 makes no sense whatsoever. If you're signing a contract with a business, would you

1 let them write the contract, and then just take their word that they're going to do
2 what they say without you being -- even being able to see it? We used to be a proud
3 sunshine state -- this is the downfall of technology. We used to be a proud sunshine
4 state. Too many of our elected officials have twisted the rules and abused our trust,
5 though. Politicians have profited handsomely from the secrecy around this one
6 investment. Elected officials are buying or selling land and stock after we've seen
7 confidential information. And we have seen time and time again how this plays out,
8 and enough is enough. People across the aisle, Republicans, Democrats, and
9 independent voters, are confounded or furious by the secrecy and cost shifts around
10 this project. Everyone keeps saying this is a huge economic win for the state. Great.
11 Let's trust, but verify. I'm not going to let the corporation who is writing the
12 contract, who has a fiduciary responsibility to the investors to squeeze every cent
13 that they can from us, keep the contract hidden from me. So grant this extremely
14 narrow transparency fig leaf, but also show us the contract. Undo last month's
15 decision to overrule the Administrative Law Judge, and show the people of
16 Louisiana exactly how much debt we're piling onto our bills, and what we're
17 getting for it, so we can judge whether the cost is worth it.

18 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Thank you. All right. We're going to bring up the
19 NPOs and Entergy now. If you need some extra chairs, they're over by the side.
20 And Commissioner Lewis has some questions for y'all.

21 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a few
22 questions for the parties. And I want to be very clear that my purpose here is not
23 to relitigate any of the underlying matters, but to clarify for the public what we are

1 going to do, and why we're doing it today. So, either party, could you explain this
2 joint agreement and why each of you agree to this underlying motion to vacate?

3 **MR. HAND:** Good morning, Commissioner. Larry Hand on behalf of Entergy
4 Louisiana. And I guess following Mr. Justin, I should say I'm a certified
5 secondary school teacher, as well as a -- a barred attorney in the states of
6 Louisiana and Texas. You know, we -- we are committed, generally, in this Meta
7 process to transparency. You know, at the outset, this issue on the attorney eyes
8 only, highly sensitive information, it was initially restricted. But I want to be very
9 clear, from the outset of the proceeding, the counsel for the NPOs, their witnesses,
10 signed confidentiality agreements, and did have access, which has been the
11 practice at this Commission for as long as I've been doing it to make sure that the
12 experts and the lawyers have access to the information to litigate and advocate
13 their positions. They always had that. What this settlement does is it expands the
14 eligibility for that access to certain representatives of the NPOs. So some people
15 have thought that they didn't have any access, they in fact filed testimony using
16 that -- the AEO information. So we support that from the beginning, we supported
17 working with the NPOs to provide greater access, or I should say the same access
18 to additional people, and we support that process. Glad to have reached the
19 settlement, and we are committed to, you know, continuing the process that the
20 litigated proceeding -- working with all the parties, the Staff. And I won't attempt
21 to address Mr. Justin's comments other than to say, with all due respect, very little
22 facts were included in those statements. If you have any questions of me to dispel

1 that, I'm happy to answer them, but I'm not going to justify with response, unless
2 you have questions of me.

3 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Okay. Thank you, Mr. Hand. I have questions on
4 that, but on this matter, so I'll turn you to Ms. Miller.

5 **MS. SUSAN MILLER:** Thank you very much. Susan Miller, I represent the
6 Alliance for Affordable Energy and the Union of Concerned Scientists in this
7 proceeding. I'm a little disappointed in Mr. Hand's comments because the fact of
8 the matter is, who has not been able to see any of the AEO information is my
9 clients. And the clients are the ones who decide what issues to bring, whether to
10 settle, how the testimony should be prepared, and my clients have not been able to
11 do that because such a large swath of information was denied to them. I know you
12 said you didn't want to reargue this, but, to me, Mr. Hand already started that. But
13 anyway, what we have agreed to will allow my clients to see the information
14 before the hearing, before -- if there ends up being settlement negotiations, to
15 actually participate in settlement negotiations, and to participate in any briefing on
16 these matters. So I think it's very important. The clients are in control of the case,
17 so the clients have to see all the information that's -- that's filed in this case as
18 evidence, that's necessary for them to make their decisions to move -- how they
19 want to move the case forward. Thank you.

20 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Thank you. And, Ms. Miller, I just want to confirm
21 that you are saying that this stipulation that was filed in the record in September 4
22 adequately allows you to discuss with your client and access the information that

1 is needed to participate in a meaningful process in this proceeding going forward
2 before the hearing in October?

3 **MS. MILLER:** Yes, sir, it does.

4 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Well, I just want to thank both of you. This joint
5 motion I think reflects a voluntary agreement reached between the parties at their
6 own. Neither party is asking the Commission to evaluate the ALJ's ruling; instead
7 allowing this motion to vacate is merely meaning that we've resolved the
8 underlying issue of the AEO. I know I've discussed in detail this process with
9 both of you all, so I want to personally thank you for each other having an open
10 mind and commitment and working towards this agreement. Also, to you, Skylar.
11 I know that y'all have participated, and I know this has been a very hot topic
12 across the state and there's a lot of things flying around, but I think today
13 showcases that we still have a process that allows all parties the ability to make
14 their case and have a deliberative process. So I want to thank both of you for
15 stepping up to the plate and finding a solution so we can show that this
16 Commission is still open to having a deliberate process for all sides. So thank you,
17 and thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Good. There's been a motion by the Chair,
19 seconded by Commissioner Lewis. Any opposition? [NONE HEARD] Hearing
20 none, the matter's approved.

21 **MS. BOWMAN:** Before you guys leave the table, for Ms. Miller and Mr. Hand,
22 will you guys sign the clipboard, please?

23 **MS. MILLER:** Sure.

1 **MS. BOWMAN:** Thank you.

2 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Well, Larry's an attorney, does he require --

3 **SECRETARY FREY:** He --

4 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Oh, the clip --

5 **MS. BOWMAN:** Well --

6 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Oh, the clipboard, not the card.

7 **MS. BOWMAN:** Ms. Miller, will you sign the clipboard? And, Mr. Hand, will

8 you sign the yellow card?

9 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Yeah.

10 **MS. MILLER:** Sure.

11 **MS. BOWMAN:** Thank you.

