

I. Meeting Packet



State of Florida
Public Service Commission
INTERNAL AFFAIRS AGENDA

Tuesday – June 16, 2026
9:30 AM
Room 105 – Gerald L. Gunter Building

1. Overview of 2026 Hurricane Preparedness Staff Workshop (Attachment 1)
2. Efficiency Committee Update
3. General Counsel's Report
4. Executive Director's report
5. Other Matters

BB/aml

OUTSIDE PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION ON
ANY OF THE AGENDAED ITEMS SHOULD CONTACT THE
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT (850) 413-6463.



Public Service Commission

CAPITAL CIRCLE OFFICE CENTER • 2540 SHUMARD OAK BOULEVARD
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0850

-M-E-M-O-R-A-N-D-U-M-

DATE: June 8, 2026

TO: Braulio L. Baez, Executive Director

FROM: Penelope D. Buys, Engineering Specialist IV, Division of Engineering PB TB
LK

RE: Overview of the 2026 Hurricane Preparedness Staff Workshop

Critical Information: Please place on the June 16, 2026, Internal Affairs
Briefing Only

On April 20, 2026, the staff of the Florida Public Service Commission (Commission) held the Hurricane Preparedness Workshop. Florida Power & Light Company (FPL), Tampa Electric Company (TECO), Florida Public Utilities Company (FPUC), Kissimmee Utility Authority (KUA), and the Florida Electric Cooperatives Association, Inc. (FECA) each made presentations about their hurricane preparedness processes and answered questions from Chairman Passidomo Smith and staff.¹ Duke Energy Florida, LLC (DEF) submitted its presentation; however, DEF's representative was not able to attend the workshop. In addition, Consolidated Communications of Florida Company (Consolidated) was invited to present, but was also unable to attend the workshop.

Specific topics discussed during the meeting included: vegetation management, pole inspections, storm preparedness, customer communications, and lessons learned. A summary of the topics discussed are provided below. In addition, staff has included information from the annual Joint Use Pole Inspection and Maintenance Reports, submitted by communications providers, regarding pole inspections and vegetation management.

Vegetation Management

Vegetation management activities in and around distribution and transmission facilities include trimming, mowing of rights-of-way, application of herbicides, and inspections. All of the utilities have established vegetation trim cycles based on conditions specific to their respective distribution and transmission systems. In addition to their regular trim cycles, many of the utilities perform mid-cycle trimming or hot spot trimming before the peak of storm season and throughout the year. Table 1 provides a summary of the miles trimmed by the utilities in 2025, which are consistent with the utilities' established vegetation trim cycles.

¹ The presentations are available on the Commission's website:
<https://floridapsc.com/hurricane-preparation-workshops>.

Table 1: Miles of Overhead and Ground Trimming for 2025

Utility	Distribution Miles Trimmed	Transmission Miles Trimmed
FPL	18,500	9,600
DEF	4,520	677
TECO	1,553	530
FPUC	157	3
KUA	132	73
FECA	10,000 ¹	

Source: Utilities' 2025 hurricane preparedness presentations.

Note: Some values include both cycle miles and hot spot trimming.

¹ Includes both distribution and transmission mileage for all FECA members combined.

Pole Inspections

Similar to vegetation management, all of the utilities have established pole inspection cycles for their distribution and transmission facilities. Based on the utilities' current inspection cycles, distribution poles and transmission poles/structures are inspected at least once every eight years. The timing and type of inspection (visual, strength and loading, or ground line) is dependent on the structure or pole being inspected. Table 2 provides the number of poles inspected by each utility in 2025.

Table 2: Overhead Facilities Inspections for 2025

Utility	Distribution Poles Inspected	Transmission Poles/Structures Inspected
FPL	193,000	84,000
DEF	122,111	10,935
TECO	38,951	52 ³
FPUC	3,898 ¹	
KUA	2,273 ¹	
FECA	210,000 ²	

Source: Utilities' 2025 hurricane preparedness presentations.

Note: Some values include both wooden and concrete poles.

¹ Includes both distribution and transmission poles/structures.

² Includes both distribution and transmission poles/structures for all FECA members combined.

³ Transmission wooden pole inspections are decreasing due to hardening. TECO has approximately 1,300 wooden transmission poles remaining.

Storm Preparedness

All of the presenting utilities have storm preparedness plans in place. The utilities check and verify material/equipment inventories and conduct storm drills prior to storm season. The storm drills include ongoing refresher training for current employees and training for new employees. The utilities coordinate with the local and state Emergency Operation Centers and have mutual aid agreements with other utilities in place. In some cases, the utilities are upgrading their internal digital platforms. This helps the employees from different sections of the utility to see what needs to be done and who needs to do it.

