LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER MARCH 13, 2020

LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, EX PARTE

In re: Executive Order Creating Emergency Suspension of Disconnection of Utility Services in Areas Under a State of Emergency/Public Health Emergency related to COVID-19.

Due to the risks related to public health associated with the COVID-19 Coronavirus, Governor John Bel Edwards has declared a statewide Public Health Emergency.[1] Given the severity of these events, and the uncertain impact it may have on Commission-jurisdictional ratepayers, immediate action is required to ensure utility service is not disconnected for non-payment. While the Commission is currently scheduled to meet Wednesday, March 18, 2020, it is critical that this issue be address immediately, as potential impacts continue to unfold at an exponential rate.

The Commission's General Order dated November 3, 2005 delegates to the Executive Secretary,

> Limited authority to make temporary exceptions to Commission rules and/or orders during a state of emergency in Louisiana declared by the Governor of the State of Louisiana and/or President of the United States and after approval of the requested action by the Chairman of the Commission, or Vice Chairman of the Commission if the Chairman is unavailable.

As further stated therein,

> During times of crisis, the ability of the Louisiana Public Service Commission to make immediate decisions is often required in order to avoid possible negative results for the public.

Consistent with the requirements of General Order dated November 3, 2005, Executive Secretary Brandon Frey has received approval from Commission Chairman Mike Francis to implement the following emergency action:

1. As of the date of this Executive Order, all Public Utilities subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission are prohibited from disconnecting customers for non-payment of utility bills statewide, irrespective of whether the utility has followed the disconnection protocol outlined in the General Orders dated July 12, 1976 and October 11, 2019.

2. Pursuant to the General Order dated November 3, 2005, the Commission will vote to consider this action at its next scheduled Business and Executive Session, which is currently scheduled for March 18, 2020. In the event the Commission is unable to consider this action at the March 18, 2020 Business and Executive Session, this Order will be considered at the Commission's next scheduled Business and Executive Session.

3. This Executive Order shall not affect a utility's ability to disconnect a customer's service for public safety concerns unrelated to non-payment of services.

This Order is effectively immediately.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

BY ORDER OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
March 13, 2020

BRANDON MARK FREY
SECRETARY

1 Proclamation Number 25 JBE 2020.