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Texas Backup Power Package Advisory Committee

Project #56176

April 24, 2024

Meeting convened at 2:02pm.

Meeting Attendees:

- Nathan Johnson, Texas Senate, Chair
- Mayes Middleton, Texas Senate
- Ana Hernandez, Texas House of Representatives
- Kevin Knippa, Texas Health and Human Services Commission
- Matthew Boms, TAEBA
- Alison Silverstein, Alison Silverstein Consulting
- Ivan Velasquez, Oncor
- Rudy England, Texas Senate, Nathan Johnson
- Matt Patterson, Texas Senate, Mayes Middleton
- Adriana Aguirre Hernandez, Texas House of Representatives, Ana Hernandez
- Ann Jacobo, Texas House of Representatives, Rep. Ana Hernandez
- Amberley Kolar, Texas House of Representatives, Jay Dean
- Jess Heck, PUC
- Brett Adamie, OPUC
- Brenda Villarreal, Deloitte
- Monica Batra-Shrader, Enchanted Rock
- Fazil Shaikh, Palm Energy
- Matt Russell, Texas Star Alliance

The Committee discussed the following proposed questions:

1. Prioritization of facilities if backup power packages for applicants exceed funds.

- Questions about the ability of a Backup Power Package (BPP) strengthen the grid when it is installed (helps with rotation frequency, load shed, etc.).
- Discussion on the need to consider who the owner of the project location is, and what type of population/size is served by the project.
- Discussion on current regulations and utilities' authority to "deprioritize" certain facilities that utilize BPP for power management. That authority could improve segmentation and committee could recommend that.
- PUC could be more directive regarding feeder segmentation study and committee could recommend that. Discussion on reviewing segmentation to continue at a later date.
- Discussion on the consideration of compliance and regulatory history of the applicant.
- Discussion regarding effect of availability of other backup power resources.

2. Deciding bases for awarding grants, loans, or both.

- Discussion regarding goals of "as many backup power packages as possible" versus making them "as affordable as possible."
- Discussion of additional costs and the ability to combine funding with federal funds, as well as consideration of the sources of funding for a BPP applicant.
- Sen. Johnson will circulate thoughts from Alison Silverstein, including ability of applicants to fund maintenance and refueling costs.
- Discussion surrounding electric school buses as BPP-approved projects for smaller facilities and current subsidies from the federal government for the buses.
- Discussion about a possible liaison to assist applicants in the grant/loan process and inclusion in the report.

- Discussion about including a maintenance reporting requirement.
- Discussion re effects of default or facility ownership changes.

3. Questions and comments about the research entity RFP

- Discussion surrounding the RFP and comments and concerns regarding the timeline and requirements within the RFP.
- Recommendation of an alternate timeline, discussion around timeline for building and testing.
- Discussion on recommendations for a revised RFP.
- Discussion about initial interest after the RFP was released.

Next steps, the Advisory Committee was directed to review shared documents and review the RFP.

Meeting adjourned at 2:55pm.