

**MINUTES OF LEPA OPERATING COMMITTEE MEETING OF
LOUISIANA ENERGY AND POWER AUTHORITY (LEPA)
HELD AT THE OFFICES OF LEPA IN LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA ON
FEBRUARY 15, 2024.**

The members of the LEPA Operating Committee held a meeting on February 15, 2024 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, Vice-Chairman, representing the City of Rayne
Mayor Jason Willis, Secretary-Treasurer, representing the City of St. Martinville
Mayor Buz Craft, representing the Town of Vidalia
Mayor Karl Arceneaux, representing the Town of Welsh

Absent:

Mr. Jeffrey Stewart, Chairman, representing the City of Lafayette

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 Arceneaux, the Members of the Operating Committee unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the December 20, 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 December 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 then reported on a news story regarding the increase in retail rates by SLEMCO as set forth in the document in Members’ packets.

He reported that on the day of the meeting, natural gas at the Henry Hub was \$1.52/MMBTU and the 12-month strip was \$2.42/MMBTU. Natural gas at the Henry Hub a year ago was \$2.43/MMBTU and the 12-month strip for natural gas at the Henry Hub a year ago was \$3.29/MMBTU. That information was in the documents in Members’ packets.

Assistant General Manager David Bergeron then gave an update on Rodemacher Unit No. 2. The unit is on-line and fully available. He reported that the planned 16-day outage has been extended to the fall. He further reported that there will be a two-day outage.

General Manager Bihm then reported on the lineworker apprentice training lab-3 program set forth in the documents in Members’ packets.

General Manager Bihm then reported on the APPA Lineworkers Rodeo as set forth in the documents in Members’ packets.

General Manager Bihm then reported on the vote regarding Ruston becoming a new member of the LEPA organization.

General Manager Bihm then reported on a proposed engagement letter between LEPA and the Darnall, Sikes & Frederick CPA firm, copies of which were in Members' packets. He reported the CPA firm advised that the cost would be approximately \$40,000-\$47,500 plus out-of-pocket expenses and LEPA had budgeted \$85,000 for the audit. On motion by Mayor Craft that was seconded by Mayor Willis, the Members of such Committee unanimously approved by roll-call vote that LEPA staff execute the proposed agreement. The votes were as follows:

Ayes:

Mayor Robichaux
Mayor Willis
Mayor Craft
Mayor Arceneaux

Nays:

None

Thus, the motion passed unanimously.

General Manager Bihm then reported on an Auditor's Compliance Questionnaire for Fiscal Year 2023, copies of which were enclosed in Members' packets. On motion by Mayor Arceneaux that was seconded by Mayor Willis, the Members of such Committee unanimously approved by roll-call vote that LEPA staff members execute the Questionnaire. The votes were as follows:

Ayes:

Mayor Robichaux
Mayor Willis
Mayor Craft
Mayor Arceneaux

Nays:

None

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.

Chairman

Sec.-Treasurer