

MINUTES
South Carolina Liquefied Petroleum Gas Board
Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building
110 Centerview Drive
Columbia, South Carolina
April 24, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting Called to Order

Chairman, Richard O'Sheal, called the scheduled meeting of the South Carolina Liquefied Petroleum Gas Board to order at 10:06 a.m.

Other board members participating in the meeting included: John 'Art' Irick, Jerry Tindal, Anthony Segars, and Palmer Keenan.

Staff members participating in the meeting included: Meronica Fulton, Board Executive; Jonathan Eversfield, Administrative Coordinator; Ely Grote, Advice Counsel; Robert Elam, Office of Disciplinary Counsel; Maurice Smith, Office of Investigations and Enforcement; Curtis Smith, Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal; Nathan Ellis, Assistant Deputy State Fire Marshal.

The Court Reporter for the meeting was Katherine Boone with Creel Court Reporting, Inc.

Mr. O'Sheal announced that public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, and on the board website and provided to all requesting persons, organizations, and news media in compliance with Section §30-4-80 of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

Approval of Agenda

Motion:

Mr. Segars made a motion to approve the April 24, 2025, meeting agenda. Mr. Tindal seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Introduction of Board Members and Others

Board members, Board staff, and public members introduced themselves.

Approval of Excused Absences

Motion:

Mr. Keenan made a motion to approve the excused absence for Larry Lucas due to a work conflict. Mr. Segars seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion:

Mr. Tindal made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 31, 2024, Board Meeting. Mr. Irick seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Chairman's Remarks – Richard O'Sheal

Mr. O'Sheal welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the meeting.

Staff Reports

Board Executive Report – Meronica W. Fulton

Ms. Fulton went over the licensure statistics and PSI examination reports that were included in the board meeting materials. She stated that there are currently 226 licensed dealers, 54 licensed installers, 459 licensed resellers, 10 licensed transporters, 2 licensed utility plants, and 850 permitted employees. She stated that since the Board's meeting on October 31, 2024, there have been 168 total exam attempts. The current pass rate for the LP Gas Dealer/Installer exam is 24.07%, and the current pass rate for the LP Gas Reseller exam is 76.32%.

Ms. Fulton made a recommendation to the Board that a committee be created to engage in discussion for higher exam pass rates to see if any revisions need to be made to the current exam.

Ms. Fulton advised the board that she has been invited to speak at the Marketer Appreciation Day for SEPA in Santee, South Carolina on May 13, 2025. She also advised that she has been invited to attend the SEPA Conference being held from June 15-17, 2025. Chief Deputy Smith will also be joining her in attendance.

Ms. Fulton advised the board that the next scheduled meeting is July 31, 2025.

Office of Investigations and Enforcement (OIE) Report – Maurice Smith

Mr. Smith presented the OIE Report. He stated that 4 complaints had been received from January 1, 2025, through April 24, 2025. Mr. Smith reported there were 0 cases for active investigations, 2 closed cases, and 2 cases pending other action.

Investigative Review Conference (IRC) Report – Maurice Smith

Mr. Smith presented the Board with the IRC report for the April 24, 2025 board meeting.

He reported that there were 2 cases recommended for dismissal, 3 cases recommended for formal complaint, 1 case recommended for formal complaint with cease and desist, and 1 case recommended for letter of caution.

Motion:

Mr. Segars made a motion to approve the IRC Report as presented. Mr. Tindal seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) Report – Robert Elam

Mr. Elam directed board members to the ODC report provided in the meeting materials, and presented the report for informational purposes only. He reported that as of April 17, 2025, there are 3 open cases in ODC, with 2 cases pending a hearing/agreement. He reported that 5 cases have been closed since the last report on October 28, 2024, and 5 cases have been closed since January 1, 2025.

Disciplinary Hearings

Case No(s): 2024-11

The hearing was conducted in closed session with Robert Elam representing the State. All persons testifying were sworn in by the court reporter. The hearing was recorded by a certified court reporter in the event a verbatim transcript is necessary. The respondent was present and was not represented by an attorney.

Motion:

Mr. Segars made a motion to go into Executive Session for legal advice. Mr. Irick seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Motion:

Mr. Segars made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Mr. Irick seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

It was noted for the record that no votes were taken while in executive session.

Motion:

Mr. Keenan made a motion to accept the Memorandum of Agreement as amended to include a \$500 fine collectively and a public reprimand. Mr. Tindal seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The meeting resumed in open session.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Reseller Inspections and Employee Training Audit

Ms. Fulton provided board members with an update on the 2024 reseller inspection and employee training audit. She stated that the 2024 reseller inspection and employee training audit started September 3rd through September 13th, in which 48 of the 50 audited reseller sites have passed the inspection audit. None of the 50 audited reseller sites had immediate public safety concerns, so there was no need to lock down or tag out any of the audited sites. Ms. Fulton reported that the main reported deficiencies were: HMMS, HMIS, and SDS documentation not available at the time of inspection; fire extinguisher maintenance; piping tank showing signs of corrosion or rust; and employee training documentation not available at the time of inspection.

Ms. Fulton stated that an additional update will be provided to the board members at its next meeting.

The board members engaged in a discussion regarding adding bulk dealer sites to the 2025 audit.

Motion:

Mr. Irick made a motion to continue the audit for 2025 with 40 Reseller sites and 10 Bulk Dealer sites. Mr. Keenan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mrs. Fulton opened the floor for nominations for Chairman of the Board.

Motion:

Mr. Tindal made a motion to nominate Richard O'Sheal as Chairman of the Board. Mr. Irick seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. O'Sheal opened the floor for nomination for Vice Chairman of the Board.

Motion:

Mr. Keenan made a motion to nominate Anthony Segars as Vice Chairman of the Board. Mr. Irick seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Adjournment**Motion:**

Mr. Tindal made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Segars seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for July 31, 2025.