12 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Counsels, just clipboard. Other folks, yellow cards.

13 Anyway, next item, please.

14 **MS. BOWMAN:** Next item is Exhibit Number 10, which is Docket Number

15 37927. This is Washington-St. Tammany's formula rate plan annual report filing

16 for test year ending on December 31, 2025. On May 8 of this year, WST filed its

17 annual report filing, which was published in the Commission's Official Bulletin

18 with no interventions. Commission Order Number U-36399 established WST's

19 current rider, and under the cooperative's FRP, the time interest earned ratio

20 bandwidth is 1.4 to 1.6. In accordance with that FRP, should -- WST is authorized

21 to adjust its rates to the midpoint TIER of 1.5 in any given test year if the adjusted

22 earnings fall outside that authorized bandwidth. In this test year filing, WST

23 reported a calculated TIER of 1.523, and as it falls within the TIER's bandwidth,

1 WST does not need adjusted rates. Staff also is recommending that WST be
2 allowed to create a regulatory liability in regards to interest expenses to flow back
3 to ratepayers over a 12-month period on a kilowatt per hour basis, as indicated by
4 the test year. Staff further agreed with WST's treatment of the refund of interest
5 expenses from FEMA that was recovered in previous test years. The parties filed
6 a joint report and draft order into the record on August 24, which acknowledged
7 the resolution of all issues. As such, Staff recommends that the Commission
8 accept the joint report, and issue the draft order, filed into the record on August
9 24, 2026.

10 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** I'm going to -- the Chair moves to accept the
11 Staff's recommendation on this. Any seconds?

12 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** Second.

13 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Seconded by Commissioner Francis. Any
14 opposition? [NONE HEARD] Hearing none, the matter's approved. Next item,
15 please.

16 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** Oh, Mr. Chairman?

17 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Yes, sir.

18 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** I'd like to ask the -- do we have a representative
19 for --

20 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** WST?

21 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** Yeah.

22 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Yeah. Kara Kantrow.

23 **SECRETARY FREY:** Yeah. I saw -- Dane's here, too, I think. Yeah.

1 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** I think something like this unusual happening
2 calls for a little gloating.

3 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Don't let them gloat.

4 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** So who we got here?

5 **MS. KARA KANTROW:** Kara Kantrow on behalf of WST, and I have the CEO
6 with me, Dane Hocott.

7 **MR. DANE HOCOTT:** Yes. I'm Dane Hocott. I'm the CEO of Washington-St.
8 Tammany.

9 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** My question is, how'd you do that?

10 **MR. HOCOTT:** Well, we just worked really hard to get the interest reimbursed
11 that we have paid on the loans for the Ida storm restoration. And we worked with
12 FEMA, and we were able to show that that was reimbursable. That was part of the
13 original RFP when we were recovering those costs. And I believe I came up here
14 several years ago, and that question was posed. What are we going to do if we do
15 get that money reimbursed? And we were able to get it. And I said then we would
16 return it to the membership, which is exactly what we're going to do.

17 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** Is your area growing? Your meters, numbers
18 growing, you know?

19 **MR. HOCOTT:** So we're growing at about 1%. The years -- so not significant
20 growth, but we are seeing some growth. There's a lot of work going on in the
21 parishes, and so it could pick up during the near future. We certainly haven't seen
22 anything from any of the areas where data centers are coming in.

1 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** Well, I know that's Chairman Skrmetta's area.
2 Has he been a help to you, to help get those prices down?
3 **MR. HOCOTT:** Absolutely.
4 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** All right. Thank you. That's good. Well --
5 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Just keeping the thumb on it.
6 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** Well I just -- I didn't want this to go by without
7 not recognizing you and your job. You know, you deserve a hand for that. And
8 talk to these other co-ops and get -- challenge them to do the same thing. Okay?
9 **MR. HOCOTT:** Okay. Yes, sir.
10 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** They got the same lawyer.
11 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** Thank you.
12 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Thank you very much. We have a motion and a
13 second. Any opposition? [NONE HEARD] Hearing none, the matter's approved.
14 Next item.
15 **MS. BOWMAN:** Exhibit Number 11 is Docket Number U-37941. This is Baton
16 Rouge Water Works doing business as Baton Rouge Water's 2025 formula rate
17 plan annual report. It's a discussion and possible vote on a joint report and draft
18 order. On May 27 of this year, Baton Rouge Water filed its 2025 FRP filing,
19 which was published in the Commission's Official Bulletin with no interventions.
20 Order Number U-37761 is Baton Rouge Water's current FRP, and provides for a
21 midpoint ROE of 9.5 with an adjusted -- with a bandwidth range of 9 to 10%.
22 Pursuant to that FRP, Baton Rouge Water is authorized to adjust its rates to the
23 midpoint in any given test year should the earnings fall outside the authorized

1 bandwidth. The 2025 filing determined that Baton Rouge Water's adjustments
2 earned -- with adjustments earned a 5.9 during the test year, and since that
3 calculated ROE fell below the bandwidth's prescription by Commission's Order
4 Number U-37761, the implementation of a rate increase of approximately \$2.7
5 million in revenue is required. As there are no unresolved issues identified during
6 the FRP filing, and a joint report and draft order was filed, memorializing that on
7 August 26 of this year. As there are no unresolved issues, Staff and Baton Rouge
8 Water request that the Commission accept the joint report, and issue the draft
9 order, filed into the record on August 28, 2026.

10 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Any motions?

11 **VICE CHAIRMAN COUSSAN:** I make a motion to accept the Staff
12 recommendation.

13 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Moved by Commissioner Coussan. Any seconds?

14 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Second.

15 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Seconded by Commissioner Lewis. Any
16 opposition? [NONE HEARD] Hearing none, the matter's approved. Next item,
17 please.

