

LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

GENERAL ORDER NUMBER 05-06-2025 (R-31106)

LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, EX PARTE.

Docket No. R-31106, In re: Rulemaking to study the possible development of financial incentives for the promotion of energy efficiency by jurisdictional electric and gas utilities.

(Decided at the April 16, 2025 Business and Executive Session.)
(Amends and supersedes General Order dated April 24, 2024 Corrected.)

I. Background

At the January 24, 2024 Business and Executive Session (“B&E”), the Commission approved Phase II rules, which created a statewide energy efficiency program. General Order dated April 24, 2024 Corrected was issued memorializing the statewide energy efficiency program and designated the remainder of 2024 and 2025 to transition from the Commission’s Quick Start programs to a statewide program. As part of the transition, Commission Staff issued Requests for Proposals for a statewide administrator as well as an evaluation, measurement, and verification (“EM&V”) contractor. APTIM was retained at the September 2024 B&E as the statewide administrator and Tetra Tech was retained at the March 2025 B&E as the EM&V contractor.

II. Jurisdiction and Applicable Law

The Commission has been vested with the authority to regulate public utilities and common carriers and exercises jurisdiction in this proceeding pursuant to Article IV, Section 21(b) of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974, which provides in pertinent part:

The commission shall regulate all common carriers and public utilities and have such other regulatory authority as provided by law. It shall adopt and enforce reasonable rules, regulations, and procedures necessary for the discharge of its duties, and shall have other powers and perform other duties as provided by law.

Pursuant to this constitutional authority, the Commission has issued General Orders throughout the pendency of this docket associated with energy efficiency. First, the Commission established the Quick Start energy efficiency program in 2013,¹ approved renewals of the Quick Start program while working on Phase II rules,² approved a Public Entities program,³ and approved Phase II rules.⁴

III. Commission Consideration

At the April 16, 2025 B&E, Chairman Francis made the following motion and directive:

At the January 2024 B&E, the Commission approved a Phase II statewide energy efficiency program to begin January 2026. Efforts are underway to develop a statewide program, including the retention of Aptim as the Commission’s administrator, and recently Tetra Tech as the statewide EM&V Contractor. Over the last several months, discussions have been had regarding the various ways to achieve energy efficiency. [My] focus is to provide the most energy savings at the least reasonable

¹ See General Orders dated January 10, 2013, March 28, 2013, and September 20, 2013.

² See General Orders dated September 20, 2017, January 11, 2019, November 27, 2019, December 22, 2020, December 2, 2021, and May 4, 2023.

³ See General Order dated April 13, 2017.

⁴ See General Orders dated February 9, 2024 and April 24, 2024 Corrected.

costs, which in his opinion is achieved the greatest through the Commission's public entity program.

As such, [I move] that the Commission cease working towards a statewide energy efficiency program, including providing written termination of its retention of Aptim and Tetra Tech.

[I] further direct Staff to publish a set of energy efficiency rules that pertain solely to a public entity program. These rules should require participation by the electric and group 1 gas utilities, shall allow industrials to opt out, and consider other options. Staff shall publish these rules within the next week to allow stakeholder feedback in time for a vote at the May B&E Session.

After discussion, Chairman Francis withdrew his motion.

On motion of Vice Chairman Skrmetta, seconded by Chairman Francis, with Commissioner Coussan concurring, and Commissioner Campbell and Commissioner Lewis opposing, the Commission voted to cease working toward a statewide energy efficiency program, including providing written termination of its retention of Aptim and Tera Tech, while maintaining the quick start programs through the end of calendar year 2025. The motion passed 3:2.

Chairman Francis re-urged his directive, with Vice Chairman Skrmetta concurring, and Commissioner Campbell, Commissioner Lewis, and Commissioner Coussan opposing. The directive failed 2:3.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

- 1) This Order amends and supersedes General Order dated April 24, 2024 Corrected;
- 2) The current utility-led Quick Start programs shall continue through December 31, 2025; and
- 3) The Commission terminates the services of Aptim as the statewide administrator and Tetra Tech as the EM&V Contractor.

This Order is effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
May 6, 2025



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brandon M. Frey".

BRANDON M. FREY
SECRETARY

/S/ MIKE FRANCIS

DISTRICT IV
CHAIRMAN MIKE FRANCIS

/S/ ERIC F. SKRMETTA

DISTRICT I
VICE CHAIRMAN ERIC F. SKRMETTA

OPPOSED

DISTRICT V
COMMISSIONER FOSTER L. CAMPBELL

OPPOSED

DISTRICT III
COMMISSIONER DAVANTE LEWIS

/S/ JEAN-PAUL P. COUSSAN

DISTRICT II
COMMISSIONER JEAN-PAUL P. COUSSAN