

AUGUST COMMISSION MINUTES

Liquefied Petroleum Gas Commission (LPGC)

August 19, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

Louisiana State Police Training Academy, (Building A) (Classroom 5)

7901 Independence Blvd. Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Chairman John Alario, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 19, 2026.

Chairman John Alario called the roll call.

The following board members attended:

Chairman John Alario

Vice-Chairman Dominique Monlezun

Commissioner Francis Todd Thompson

Commissioner Ricky Cleveland

LTC Joseph Hasselbeck

Others present:

Executive Director Don Robin

Various Industry Representatives

Office of Legal Affairs Attorneys:

Attorney Rachel Perkins

Absent:

Attorney Adrienne Quillen

No Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Chairman John Alario called for approval of the August 19, 2026 agenda as presented.

Commissioner Francis Todd Thompson motioned for the approval of the agenda as presented and Commissioner Ricky Cleveland seconded the motion. By verbal votes, the agenda was approved as presented with no dissenting votes.

Chairman John Alario called the approval of the June 17, 2026 and the July 15, 2026 Commission Minutes.

Commissioner Francis Todd Thompson motioned for the approval of June 17, 2026 and the July 15, 2026 Commission Minutes and Commissioner Ricky Cleveland seconded the motion.

By verbal votes, the June 17, 2026 and the July 15, 2026 Commission Minutes were approved with no dissenting votes.

Chairman John Alario called for applications and violations to be heard.

Chairman John Alario called for applications to be heard.

APPLICATIONS:

The following applicants have applied for Class 2 permits, permits were administratively granted, and permits were ratified by the commission.

1. Lowe's Home Centers, LLC – 1000 Lowe's Blvd, Mooresville, NC 28117
2. Pro Plumb LA LLC – 636 Contour Dr., Lake Charles, LA 70605

Vice-Chairman Dominique Monlezun motioned for the approval of the Class 2 permits to be granted and Commissioner Ricky Cleveland seconded the motion. By verbal votes, the Class 2 permits were granted with no dissenting votes.

The following applicant have applied for a Class R2 permit, the permit was administratively granted, and the permit was ratified by the commission.

1. Lowe's Home Centers, LLC – 1000 Lowe's Blvd, Mooresville, NC 28117

Commissioner Ricky Cleveland motioned for the approval of the Class R2 permit to be granted and Commissioner Francis Todd Thompson seconded the motion. By verbal votes, the Class R2 permit was granted with no dissenting votes.

The following applicants have applied for Class 6 permits, permits were administratively granted, and permits were ratified by the commission:

Holders of these permit may engage in the filing of approved cylinders and motor fuel tanks with liquefied petroleum gas on their premises, but shall not deliver gas.

1. YOU MUST NOTIFY THE COMMISSION IMMEDIATELY IF YOU PLAN TO GO OUT OF THE LPGC BUSINESS. YOU MUST ALSO NOTIFY THE LPGC OF ANY CHANGES IN YOUR PHYSICAL OR MAILING ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER. IF THERE IS A CHANGE IN BUSINESS NAME, YOU MUST SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR A NAME CHANGE IMMEDIATELY.
2. YOU MUST PROVIDE A NEW CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE ON OR BEFORE THE EXPIRATION DATE (EVEN THOUGH THERE IS NO LAPSE IN COVERAGE) A CITATION CAN BE ISSUED BY THE LPGC. YOU MUST REMEMBER IT IS THE PERMIT HOLDERS

RESPONSIBILITY NOT THE INSURANCE AGENCY'S RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE SURE THE INSURANCE HAS BEEN RECEIVED BY THE LPGC.

3. YOU MUST POSSESS THE KNOWLEDGE AND COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING: LA REVISED STATUTES OF 1841-1850, THE LPGC RULES AND REGULATIONS, NFA -54 (2018 EDITION), NPFA-58 (2017 EDITION) AND CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS-49 AS THEY APPLY TO LPG. RULES CAN BE DOWNLOADED FROM THE LPGC WEBSITE. NFPA-54 & NFPA-58 CAN BE PURCHASED FROM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE OR OBTAINED FROM THE INTERNET FREE OF CHARGE.

1. One Stop Metal LLC – 16815 Florida Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70819
2. Blue Metric Group Fund LP/ Natalbany Creek Campground Fund – 30218 Highway 16., Amite City, LA 70422
3. Chicot Grocery LLC – 4879 US Hwy 167 N, Ville Platte, LA 70586
4. Seal's Family Farm & Supply – 35674 Hwy 38, Mt. Hermon, LA 70450

Commissioner Ricky Cleveland motioned for the approval of the Class 6 permits to be granted and Commissioner Francis Todd Thompson seconded the motion. By verbal votes, the Class 6 permits were granted with no dissenting votes.

