

LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

ORDER NUMBER T-37596

ACADIANA WASTE SERVICES LLC DBA AWS
EX PARTE

Docket No. T-37596, In re: Application for a Common Carrier Certificate of non-hazardous industrial solid waste for disposal, statewide.

(Decided August 15, 2025.)

ORDER

Background

Acadiana Waste Services LLC dba AWS (“Acadiana” or “Applicant”) filed an application (“Application”) with attachments on May 28, 2025, seeking from the Louisiana Public Service Commission (“LPSC” or “Commission”) a common carrier certificate authorizing it to transport non-hazardous industrial solid waste for disposal, statewide. Notice of the Application was published in the Commission’s *Official Bulletin* on June 6, 2025 and June 20, 2025, both for 15-day intervention periods.¹ No interventions were filed.

At a status conference on July 22, 2025, representatives of the Applicant and the Commission Staff agreed to a procedural schedule, which was included in the *Report of Status Conference* issued on the same day. Commission Staff and Acadiana filed their pre-hearing statements on July 31, 2025, respectively. As there are no intervenors and the Commission Staff supports the Application, the Application is unopposed.

Jurisdiction and Applicable Law

The Commission derives its jurisdiction over common carriers and public utilities from the Louisiana Constitution of 1974. Article IV, Section 21(B) of the Constitution provides, in pertinent part, that:

[t]he [C]ommission 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.

In addition, La. R.S. 45:163 provides that “[t]he [C]ommission has the power and authority necessary to supervise, govern, regulate, and control motor carriers...which transport household

¹ The matter was republished on June 20, 2025 to include the dba name “AWS” which was omitted from the June 6, 2025 publication.

goods, passengers, or waste intrastate and to fix reasonable and just rates, fares, tolls, or charges for the commodities furnished or services rendered by such motor carriers.” La. R.S. 45:164 states that “[n]o motor carrier of waste shall operate without first having obtained from the [C]ommission a common carrier certificate or contract carrier permit.” La. R.S. 45:164(B) provides that an applicant for a common carrier certificate, contract carrier permit, or expansion of authority granted in an existing certificate must prove fitness by proving all of the following:

- (1) The applicant holds, or is capable of acquiring, an insurance policy that complies with [C]ommission rules.
- (2) The applicant has the financial ability to provide the transportation of waste for disposal in a safe and efficient manner.
- (3) The applicant holds, or is capable of acquiring all the necessary authorizations required by any and all regulatory authorities for the transportation of waste for disposal.
- (4) The applicant holds, or is capable or [sic] acquiring for use, equipment and man power to provide transportation services in a safe and efficient manner.
- (5) The applicant has in place, or is capable of establishing, a safety program necessary for the safe and efficient transportation of waste for disposal.

The Commission’s *General Order* dated January 23, 2018 incorporated the above requirements into Rule 33 of the Commission’s *Rules of Practice and Procedure*, which now reads (in pertinent part) as follows:

- A. An applicant applying for a common carrier certificate, contract carrier permit, or expansion of authority granted in an existing certificate or permit authorizing the transportation of non-hazardous oilfield waste, hazardous waste or non-hazardous industrial solid waste shall prove fitness...in a hearing before an administrative law judge or hearing officer by proving that the applicant:
 1. holds, or is capable of acquiring, an insurance policy providing coverage of two hundred fifty thousand dollars for injury or death per person or five hundred thousand dollars per occurrence, and ten thousand dollars property damage,
 2. has the financial ability to provide the transportation of waste for disposal in a safe and efficient manner,
 3. holds, or is capable of acquiring, all of the necessary authorizations required by any and all regulatory authorities for the transportation of waste for disposal[,]
 4. holds, or is capable of acquiring for use, equipment and man power to provide transportation services in a safe and efficient manner, and
 5. has in place, or is capable of establishing, a safety program necessary for the safe and efficient transportation of waste for disposal.

...

- D. The provisions of this rule are applicable to all applications for common carrier certificates and contract carrier permits of waste and all applications for expansion of existing waste authority, including those applications which are presently pending before the Commission but have not yet gone to hearing on the merits.
- E. All restrictions on existing certificates or permits are valid until expansion of authority is applied for and a new certificate or permit is granted. However, any restrictive language in any existing common carrier certificate or any contract carrier permit of waste that prevents the carrier from applying for expanded authority for any period of time is null and void...
- F. Certificates or permits issued after the adoption of this rule shall not contain restrictions.

