

**MINUTES OF LEPA OPERATING COMMITTEE MEETING OF  
LOUISIANA ENERGY AND POWER AUTHORITY (LEPA)  
HELD AT THE OFFICES OF LEPA IN LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA ON  
OCTOBER 19, 2023.**

The members of the LEPA Operating Committee held a meeting on October 19, 2023 at the LEPA Administrative Building, 210 Venture Way, Lafayette, Louisiana after due notice of said meeting.

Present for the Operating Committee were:

Mayor Charles “Chuck” Robichaux, Secretary-Treasurer, representing the City of Rayne  
Mayor Jason Willis, representing the City of St. Martinville  
Mayor Buz Craft, representing the Town of Vidalia  
Mr. Jeffery Stewart, Vice-Chairman, representing the City of Lafayette

Absent:

Mayor Edwin “Ed” Reeves, Chairman, representing the City of Plaquemine

The meeting was called to order and the presence of a quorum for the Operating Committee was noted. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

On motion by Mayor Craft that was seconded by Mayor Robichaux, the Members of the Operating Committee unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2023 Operating Committee meeting, copies of which were in Members’ packets.

General Manager Bihm then reported on wholesale power costs as set forth in the documents in Members’ packets. He reported on the August 2023 rates as well as the rates for the last 12 months. He then reported on residential rates as set forth in the documents in Members’ packets.

He reported that on the day of the meeting, natural gas at the Henry Hub was \$2.91/MMBTU and the 12-month strip was \$3.38/MMBTU. The daily price for natural gas at the Henry Hub a year ago was \$6.01/MMBTU and the 12-month strip for natural gas at the Henry Hub a year ago was at \$5.04/MMBTU. That information was in the documents in Members’ packets.

Assistant General Manager David Bergeron then gave an update on Rodemacher Unit No. 2. He reported that the ozone season is over. The owners will check on NOx allowances and are in the process of scheduling an owners’ call. He reported that there is an adequate supply of coal. He further reported that the price of coal for 2024 is projected to be \$14-\$15. He reported that the unit is available and has been online.

General Manager Bihm then gave a historical perspective on House Resolution 155 addressing reducing barriers to broadband development and the kickoff meeting of the study group. Jeff Stewart then reported on what transpired as set forth in a summary in Members’ packets. The State of Louisiana is expected to receive \$1.3 billion for reducing barriers.

General Manager Bihm then reported on a summary of primary election results prepared by Cornerstone, LEPA's lobbying firm, copies of which were in Members' packets.

General Manager Bihm then reported on the proposed original and alternate budgets for Rodemacher Unit No. 2 and Full Requirements, copies of which were in Members' packets.

He gave an analysis of changes from the original Rodemacher Unit No. 2 budget previously presented to be reviewed. He reported that there was a reduction in the budget in capital for projects because old transmission agreements are being replaced by NITS and pond closure capital costs for 2024 were expected to substantially decrease from 2023.

He then gave an analysis of the proposed changes to the Full Requirements budgets. There will be a 17% increase in transmission costs. There will be a \$200,000 increase in working capital, \$125,000 for a backup Energy Control Center, \$48,000 for a pickup truck to replace the existing truck and a vehicle allowance increase for the General Manager and Assistant General Manager. The line items of interest in the alternate budget included a possible increase to the salary of the General Manager in the event that a replacement General Manager from outside the LEPA organization is hired or in the event that the present General Manager is retained. The other line item of interest in the alternate budget was \$5,000 for the APPA 2024 Lineman Rodeo to be held in Lafayette, LA.

On motion by Mayor Craft that was seconded by Mayor Robichaux, the Members of the Operating Committee unanimously voted to recommend to the Board of Directors that it adopt the proposed alternate budget for Rodemacher Unit # 2.

On motion by Mayor Willis that was seconded by Mayor Craft, the Members of the Operating Committee unanimously voted to recommend to the Board of Directors that it adopt the proposed alternate budget for Full Requirements.

General Manager Bihm then reported on the proposed calendar for meetings for the calendar year 2024 as set forth in the document in Members' packets. On motion by Mayor Craft that was seconded by Mayor Willis, the Members of the Operating Committee unanimously voted to adopt the proposed Operating Committee Meeting calendar dates.

There being no further business to come before the Operating Committee, on motion by Mayor Craft that was seconded by Mayor Willis the Members of such Committee unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.

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Vice - Chairman

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Sec.-Treasurer