Customer Communications

As part of their storm preparedness activities, the utilities communicate with their customers before, during, and after a storm event. Customer outreach before a storm event includes meetings, presentations, notification on websites, social media, radio and television ads, and brochures. During and after a storm event, the utilities provide information on their websites, and through social media platforms and text messages such as up-to-date outage maps, estimated restoration times, or the status of crews dispatched for repairs.

Lessons Learned

This past year Florida was minimally impacted by extreme weather. As such, lessons learned are still being implemented from the impacts of the 2024 hurricanes (Debby, Helene, and Milton). Some of the lessons learned from the events are listed below.

- Upgrade internal digital platforms to improve information sharing
- Analyze storm surge impacts on underground equipment
- Assess technology options for management of mutual aid crews
- Identify and cross-train back-up personnel at all levels
- Increase material oversight and planning to minimize supply chain disruption impacts
- Continue to invest in SPP/storm hardening initiatives

Joint Use Pole Inspection and Maintenance Report

Pursuant to Rule 25-18.020, Florida Administrative Code, AT&T Florida (AT&T), CenturyLink of Florida, Inc. (Lumen), Consolidated, and Frontier Florida, LLC (Frontier) are to provide annual reports to the Commission regarding their pole inspections and vegetation management. Table 3 provides the number of poles inspected and vegetation miles trimmed in 2025.²

Table 3: Number of Poles Inspected and Vegetation Miles Trimmed in 2025

Utility	Poles Inspected	Miles Trimmed
AT&T	44,009	239
Lumen	4,142	0
Consolidated	82	52
Frontier	3,705	15

Source: Companies' 2026 Pole Inspection and Maintenance Reports filed in Docket No. 20260000-OT

Summary

Preparation is key to successful restoration following a hurricane event and hurricane preparation is a year-round effort that includes many activities. Throughout the year, the utilities maintain their systems by trimming vegetation and inspecting their structures. The utilities also harden their systems by implementing storm protection plan projects, including undergrounding facilities.

Prior to hurricane season, the utilities participate in hurricane exercises and drills in order to prepare for potential storm events. In addition, the utilities verify that internal resources, such as equipment, and external resources, such as mutual aid agreements, are at the ready. The utilities also continue to improve communication efforts with their customers before, during, and after storm events in various ways, including the use of text and social media.

cc: Office of the General Counsel (A. Harper)
Deputy Executive Director, Technical (M. Futrell)
Deputy Executive Director, Administrative (A. McKinnon)

² The Annual Reports are due by June 1 of each year. The 2026 report, which provides the 2025 data, is the most current data available at this time.

II. Outside Persons Who Wish to Address the Commission at Internal Affairs

Note: The records reflect that no outside persons addressed the Commission at this Internal Affairs meeting.

III. Supplemental Materials for Internal Affairs

Note: The records reflect that there were no supplemental materials provided to the Commission during this Internal Affairs meeting.

IV. Transcript

1 BEFORE THE
2 FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

3
4
5
6 PROCEEDINGS: INTERNAL AFFAIRS

7 COMMISSIONERS
8 PARTICIPATING: CHAIRMAN GABRIELLA PASSIDOMO SMITH
9 COMMISSIONER GARY F. CLARK
10 COMMISSIONER MIKE LA ROSA
11 COMMISSIONER BOBBY PAYNE
12 COMMISSIONER ANA ORTEGA

13
14 DATE: Tuesday, June 16, 2026

15 TIME: Commenced: 9:30 a.m.
16 Concluded: 10:10 a.m.

17 PLACE: Betty Easley Conference Center
18 Room 105
19 2524 Shumard Oak Boulevard
20 Gerald L. Gunter Building
21 Tallahassee, Florida

22 REPORTED BY: DEBRA R. KRICK
23 Court Reporter and
24 Notary Public in and for
25 the State of Florida at Large

26
27 PREMIER REPORTING
28 TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA
29 (850) 894-0828

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. Good morning.

3 Okay. First things first. Song of the Month,
4 I think you heard it, Trying to Reason with
5 Hurricane Season. This was submitted by Dorothy
6 Masco, Elisabeth Draper, Ryan Sandy and Alex de la
7 Portilla. So, obviously, that was an overwhelming
8 submission, which is one of the reasons -- we are
9 also in hurricane season, and we are going to be
10 going over the preparedness workshop report today.
11 Plus, I got to mention, my husband, every year,
12 says he is super proud. He is the top one percent
13 on Spotify Jimmy Buffett listeners. He thinks he
14 is the biggest Parrothead, so if he found out that
15 I didn't pick the Jimmy Buffett submission, he
16 would be probably very upset, so, yeah, especially
17 now, hurricane season also correlates to Jimmy
18 Buffett season for us, so it's on -- it's on a lot.

19 And next we are going to move -- okay, so
20 Employee of the Month, Kathryn Guan. Is she here?

21 (Applause.)

22 CHAIRMAN SMITH: So I had the pleasure of
23 bringing her award yesterday, and I got to see her
24 super cute, really nicely decorated office, so also
25 kudos to that. Very impressive.