The Hearing

A hearing on the Application was convened on August 8, 2025, at which Acadiana and Commission Staff appeared through counsel.

Testimony and Evidence Presented by the Applicant

In support of its Application, Acadiana presented the testimonies of Donald “Gus” Dugas and Michael Parich, Jr.

Testimony of Donald “Gus” Dugas

Mr. Dugas testified that he is the President and a co-owner of Acadiana, whose duties include all aspects of the business operations of the Applicant. Mr. Dugas testified regarding his extensive employment background in the waste industry and stated that he holds a Commercial Driver’s License (“CDL”). He provided an overview of the Applicant’s operations, owners, and personnel.

The Applicant is a Louisiana limited liability corporation formed in 2012, with its office and sole terminal in Lafayette, Louisiana. Acadiana currently operates solely in Louisiana, providing residential and commercial waste collection services. According to Mr. Dugas, Acadiana seeks the requested authority to serve a newly acquired customer. Acadiana does not presently hold any LPSC authority. The Applicant has 83 employees, 45 of whom are CDL drivers (including Mr. Dugas). If the requested authority is granted, Acadiana plans to hire additional employees.

Mr. Dugas confirmed that Acadiana is in good standing with the Louisiana Office of Secretary of State and other state regulatory agencies. Mr. Dugas confirmed his understanding of myriad Commission rules and regulations, including filing annual reports and paying inspection and supervision fees. Per Mr. Dugas, the Applicant intends to comply with all of the Commission’s

regulations. Mr. Dugas identified certain regulatory documents of the Applicant, and stated that the Applicant has or is willing to acquire the necessary permits for the transportation of LPSC-regulated waste in a safe, efficient, and LPSC-compliant manner. He testified that the Applicant is prepared to begin operations immediately if the requested authority is granted.

Mr. Dugas identified an *ACORD Certificate of Liability Insurance* showing the Applicant as the insured, confirming that it covers all of Acadiana's equipment and drivers, meets or exceeds the minimum requirements, and will be renewed on or before expiration. He affirmed his understanding of the Commission's requirement to maintain proof of insurance on file.²

Mr. Dugas testified regarding the Applicant's financial condition, identifying documents depicting the Applicant's finances,³ asserting that the Applicant is financially able to provide safe and efficient transportation of waste, and stating there are no financial factors that would limit that ability. According to Mr. Dugas, Acadiana has not filed for bankruptcy, and none of its owners have filed for bankruptcy. Additionally, Acadiana has had no issues with payroll or accounts payable, has not been the subject of a state or federal tax audit, and is current on tax returns. He provided that the Applicant's owners are willing and able to contribute capital to Acadiana if needed.

Mr. Dugas testified regarding the Applicant's equipment that will be used for the transportation of regulated waste if the certificate is granted. The Applicant does not plan to utilize owner-operators; however, Mr. Dugas acknowledged the LPSC rules regarding owner-operators. He addressed the Applicant's maintenance policies and practices, including pre- and post-trip inspections, maintenance schedules, and maintenance documentation. Mr. Dugas averred that all equipment to be used by the Applicant for transporting LPSC-regulated waste is in good working order. He advised that the Applicant's trucks are equipped with GPS and cameras, and are governed to 65 miles per hour.

Mr. Dugas identified various safety documents of the Applicant while deferring detailed testimony regarding the Applicant's safety policies and procedures to Mr. Parich.

² Mr. Dugas acknowledged that the *ACORD* certificate did not have the correct legal spelling for Acadiana and testified that the Applicant would ensure that insurance documentation filed with the Commission would include the correct name.

³ Mr. Dugas noted that the financials are consolidated to include a wholly-owned subsidiary, Acadiana Waste Services - TX, L.L.C., but that subsidiary was divested in 2023.

Testimony of Michael Parich, Jr.

Mr. Parich testified that he is the Health, Safety, Environmental Compliance Manager⁴ for the Applicant and has been employed with Acadiana for two and a half years. His duties include claims management, new hires, HSE training, and maintaining and developing safety policies. Mr. Parich testified regarding his extensive employment background, consisting of safety roles in oil and gas, construction, and in waste transportation (since being hired by Acadiana).

