

**MINUTES OF LEPA OPERATING COMMITTEE MEETING OF  
LOUISIANA ENERGY AND POWER AUTHORITY (LEPA)  
HELD AT THE OFFICES OF LEPA IN LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA ON  
JUNE 27, 2024.**

The members of the LEPA Operating Committee held a meeting on June 27, 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 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 April 18, 2024, 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 April 2024 wholesale 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.

General Manager Bihm then reported on a graph showing average residential prices by state, copies of which were in Members’ packets.

He reported that on the day of the meeting, natural gas at the Henry Hub was \$2.45/MMBTU and the 12-month strip was \$3.20/MMBTU. Natural gas at the Henry Hub a year ago was \$2.70/MMBTU and the 12-month strip for natural gas at the Henry Hub a year ago was \$3.19/MMBTU. That information was in the documents in Members’ packets.

General Manager Bihm then reported on a document, copies of which were in Members’ packets, showing that Cleco customers will see a rate increase next month of \$5.35 which will jump to \$13.13 in October.

Assistant General Manager David Bergeron then gave an update on Rodemacher Unit No. 2. He reported that the unit is in service, although there was a trip on June 19 which resulted in a five-day outage to June 24. He reported that Cleco and LEPA had agreed to purchase coal, although Lafayette did not need any.

General Manager Bihm then reported on SB 410 modifying R.S. 33:4545.4(E), which would modify the language to provide that the vote of the majority of member municipalities would be needed to approve admission of a new member. He also reported on a document in Members' packets tracking the timeline of the bill. He reported that the bill has been signed into law by Governor Landry and is now Act 180. The plan is to have a vote at the July Board Meeting on the admission of the City of Ruston as a member.

The Mayor of Abbeville then reported on the Doxo service collecting utility payments. She reported payments from customers using Doxo may take up to five days to process causing past due payments resulting in disconnection of service. Mayor Willis then reported on St. Martinville's experience on collection of utility payments.

General Manager Bihm then presented consideration for approval to issue a Request for Proposals for Capacity and Energy to Supply LEPA's Full Requirements Service Members, copies of which were in Members' packets. He explained that it was a type of hedge to ensure stability of electric prices. He further explained that options of five-year, 10-year, and/or 15-year terms were requested. He further explained that the five-year term is probably the best choice because it will not require changes to contracts with the Full Requirements Service Members. Joe Rogers, LEPA's engineering consultant, then also reported on the Request and explained his role in overseeing facets of that proposal.

On motion by Mayor Craft that was seconded by Mayor Arceneaux, the Members of the Committee unanimously voted by roll call vote to authorize LEPA staff to issue the Request for Proposals. The votes were as follows:

Ayes:

Mayor Robichaux  
Mayor Willis  
Mayor Craft  
Mayor Arceneaux

Nays:

None

General Manager Bihm then reported that he was accepted to run for a MERS board seat.

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

  
Chairman

  
Sec.-Treasurer