18 **MS. BOWMAN:** Next item is Exhibit Number 12, which is undocketed. It's a
19 general solicitation of Fishman Haygood regarding certification of new large load.
20 It's a discussion and possible vote to retain Fishman Haygood. There have been a
21 number of jurisdictional electric utilities seeking to have preliminary
22 conversations with Staff regarding potential certifications of new large load and
23 the Commission has already seen five certifications filed seeking Commission

1 certification. Fishman Haygood not only recently assisted Staff with the
2 certification of new generation and transmission for a customer of Entergy, the
3 firm is also assisting in Entergy's current certification, as well as two transmission
4 dockets by SWEPCO, and is working on the private in use electric -- private in-
5 use network rulemaking. Given Fishman Haygood's knowledge of large load
6 customers, as well as the parameters included within the large load guidelines,
7 and the unknown of how many potential certifications the Commission may
8 receive in the future, Staff solicited Fishman Haygood pursuant to the
9 Commission's General Order dated November 10, 2014, specifically Section V,
10 which allows for a solicitation of a consultant without specifying a total estimated
11 budget. In these scenarios, discounted hourly rates are to be provided. Based on
12 the solicitation, Fishman Haygood did provide a proposal that consisted of hourly
13 rates to assist Staff. Staff recommends that the Commission retain Fishman
14 Haygood for general counseling services with jurisdictional utilities regarding
15 non-docketed proceedings associated with new large loads at hourly rates of 70 to
16 \$450, and hourly rates of 70 to \$475 for any proceedings seeking certification of
17 new large loads.

18 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Any motions?

19 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** I'll make a motion.

20 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Motion by Commissioner Francis. Any seconds to
21 accept Staff recommendation?

22 **VICE CHAIRMAN COUSSAN:** I'll second.

1 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Seconded by Commissioner Coussan. Any
2 opposition? [NONE HEARD] Hearing none, the matter's approved. Next item.
3 **MS. BOWMAN:** Next item is our reports, resolutions, and discussions. We
4 already handled the report by Jefferson Davis Electric Cooperative, but there is
5 also a report of the Low-Income Affordability Working Group pursuant to Order
6 Number U-36959. And in Entergy's most recent rate case, the Commission issued
7 Order U-36595, accepting the global settlement agreement. Section VI of that
8 stipulation directed Entergy to convene a Low-Income Affordability Working
9 Group to consider the availability and accuracy of external data sources for
10 demographic information on residential customers, potential programs targeted
11 low-income customers to help mitigate affordability and arrearages concerns, and
12 how to identify and implement programs that maximize the deployment of federal
13 funding available for weatherization and energy efficiency programs, or services
14 for low income customers. The working group initially convened on April 28,
15 2025, and has conducted six meetings to discuss the aforementioned issues. The
16 participants included Entergy, LEUG, the Alliance, AARP, NAACP, the United
17 Way, and Commission Staff. At the conclusion of these six meetings, the
18 participants filed a joint report of the working group on September 3 of this year,
19 and that report details the actions taken by the group as well as potential programs
20 to be implemented by Entergy to mitigate affordability and arrearages concerns.
21 Specifically, the joint report recommended two programs. First, an optional
22 residential time-of-use rate, and ELL noted that that rates leverages AMI
23 capabilities and may also serve as a cost-effective form of demand response. And,

1 second, a pilot Arrearage Management Plan intended to assist low-income,
2 elderly, and disabled customers with significant arrearages. After the one-year
3 pilot program for arrearages, Entergy proposes to file a report into this docket,
4 documenting the status of that pilot, including how many customers completed
5 the program and the amount of arrearages forgiven, and recommending whether
6 Entergy should pursue a permanent Arrearage Management Plan. Staff
7 recommends that the Commission accept the joint report of the Low-Income
8 Affordability Working Group and confirm that no outstanding disputed issues
9 exist with regards to the working group.

10 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Mr. Chairman, I make a --

11 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** It's just a report, so you don't have to do it. So
12 report made, right?

13 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Do we have to --

14 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Do we have to accept the report? The report's
15 Commission -- confirmed?

16 **MR. JUSTIN BELLO:** Commissioners -- Commissioners, Justin Bello on behalf
17 of Commission Staff. We just wanted to make sure that the Commission
18 recognized that there were no outstanding issues. That's all.

19 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Okay. Thank you.

20 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Okay. All right.

21 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** I do have a question for Entergy.

22 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Sure. Go ahead.

23 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Can I have Entergy to the table for a brief moment?

1 **MR. HAND:** Good morning, again, Commissioner. I'm bringing some help for
2 the harder questions. Larry Hand, again, on behalf of Entergy Louisiana. I'm
3 joined by Ryan Jones. He's our director of reg affairs. He was -- he and others on
4 my team were more involved in the daily activities and the multiple meetings that
5 led to this report. So happy to answer any questions you have.

6 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Well, first, I want to take a moment to praise the
7 work that this working group has done. As you know, this was part of our
8 conversation when we were considering your FRP a few years ago, and we came
9 to the conclusion. As you know, affordability has been an issue that I have taken
10 up and really wanted to look at. So I really appreciate the work that was put into
11 this, with also some of the outside stakeholders who are not typical participants in
12 the Commission hearing to bring data and evidence to us. And so, Mr. Jones,
13 could you briefly describe the two recommended programs that the joint report
14 mentions that Entergy will be pursuing?

15 **MR. RYAN JONES:** Yeah, of course. And my name is Ryan Jones, again, on
16 behalf of Entergy Louisiana. Good morning, and thank you for the opportunity to
17 provide the report today on the programs. The two programs that Ms. Bowman
18 mentioned, and the Arrearage Management Plan pilot and a residential time of use
19 rate option, I think we see as complements to our existing portfolio of
20 affordability-focused programs that include energy efficiency and demand
21 response that were approved earlier this year. The Arrearage Management Plan
22 Pilot Program is one that is designed to provide assistance to customers with
23 significant arrears to allow them to: 1) Eliminate their arrears balance by making

1 or staying current on their future bills over a 12-month period, and then also
2 provides -- we hope a way to give more predictable, stable, and lower bills to
3 those customers who go through the program by pairing them with energy
4 efficiency home weatherization, and also level billing. The small pilot that we're
5 starting on really in this -- the first half of next year is for 150 customers with
6 arrears between \$300 and \$1,500, and who are also eligible because this program
7 would be funded by our -- the Power to Care Foundation. So what that means is
8 that there's not going to be any effect on customer rates, other than those
9 customers that are participating, of course. Once -- we'll be working with
10 customers as they move through the program over the 12 months, again, staying
11 current on their bill, would get -- well, you know, eliminate a portion of their
12 arrears balance, and then at the end of the report -- or the pilot period, would file a
13 report with the Commission to assess the effectiveness of the program. To me,
14 that means are customers making it all the way through the program? Are they
15 staying current on bills after they've made it through the program? And then to
16 recommend any modifications that might be useful for a larger scale program. As
17 far as timing of implementation, I mentioned the first half of 2027. We know that
18 there's going to be some billing system upgrades required to do this, and so that's
19 why, you know, we're working through that process now, to implement the
20 program in the first half of next year.

