

MAY MINUTES

Liquefied Petroleum Gas Commission (LPGC)

June 18, 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, June 18, 2025.

Chairman Hodges called the roll.

The following board members attended:

Commissioner Jessie Len Hodges, Chairman

Commissioner Francis Todd Thompson

Commissioner Ricky L. Cleveland

Don Robin, Executive Director

LTC Joseph Hasselbeck

Others present:

Attorney Juliette Scionceaux

Various Industry representatives

Absent:

Commissioner Dominique Monlezun, Vice-Chairman

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Hodges called for the approval of the agenda as presented. Commissioner Thompson moved for the approval of the agenda as presented and Commissioner Cleveland 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 May 21, 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 read the following requirements:

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 OF THE EXISTING CERTIFICATE. IF IT IS RECEIVED AFTER 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 LPG RULES AND REGULATIONS, NFPA-54 (2018 EDITION), NFPA -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 NFPA. THE CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS CAN BE PURCHASED FROM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE OR OBTAINED FROM THE INTERNET FREE OF CHARGE.

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. DMR Mechanical LLC – 6150 Bert Kouns Industrial Loop Shreveport, LA 71129
2. Nobles Construction LLC – 562 Columbia St. Bogalusa, LA 70427
3. B & D Plumbing Co. Inc. – 979 O'Neal Lane Baton Rouge, LA 70816

Commissioner Cleveland motioned for all Class 2 permits be granted and Commissioner Thompson 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. Antioch Partnership LLC – 200 Breard St. Monroe, LA 71201 – *no representative present*
2. Warnerton Hardware Store – 31569 Schroder Rd. Franklinton, LA 70438 – *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.*
3. Circle A Hardware – Springfield – 29187 Hwy. 43 Albany, LA 70711- *no representative present*
4. LCLA Investor Group LLC – 4200 Luke Powers Rd. Lake Charles, LA 70615 - *Commissioner Cleveland motioned for the permit to be granted and Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion. By verbal votes, the permit was granted with no dissenting votes.*

5. B & T Seafood – 27006 Hwy. 25 Franklin, LA 70438 - *Commissioner Thompson motioned for the permit to be granted and LTC Hasselbeck seconded the motion. By verbal votes, the permit was granted with no dissenting votes.*

Commissioner Thompson motioned for all Class 6 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 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. Indian Mound Grocery & Deli – 16935 Liberty Rd. Greenwell Springs, LA 70739
2. Kroger #381 – P.O. Box 305103 Nashville, TN 37230-5103
3. Lumberjacks Food Outlet – 209 Industrial Parkway Dr. Bogalusa, LA 70427
4. Buddy's Seafood Mart 2 LLC – 1715 Sullivan Dr. Bogalusa, LA 70427
5. Buddy's Seafood Mart 3 LLC – 16815 Hwy. 43 Greensburg, LA 70441
6. Nocko's – 1036 Grand Caillou Rd. Houma, LA 70363

Commissioner Thompson motioned for the 6X permits to be granted and Commissioner Cleveland 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. Goodbee Quick Stop – 13029 Hwy. 190 Covington, LA 70435
2. Fast Stop of M. Foster LLC – 429 E. Airport Ave. Ste. 2 Baton Rouge, LA 70806
3. Quick Mart – 3333 N. Acadian Thruway Baton Rouge, LA 70805
4. C Store Properties – 46447 Hwy. 16 Pine Grove, LA 70453
5. TA Express Minden – 2198 Hwy. 532 Minden, LA 71055
6. TA Express Grambling, LA – 1130 RWE Jones Dr. 71125
7. K & A of Monroe LLC – 9680 Hwy. 594 Farmerville, LA 71241
8. S & M Liquor – 3948 Hwy. 371 Ringgold, LA
9. 5901 Read Blvd. LLC – 5901 Read Blvd. New Orleans, LA 70127
10. 6501 I-10 Service Road LLC – 6401 I-10 Service Road New Orleans, LA 70126
11. Exxon Causeway LLC – 3528 S I-10 Service Rd. W. Metairie, LA 70001
12. Exxon Belle Chasse LLC – 1944 Belle Chasse Hwy. Gretna, LA 70056
13. Shell Barataria LLC – 2698 Barataria Blvd. Avondale, LA 70094
14. Shell Carol Sue LLC – 2000 Carol Sue Ave. Avondale, LA 70094
15. Shell Avondale LLC – 2901 US Hwy. 90 Avondale, LA 70094
16. Shell Laplace LLC – 3659 Lapalco Blvd Avondale, LA 70094
17. 4408 S. I-10 Service Rd. W. Metairie, LA 70001
18. Napoleon Food Mart – 2140 E. Napoleon St. Sulphur, LA 70663
19. Ragley Express Mart – 14865 Hwy. 171 Ragley, LA 70657
20. Lavigne Plaza LLC -2963 Hwy. 190 Mandeville, LA 70471

