

MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE
ALABAMA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

HELD Tuesday, March 3, 2026

The March 2026 meeting of the Alabama Public Service Commission was held on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, in the Carl L. Evans Chief Administrative Law Judge Hearing Room Complex, 100 North Union Street, Montgomery, Alabama. Commission President Cynthia Lee Almond called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. with Commissioner Jeremy H. Oden and Commissioner Chris V. Beeker, III, present. The following staff members were also present: John Garner, Chief Administrative Law Judge and Executive Director; Luke Bentley, and Chad Mason, Administrative Law Judges; Jeff Johnston, Utility Services Division Director, Amanda Shehane, Utility Enforcement Division Director; Kevin Key, PSC Gas Pipeline Safety Investigator and Acting Supervisor, John Free, Electricity Policy Division Director; Patricia Smith and Donald Powell, Public Utility Analyst Managers; Ann Titus, Departmental Operation Specialist; Caleb Hicks, Communications and PR Manager; Tanya Champion, Matthew Singleton, and Stacie Berry, Public Analysts; Aquilla Spivey, Consumer Service Manager; Aisha Smith, Technical Assistant to Commissioner Oden; Mary Caitlyn Montgomery, Technical Assistant to Commissioner Beeker; Kaitlyn Rayborn, Executive Assistant to Commissioner Beeker; Janey Whitney, Technical Assistant to Commissioner Almond; Hanna Lombardi, Executive Assistant to Commissioner Almond; Kay Oswalt, Information Systems Manager; Chalandra Tolliver, IT Technicians; Dana Cheek, Programmer Analyst; Jackie Mack, Barbara Smith, Robin Bonney, and Jerry Delancey, Administrative Support Assistants; Devon D. Beaty, Acting Secretary of the Commission.

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Commissioner Almond noted that the public was informed of today's Commission meeting by notice dated November 12, 2025.

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Commissioner Beeker opened the meeting with a prayer followed by leading the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Commissioner Almond opened the floor for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2026, Commission Meeting.

Upon being motioned by Commissioner Oden and seconded by Commissioner Beeker, the Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

Commissioner Almond called for a motion to approve the minutes of February 17, 2026, Special Commission Meeting.

Upon being motioned by Commissioner Beeker and seconded by Commissioner Oden, the Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

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UTILITY SERVICES DIVISION

Mr. Jeff Johnston reported for the Utility Services Division on Consumer Service Complaint Inquiries for the period of February 2026 as follows: Alabama Power Company had thirty-nine residential and one business inquiry, Spire Alabama had one residential inquiry and one business inquiry, and Spire Gulf had two residential and zero business inquiries. There was a total of ten telecommunication inquiries, consisting of one under Public Service Commission Complaint jurisdiction, four were referred to the companies since the complaint jurisdiction was waived, and five were not under Public Service Commission jurisdiction.

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Mr. Johnston reported on Formal Dockets 18046 and 18328, Spire Alabama Inc., Division Report on Rate RSE as of January 31, 2026. Mr. Johnston reported on Rate RSE for Spire Alabama Inc., based on preliminary figures as of January 31, 2026, the projected RSE return on average common equity for the rate year ending September 30, 2026, was 9.85 percent. The authorized return on average common equity is 9.50 to 9.90 percent.

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Mr. Johnston reported on Formal Docket 28101, Spire Gulf Inc., Division Report on Rate RSE as of January 31, 2026, 2025. Based on preliminary figures as of January 31, 2026, the projected RSE return on average common equity for the rate year ending September 30, 2026, was 9.25 percent. The authorized return on average common equity is 9.70 to 10.30 percent.

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Mr. Johnston reported on Docket U-5500 Spire Alabama Inc. Application for approval of a Special Services Agreement with Solutia, Inc. and recommended approval.

Upon motion by Commissioner Oden and seconded by Commissioner Beeker, the Commissioners voted unanimously to accept the recommendation for approval.

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Mr. Johnston reported on Docket 31113 Broadvox-Clec, LLC, voluntary relinquishing their CPCN authorizing the provision of Telephone Toll Resale Service, Interexchange Telecommunications Service, and Resold and Facilities-Based UNE Local Exchange Service within the State of Alabama. The company has no customers in Alabama and recommended approval.

Upon motion by Commissioner Oden and seconded by Commissioner Beeker, the Commissioners voted unanimously to accept the recommendation for approval.

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Mr. Johnston noted final items were for information purposes only and require no action by the Commissioners.

GAS PIPELINE SAFETY DIVISION

Mr. Kevin Key reported for the Gas Pipeline Safety (GPS) Division Agenda on the following inspections during the month of January 2026.

