

MAY MINUTES

Liquefied Petroleum Gas Commission (LPGC)

May 21, 2025

10:00 A.M.

Department of Public Safety

Conference room D

7919 Independence Blvd.

Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Mr. Jessie Len Hodges, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, May 21, 2025.

Chairman Hodges called the roll.

The following board members attended:

Commissioner Jessie Len Hodges, Chairman

Commissioner Dominique Monlezun, Vice-Chairman

Commissioner Francis Todd Thompson

Commissioner Ricky L. Cleveland

Others present:

Attorney Juliette Scionceaux

Various Industry representatives

Absent:

Don Robin

LTC Joseph Hasselbeck

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Hodges called for the approval of the agenda as presented. Commissioner Monlezun moved for the approval of the agenda as presented and Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion. By verbal votes, the agenda was approved as presented with no dissenting votes.

Chairman Hodges opened the floor for public comments. No comments.

Chairman Hodges called for the approval of the April 23, 2025 minutes. Commissioner Monlezun motioned for the minutes to be accepted and Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion. By verbal votes, the minutes were approved with no dissenting votes.

Chairman Hodges opened the floor for applications and/or violations to be heard.

APPLICATIONS:

The following applicants applied for a Class 2 permit, were administratively granted and ratified by the Commission:

Holders of these permits may install and service liquefied petroleum gas containers, piping and appliances, but shall not deliver gas. This Class will also apply to the installation and service of liquefied petroleum gas containers, piping and appliances on mobile homes, motor homes, travel trailers or any other recreational vehicles.

1. WB Kings Plumbing - 659 Henry Rd. Winnsboro, LA 71295
2. Jackson Plumbing LLC - 281 N. Post Oak Dr. Sulphur, LA 70663
3. Geaux Plumbing Repairs, LLC - 3800 Dunn Ferry Rd. Lake Charles, LA 70611
4. All Plumbing 24/7 Inc., - 605 Sterlington Rd. Monroe, LA 71203
5. Air Creation Heating & Cooling, LLC - 7061 Caddy's Court Dr. Gonzales, LA 70737

Commissioner Thompson motioned for all Class 2 permits be granted and Commissioner Cleveland seconded the motion. By verbal votes, the permits were granted with no dissenting votes.

The following applicants applied for a Class 6 permit, were administratively granted and ratified by the Commission:

Holders of these permits may install equipment, including containers, and service liquefied petroleum gas equipment used on internal combustion engines. They may not deliver liquefied petroleum gas.

1. Juneau's Cajun Meats - Franklinton, 16423 Hwy 450, Franklinton, LA 70438 – Makella Waskom – manager approached the Commission. Supplier - Propane Industrial Gas
2. T & T Boarding and Grooming Barn - 7181 Main Highway. St. Martinville, LA 70582 – Dallas Touchegegne approached the Commission. Supplier – Propane Industrial Gas.

Commissioner Monlezun motioned for the permit to be granted and Commissioner Cleveland seconded the motion. By verbal votes, the permit was granted with no dissenting votes.

Commissioner Thompson motioned for the permit to be granted and Commissioner Cleveland seconded the motion. By verbal votes, the permit was granted with no dissenting votes.

The following applicants applied for a Class 6X permit, were administratively granted and 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. MM-CS Services LLC #372 - 8231 Scenic Hwy., Baton Rouge, LA 70807
2. Walker Fuel Express - 8837 Florida Blvd. Walker, LA 70785

Commissioner Monlezun motioned for the 6X permits to be granted and Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion. By verbal votes, the permit was granted with no dissenting votes.

The following applicants has applied for a Class 6X Permit and is unable to meet the requirements of the Commission; therefore, it is requested that the application be withdrawn:

1. Swifty's #38 - 27411 South Walker Road., Walker, LA 70785
2. Shell T Towne - 5925 Hwy 84. Jonesville, LA 71343

Commissioner Cleveland motioned for the above permits to be withdrawn and Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion. By verbal votes, the permits were withdrawn and placed out of business

VIOLATIONS:

NO VIOLATIONS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY.

Chairman Hodges opened the floor to Commission business:

Old business:

- Update on continuing problems with the current operating system.
Chairman Hodges stated that he gets questions about permits and ID cards. Inspectors Thomas and Williams stated they refer questions to the office due to their limited access. Inspector Ledet said this is why they are working so hard on the new system.
- Update on progress of the new operating system.
According to Ledet, negotiations are happening with the new operating system. HB504 passed the in the House. Ledet provided an update on the new operating system with the breakdown of the program. The first company they are dealing with does occupational licenses but they do not handle testing. OTS has a list of companies that can assist with that feature at no charge. The anticipated launch date is November 2025. The budget has to be allocated before June 30th. The software company can come to a meeting to make a presentation. According to Ledet, it looks like the Senate will not oppose. Ledet also stated it has been 32 years and truck tags have been the same fee. The new operating system will have 1-3 phases. Applicants and permit holders will be able to apply, renew, test, cards online, input money, etc. In future phases, truck tags will be processed through another vendor. Inspector Williams stated the original cost and recurring cost of \$150K but stated they are trying to decrease the cost to \$120K. Ledet said truck tags should cover the yearly fee. The biggest cost is storage and archiving with a three (3) year retention. He also mentioned retaining sketches Ledet stated he has done his research and the company is huge and a meeting with OTS is coming soon. Commissioner Cleveland asked how the company was selected. Ledet and Williams said the company works with other agencies. No bidding. Cleveland asked if other states utilize a better built in system. Ledet said that was a good question. Cleveland commented that \$150K is a lot for a built in system. Williams said the Commission can see what the company does for the Sheriff's Office – violations pay online. Ledet stated they are working to decrease the cost and he is learning as he goes. Chairman Hodges asked if the company could attend the next meeting. William said the company could present a Power Point.

New business:

- Update on current website.
Chairman Hodges stated they are several issues with the website. There seems to be two (2) sets of rules and regulations on the website and incorrect phone numbers. According to Chairman Hodges, Don said he did not know what to do and the office did not know. Chairman Hodges was informed that updates are handled through DPS Website Updates. Ledet provided an update from OTS. The PDF on the website is correct but the other link on the website has to be removed. Chairman Hodges stated he is getting everyone on the same page. Ledet said he would work with the office staff on updates. He also stated he has a punch card of items. He would like a section for training pictures. Ledet also said he is working with a person from OTS and she told him the website would be updated. Chairman Hodges mentioned the short-staffed office. Ledet said all the inspectors are willing to do anything to help and he would like to be back where we were years ago.
- Depending on rule changes, possibly changing the meeting schedule.

LPGC reports

- Statistical report for April 2025
- Detailed appropriation report recap for April 2025
- Accounting total reports for April 2025 and April 2025
- Fire and accident report(s) for April 2025
- Compliance audits for April 2025

Possible citations for next meeting:

Regular citations – *None*

Insurance citations – *None*

Permit renewals – *Possibly 15+ failure to pay permit renewal.*

Market Development business:

Chase reconciliation as of May 5, 2025: \$614,233.32. Approximately \$300K is encumbered.

On behalf of the Louisiana Propane Gas Association, Randy Hayden approached the Commission. Hayden thanked the Commission for overseeing money. He praised the Commission for not making any knee jerk decisions with raising permit fees. He reminded the Commission that any leftover money goes to an emergency fund and market development fund. Hayden said the advisory board has some vacancies. Chairman Hodges inquired about an individual that was previously recommended by Artie Cole. If that individual is still interested, he should come before the Commission. Hayden thanked Attorney Scioneaux for her legal assistance. Hayden provided Industry update regarding LA prohibiting any banning any aspects of propane. He thanked the Commission for their support and stated plans are in place to make the ban a national law. LPGA supports HB504. Hayden also informed the Commission that he will begin transitioning from LPGA work but he will continue to lobby and working with market development. He will continue working until the end of the year. He reminded the Commission about the summer convention.

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

Attorney Scioneaux had no comments.

Commissioner Thompson asked former Director Alario for clarification regarding class 1E and 3 permits. According to the clarification Thompson received, the permit was used once for a hurricane and it was beneficial at the time. Thompson said he also spoke with Ledet. Thompson is in favor of keeping the permit instead of getting rid of it. Hodges said to not input the permit into the system but leave the permit in the rules. Ledet provides an explanation of the permit. He also mentioned leaving the permit out of the system and phase it into the system later in order to keep the cost down. All agreed.

Hodges addressed which permit holders should appear. The floor was opened to address the pros and cons. Classes to appear for meeting includes 1's, 4's, and 6's. Cleveland made a motion for Classes 1's, 4's, and 6's, to appear, Thompson seconded the motion. By verbal votes, the permit was granted with no dissenting votes.

Attorney Scioneaux will start working on regulation changes.

There was a discussion about reoccurring training to come before the Commission. Attorney Scioneaux will meet with Heather Hood to work on the language. Ledet also said the class 3 permit needs to be revised. Attorney Scioneaux suggested that the old rule and new rule changes be presented side by side.

Open discussion – Chairman Hodges

Discussion about cease and desist authority. A cease and desist is a mechanism to shut down operations. Hodges asked if a citation should be issued before a cease and desist. Thompson said companies should not be operating until their business is in order. Williams said the mail is an issue. Conversation continued about cease and desist and procedures that need to be communicated openly. According to Ledet, the new operating system will send notices and renewals. The conversation continued about the issues with the mail, accountability of permit holders, customers providing copies of checks mailed to the office, and the checks not being cleared through their bank. Thompson suggested that inspectors go to the companies that are not in compliance and investigate. More conversation continued about companies not receiving their permits by mail, and limited access to 365. The new system will allow everything to be accessible at their fingertips and having iPads in the field.

Next meeting date: June 18, 2025 – Baton Rouge, LA

Adjournment: No further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.