There was a brief discussion about the number of applicants unable to meet the requirements of the Commission. According to Inspector Ledet, no one person is a fault for the number of withdrawn applicant. There are number of reasons an applicant may fail to meet the requirements.

Commissioner Thompson motioned for the above permits to be withdrawn and LTC Hasselbeck seconded the motion. By verbal votes, the permits were withdrawn and placed out of business with no dissenting votes.

Chairman Hodges asked the inspectors to go to the 6X locations listed above to verify if the permits are no longer operating.

The following applicant applied for a Class R2 permit and is unable to meet the requirements of the Commission; therefore, it is requested that the application be withdrawn:

1. Public Construction – 14270 Old Genessee Rd. Tickfaw, LA 70466 – Inspector Chad Ledet ask for the application to be postponed until next month. Commissioner Thompson motioned for the application be postponed and Commissioner Cleveland seconded the motion. By verbal votes, the application was postponed with no dissenting votes.

Chairman Hodges opened the floor for the following violations:

VIOLATIONS:

1. **UTEC – 1432 Broad Street Lake Charles, LA 70601 Docket #2025011**
Did continue to engage in the L.P. Gas business without paying the required (Class 2) permit fee; thus violating R.S. 40:1849 (A) of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended.
2. **Louisiana Trailer Works Inc. – P.O. Box 664 Sterlington, LA 71280 – Docket #2025012**
Did continue to engage in the L.P. Gas business without paying the required (Class 2) permit fee; thus violating R.S. 40:1849 (A) of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended.
3. **Red River South Marina – 250 Red River South Marina Road Bossier City, LA 71112 Docket #2025013**
Did continue to engage in the L.P. Gas business without paying the required (Class 6) permit fee; thus violating R.S. 40:1849 (A) of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended.
4. **Plumbing Solutions – P.O. Box 624 St. Amant, LA 70774 – Docket #2025014**
Did continue to engage in the L.P. Gas business without paying the required (R1) permit fee; thus violating R.S. 40:1849 (A) of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended.
5. **Channel Side Leasing Solutions Inc. – 211 Fairfield Drive Thibodaux, LA 70301 – Docket #2025015**
Did continue to engage in the L.P. Gas business without paying the required (Class 6X) permit fee; thus violating R.S. 40:1849 (A) of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended.
6. **SG Brothers – 9754 Eve Drive Denham Springs, LA 70726 – Docket #2025016**
Did continue to engage in the L.P. Gas business without paying the required (Class 6X) permit fee; thus violating R.S. 40:1849 (A) of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended.
7. **Boone's Grocery & Bait LLC – P.O. Box 478 Gilbert, LA 71336 – Docket #2025017**
Did continue to engage in the L.P. Gas business without paying the required (Class 6X) permit fee; thus violating R.S. 40:1849 (A) of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended.
8. **Sterlington Hardware – 9092 Hwy. 165 Sterlington, LA 71280 – Docket#2025018**

Did continue to engage in the L.P. Gas business without paying the required (Class 6X) permit fee; thus violating R.S. 40:1849 (A) of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended.

9. M. Gil Enterprises LLC – 11222 Florida Blvd. Walker, LA 70785 – Docket #2025019

Did continue to engage in the L.P. Gas business without paying the required (Class 6X) permit fee; thus violating R.S. 40:1849 (A) of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended.