Mr. Parich identified and discussed the Applicant’s safety policies, including waste-specific policies, which are (or will be) given to all employees who must sign an acknowledgment that they have been provided. He stated that the policies are updated regularly and as needed. Mr. Parich addressed the Applicant’s drug and alcohol and cell phone policies, including the Applicant’s drug and alcohol testing processes. He stated that the Applicant holds monthly safety meetings for drivers and weekly safety meetings for technical and maintenance employees. Mr. Parich maintains documentation for the safety meetings and training. He noted that Acadiana is a member of National Safety Council safety network, which is aligned with the Applicant’s captive insurance company, Presidio.

Mr. Parich testified regarding the Applicant’s driver hiring and training practices and related documentation. Driver applicants must undergo motor vehicle and criminal background checks, submit to drug and alcohol screening, and possess the requisite licenses. Acadiana prefers drivers with two years of driving experience. He described the Applicant’s training program for drivers, which includes classroom and computer-based training. It also includes ride-alongs with a supervisor who must sign off before a new driver is assigned to a route.

In connection with their testimonies, Mr. Dugas and Mr. Parich identified the following exhibits which were admitted:

Exhibit A, <i>in globo</i>	The <i>Waste by Motor Vehicle Application</i> filed by Acadiana on May 28, 2025, with public attachments (excluding the complete safety manual).
Exhibit B	Cover page and Table of Contents of <i>Acadiana Waste Services Safety & Health Manual</i> .
Exhibit C	<i>Acadiana Waste Services Safety & Health Manual</i> (submitted electronically on thumb drive).
Exhibit D, <i>in globo</i>	Safety handouts consisting of additional safety policies for Acadiana.

⁴ Listed as “HSE Director” in Applicant’s Exhibit A, *in globo*.

Exhibit E, *in globo*

Financial documents for Acadiana consisting of the following (**admitted confidentially under seal**):

- *Reviewed Consolidated Financial Statements and Supplementary Information for the Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023*
- *Reviewed Consolidated Financial Statements and Supplementary Information for the Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022*
- *Reviewed Consolidated Financial Statements and Supplementary Information for the Years Ended December 31, 2022 and 2021*
- *Balance Sheet As of March 31, 2025*
- *Profit & Loss January through March 2025.*

Exhibit F, *in globo*

The following permitting documents:

- Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality correspondence dated September 13, 2023, with attached equipment list for Acadiana's Transporter I.D. Number;
- Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors license for Industrial Cleaning and Material/Waste Handling dated May 17, 2024.

Exhibit G

Correspondence from counsel for Acadiana dated July 28, 2025, clarifying the legal spelling of the Applicant's name.

Commission Staff's Position

The Commission Staff expressed its support for the Application in its pre-hearing statement and confirmed at the hearing that there are no LPSC regulatory issues with the Applicant and that it supports the Application.

Conclusion

Having considered the Application of Acadiana, the testimony and evidence presented in support of the Application, the directives of the Commission's *General Order* dated January 23, 2018, Rule 33 of the Commission's *Rules of Practice and Procedure*, and other applicable law, we find that Acadiana has established its fitness to operate and that a common carrier certificate should be issued to the Applicant as requested.

Accordingly, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:**

1. Acadiana Waste Services LLC be issued a common carrier certificate authorizing operation in Louisiana intrastate commerce as a common carrier of non-hazardous industrial solid waste for disposal, statewide.
2. The issuance of the common carrier certificate is conditioned upon the full compliance of Acadiana Waste Services LLC with the laws of the State of

Louisiana and the rules and regulations of the Louisiana Public Service Commission.

3. This order is effective immediately pursuant to Rule 43 of the Commission’s *Rules of Practice and Procedure*.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
August 15, 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

/S/ FOSTER L. CAMPBELL
DISTRICT V
COMMISSIONER FOSTER L. CAMPBELL

/S/ DAVANTE LEWIS
DISTRICT III
COMMISSIONER DAVANTE LEWIS

/S/ JEAN-PAUL P. COUSSAN
DISTRICT II
COMMISSIONER JEAN-PAUL P. COUSSAN