21 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** And we will get a report on the pilot program and
22 the success rate and the evidence or -- that you found on this pilot to see whether

1 or not this should be something proposed long-term. And can you tell me what is
2 the length of the pilot?

3 **MR. JONES:** It's a 12-month period of time that customers will participate in the
4 pilot. It'll take us some time to find all of the folks that will participate across the
5 state, so it'll be a, you know, a 12 or plus month program.

6 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Thank you. And on the time-of-use program that is
7 identified in the joint report, is this considered a pilot as well, or are you planning
8 to run that indefinitely as part of a tariff in your rate structure?

9 **MR. JONES:** Good question. So this is a recommendation from the working
10 group for Entergy to file a residential time of use rate option that would be a
11 permanent rate offering. So we have to -- we'll make this filing pursuant to the
12 Commission's tariff filings general order. So that'll be a -- we'll file that before
13 the end of this year, and then it will be, you know, considered over the next
14 several months. And with a goal of implementing it by 2028. And time-of use-rate
15 for people that aren't familiar, they're not a new thing. I think they're used more
16 frequently by larger customers who can actively manage process loads and things
17 like that. Not really super popular for residential customers, at least to date. But
18 we think that the conceptual rate design that we've talked about with the working
19 group is a good entry point for residential customers, and it's relatively easy to
20 understand. And I'll talk a little bit more about how that rate is structured. It has --
21 provides for an on-peak period. That'll be your 3 to 7 P.M., you know, when the
22 net load on the system is highest from the months of June to September. And
23 that'll be your highest price period where we're trying to incentivize customers to

1 not use power during those periods of time, but that put a lot of stress on the grid
2 and drive high wholesale market prices. So you'll see higher prices during that
3 peak, you know, four-hour period during those four months. There's a -- what we
4 call a discount period, which is from 12 to 6 A.M., which is really your lowest
5 price period to try to incentivize things like electric vehicle charging overnight.
6 So, again, it puts less stress on the grid. And then all other times are off-peak
7 periods. The actual rates that'll be assigned to each period, we discussed those
8 conceptually with the working group. Those will be filed as part of our tariff
9 filing. But I think, you know, our analysis has suggested or indicated that there is
10 a relatively easy pathway for customers who are interested in changing their
11 behavior and their usage patterns to realize savings under that rate.

12 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Great. And I want to thank you for proposing that. I
13 think that's been one of the affordability challenges that I think we face is that not
14 only can we talk about affordability from the rate structure, but we have to
15 probably talk about it from usage and demand. So encouraging customers to be
16 better energy users, understanding the energy market, and how their prices play is
17 important. And I know -- I strongly support these things. I want to thank you for
18 your work. I know this is just the beginning. I know there's other things that -- Mr.
19 Hand, is there --

20 **MR. HAND:** No. I just wanted to, before we close it, want to emphasize what
21 Mr. Jones said. We will be filing this time-of-use tariff pursuant to the rules.
22 People will have a chance to look at it. But it is optional. So if you don't want to
23 participate and be exposed to higher on-peak pricing and take advantage of lower

1 off-peak pricing, you'll pay the normal rate. So it is an option for customers. So in
2 that sense, we're looking forward to providing the option. The Power to Care
3 Foundation that we're using to fund the Arrearage Management Plan, I just want
4 to remind folks that, you know, those are -- traditionally, we have funded the
5 Power to Care program with employee contributions to that, which are matched
6 by shareholders. So it's kind of -- it's, you know, of course not in customer rates,
7 it is employee and shareholder-driven. I'm really pleased to see more currently
8 when we've done the first deal with Meta, part of that deal was they, Meta, agreed
9 to -- they would contribute during the term of that agreement, \$1 million per year
10 to the Power to Care, which Entergy has agreed to match. So the Power to Care
11 funds will grow through that, and if the next Meta deal is approved, it's not before
12 you today, they also have a larger contribution from Meta. So the Power to Care
13 can be a more powerful tool, no pun intended, to help affordability issues across
14 the state. And lastly, I would say, you know, affordability, high bills, summer, it's
15 a really tough time with customers. These are not the only things that Ryan talked
16 about we're looking at to help with that. I can't get into details yet, because we're
17 still trying to finalize it, but in the very near future, I will reach out to y'all and let
18 you know of an additional program that we will roll out using Power to Care
19 funds to provide some one-time bill relief to customers in this high bill season. So
20 I can't announce it today, because the details are being finalized, but I'll reach out
21 to each of you, let you know before it's announced, and obviously would
22 appreciate your help in getting the word out to our customers.

1 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Thank you. Thank you so much, Mr. Hand. And
2 like I said, I truly appreciate your -- Entergy's dedication, and I think this is a start
3 for us all here in the Commission. As you know, I co-chair -- co-vice-chair the
4 Consumer and Public Interest Committee at NARUC, and pending a
5 constitutional ratification at our annual meeting in November, we will change our
6 name to the Consumer Affordability and Public Interest. So even the NARUC is
7 taking affordability as a priority, and we're seeing these affordability dockets
8 open up. Kentucky, Kansas just did some of those, and so I think this is work that
9 not only I want to continue on with you, but encourage the other utilities as well,
10 as we really try to grapple with this in a meaningful and comprehensive way to
11 address, I think, what's the most pressing issue facing us, which is affordability.
12 But I thank you and Mr. Jones for your work. I thank the entire low-income
13 working group, the Alliance, the NAACP, AARP, the United Way, who we met a
14 lot of times, very intensely, and I think we've created some great work products,
15 and the work continues. So thank you, and thank you, Mr. Chairman.

16 **MS. BOWMAN:** And we do have one yellow card from the Alliance for
17 Affordable Energy that would like to speak on this as well.