1 Kathryn's can-do attitude and eagerness to
2 contribute has made her an invaluable member of
3 Commission staff. She's constantly seeking to take
4 on new and complex challenges that the Commission
5 faces. Her drive to take on ever-increasing
6 responsibilities and her strong leadership skills
7 help push the Commission forward and continue its
8 tradition in excellence of utility regulation.

9 For these reasons, please join me again in
10 congratulating Kathryn as June Employee of the
11 Month.

12 (Applause.)

13 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thanks for being here.

14 All right. Next is moving on to the 2026
15 Hurricane Preparedness Staff Workshop. Ms. Buys.

16 MS. BUYS: Good morning. Penelope Buys.

17 On April 20th, 2026, staff held its annual
18 Hurricane Preparedness Workshop. Florida
19 investor-owned electric utilities, as well as
20 Kissimmee Utility Authority and the Florida
21 Electric Cooperative Association provided
22 presentations which were posted on the Commission's
23 website.

24 As in prior years, the topics discussed during
25 the workshop include status updates for vegetation

1 management and inspection and maintenance programs;
2 annual activities that take place prior to the
3 hurricane season, such as hurricane exercises and
4 drills, verifying equipment availability and making
5 sure mutual aid agreements are in place, and
6 lessons learned.

7 What's before you today is the memo which
8 provides a summary of the topics discussed. I am
9 available to answer any questions you may have.

10 Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you.

12 Commissioners, is there any questions for
13 Ms. Buys on the report? No, seeing none.

14 Do we vote -- do we need to vote on this? No,
15 because this is staff --

16 MS. BUYS: No.

17 CHAIRMAN SMITH: -- it's just a review.

18 MS. BUYS: No.

19 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. It looks great. Thank
20 you so much. Appreciate everything.

21 Okay. I guess we will move next to Mr. Frank,
22 who will be doing Legislative Update and Efficiency
23 Committee Update, because you wear many hats in
24 this role.

25 MR. FRANK: Thank you, Chairman. Thank you,

1 Chairman. Good morning, Commissioners.

2 Just, yeah, to start off with a quick
3 legislative update. There has been two special
4 sessions since my last update, Special Session F,
5 which addressed property taxes, where the
6 Legislature passed a property tax relief resolution
7 to go on the ballot in November, and then Special
8 Session E, which the Legislature passed the
9 2026-2027, the school year budget, coming in at
10 \$114.5 billion, slightly less than the previous
11 year. That, of course, will go to the Governor to
12 review, and he can also line item veto, so that
13 number may change. So I will keep you updated ones
14 he signs and if that number does change. So I just
15 wanted to provide that quick update.

16 Also, there is a bill that was signed that we
17 were tracking, House Bill 1451, which addresses
18 municipalities that provide service to customers
19 outside their city limits. There is a provision in
20 that bill that impacts the Commission.

21 The utilities that do serve customers,
22 municipal utilities that do serve customers outside
23 their city limits, must report data to the
24 Commission, such as number of customers they are
25 serving outside their city limits, the revenues

1 generated, what those funds are being used for, any
2 rate differentials, and provide that to the
3 Commission by January 1st, 2027.

4 The Commission will then compile that
5 information into a report and provide that report
6 to the Governor, the Senate President and House
7 Speaker by March 31st, 2027, and then annually
8 thereafter.

9 So that's my quick legislative update. Again,
10 I will keep you posted on the budget if that number
11 changes and when it gets signed.

12 Now I am happy to give an update on the work
13 of the Efficiency Committee. You know, as a
14 continuation of what started under Commissioner La
15 Rosa's chairmanship and now under the leadership of
16 Chairman Smith, the Efficiency Committee has
17 continued to look at ways the Commission can do
18 what we do better, finding efficiencies,
19 streamlining processes, reviewing everything from
20 policy to administrative internal procedures.

21 And so in the first six months of this year,
22 we were able to tackle a few of our priorities,
23 starting off with the customer service hearing
24 process. I think one of the big priorities of the
25 committee was to try to enhance the customer

1 experience, providing information that would be
2 helpful so that customers can easily navigate to
3 and from the customer service hearing locations,
4 sometimes they will be on campuses, multiple
5 buildings, and it can get a little confusing
6 exactly where to go. So a few of the things we
7 added were QR codes, GPS pins available, so when
8 customers use -- sign up, instead of just an
9 address, they can actually pull up Google Maps.

10 Also, at the actual location, there is signage
11 leading to the venue that's more visible. And then
12 a large sign with a QR code that the customers can
13 actually scan and pull up the rate case overview on
14 their phone and actually have that available during
15 the meeting.

16 We also got some customer feedback on that
17 experience. It was very positive. So we will
18 continue looking at ways to enhance that process
19 where possible.