Inspections

During the month of January, a total of sixty-two (62) inspections were conducted utilizing one hundred and five (105) in person-days. The inspections are as follows:

		STANDARD INSPECTION	CONSTRUCTION	OPERATOR QUALIFICATION	PUBLIC AWARENESS	IMP / DIMP	CONTROL ROOM MGMT	INCIDENT / ACCIDENT	SECTION 114	DRUG & ALCOHOL	FOLLOW-UP	
GAS PIPELINE SYSTEMS	PRIVATE		12								4	TOTAL
	MUNICIPAL		28								17	
	MASTER METER											
	LIQUID PROPANE (LP)											
	LIQUIFIED NATURAL GAS (LNG)											
	INTRASTATE TRANSMISSION		1									
	GAS GATHERING											
	OFFSHORE GAS											
LIQUID PIPELINE SYSTEMS	REFINED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS											
	CRUDE OIL											
	HVL FLAMMABLE / TOXIC											
	CARBON DIOXIDE											
	BIOFUEL											
TOTALS			41								21	62

Enforcement Actions

From the sixty-two (62) inspections shown above, zero (0) enforcement letters of notification were issued leading to zero (0) non-compliance items. There were six (6) non-compliance items corrected during the month of January.

Training

One (1) operator/contractor training session was conducted in January, covering various combinations of the following topics: polyethylene (PE) plastic fusion, fire response (FR), and regulatory (CFR) training.

- 1/14/2026 Huntsville Utilities PE 2
Personnel Trained

Incidents/Accidents

There were two (2) state reportable incidents, and zero (0) federal incidents reported during the month of January.

- 1/27/2026 Florence Natural Gas Department - A gas overpressure event occurred due to natural forces, specifically ice accumulation on the high-pressure regulators. It is estimated that approximately 100 pounds per square inch (psi) was introduced into three polyethylene (PE) service lines. The regulators at both the residence and the regulator station responded appropriately and were observed venting, operating as designed under the conditions. A crew was dispatched to raise the below-ground regulator station and perform pressure testing of the affected service lines to safely re-establish gas service. A leak survey was also conducted, and no leaks were identified.
- 1/22/2026 Spire Alabama - A directional boring contractor struck a four-inch main while installing a telecommunications line. The contractor had an active Alabama 811 locate ticket at the time of the incident. Due to cold weather conditions and to prevent service interruptions with temperatures dropping below freezing, Spire installed a two-inch plastic line above ground as a temporary measure. This action ensured continuity of service and prevented customer outages.

Miscellaneous

The Gas Pipeline Safety (GPS) Division completed its inspections for the 2025 calendar year, and all PHMSA-required inspections were conducted on schedule. Additionally, required in-person inspection days were successfully met. In prior years, Alabama occasionally fell short of these targets due to staff turnover and limited personnel resources. With the approval of hiring construction inspectors, GPS was able to fully meet these

requirements. The expanded staffing levels are expected to allow GPS to place greater emphasis on field asset evaluations during inspections and to ensure that non-compliance items are tracked and addressed within shorter timeframes.

UTILITY ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Mrs. Amanda Shehane reported from the Utility Enforcement Division's report describing the major tasks, inspections and activities accomplished by its staff during the month of January 2026.

Railway Safety

The track inspection results below reflect activity by our Railway Safety (RWS) Staff in the field.

Rail Carriers Visited	Regular Track Inspections	Track Defects Identified	Violations Recommended	Track Miles Inspected	Track Turnouts Inspected
4	30	40	0	96	245

The table below reflects track safety observations in which no non-compliant conditions were identified. Five roadway workers, bridge workers, and practices were observed.

Railroad Bridge Observations	Roadway Worker Protection	Roadway Maintenance Machines	Bridge Worker Safety
2	19	16	0

The table below shows the Operating Practices (OP) inspections performed on railroad operations.

Rail Carriers Visited	Regular OP Inspections	Defects Identified	Violations Recommended	Eqpt. Securement Observed
5	10	1	0	8

The results of inspections performed on railroad inspection and repair records and highway grade crossings by both track and MP&E inspectors are reflected below.

	Track Inspection Records	MP&E Railcar & Locomotive Repair Records	Highway Grade Crossings
Inspections	1	0	3
Units Inspected	11	0	19
Defects	1	0	0

The National Response Center (NRC) reported four incidents in January:

The National Response Center (NRC) reported four incidents in January.

1. A vehicle strike with fatal injuries in Birmingham on NS.
2. A deceased body on railroad property, believed to be train-related in Theodore on NS.
3. A 10-car mainline derailment with no injuries or releases in Valley Head on NS.
4. A vehicle strike with unknown injuries in Bessemer on NS.

There were also three accidents/complaints reported via telephone or email in January.

1. A rough crossing complaint was reported in Mobile.
2. A rough crossing complaint was reported in Andalusia.
3. A vehicle strike with unknown injuries in Calera on CSX.