18 **MS. ALAINA DILAURA:** Hello. Good morning, Commissioners. Alaina
19 DiLaura on behalf of the Alliance for Affordable Energy. I just wanted to take an
20 opportunity to say that we really support the proposals that have been put forth
21 and appreciate both the Commission and Entergy working to explore some
22 solutions that can help with affordability. We know that there is a great need in
23 our state. And so this is a good first step forward toward easing some of the

1 burdens that families across the state are experiencing. I just want to point out a
2 couple of things. One, as part of the working group, Entergy provided information
3 on the customer accounts that really gave us a better sense of the financial strain
4 that customers across the state are experiencing. And in 2024, the most recent
5 year of the data that was provided, nearly 1.3 million customers had a late
6 payment notice that was issued, and 120,000 of those accounts were ultimately
7 disconnected from power that same year. That's a really significant number that
8 represents a great need in our state. And so as this program -- as the programs are
9 launched, there are a couple things that we'd like to see to ensure that the families
10 who need it most are served. First, data collection and reporting are essential. I
11 appreciate y'all acknowledging that there will be some reporting on the back end
12 so we can understand who's being served, exactly how, and what those benefits
13 that real families are receiving are. The Commission should require that
14 transparent reporting of participation, bill impacts, arrearage balances,
15 disconnections, and outcomes for low-income customers. As was mentioned, the
16 program should remain voluntary on the time of use rate front, and customers
17 should not be -- face higher rates or be penalized for failure to participate. One
18 other consideration in regards to the arrearage pilot program, again, is to offer
19 some perspective. It is great that we're starting with a group of folks that are
20 really in need. Again, these are the low-income, elderly, and disabled folks. But
21 there are a lot of people beyond that group that are in need in Louisiana. In fact,
22 49% of Louisianans fall under the ALICE threshold, and are struggling to meet
23 basic needs in the state. Again, based on the data that Entergy shared, over the last

1 three years, there were on average around 160,000 customers a year with utility
2 debt. That's significantly more than the 150 households that this pilot is slated to
3 serve. And so, again, we support and are excited about the program, and also
4 think that the Commission should look at these programs as an opportunity to
5 gather data and information that can inform the future program development to
6 make it stronger, more comprehensive, and serve more people. So, again, thank
7 you to the Commission, thank you to the Staff, and thank you to Entergy for
8 working with us to come up with some of these solutions.

9 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Okay. Any other points on this?

10 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** I got a question. I got a question.

11 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Yeah. Go ahead, Commissioner.

12 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** Is the -- so this is somewhat ratepayer funded?

13 **MR. HAND:** No, absolutely not.

14 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** Okay.

15 **MR. HAND:** So the Arrearage Management Plan, we're funding that, it's a pilot,
16 short-term. We're funding that with Power to Care funds, which came -- it's a
17 combination of Entergy employee -- my paycheck I have a deduction, I give
18 money to Power to Care each month, and the shareholders of the company match
19 that. So it is no ratepayer funds we're using for this. Similarly, I mean, I -- the
20 time-of-use rate, it is a filed rate -- an approved rate. I don't know how to think
21 about that in terms of answering the question, but that is a normal rate we're just
22 going to incentivize for those who want to do it, to use less power on-peak when
23 it's more expensive.

1 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** Okay. I got it.

2 **MR. HAND:** There's no new charge for any of this for customers.

3 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** We don't have any -- Okay. Good.

4 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** All right. Thank you.

5 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** Well, that's --

6 **VICE CHAIRMAN COUSSAN:** I wanted to just make a brief comment --

7 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** Have you --

8 **VICE CHAIRMAN COUSSAN:** Oh, sorry.

9 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** Have you -- aware of Cleco or SWEPCO maybe

10 doing this? Have y'all talked to them, or do you know?

11 **MR. HAND:** I am. I will defer to y'all.

12 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** You're going to challenge them. Is Entergy

13 going to challenge the other investor-owned's to do this? How about that?

14 **MR. HAND:** I hereby challenge them to match what we're doing.

15 **MS. DILAURA:** And I second.

16 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** All right. I've got a harder question for you now.

17 What do you say about 10 co-ops or nonprofit, if you suggested them do this? I

18 guess their ratepayers could vote to do that, to develop some cash for it.

19 **MR. HAND:** Yeah. And it's available to anybody. And I know there are a lot of

20 philanthropic efforts that co-ops have. So they could, I think, do something

21 similar. I'm not an expert on co-op bylaws, finance, but --

22 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** Well, we could challenge them, too, couldn't

23 we? Right here? All right.

1 **MR. HAND:** I hereby challenge my co-op friends.

2 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** Okay. All right.

3 **MS. DILAURA:** Seconded, again.

4 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** All right. Thank you.

5 **VICE CHAIRMAN COUSSAN:** Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to briefly state

6 that I appreciate the Alliance's comments. This is actually what I thought the

7 Alliance for Affordable Energy was about when I kind of read about them.

8 Instead of a lot of the kind of anti-capitalist and environmental activism posts that

9 I see y'all make on social media. So, for what it's worth, I appreciate that, you

10 know, this part of your mission, because I think this is what resonates with me

11 and for other Commissioners as well. So, thank you.

12 **MS. DILAURA:** I appreciate that. And we are certainly concerned about all the

13 different types of issues that affect residents directly on their bills. So we keep it

14 broad over here.

15 **VICE CHAIRMAN COUSSAN:** Yeah. I mean, some of the posts go a little bit

16 further than that, you know. I'm looking back in June when it was about --

17 reposting it's about profit, plain and simple, not American energy needs. And then

18 further, you know, some of the energy and environmental activism issues. So I

19 appreciate the broadness of the mission, but just in my, I guess, short time in the

20 PSC, I thought this was the mission, and I think it's a great mission. So that's it.

21 Thank you.

22 **MS. DILAURA:** Thank you. I appreciate that, Commissioner. And just one

23 comment in response to that is, we definitely support American owned energy.

1 We want to see renewables developed more across the state, and so we are
2 certainly not anti-energy or development in Louisiana.

3 **VICE CHAIRMAN COUSSAN:** Well, not if they are more expensive than other
4 alternatives, because it's affordable energy, not just renewable energy.

5 **MS. DILAURA:** That's right. That's exactly right, which is why we're
6 advocating for transparency and running the numbers so we can see how it all
7 checks out.