20 There is also a -- some work being done to
21 digitize the speaker sign-up process, which will be
22 very helpful. I think that will help it
23 continuously run from when speaker sign-ups go live
24 through the meeting, which currently, as it's done,
25 there is a little bit of a disconnect there. So

1 this would absolutely create a much more
2 streamlined way for customers to sign up, and then
3 for staff to be able to keep track of the customers
4 as they do so. That is something that we are
5 exploring and hoping to have that ready soon, and I
6 can update you on that progress.

7 And another minor update we made, just from
8 more of an internal communications standpoint, is
9 we updated one of the distribution methods for
10 internal communications to save IT network storage
11 space. So that was a big improvement that we were
12 able to tackle as well.

13 And then one I am excited to share, is the
14 internet design. So we have redesigned the
15 internet page, something I know a lot of folks have
16 been interested in tackling for a while. I think,
17 you know, as you see it pulled up here, I think for
18 a lot of folks that have been here five, 10 years,
19 they know where to find quickly their links that
20 they like, but especially for newer employees, you
21 are basically having to read through an entire
22 list. And, yes, there are subcategories, but, you
23 know, it can be difficult to navigate.

24 Also, it's growing. I think since I have been
25 it in my role, I have added probably five or six

1 links to that already, so it is a growing list.
2 And so to organize it and provide the most
3 efficient way to access those resources for our
4 staff was a big priority, and so a few things we
5 look to do is create better organization with
6 different titles, so that they can quickly find
7 what they are looking for. Quick links on the side
8 for commonly used resources -- well, there we go.

9 (Video playing.)

10 MR. FRANK: So that is just a quick little
11 visual demonstration of what to expect. That will
12 be going live this month, and so some of the
13 features on there that I was pointing -- wanted to
14 point out, just that search feature I think that is
15 huge. IT was able to add that to be able to
16 quickly find anything you are looking for. The
17 menu bar to take you common, you know, common
18 external sites, such as People First, our website,
19 things like that.

20 So very excited about that. It was a lot of
21 collaboration between the Efficiency Committee, IT.
22 Special shout-out to Kate Hamrick, who is on part
23 of a breakout committee that really kind of focused
24 on the, you know, specific categories and links,
25 and where they should go.

1 And also Kate revamped our Commission
2 calendar. So that actually went live today, which
3 creates a much more readable, organized calendar,
4 and color-coded, so I think that everyone will be
5 able to enjoy that. So that one went live too. So
6 I want to thank Kate Hamrick for her help there.
7 And IT for helping get that together, the intranet
8 so quickly.

9 But the -- let's see. The -- I guess just to
10 close out, you know, we want to -- I just want to
11 encourage staff to continue to provide suggestions.
12 There is a place on the intranet for efficiency
13 suggestions. Every meeting, the committee starts
14 off by reviewing those suggestions. It's very
15 helpful, so I want to encourage staff to continue
16 to do that.

17 And that concludes my update. I am happy to
18 answer any questions. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you.

20 Yeah, Commissioner Clark.

21 COMMISSIONER CLARK: David, I understand that
22 we have completed the migration to Microsoft 365.
23 Is there a plan to have this available where it can
24 be on the SharePoint so that each of the
25 departments can do some customization work with it?

1 MR. FRANK: I believe that is something IT is
2 looking into. I don't have a timeline for that,
3 but I know that's something they are very much
4 interested in looking into and exploring, so I can
5 get an update on that. I will get that for you.

6 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Thanks.

7 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. Commissioner Payne.

8 COMMISSIONER PAYNE: Quick question on the
9 bill, the legislation that was passed,
10 municipalities that extend outside their city
11 government, city territory. Did they prohibit any
12 surcharges on that?

13 MR. FRANK: They did. So they brought the --
14 it was 50 percent, they lowered that to 25 percent.
15 There is a phaseout until 2029. That was one of
16 the core changes on the surcharges.

17 COMMISSIONER PAYNE: All right. Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER LA ROSA: Can I follow up on
19 that?

20 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Uh-huh.

21 COMMISSIONER LA ROSA: So I guess what our job
22 responsibilities are to collect the data and then,
23 obviously, put those reports that you mentioned.
24 To Commissioner Payne's point, if those numbers
25 are, let's say, call it out of whack, right, where

1 we see that they are higher, do we have any
2 responsibilities?

3 MR. FRANK: We do have enforcement for
4 reporting the data and being able to follow up on
5 that, so we can -- the data as far as auditing the
6 data, there was no mention in the bill or anything
7 like that, so I don't think there is any, from --
8 as I am reading it, in my understanding, there is
9 not really an audit or anything that the Commission
10 follows up on for that. It's more so being able to
11 be that, you know, clearinghouse to bring it
12 together, compile it and provide it.

13 COMMISSIONER LA ROSA: So we would just report
14 if we see numbers a certain way --

15 MR. FRANK: Yeah.

16 COMMISSIONER LA ROSA: -- then, obviously, the
17 Legislature can take action.

18 MR. FRANK: Yep.

19 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Commissioner Ortega.