The following applicants have applied for Class 6x permits, permits were administratively granted and is to be ratified by the commission:

Holders of these permits may engage in the exchange of approved liquefied petroleum gas cylinders on their premises, but shall not fill cylinders. They shall not deliver gas.

1. Sunshine Groceries – 2217 Hwy 171, Deridder, LA 70634
2. One Stop Metal LLC – 16815 Florida Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70819
3. K & A of Monroe, LLC dba Super Save #4 – 9680 Hwy 15, Farmerville, LA 71241
4. Metairie Road Fresh Market LLC – 800 Metairie Rd. Suite G, Metairie, LA 70115
5. CKTS Investments LLC dba Simpsons One Stop – 378 Hwy 2, Sterlington, LA 71280
6. Fish N Fuel - 2 LLC – 11851 Texas Hwy, Many, LA 71448
7. Log Cabin Grocery – 11736 Crossett Road, Bastrop, LA 71220
8. Provencal One Stop – 4556 North Blvd, Provencal, LA 71469
9. Cheap and Best of Bayou Chicot – 4730 Hwy 167 North, Ville Platte, LA 70586

Vice-Chairman Dominique Monlezun motioned for the approval of the Class 6x permits to be granted and LTC Joseph Hasselbeck seconded the motion. By verbal votes, the Class 6x permits were granted with no dissenting votes.

The following applicants have applied for Class 2 permits and are unable to meet the requirements of the Commission; therefore it is requested that the application be withdrawn:

1. Ducote's Plumbing & Repair LLC – 43253 Pond View Drive, Prairieville, LA 70769
2. Callahan Services, LLC – 622 Main St., Morgan City, LA 70392

LTC Joseph Hasselbeck motioned and Commissioner Ricky Cleveland seconded the motion for the Class 2 permits to be withdrawn. By verbal votes, the Class 2 permits were withdrawn with no dissenting votes

The following applicants have applied for Class 6x permits and are unable to meet the requirements of the Commission; therefore it is requested that the application be withdrawn:

1. USA Travel Plaza II LLC – 3546 Hwy 33, Ruston, LA 71270
2. RK Bridge Store – 23488 Hwy 430, Franklinton, LA 70438
3. Freret Hardware, INC – 5109 Freret Hardware St., New Orleans, LA 70115
4. Ringgold Quick Stop – 1975 Military Road, Ringgold, LA 71068

Commissioner Francis Todd Thompson motioned and Commissioner Ricky Cleveland seconded the motion for the Class 6x permits to be withdrawn. By verbal votes, the Class 6x permits were withdrawn with no dissenting votes.

The following applicants have applied for a Class 6 permit and are unable to meet the requirements of the Commission; therefore it is requested that the application be withdrawn:

1. Z & H Cajun LLC dba Save More Market 3 – 10982 Greenwell Springs Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70814
2. Complete RV Repair Specialist – 4425 East Texas Street, Bossier City, LA 71111

Vice-Chairman Dominique Monlezun motioned and Commissioner Ricky Cleveland seconded the motion for the Class 6 permits to be withdrawn. By verbal votes, the Class 6 permits were withdrawn with no dissenting votes.

Violations

1. Charbonnet Construction LLC – 45473 Travis Rd, St. Amant, LA 70774

Commissioner Ricky Cleveland motioned to find Charbonnet Construction LLC guilty of violating LAC 55. XI. 107 (3) for failure to provide the required insurance. LTC Joseph

Hasselbeck seconded the motion. By verbal vote, the motion to find Charbonnet Construction LLC guilty was approved with no dissenting votes

Chairman John Alario called for the motion of a penalty for Charbonnet Construction LLC for violating LAC 55: XI. 107 (3).

Commissioner Francis Todd Thompson motioned for a penalty of \$500.00 for Charbonnet Construction LLC and LTC Joseph Hasselbeck seconded the motion. By verbal votes, the penalty was approved with no dissenting votes.

Chairman John Alario opened the floor to Commission business:

Old Business:

None

New Business:

None

LPGC Reports

- Statistical reports for June and July 2026

Commissioner Ricky Cleveland motioned for the approval of the statistical reports for June and July 2026 and Commissioner Francis Todd Thompson seconded the motion. By verbal votes, the approval of the statistical reports for June and July 2026 was approved with no dissenting votes.