10. Home Town Hardware LLC – 711 West 1st. Street Kaplan, LA 70548 – Docket #2025020

Did continue to engage in the L.P. Gas business without paying the required (Class 6X) permit fee; thus violating R.S. 40:1849 (A) of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended.

11. Shop A Lott #6 – 188 Alexandria Hwy., Leesville, LA 71446 – Docket #2025021

Did continue to engage in the L.P. Gas business without paying the required (Class 6X) permit fee; thus violating R.S. 40:1849 (A) of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended.

12. Shop A Lott #7 – 1800 Nolan Trace Leesville, LA 71446 – Docket #2025022

Did continue to engage in the L.P. Gas business without paying the required (Class 6X) permit fee; thus violating R.S. 40:1849 (A) of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended.

13. Quicky's Discount – 1535 Franklin Avenue New Orleans, LA 70117 – Docket #2025023

Did continue to engage in the L.P. Gas business without paying the required (Class 6X) permit fee; thus violating R.S. 40:1849 (A) of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended.

14. Taylor's Express – P.O. Box 1520 Gramercy, LA 70052 – Docket #2025024

Did continue to engage in the L.P. Gas business without paying the required (Class 6X) permit fee; thus violating R.S. 40:1849 (A) of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended.

15. Queb's Country Store – 3007 Hwy. 167 Opelousas, LA 70570 – Docket #2025025

Did continue to engage in the L.P. Gas business without paying the required (Class 6X) permit fee; thus violating R.S. 40:1849 (A) of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended.

16. Blue Rhino -3214 S. Hwy. 95A Cantonment, FL 32533 – Docket #2025026

Did continue to engage in the L.P. Gas business without paying the required (Class 4) permit fee; thus violating R.S. 40:1847.A.1 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended.

Commissioner Thompson motioned for the above violations to postpone until next month Hasselbeck seconded the motion. By verbal votes, the violations were postponed until next month with no dissenting votes.

Chairman Hodges opened the floor to Commission business:

Old business:

- Update on continuing problems with the current operating system – same issues have continued.
- Update on progress of the new operating system - Pratyush Kumar with Fusion Stak LLC provided a handout to the Commission about the new operating system. Mr. Kumar gave an overview of the company and their experience working with state and local government particularly with Tangipahoa and St. James' Sheriff's occupational licenses. The handout covered the permit processes, data migration, the host for the application, online exam and tracking, in Phase 1. Not included in Phase 1: violations, citations, vehicle permit, and 23 forms will not be integrated with the online process as part of phase. Go live date is set for the April 2025. The cost of phase 1 =

\$250,000 with an annual maintenance of \$150,000 per year (hosting, application support for items delivered in Phase 1). The floor opened for questions. LTC Hasselbeck inquired about the benefits of the product. The benefits of an online product were discussed. Permit holders will receive notifications by paper and later electronically. Nobody from outside of the agency touches the data. As a result, the cost increases. Inspectors will have access via an iPad. Chairman Hodges stated that Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas are aware of the new operating system and he believes those states will follow.

- Update on webpage – The outdated rules have been removed from the page via an online portal submitted by the office. According to Inspector Ledet, the updates to the page are about 50% complete. He also stated that all the phone numbers listed on the page are current.

LPGC reports

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

Possible citations for next meeting:

Regular citations – *None*

Insurance citations – *None*

Permit renewals – *None; next permit cycle ends 6/30/25.*

Market Development business:

Chase reconciliation as of June 11, 2025: \$413,213.58. Approximately \$300K is encumbered.

On behalf of the Liquefied Petroleum Advisory Board, Artie Cole approached the Commission. Mr. Cole stated that a meeting was held last week to go over several proposals. According to him, another meeting will be held before the next Commission meeting to vote on proposals. Possible proposals to come before the Commission may include: Alpha Media, Moons for Fun Enterprises, and Capital City Press – social media advertising. Alpha Media is a new proposal with Jaguar Football Show tv/radio and Coach Terrance Graves. The coverage will promote propane in the rural areas that extend beyond North Baton Rouge. Capital City Press will consist of Facebook, Instagram, zip codes, YouTube, etc. Currently, LP Gas Commission does not have a YouTube channel. There was a brief discussion about the benefits of social media. LTC Hasselbeck stated that the average person thinks of propane only for hurricanes and BBQ but there are many more uses for propane. LTC Hasselbeck asked Mr. Cole about the ability to track followers. Mr. Cole said social media does allow tracking. The target audience is residential, agricultural, and commercial use. Louisiana Radio and Louisiana First are two additional proposals that will come before the Commission. Louisiana Radio will consist of 50 radio stations statewide that include billboard, Facebook, Instagram, agricultural ads, etc. Louisiana First (Sports) includes a NFL Sunday package and a Super Bowl package.