20 COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: I just want to go back
21 to the intranet, because that's pretty awesome. So
22 round of applause for everybody.

23 I love the video. It was very helpful to show
24 kind of where the organization is, but I definitely
25 -- it's something that I know that we worked on a

1 couple of years ago, but I am really grateful for
2 your leadership to get it over the edge and really
3 create something that will be helpful in how our
4 staff navigates our information and, therefore, do
5 our jobs better.

6 So I love it. I can't wait to use it. It's
7 my home page, and just like coming home to, like, a
8 clean house that's organized, I am super excited
9 about it, so thanks to everybody involved.

10 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thanks. I am glad to hear
11 that, because you --

12 MR. BAEZ: What's that like?

13 CHAIRMAN SMITH: You have obviously been here
14 for a long time, so you are one of the, like, a
15 legacy employee who has been used to the old. So
16 that was what we were really trying to accomplish,
17 was those employees who have been here a long time
18 and used to the old page, know where their links
19 are, you know, nobody likes to be -- have something
20 completely upended that they are very familiar
21 with, so how do we kind of bridge that gap so that
22 it's very user friendly for newer employees that
23 are just coming in, but also, like, it doesn't --
24 it doesn't -- it's not too disruptive for if you
25 have been used to it. So I think you did a great

1 job.

2 Also, yes, the demonstration video is awesome.
3 I felt like we were like, you know, the next iPhone
4 is here, you know, and it's like this is our
5 version of it, so --

6 And major shout-out, thanks to Kate again,
7 too. I really like the new updated Commission
8 calendar. You guys will see it's just easier to
9 look at as far as all the codes that are on there.
10 You don't really have to decipher what things are,
11 like, it just says what it is. There is color --
12 it will be color coordinated as far as what the
13 actual event that's being on there. And then it
14 has, you know, the locations of certain things,
15 for, like, the service hearings and stuff like
16 that, so you don't have to -- sometimes we will be,
17 you know, going to four or five different ones, and
18 you are like where am I going. And it's just nice
19 to know in the next month where are the different
20 cities that we will be hitting, or something like
21 that.

22 So I think -- I am excited to see it. And we
23 are going to be meeting again soon, the Efficiency
24 Committee, to see what's next on the list, so,
25 yeah, just doubling up on David's request to you

1 guys about submitting, you know, more
2 recommendations. That's really how we get things
3 kind of going, and so we are moving on to the next
4 phase, all of those things that David mentioned
5 that we have kind of accomplished and that are
6 coming down the pike, so we are kind of looking for
7 what's next. What's next that we can tackle? So
8 keep sending in those recommendations if you have
9 them.

10 Anything else, guys? All right. Thank you,
11 David.

12 MR. FRANK: Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN SMITH: General Counsel's report.
14 Ms. Harper.

15 MS. HARPER: Good morning, Chairman and
16 Commissioners. I have a couple of things to report
17 on today.

18 I wanted to let you guys know that we are
19 offering a public records training on July 14th at
20 10:00 a.m. And this one is going to be really fun.
21 We are going to make it a competition. There are
22 going to be teams. We don't care how you formulate
23 your teams, but there are going to be teams and
24 buzzers, so we are asking the directors to please
25 recruit people to play our game and participate and

1 join a team, or be the person that speaks when you
2 hit the buzzer on behalf of your team. So
3 hopefully we are going to try to, you know, mix up
4 public records training and make it a little less
5 stale. So please join us if you can.

6 And, of course, we will record it. So if you
7 can't attend and you can't participate in winning,
8 you know, and having bragging rights, you can at
9 least watch it and, you know, keep your training
10 up-to-date and tracked on the employee training
11 tracker that we will see on the intranet. You will
12 have -- be able to utilize all those resources. I
13 wanted to mention that. Susie is going to be the
14 leader of that training, but, again, please pass on
15 information if you can to get volunteers to start
16 our teams.

17 And then we move on to the Energy Bar
18 Association, if that's okay. So I wanted to share
19 just a quick update on the Southern Chapter. As
20 you may know and remember, the EBA is an
21 educational member organization focused on energy
22 regulation. So in addition to the national
23 organization, there are regional chapters. I
24 currently serve as president of the Southern
25 Chapter, which focuses its energies -- or its

1 energy and attention on the southeast, of course.
2 So this chapter includes Alabama, Arkansas,
3 Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North
4 Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and
5 West Virginia.

6 So as I am nearing towards the end of my term,
7 I have been reflecting on a few of the goals that I
8 had, and one was to increase the Florida PSC
9 participation in EBA events. And I was very happy
10 to see Commission staff attending presentations and
11 virtual programs, at least for EBA events,
12 including a networking event this year that we had
13 here in Tallahassee; and Commissioners presenting
14 and being speakers in both Atlanta and DC this
15 year. So I was really excited to have that happen.