- Detailed appropriation report recap for June and July 2026

Commissioner Francis Todd Thompson motioned for the approval of the detailed appropriation report for June and July 2026 and Commissioner Ricky Cleveland seconded the motion. By verbal votes, the approval of the detailed appropriation report for June and July 2026 was approved with no dissenting votes.

- Accounting total reports for June and July 2026

LTC Joseph Hasselbeck motioned for the approval of the accounting total reports for June and July 2026 and Commissioner Francis Thompson seconded the motion. By verbal votes, the approval of the accounting total reports for June and July 2026 was approved with no dissenting votes.

Due to a medical emergency, Chairman John Alario called for the August 19, 2026 Commission Meeting to a recess.

Commissioner Francis Todd Thompson motioned for a recess. Commissioner Ricky Cleveland seconded the motion. By verbal vote, the motion to recess was approved with no dissenting votes.

Chairman John Alario called for the August 19, 2026 Commission Meeting back to order.

Possible citations for next meeting:

Regular citations - 10

Insurance citations - 0

Permit renewals - 0

Open discussions, Chairman- John Alario/Director Don Robin

Executive Director Don Robin discussed his call with CF Industries Attorney Alan Harrell regarding truck tagging requirements for companies operating in Louisiana. Mr. Robin explained that they discussed companies that were improperly entering Louisiana without the required truck tags. He further stated that a meeting was arranged with Sergeant Brady Johnson of the Louisiana State Police to discuss the requirements, and that Sergeant Johnson is supportive of enforcing the truck tagging requirements.

Market Development Business

Chase reconciliation as of August 13, 2026: \$323,940.29.

Unencumbered balance as of August 13, 2026: \$213,940.29

Mr. Randy Hayden and Mr. Sina Zarei came before the Commission to discuss Market Development and matters affecting the LPG industry.

Mr. Hayden asked about the balance in the Market Development Fund, including whether the reported balance included funds deposited at the end of the fiscal year. Commission staff explained that there would be no Market Development disbursement for the current year because the Commission experienced an overall budget deficit. The Commission reported approximately \$1.4 million in revenue compared to a \$1.8 million budget, resulting in a shortfall.

Mr. Hayden expressed concern because the industry pays assessments that contribute to the Commission's revenue and stated that he needed to be able to explain the situation to industry members. The Commission explained that the shortfall was primarily related to licensing and permit revenues. Some dealers had not been properly licensed or had not paid required fees during the fiscal year, with some payments that would ordinarily have been received in June being received in July and therefore falling into a different fiscal period. Staff indicated that the licensing issue had since been addressed.

Mr. Hayden asked whether the Commission anticipated another shortfall or an increase in assessments during the current fiscal year. The Commission stated that no shortfall or increase in assessment fees, tag fees, or other dealer fees was anticipated based on current projections. Staff also noted that certain expenses, including computer-related costs, had been covered separately.

Mr. Zarei asked for clarification regarding whether assessments collected from industry resale gallons could be used to cover an operating-budget shortfall. The Commission explained that the revenues collected are used to operate the division and that, when there is an operating shortfall, the Department of Public Safety may cover the difference through its budget. The Commission emphasized that dealers would not be asked to pay an additional assessment to cover the prior shortfall.

The Commission further discussed the statutory relationship between operating revenues and Market Development funds. Funds remaining after the amount necessary to operate the division may be made available for Market Development, subject to the statutory limits. Because the Commission experienced a shortfall during the prior fiscal year, there was no excess revenue available for a Market Development distribution.

Staff reported that the Market Development account contained approximately \$323,940 in total funds, including approximately \$213,940 in unencumbered funds and approximately \$110,000 in encumbered funds.

Mr. Hayden asked about the status of the encumbered funds and when the funds could be approved and distributed. Staff reported that the Miss Louisiana contract had been signed and was being forwarded through the required budget and financial approval process. Other contracts were already in the system and were awaiting approval. Once the required approvals were completed, purchase order numbers would be issued and vendors could begin submitting invoices.

Cooperative Endeavor Agreement and Market Development Advisory Board

Mr. Zarei and Mr. Hayden also discussed the proposed cooperative endeavor agreement with the Department of Agriculture. Mr. Hayden explained that the purpose of the proposed arrangement was to improve the efficiency of processing Market Development contracts, particularly because the Commission's staff and legal personnel had previously experienced significant workloads associated with advertising and marketing contracts.