8 **VICE CHAIRMAN COUSSAN:** Appreciate it.

9 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Yeah. Okay. Reports made. Thanks very much.

10 **MR. JONES:** Thank you.

11 **MS. DILAURA:** Thank you.

12 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** We've got some confirmations to do --

13 **SECRETARY FREY:** We have some ratifications, too. So, Exhibit 13, the RTO
14 ratifications. It's a discussion and possible vote to ratify interventions of the
15 LPSC in RTO-related or other FERC proceedings. The matter is on the agenda for
16 ratification of interventions filed on behalf of the LPSC in RTO and FERC-related
17 proceedings pursuant to the scope of work previously approved in connection
18 with retention of both Fishman Haygood and UPC. Due to the short deadlines
19 allowed for these interventions, if advanced Commission approval is not possible,
20 the Secretary on the recommendation of UPC or Fishman Haygood, may
21 authorize the initial interventions, comments, or protests -- sorry, subject to
22 ratification at a following B&E. For any pleadings the Commission does not
23 ratify, all work is immediately ceased, and any pleadings filed shall be withdrawn.

1 The recommendation -- Staff recommends that the Commission ratify actions
2 taken in the following dockets: EL26-74, ER26-3169, ER26-3170, CP26-549,
3 AD26-10, ER26-2825, ER-26-3248, ER26-3309, ER2634- -- or 26-3426, ER26-
4 3459, and ES26-63.

5 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Chair moves to ratify the interventions of the LPSC
6 and the RTO-related and other Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
7 proceedings as previously stated into the record.

8 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** I abstain.

9 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Any seconds?

10 **VICE CHAIRMAN COUSSAN:** He's abstaining.

11 **SECRETARY FREY:** You don't have to abstain for this.

12 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** No, doc, you don't have to abstain on this one.

13 **SECRETARY FREY:** This is RTO --

14 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** This is FERC.

15 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** Oh, okay. Sorry about that.

16 **VICE CHAIRMAN COUSSAN:** Second.

17 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** So seconded by Commissioner Coussan. Any
18 opposition? [NONE HEARD] Hearing none, they're approved. Next one.

19 **SECRETARY FREY:** While we're on this item, I have to give a shout out to my
20 Executive Counsel's husband, who's my optometrist. If you noticed, I read all that
21 without readers.

22 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Without glasses, right?

1 **SECRETARY FREY:** Somehow my eyesight has gotten better, and my
2 prescription was lowered. So, thanks, Jonathan, on the record.

3 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** How 'bout that?

4 **SECRETARY FREY:** I couldn't pass it up.

5 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** So he did less and worked better. Okay.

6 **MS. BOWMAN:** That's at least the third or fourth time I've heard that this week.

7 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Okay. Well, you'll be hearing it, like, more, I think.

8 **MS. BOWMAN:** So still on Exhibit 13, we have discussion and possible vote to
9 ratify votes cast by Commissioner Francis acting as the Commission's
10 representative on the Regional State Committee of the Southwest Power Pool.
11 The matter is on the agenda for ratification of votes cast on August 3, 2026 by
12 Commissioner Francis. Staff followed the protocols set forth in the Special Order
13 17-2019 to consult with the Chair and the Secretary prior to the vote. The
14 protocols also require that the votes cast are ratified by the Commission at a future
15 B&E. The first voting item approved RR784, which set plan -- which set the
16 planning reserve margin requirements for load serving entities at 17% in the
17 summer and 38% in the winter. Commissioner Francis voted in favor of this item.
18 The second voting item assigned the Eastern Interconnection Area of the
19 Loveland Area to the North Deliverability Area, and Commissioner Francis voted
20 in favor. The third voting item assigned the Eastern Interconnection Area for the
21 Loveland Area to the Nebraska Subregion. Commissioner Francis abstained from
22 voting on that item. The fourth voting item proposed limit -- to limit the footprint
23 of the North Subregion to only the area in the Eastern Interconnection and to

1 calculate transmission rates applied in the North Subregion by combining the
2 loads and applicable revenue requirements in the North Subregion. Commissioner
3 Francis voted in favor of this item. The fifth voting item proposed clarifications
4 for establishing the consolidated planning process for the Western
5 Interconnection, and Commissioner Francis voted in favor of this item. Staff
6 recommends that the Commission ratify the votes taken by Commissioner Francis
7 on August 3, 2026 as the Commission's representative to the SPP RSC.

8 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** The Chair moves to ratify the votes taken by
9 Commissioner Francis in the SPP. And this is also MISO as well, correct?

10 **MS. BOWMAN:** That's just SPP. We don't --

11 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Just SPP?

12 **MS. BOWMAN:** We also have OMS votes.

13 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Okay. So this is on the SPP votes, and
14 Commissioner Francis will abstain. Any seconds?

15 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Second.

16 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Seconded by Commissioner Lewis. Any
17 opposition? [NONE HEARD] Matter's approved.

18 **MS. BOWMAN:** So now we go to the MISO votes.

19 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Okay.

20 **MS. BOWMAN:** It's votes to -- vote to ratify a vote cast by Commissioner
21 Francis acting as the Commission's representative on the board of directors of the
22 organization of MISO States. This matter's on the agenda for the same ratification
23 pursuant to the same Special Order 17-2019. At August -- at its August 13, 2026

1 board meeting, the OMS approved comments to be filed in MISO's resource
2 adequacy informational filing, which FERC directed MISO to explain how it
3 intends to ensure that adequate generation will be available to serve existing and
4 new large loads. The OMS comments expanded upon MISO's filing by providing
5 to FERC the retail regulator's perspective, including how states have generation
6 resource adequacy authority, balance provision of resource adequacy with
7 affordability, and have been successful so far in making sure that the generation
8 needed to serve the large loads is provided timely without cost shifting. On Staff's
9 recommendation, Commissioner Francis voted in favor of the OMS pleading.
10 Staff recommends that the Commission ratify Commissioner Francis's vote cast
11 on August 13 of this year, as the Louisiana Public Service Commission's
12 representative to the OMS board of directors.

13 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Chair moves to ratify the votes by Commissioner
14 Francis in the --

15 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** Abstain.

16 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** -- in the MISO meetings. And he will abstain. Any
17 seconds?

18 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Second.