16 Another goal is to engage more students. We
17 had a very successful event at the University of
18 Florida, and we have an event shaping up at the FSU
19 law school this fall. So I just wanted to say that
20 it's been a pleasure working alongside Susie in my
21 office, who serves as secretary on the board, and
22 Saad, who serves as director on the board, who have
23 been helping me coordinate these events and
24 participating in board meetings.

25 But there is no rest for the weary, and my

1 term isn't quite over yet, so now I am discussing
2 ways to recruit members from states where we have
3 little or no representation. Right now, those
4 states include Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi and
5 North Carolina. So if anyone here knows any
6 regulators, practitioners or other technical
7 experts, the EBA isn't just for attorneys involved
8 in our energy industry in those states who might be
9 interested in what we do, coming to a meeting,
10 coming to an event, please let us know, I would be
11 grateful for any introductions or suggestions.

12 Another thing I want to continue looking at is
13 diversifying our membership and our programming.
14 We have had success with the student outreach, but
15 I am open to any thoughts about benefits that
16 resonate most with potential members. For me, the
17 biggest benefits of, in my opinion, are building
18 relationships with regulators and practitioners
19 from different regions. I think that's really
20 helpful; hearing directly from those working on the
21 front lines of energy issues, including state
22 regulators and federal officials. Additional
23 educational opportunities that are both in-person
24 and virtual, which is nice that the EBA offers, and
25 giving staff members a platform to share their

1 expertise through participating in A article, a
2 publication, a presentation. So if anybody else
3 has any thoughts on that, open to that.

4 And finally, I realize this is a bit early,
5 but the early bird gets the worm. Our next annual
6 meeting will be in Richmond, Virginia, on March
7 18th. So it's an easy train ride to DC if you
8 wanted to make a weekend out of it. I have done it
9 before. It's really nice. The train is nice, and
10 so we are looking at topics for that. Are there
11 emerging issues that aren't getting enough
12 attention? Everybody sees the same sort of
13 advertisements and presentations over and over at
14 an event. So if you have thoughts of emerging
15 issues that aren't getting enough attention, please
16 feel free to reach out to me or Susie or Saad, and
17 we would be happy to create a presentation or a
18 panel or something on it.

19 And then lastly, I just want to thank you all
20 for supporting our participation in the EBA. It's
21 not easy for staff to sometimes find specialized
22 regulatory training in what we do, because it's so
23 niche, so this has been a really great experience
24 for us to be able to participate in. And I think,
25 you know, it helps with our professional

1 development, and it also helps with keeping our
2 attorneys engaged and connected to our mission.

3 So I just wanted to thank you guys for the
4 support that you have given us for that, and
5 allowing me to do this. And I will be doing it
6 until September, and then somebody else will be
7 elected. And he will do a great job. I know who
8 that is, so -- but it's been a fun year, and so I
9 just wanted to share an update on that.

10 And if you guys have any questions, that
11 concludes my report, so I am happy to answer any
12 questions.

13 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thanks, Adria.

14 Any questions? Yeah.

15 COMMISSIONER LA ROSA: Not necessarily a
16 question, but maybe a comment, and thank for you
17 doing that, and sometimes the unseen job that we
18 have is not just kind of within the walls, you
19 know, 9:00 to 5:00, it's being able to build
20 relationships and networking with folks in other
21 states. And I am sure for a long time those
22 relationships have been important, but I think now
23 more than ever. There are things coming at us at
24 such a magnitude and so many different states, we
25 can close that gap much faster by knowing folks

1 that have either gone through it, are going through
2 it, being able to kind of brainstorm and come up
3 with conclusions. I see it at least in our work
4 with -- in NARUC with other Commissioners in other
5 states. So I am assuming you are seeing it. And,
6 of course, I have participated and had some great
7 discussions, so thank you for doing that, because I
8 know that it's not just for your benefit, but for
9 our entire agency and all the attorneys within your
10 division, so thank you for being a part of that and
11 making that commitment. I know it's not easy to
12 lead something and be a present outside the 9:00 to
13 5:00 hours here.

14 CHAIRMAN SMITH: And as far as -- yeah, I
15 can't advocate enough for the EBA and everything,
16 all the resources they provide, especially -- I
17 know you mentioned the outreach to students. And
18 one thing, just as another plug for the benefits of
19 the entire organization, but that mentor/mentee
20 program, both serving on one side or the other, I
21 served as a mentee when I was in law school, and
22 had really beneficial experiences while I was
23 working in the Department of Energy. I got to meet
24 a lot of practicing energy attorneys in the DC area
25 that just met me for coffee and just explained to

1 me what they did, and it really gave me a grasp on
2 the breadth of this industry and what we -- you
3 could do. You know, when you see some things just
4 on the state regulatory side, which obviously in
5 itself is very broad. But there is just so many
6 different opportunities that, you know, as you see
7 your career going forward, or things like that,
8 that other people are exploring.