RWS staff investigated and substantiated the rough crossing complaints. Staff met with railroad officials to discuss the rough highway grade crossing conditions and seek a resolution. Concerning the complaint in Mobile, the carrier informed us that they will make temporary repairs and will make a permanent restoration of the crossing during their planned program work this spring. The complaint in Andalusia involves a state highway, and the carrier informed us that they were working to coordinate with ALDOT in an effort to make repairs.

The mainline derailment was investigated by RWS staff. The derailment did not involve any injuries or hazmat. The cause of the derailment is still under investigation.

Motor Carrier Services

The Motor Carrier Services (MCS) staff accomplished the following matters regarding state authority to operate as a motor carrier in Alabama with proof of insurance coverage:

Vehicle Registrati on Numbers	Intrastate Applications		NOL Processed/ Closed Intra Applications	Under Legal Division Review	New Authority Approved	Motor Carrier Authority Inquiries		
	Processed	Returned				Phone	E-mails	Others
13	11	1	3	11	9	60	34	32

MCS staff members handled the tasks shown below regarding insurance coverage, prepared correspondence that challenged incorrect filings and addressed related inquiries:

Insurance Filings Received	Revocation Orders	Reinstatement Orders	Miscellaneous Actions	Letters Sent	Insurance Inquiries	
					Phone	E-mails
308	37	10	0	12	91	99

The MCS Section addressed the following Unified Carrier Registration (UCR) responsibilities:

UCR Applications		UCR Mailouts for 2025/2026	UCR Audit Correspondence	UCR Inquiries	
Received	Returned			Phone	E-mail
5	1	1,952	36	43	41

As of January 31st, there were 6,730 Alabama carriers (77%) registered for the 2026 UCR, leaving 1,957 unregistered. Our office received funds from the UCR Depository for December online payments processed through the National Registration System (NRS) from 1,952 carriers domiciled in Alabama and non-participating states.

The staff also assisted motor carriers in making necessary changes to their operating status with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). Ten MCS-150 forms were processed. Six motor carriers had their USDOT numbers deactivated, and four forms contained updates to the motor carriers' USDOT number data.

Our office received 31 For Non-Profit (FNP) quarterly reports for the fourth quarter of 2025 and one for the third quarter of 2025 during the month.

In January, a passenger tariff for Glory Brothers Transport LLLP (C4190) was accepted.

Staff participated in two passenger carrier hearings held during January for:

- Alabama Capital Group, LLC dba Reserve Black
- Sow Enterprise LLC dba Sow Auto Black Car

ELECTRICITY POLICY DIVISION

Mrs. Patricia Smith reported on Alabama Power Company's Weighted Return on Average Retail Common Equity Calculation for the 12 Months Ended January 31, 2026.

Mrs. Smith reported on Formal Dockets 18117 and 18416; 18148 Division Report on Rate RSE and Rate ECR as of January 31, 2026. The Electricity Policy Division performed the regular monthly examination of the books and records of Alabama Power Company and found a 6.06% Weighted Return on Average Retail Common Equity for the 12 months ending December 31, 2026, and Energy Cost Under recovered by \$60,465,878 for January 2026.

Mr. John Free reported on Docket 18005, On February 13, 2026, Alabama Power Company filed with the Alabama Public Service Commission the annual update to Rate PAE. Under Rate PAE, qualifying customers that have installed an electric generating facility for their own use (with nameplate capacity of 100 kW or less) receive payment for energy sold to the Company in accordance with the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA). As with prior revisions, the base charges and energy payments reflect updated cost information and avoided cost data for Alabama Power Company. The Company has requested the proposed modifications become effective for April 2026 billings and recommended approval.

Upon being motioned by Commissioner Beeker and seconded by Commissioner Oden, the Commissioners voted unanimously to accept the recommendation.

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Mrs. Tanya Champion reported on Docket U-5213, On February 13, 2026, Alabama Power Company filed with the Alabama Public Service Commission the annual update to Rate CPE (Contract for Purchased Energy). Rate CPE applies to Qualifying Facilities ("QFs") with a nameplate capacity greater than 100 kW, seeking to sell energy to Alabama Power Company. Under the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 and its implementing regulations, Alabama Power is obligated to purchase energy from QFs at rates equivalent to the Company's avoided costs. Rate CPE has been in effect since March 2017, and the Company annually updates avoided cost and other data that are used to set the energy payments established under the rate. The Company has proposed updated rates, along with changes to the Attachment A Standard Contract that are discussed more fully in the Company's filing letter and in the redlined contract included with the filing. The Company has requested the proposed modifications become effective April 1, 2026, and recommended approval.

Upon being motioned by Commissioner Oden and seconded by Commissioner Beeker, the Commissioners voted unanimously to accept the recommendation.