The Commission discussed recent legislative changes affecting the Market Development Advisory Board. The legislation allows the Advisory Board to have between three and nine members, with representation requirements for Class 1, Class 4, and Class 6 license holders. The Commission would continue to have a role in approving the Advisory Board members to ensure the statutory requirements are met.

The legislation also allows the Advisory Board to meet electronically, which was viewed as an improvement that could make participation easier for members located outside the area. A majority of the Advisory Board would be required to approve recommendations.

The industry representatives explained that approximately 30 proposals had been received from colleges, universities, radio stations, television stations, and other organizations seeking Market Development funding. The Advisory Board would review the proposals and make recommendations regarding which projects should receive funding.

Under the proposed process, the Commission would continue to certify the amount of money available in the Market Development account, with the balance being reported regularly. The Advisory Board would make recommendations based on the available funds, and the Commission would retain final authority to approve or reject the resulting contracts.

A significant portion of the discussion focused on who would control and disburse the Market Development funds if the Department of Agriculture became involved. The Commission clarified that the funds would remain under the Commission's authority and that the Department of Agriculture would not independently control the account. The exact process for transferring funds to the Department of Agriculture for payment would need to be established in the cooperative endeavor agreement and coordinated with Finance.

Mr. Zarei questioned whether involving another state agency would create an additional layer of bureaucracy and potentially slow down the process. He noted that the industry has become concerned about funds remaining in the account while contracts take extended periods to process. He also raised concern that continued delays could eventually lead to legislative efforts to eliminate the Market Development Fund.

The Commission explained that the proposed involvement of the Department of Agriculture was intended to take advantage of its greater experience with marketing, advertising, and related contracts. However, members of the Commission noted that the Commission's current legal and procurement processes have improved considerably over the past several months and questioned whether transferring the process to another agency would actually make it faster.

The LPGAS staff explained that recent delays were largely the result of changes in state procurement requirements, internal audits, and the need for contracts to comply with state protocols. Advertising and marketing services are now subject to additional procurement requirements, including review through the appropriate state procurement channels. Contracts over certain thresholds may also require review by the Division of Administration.

The Commission and industry representatives discussed the difficulty that smaller vendors have in completing lengthy state contracts. Mr. Hayden noted that some contracts had grown from relatively simple agreements into lengthy documents, creating barriers for smaller businesses that do not have attorneys or the resources to prepare complicated state contracts.

The LPGAS staff indicated that state procurement personnel, particularly Ms. Allison, could provide additional guidance regarding the required contract formats and procurement procedures. The possibility of developing a standard contract template that vendors could use by filling in the specific services, costs, and timeframes was discussed as a potential way to improve efficiency.

The Commission and industry representatives agreed that a meeting with the appropriate procurement and finance personnel would be beneficial to clarify the requirements and develop a more efficient process. The parties expressed a willingness to work together to improve the process while ensuring that all state procurement and audit requirements are followed.

It was also clarified that the cooperative endeavor agreement with the Department of Agriculture is not required simply to implement the legislative changes concerning the Market Development Advisory Board. If the Commission ultimately decides not to proceed with the Department of Agriculture arrangement, the Advisory Board changes can still be implemented under the new legislation.

Commission Legislation and/Rule Changes, Office of Legal Affairs:

The Commission discussed pending rule changes and indicated that the proposed changes would likely be brought before the Commission at the next meeting after additional feedback is reviewed by the Office of Legal Affairs.

Public Comments:

None

Next Meeting Date:

September 23, 2026

Association Communication:

Mr. Hayden provided an update regarding the Louisiana Propane Gas Association. He reported that the Association had entered into an agreement with the Missouri Propane Gas Association and that Luke Fitzpatrick would serve as the Association's new acting executive director. The transition of responsibilities was underway.

The industry representatives emphasized the importance of maintaining communication between the Association and the Commission. They also discussed the possibility of increasing training opportunities for the industry, noting that Missouri and Arkansas have strong training programs that could provide ideas for Louisiana.

The parties also discussed equipment and promotional materials currently stored in a state storage facility. The storage facility contains materials used for industry outreach events, including tents, promotional equipment, a propane generator, an audio system, and older audiovisual equipment. The Commission indicated that the equipment is technically state property and would need to be addressed as part of the transition.

Adjournment: No further comments.

Commissioner Ricky Cleveland motioned for the adjournment of the August 19, 2026 Commission Meeting and Commissioner Francis Todd Thompson seconded the motion. By verbal votes, the August 19, 2026 Commission Meeting was adjourned with no dissenting votes