9 So I really -- I can't speak more highly of
10 that program. It's free. It's just people giving
11 their time, which is amazing. These really
12 high-powered DC lawyers that I met that had made
13 time to just meet me for an hour for coffee, so I
14 guess I would say, like, you know, paying it
15 forward and becoming a mentor at some point would
16 be really helpful.

17 And then the articles on the EBA website, you
18 can really find -- especially now we are talking
19 about what are the next emerging issues, and things
20 like that. Well, they've already tackled a lot of
21 those things, at least on an academic level, and
22 that's a really important starting point. And it
23 will also give you a lot of -- seeing what other
24 states are, how they are exploring it, just I feel
25 like they've -- so many people are giving up a lot

1 of their time to write these really intricate and
2 thoughtful articles that have been really helpful
3 at least just, you know, academically and a little
4 light reading. I enjoy it. I know you guys
5 probably do too, so that's all. Yeah. Thanks.
6 Thanks Adria.

7 MS. HARPER: Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Executive Director's Report.

9 MR. BAEZ: Good morning, Chairman and
10 Commissioners.

11 I have got a couple of quick points just to
12 fill in the gaps here. Commissioner Clark, to your
13 question, the 365 rollout right now is just
14 completing pilot shakedown mode, and training is
15 ongoing. So for everyone listening, you know, be
16 on the lookout for those updates as it starts going
17 wider later this month and into July.

18 And the second update I wanted to give you is
19 on ESF-12. You heard the utilities updating -- how
20 they update it based on our workshops earlier this
21 year, and I just wanted to give you a quick update
22 on what we have done so far internally so that we
23 are taking -- made changes and undertaken different
24 improvements so that we are ready to respond as an
25 agency.

1 Most of you know, we are the lead agency for
2 the EOC for Emergency Support Function 12, ESF-12,
3 as they call it in short. And in this role, we
4 support the Division of Emergency Management's
5 statewide emergency response operations.

6 What we do is coordinate with our electric
7 utility and natural gas partners to support the
8 restoration function in -- in a -- during an
9 emergency, weather event.

10 Following the '24 hurricane season, staff
11 implemented a series of structural and staffing
12 changes, along with training and communication
13 enhancements as well in an effort to strengthen our
14 storm response capabilities in-house, and also,
15 obviously, improve the coordination between them
16 during and after an event.

17 Our ESF-12 team structure is organized into
18 three distinct groups. The first is technical
19 missions. Then there is outage reporting and
20 communications.

21 The technical missions team is responsible for
22 the situational reporting. So that's -- that's
23 inside ESF-12 routing and addressing mission
24 requests, right, along the lines the restoration
25 effort. And they coordinate with the -- they are

1 the ones that are coordinating with the utility
2 partners and the other stakeholders. They assess
3 and help resolve critical missions assigned to
4 that. That team is led by Todd Brown, as you know.
5 And I think the current staffing -- the current
6 roster stands at eight. So we have eight staffers
7 ready in support for that part of the mission.

8 The outage reporting team collects and
9 verifies and reports utility outage data. It's the
10 one report that everyone is sort of keys off of. I
11 know I do in terms of, you know, how the progress
12 is going statewide, the progress of the restoration
13 effort. It's essential in tracking that progress,
14 and identifying, obviously, areas of concern, as
15 well as supporting the statewide response effort.
16 And that team is led by Penny Buys, who spoke to
17 you earlier today. The staffing complement for
18 that part of the mission also is at eight staffers.

19 And lastly, the communications team serves as
20 the intergovernmental liaison to the Governor's
21 Office, to the Division of Emergency Management and
22 the utility partners and other public and private
23 stakeholders. They provide rapid response to
24 elevated issues as they come up, and ensures that
25 the messaging on Commission actions is consistent

1 and timely and well coordinated. They also would
2 undertake any special projects as they arise.

3 That's a team of four, and it's led by David
4 Frank, and -- one of his many hats. And so we are
5 proud of how the structure has been adjusted and
6 set up. I think it allows the right people to be
7 on the spot for the right needs to any situation.

8 In terms of training and preparation for this
9 2026 hurricane season, the ESF-12 staff in total
10 completed their annual training to ensure that the
11 team members obviously are familiar with the
12 Commission's emergency response procedures, and
13 that understand -- and that they understand,
14 everyone understands their role and responsibility
15 at the state EOC.

16 This past April, the ESF-12 team participated
17 in DEM's statewide -- annual statewide hurricane
18 exercise at the new state EOC. And I know that
19 many of you, if not all of you by now, have had a
20 chance to visit the new digs, and they are quite
21 impressive. We are looking forward -- looking
22 forward is not the right word, but we are confident
23 that it will, you know, will be an improvement in
24 terms of our overall functions.