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LEGAL DIVISION

Judge Luke Bentley reported on the following dockets from the Legal Division Agenda:

DOCKET C-21435, Petition of Rite Development, Inc., of Theodore, Alabama, for approval of cargo self-insurance and recommended approval,

DOCKET C-21453, Petition of Calera Construction Company LLC, of Calera, Alabama, for approval of cargo self-insurance and recommended approval,

DOCKET C-21415, Petition of David Huffmaster d/b/a D & M & Sons Hauling, of Chunchula, Alabama for reinstatement of Motor Carrier Certificate F4000 which was revoked for failure to maintain proper proof of cargo and liability insurance coverage. Petitioner submitted documentation that showed their liability and cargo insurance coverage required by law is now in effect and recommended reinstatement of certificate,

DOCKET C-21390, Petition of PODS Enterprises, LLC, of Clearwater, Florida, for reinstatement of Motor Carrier Certificate F4996 which was revoked due to Petitioner's failure to maintain proper proof of cargo insurance coverage. Petitioner submitted documentation that showed their cargo insurance coverage required by law is now in effect and recommended reinstatement of certificate,

DOCKET C-21405, Petition of Warrior Service Co., Inc., of Brookwood, Alabama, for reinstatement of Motor Carrier Certificates C3425 and F93 which were revoked due to Petitioner's failure to maintain proper proof of cargo insurance coverage. Petitioner submitted documentation that showed their cargo insurance coverage required by law is now in effect and recommended reinstatement of certificates,

DOCKET C-21339, Petition of Michael Brooks d/b/a M & M Trucking, of Marion, Alabama for reinstatement of Motor Carrier Certificate F5460 which was revoked due to Petitioner's failure to maintain proper proof of cargo and liability insurance coverage. Petitioner submitted documentation that showed their cargo and liability insurance coverage required by law is now in effect and recommended reinstatement of certificate,

DOCKET 32522, Petition of Heritage Training and Career Center, of Montgomery, Alabama, for cancellation of Motor Carrier Certificate FNP B-66 and recommended cancellation as requested,

Upon being motioned by Commissioner Beeker and seconded by Commissioner Oden, the Commissioners voted unanimously to accept the recommendations.

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Judge Bentley reported on DOCKET 33668, Alabama Public Service Commission v. Delinquent Companies. Show cause proceeding to address the failure of numerous entities to pay Inspection and Supervision ("I&S") fees for the fiscal year 2025 despite numerous notices. Recommended: Establishment of a show cause hearing requiring the offending entities to appear and show cause as to why their certificate should not be revoked for their failure to comply with the statutes requiring the payment of I&S fees.

Upon being motioned by Commissioner Oden and seconded by Commissioner Beeker, the Commissioners voted unanimously to accept the recommendation.

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Judge Chad Mason reported on the following dockets from the Legal Division Agenda:

DOCKET 33659, Unopposed common carrier application of Lake Martin Lift, LLC, of Alexander City, Alabama, for a certificate to transport passengers. Hearing was held on February 23, 2026, in which staff participated. The Applicant waived its right to a Report and Recommended Order at the hearing and recommended approval,

DOCKET 33660, Unopposed common carrier application of People's Ride Transit Services LLC, of Montgomery, Alabama, for a certificate to transport passengers. Hearing was held on February 23, 2026, in which staff participated. The Applicant waived its right to a Report and Recommended Order at the hearing and recommended approval,

DOCKET 33661, Unopposed common and contract carrier application of KEYS Party & Luxury Transportation LLC, of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, for a certificate to transport passengers. Hearing was held on February 23, 2026, in which staff participated. The Applicant waived its right to a Report and Recommended Order at the hearing and recommended approval,

DOCKET 33614, Petition of K3C Transportation LLC, of Montgomery, Alabama, for an extension of time to make the required filings. Recommended: Grant additional 90 days to allow applicant to make the required filings.

Upon motion by Commissioner Beeker and seconded by Commissioner Oden, the Commissioners voted unanimously to accept the recommendations.

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Judge Chad Mason reported on DOCKET 33646, Petition of VA Fiber 1 Propco, LLC, of Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to provide telecommunications services. A hearing was held January 13, 2026, in which Commission Staff participated and recommended approval.

Upon motion by Commissioner Beeker and seconded by Commissioner Oden, the Commissioners voted unanimously to accept the recommendation.

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Judge John Garner recommended approval of all items listed on the administrative agenda.

Upon motion by Commissioner Oden and seconded by Commissioner Beeker, the Commissioners voted unanimously to accept the recommendation.


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President Almond recognized the impending retirement of Judge John Garner for his dedication of nearly 39 years of employment service. Homage was paid to Judge Garner from Commissioner Jeremy H. Oden and Commissioner Chris V. Beeker, III.

President Almond honored Judge Garner by reading and presenting him with a Resolution.

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There being no further business, Commissioner Almond adjourned the meeting at 10:44 a.m.


Devon D. Beaty
Commission Acting Secretary