19 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Seconded by Commissioner Lewis. Any
20 opposition? [NONE HEARD] Hearing none, it is approved.

21 **MS. BOWMAN:** We have one more item.

22 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Go ahead.

1 **MS. BOWMAN:** Exhibit 14 is Docket Number U-38035. This is Cleco's
2 application for authorization of certain contracts, including a site-specific
3 contract, as well as certification of transmission interconnection, new generation,
4 and associated waivers for a large load customer pursuant to the Commission's
5 Lightning Initiative. It's a discussion and possible vote on Cleco Power's Motion
6 for Procedural Directive, pursuant to Rule 57, so this will need two votes. On July
7 1, Cleco filed its application, which was noticed in the Commission's Official
8 Bulletin, and interventions were filed by Pelican Power, Packaging Corporation of
9 America, the Alliance for Affordable Energy, Sierra Club, Southern Renewable
10 Energy Association, and International Paper Company, with interested party
11 status being granted to Cabot Corporation, SWEPCO, and Entergy. The
12 application was filed pursuant to the Commission's Lightning Directive, which
13 was adopted at the December 2025 Business and Executive Session. And that
14 directive provided for certain waivers of the Commission's MBM Order for a
15 proposed capacity addition where certain factors were demonstrated. The
16 directive also directed Staff to take reasonable steps to ensure that the application
17 was filed under the directive or reviewed and processed on a timely basis, with
18 the objective of the Commission being able to vote within eight months of an
19 application. Additionally, the company entered into a Capacity Agreement to
20 support the project before a new, long-term generation can be constructed and
21 placed into service. Those agreements run from the effective date of -- from the
22 effective date through May 31, 2037, covering a 10-year MISO planning year,
23 beginning with the 2027-2028 planning year starting in June 1, 2027. Thus, the

1 terms of the Capacity Agreement, it is critical that Cleco obtain timely approval of
2 this application, including the Capacity Agreement, no later than the
3 Commission's March 2027 Business and Executive meeting. After much
4 discussion, the parties convened at a status conference held on August 25 to
5 present a procedural schedule to the ALJ. The parties and the ALJ were unable to
6 set that procedural schedule due to the expedited timeframe needed to meet both
7 the Lightning Initiative and the CPA Agreement, while allowing enough time for
8 the ALJ to make a formal recommendation. As such, Cleco filed its Motion for
9 Procedural Directive, wherein it's requesting that the Commission exercise its
10 original and primary jurisdiction, pursuant to Rule 57, and issue an order directing
11 the Hearings Division to adopt a procedural schedule in this matter so that that
12 application can be processed within eight months, or prior -- or by the March
13 2027 Business and Executive Session, as well as for the Administrative Hearings
14 Division to serve as a hearing examiner and compile the complete evidentiary
15 record with the Commission reviewing this de novo. So Staff recommends that
16 the Commission: 1) Exercise its original and primary jurisdiction under Rule 57 to
17 consider the motion; 2) Direct the Administrative Hearings Division to establish a
18 procedural schedule in Docket Number U-38035 that provides for Commission
19 consideration of the application no later than the March 2027 B&E; and 3) Direct
20 the Administrative Hearings Division to serve as a hearing examiner and compile
21 a complete evidentiary record for the Commission's de novo consideration,
22 without the issuance of a formal recommendation from the presiding ALJ.
23 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Chair moves to bring the matter up under Rule 57.

1 **VICE CHAIRMAN COUSSAN:** Second.

2 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** Second.

3 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Seconded by Commissioner Coussan. Any

4 opposition? [NONE HEARD] Hearing none, the matter's brought up for a vote.

5 Any motions?

6 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** I'll make the motion.

7 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Commissioner Francis makes the motion, Chair

8 seconds.

9 **MS. BOWMAN:** And we have one yellow card.

10 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** And we have a card before we take the vote.

11 **MS. BOWMAN:** From Chris Justin.

12 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Yeah. And, Mr. Justin, I would like to remind you

13 that -- please contain it to the issue and not -- it's not a campaign speech. So I'd

14 appreciate -- because -- last when you went a little bit off topic, and became

15 campaign-y --

16 **MR. JUSTIN:** I appreciate that.

17 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** -- and that's not what the Commission's about.

18 **MR. JUSTIN:** Appreciate it. Chris Justin, again, licensed professional engineer,

19 former consultant to the Commission. We are evaluating today whether the

20 Lightning Amendment should apply to Cleco's proposed new gas plant. I submit

21 that it should not. Cleco is claiming this plant would be needed regardless of the

22 applied digital data center. If that is the case, and Cleco wants this to be a system

23 resource primarily paid for by ratepayers, we should not waive competitive

1 bidding, we should not overpay for gas power plants we do not need, we should
2 not bypass the recommendation from the Administrative Law Judge, we should
3 not hammer this through on an expedited schedule with secret terms so that
4 Louisianans cannot assess whether it's in our best interest. Do not take this plant
5 up under the Lightning Amendment. Leave it with the ALJ for a full review and a
6 recommendation. Do not grease the wheels for a cost shift that further burdens
7 Louisianans. Thank you.

8 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Thank you very much. You have any questions?

9 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Yes, sir. Thank you, Mr. --

10 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Questions for Cleco -- for -- actually, for Staff.

11 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** And Cleco. Let me ask them one question.

12 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Oh, Cleco as well.

13 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Staff, I know in the
14 previous Rule 57 for eliminating the administrative hearings that Entergy filed,
15 Staff took no position, but in this docket, Staff did take a position. Can you briefly
16 explain why Staff is taking a position in this one and not why we took a position
17 in the previous dockets?

18 **MS. EVANS:** Sure. The reason is really twofold. One, the capacity agreement
19 that is being requested by Cleco to cover the ramp period, in order to comply with
20 certain MISO procedures, needs to be approved by March. And so that's a big
21 reason why the need for this to be expedited -- why Staff supports expediting this
22 process. The second issue is, the parties have all spent a considerable amount of
23 time trying to work out a procedural schedule while affording the Administrative

1 Law Judge the adequate amount of time to provide a recommendation, and the
2 parties, including the Administrative Law Judge, were simply unable to do so.
3 This application was filed in July, it is already September, and we don't have a
4 procedural schedule. So in the previous docket, Staff didn't take a position
5 because the applicant included it in its application, but we did take a position in
6 this proceeding because of the Tenaska agreement, as well as the inability to set a
7 procedural schedule.