25 They -- that exercise, obviously, provided

1 hands-on training and familiarization to practice
2 those ESF-12 response procedures, and the
3 opportunity to coordinate with other ESF functions.

4 There was a simulation, and as they always do,
5 and which consistent of information requests in
6 realtime, so I think everyone got a lot out of it.
7 Our key operational leaders from ESF-12 also
8 supported the planning and the management of the
9 exercise itself. So it was realtime. There were
10 releasing missions and ensuring that the exercise
11 met its intended objectives.

12 Here at the Commission, Penny Buys, again,
13 conducted outage reporting training for the outage
14 team. The training focused on how we collect data
15 and verify it, obviously, and the reporting
16 procedures to ensure that the staff are prepared to
17 provide that timely and accurate information during
18 an activation. And it all really culminates to an
19 unknown in this big spreadsheet document that the
20 outage report, and that has many uses but many
21 participants in the overall effort. The key there
22 is reliability and timeliness, obviously, and we
23 are always working to improve that.

24 The communications team also completed its
25 annual review with IT to confirm that emergency

1 notifications and warnings alerts and other
2 communications are ready and functioning properly
3 ahead of the season. That includes updating
4 contact numbers for key staff.

5 The Call Tree, as you know, was tested last
6 Friday, I believe, and it was successful. I mean,
7 it's working as intended.

8 And then lastly, the continuing operations
9 plan, or what they call the COOP plan. It's a
10 little known plan until you need it, right, it kind
11 of sits in wait. So, like, in the event that we
12 are all out of our home here at Gunter, that
13 continue the operations of the Commission,
14 including ESF functions continues to operate. That
15 gets updated yearly. It's been updated, so we are
16 in a good position there.

17 In terms of the website, the website has
18 features as well that help not just us here, but
19 all of our stakeholders and the public at large to
20 have, you know, clear and accessible information
21 and communication during -- before, during and
22 after a storm, right. And a lot of that involves
23 coordination with information, kind of putting
24 together and compiling, whether its information
25 links or actual reporting information from other

1 agencies that are relevant to the entire process.

2 It shows up, as you know, as the banner across
3 the top of the website, and it includes, you know,
4 anything from safety tips to links to the
5 investor-owned utilities themselves for their own
6 reporting web pages, and where customers can access
7 realtime outage information throughout that --
8 through the utility digital mapping tools of their
9 own.

10 The Commission storm response generally, it
11 depends on preparation and coordination and the
12 commitment of the staff across the agency. This is
13 a all-hands-on-deck situation in many respects.

14 Through ESF-12, we continue to remain focused
15 on supporting the Governor and DEM, as well as our
16 local, state and federal utility partners in
17 protecting public safety above all, and helping
18 restore that critical utility service as
19 efficiently as possible following these severe
20 weather events, of which someone asked me what the
21 over/under is, and I refuse to answer, I will be
22 jinxing the process. And I told Commissioner
23 Payne, we are on -- what day is today, is it the
24 15th or 16th? We are on a 16-day streak is really
25 where we are at.

1 I want to recognize and thank those members of
2 our ESF-12 team for all their hard work, their
3 time, there professionalism. A lot of this is
4 extra -- I won't say extracurricular necessarily,
5 but it is an added commitment outside the normal
6 day, and they all bring terrific dedication to that
7 responsibility. And as the 2026 season continues,
8 be assured that we are all prepared and
9 coordinated, and we are ready to respond.

10 That's my update. If y'all have questions, I
11 would be happy to answer them.

12 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Questions?

13 That was a lot of good information.

14 MR. BAEZ: It is a lot. There is a lot going
15 on.

16 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah. Yeah. I know. I
17 know. We are -- like you said, we are just -- we
18 are so far so good, but, yeah, thanks to all of
19 those ESF members, because it really is, when
20 the -- when it hits, they are all-hands-on-deck,
21 and it's sort of a thankless job, but this is our
22 opportunity to thank them, and hopefully they won't
23 have much activity this year.

24 MR. BAEZ: Again, yeah.

25 CHAIRMAN SMITH: When they do, it is pretty

1 amazing what they do --

2 MR. BAEZ: It really is.

3 CHAIRMAN SMITH: -- so I appreciate all their
4 hard work.

5 Okay. Do we have anything else to go over in
6 this IA? All right. Seeing none, I guess we are
7 adjourned. Thanks.

8 (Proceedings concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF FLORIDA)
COUNTY OF LEON)

I, DEBRA KRICK, Court Reporter, do hereby
certify that the foregoing proceeding was heard at the
time and place herein stated.

IT IS FURTHER CERTIFIED that I
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same has been transcribed under my direct supervision;
and that this transcript constitutes a true
transcription of my notes of said proceedings.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative,
employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor
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DATED this 30th day of June, 2026.


DEBRA R. KRICK
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