There was a brief discussion on the success of the Zurich Classic. Mr. Cole said he received positive feedback. Jody Herring from Herring Gas also attended and received lots of positive feedback. LTC Hasselbeck and Colonel Hodges was able to visit the tent. LTC Hasselbeck commended the team that worked the tent for the Zurich Classic.

Mr. Cole stated that he and Jody Herring are resigning from their respective positions. A new chairperson will be announced at the next meeting and names for the Market Development Advisory Board will be presented to the Commission.

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

Attorney Scioneaux had no comments.

Open discussion, Director Robin and/or Chairman Hodges:

Director Robin stated that things were all good and Chairman Hodges stated that everything was going great.

Next meeting date:

July 23, 2025 – Baton Rouge, LA

Industry Communication, Randy Hayden:

On behalf of the Louisiana Propane Gas Association, Mr. Hayden approached the Commission. Mr. Hayden stated that some of the contracts discussed this morning are repeats of current contracts with up to two years extended. Mr. Hayden asked Attorney Scioneaux about the process for the extension. Attorney Scioneaux said the extension has to be voted by Market Development and presented to the Commission for renewal.

Mr. Hayden confirmed with the Commission that the phone numbers on the website are current.

Mr. Hayden reminded the Commission this is the 15th year for sponsoring the Miss Louisiana pageant. He checked on the status of the Miss Louisiana contract. Director Robin said the contract went to Procurement. According to Mr. Hayden, the Miss America pageant moved to September. Miss Louisiana will compete in Orlando, Florida. Miss Louisiana will attend the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame with Louisiana Propane sponsors.

Mr. Hayden provided a recap of Propane Days in Washington, D.C where several Federal issues were addressed. Propane can no longer be banned in Louisiana. There is an interest to make that happened nationwide. Municipal natural gas systems do not want the competition. Louisiana Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a statewide program that helps low-income families pay their utilities during difficult times. The Trump Administration was considering stopping the funding nationwide and allowing the State to fund completely. Although electric utilities are mostly benefited, some propane customers fall in that category. The funding was supported.

Mr. Hayden informed the Commission about the support for the truck tag increase. According to him, the Commission is still moderate in the increase in comparison to other states. Mr. Hayden congratulated the Commission for getting the increase.

Mr. Hayden also discussed insurance. If you do not have insurance, you cannot file a lawsuit. If you are more than 50% (previously 90%), you cannot collect damages.

Mr. Hayden reminded the Commission about the convention in Alabama. Miss American will be in attendance. Mr. Hayden provided a training update. Continuing Employee Training Program (CETP) is now PEP program, which is based online. Some states have a training fund. Mr. Hayden stated that is something to consider in the future with a centralized locations with the inspectors.

Mr. Hayden extended an invitation to the conference. He also suggested that the Commission send someone to the conference that can explain the truck tag increase. Depending on scheduling, Commissioner Thompson suggested the author of the bill.

Mr. Hayden thanked Attorney Scioneaux for her assistance with the contracts.

Commissioner Thompson said there are two permits that need to be approved or postponed. Chairman Hodges stated the law does not allow those particular classes to be approved in absentia. Commissioner Thompson motioned for Antioch Partnership LLC and Circle A Hardware to be postponed. (There is no record of a second). Chairman Hodges read the following applications: Antioch Partnership LLC – 200 Breard St. Monroe, LA 71201 and Circle A Hardware – Springfield – 29187 Hwy. 43 Albany, LA 70711; By verbal votes the applications were postpone with no dissenting votes.

Adjournment: No further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.