8 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Great. Thank you for that explanation. Mr.
9 Kleehammer or Mr. Shirley, can you briefly just -- from my understanding and
10 for the public, that part of the challenge is that once we pass the Lightning
11 Initiative and amendment, you proceeded in the conversations to try to get a
12 contract for the up-ramp period, and based off of that contract that would need to
13 be approved by March to ensure that that contract may be executed. And thus far,
14 since there is no procedural schedule, that makes completing that very difficult,
15 which is why we're here today considering a motion to waive the ALJ from
16 making a final recommendation, but still conducting the evidentiary hearing?

17 **MR. MARK KLEEHAMMER:** Yes. Mark Kleehammer and John Shirley on
18 behalf of Cleco. That is correct. I think everything that Ms. Bowman and Ms.
19 Evans have said, I agree with fully. I would also note that, if the Commission
20 were to approve the ask today, I believe all parties are prepared to support a
21 procedural schedule tomorrow. We have that alignment, no opposition. To your
22 question regarding the timeline, yes, March is crucial to this because there are
23 MISO procedures that kick in in late March, which are required, and the party

1 with some of the generation that we would be relying on has to make decisions.

2 And so, contractually, we need certainty from this Commission in March.

3 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Yes. Thank you. And the contract terms are, to my

4 understanding and looking at your application, this up-ramp would be covered by

5 the customer, not by existing Cleco ratepayers. And even within the timeline of

6 the proposed contract agreement, ESA I should say, between the customer and

7 Cleco, that would still be covered regardless of any changes that may happen in

8 the time being after certification and going forward?

9 **MR. KLEEHAMMER:** Correct, 100%.

10 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** So thank you. And I will support this today. I just

11 want to briefly say, Mr. Chairman, for the record that I think I've been no shy of

12 my thoughts on the Lightning Initiative, but I do not believe that once the

13 Commission makes an order, that we should penalize a company who's

14 complying with our rules in this process. And the timeline has made it very

15 difficult. I think these are questions that the Commission may need to address on

16 our capacity of building up so we can have adequate Staff and adequate witnesses

17 and adequate consultants there. But I appreciate you meeting with me and

18 understanding, and I just wanted to be clear for the record why I'm supporting this

19 one, but opposed the other one, simply because of the facts of the matter of this

20 case. While I still do have some of my underlying procedural concerns around our

21 administrative hearing process, and not shortening our process or going over our

22 rules, that this was a unique, specific case, and that's why I'm supporting it. So

23 thank you, Mr. Chairman for your time.

1 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Sure. Absolutely. And, you know, just on a general
2 comment, you know, I think there are opportunities out there for, you know, both
3 -- I mean, actually, all of the investor-owned utilities to work together to, you
4 know, acquire, you know, effectively facilities that can benefit the state with, you
5 know, getting more electrons into the state, you know, getting us at some prices
6 that are, you know, less of a cost than new build, you know? I know we're going
7 to need new build as well. You know, we're -- people to think that, you know,
8 power plants last forever, and they don't. You know, when they get to be 40, 50,
9 60 years old and they need to be replaced. But there's also the opportunity we
10 need with the growth of the industrial base in this state. We're going to need more
11 power, and we're going to need to be planning ahead. So glad to support you on
12 this, and I'll be glad to support you on doing some other clever things, too, so we
13 can get more electrons in this state so we can keep building opportunities for our
14 families to have jobs and our kids to get better educated and, you know, build our
15 economy. So thank you very much.

16 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** I got a question.

17 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Nice to see you at that table there, John.

18 **MR. JOHN SHIRLEY:** Yes, sir. Well, I figure that --

19 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** It's a rarity.

20 **MR. SHIRLEY:** -- if Commissioner Campbell could come back, I could, too.

21 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** I was about to say. I almost wore my Bigfoot shirt,
22 so. Commissioner Francis has a question.

1 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** This is a question for the Staff. Rule 27(C), it
2 says the Commission may, at its discretion, appoint a hearing examiner if that's
3 needed.

4 **SECRETARY FREY:** Uh-huh.

5 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** Does that take a majority vote to make that go
6 into action?

7 **SECRETARY FREY:** Yes, I would say so. And I think that's what you're doing
8 here. I mean, it is something that we haven't used it as much -- frequently. But
9 actually, believe it or not, I was appointed the hearing examiner one time by the
10 Commission on a transportation case, so I sat as the judge. We used to do it a lot
11 more frequently. And it's -- you know, one thing to point out is that rule does
12 predate the ALJ Division, so the Commission used to hear the whole dockets en
13 banc, and when we created the ALJs, this was still a device that was out there in
14 lieu of an ALJ.

15 **COMMISSIONER FRANCIS:** All right. Okay.

16 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** So we have a motion and a second?

17 **MS. BOWMAN:** Yes.

18 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** And any opposition? [NONE HEARD] Hearing
19 none, the matter's approved. Thank you very much.

20 **MR. KLEEHAMMER:** Thank you, Commissioner.

21 **MR. SHIRLEY:** Thank you.

22 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Nice seeing you again.

23 **MR. SHIRLEY:** Yes, sir.

1 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** All right. Thank you. That's it?
2 **MS. BOWMAN:** That's it. Motion to adjourn?
3 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** The Chair moves to adjourn. Any seconds?
4 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Second.
5 **MS. BOWMAN:** Who seconded?
6 **CHAIRMAN SKRMETTA:** Any opposition? [NONE HEARD] Hearing none,
7 the meeting is adjourned.

8

9 **(WHEREUPON THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED)**

10

1 I certify that the foregoing pages 1 through 76 are true and correct to the best
2 of my knowledge of the Open Session of the Business and Executive Meeting
3 held on September 16, 2026 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

4 *****

5 Rough Draft prepared by:

6  September 23, 2026
7 Alicia Carter-Thomas, Date
8 Court Reporter

9  September 23, 2026
10 Key-Anna Freeman, Date
11 Court Reporter

12 *****

13  September 30, 2026
14 Key-Anna Freeman, Date
15 Court Reporter

16 Finalized by:

17  October 01, 2026
18 Alicia Carter-Thomas, Date
19 Court Reporter