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Texas Backup Power Package Advisory Committee

Project #56176

March 11, 2024

Meeting convened at 3:03pm.

Member Attendees:

- Sen. Nathan Johnson
- Sen. Mayes Middleton
- Rep. Jay Dean
- Rep. Ana Hernandez
- Chief Nim Kidd, Texas Division of Emergency Management
- Ivan Velasquez, Oncor
- Kevin Knippa, Texas Health and Human Services Commission
- Alison Silverstein, Alison Silverstein Consulting
- Matthew Boms, Texas Advanced Energy Business Alliance

Other Meeting Attendees:

- Rudy England, Texas Senate
- Matt Patterson, Texas Senate
- Amberley Kolar, Texas House of Representatives
- Adriana Aguirre Hernandez, Texas House of Representatives
- Blair Walsh, Texas Division of Emergency Management
- Tracie Tolle, Public Utility Commission
- Jess Heck, Public Utility Commission
- Brooke Camet, Public Utility Commission
- Julie Davis, Office of Public Utility Counsel
- Nabaraj Pokharel, Office of Public Utility Counsel
- Matthew Cooksey, Office of Public Utility Counsel
- Chris May, Deloitte
- Alfredo Zarate, Deloitte

- Houston Putney, Deloitte
- Monica Batra-Shrader, Enchanted Rock
- Joel Yu, Enchanted Rock

The Committee discussed the following proposed questions:

1. **Is there a minimum capacity threshold for a backup power package?**
 - Discussion about considering population served and if applicants could levy property tax.
2. **Should we issue grants for connection costs to the facility?**
 - Discussion about interconnection costs and what would be included in that cost i.e., study, infrastructure upgrades.
3. **If packages are deemed to be faulty and have performance malfunctions would the installation contractor be assessed a performance penalty?**
 - Discussion on if the state or venders/facilities should bear the responsibility.
4. **What would be the requirements for post installation reporting by the awardee?**
5. **How should the Backup Power Program handle changes of ownership to the facility if a loan is involved?**
 - Discussion about whoever purchases the facility bearing the responsibility of the loan obligations.
6. **Should there be a distinction between grants/loans for non-profit vs. for-profit entities? If so, what should they be?**
7. **What types of facilities should be awarded grants or loans? Why awarding grants versus loans to facilities?**
 - Kevin Knippa, HHSC, identified which HHSC regulated facilities which may be deemed critical:
 - Nursing facilities (NF) – **Yes**
 - Assisted living facility (ALF) 17 or more – **Yes**
 - Assisted living facilities (ALF) 16 or less – **It depends**
 - Immediate care facilities for individuals with an intellectual disability or related condition (ICF-IDD) (state operated) - **No**
 - Immediate care facilities for individuals with an intellectual disability or related condition (ICF-IDD) (privately/ local government operated) - **Yes**

- Inpatient hospice units (IPU) – **No**
 - Day activity and health (DAHS) facilities – **No**
 - Prescribed pediatric extended care center – **No**
 - General and special hospitals – **Yes**
 - Limited services rural hospitals – **Yes**
 - Private psychiatric hospitals and crisis stabilization units - **Yes**
 - Ambulatory service centers (ASC) – **No**
 - End state renal disease facility (ESRD) – **Yes**
 - Freestanding emergency medical care (FEMC) facility – **Yes**
 - 24 Hr. Residential Childcare – **Yes**
- Discussion regarding adequate backup power package funding for non-healthcare facilities that might be critical – water, wastewater, police, fire, first responders, and communications, including 911.

Next steps:

- The Advisory Committee was asked to review the shared document of questions discussed and make recommendations.
- Tracie Tolle said she would get back to the committee with questions from Deloitte for Advisory Committee recommendations on a Request for Proposal to be issued by PUC.

Meeting adjourned at 4:08pm.