



Contact: Tim Echols
Phone: 706-340-0773
www.psc.state.ga.us

Georgia Public Service Commission

244 Washington St S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
Phone: 404-656-4501
Toll free: 800-282-5813

For Immediate release

NEWS RELEASE

2-12

From the Office of Commissioner Tim Echols

Commissioners and Legislators Hear Presentation on Renewable Energy Technology

ATLANTA, January 10, 2012 – More than two dozen legislators, along with Commissioners Tim Echols and Chuck Eaton of the Georgia Public Service Commission, attended a presentation on Monday January 9, 2012 at the State Capitol on renewable energy initiatives and what those technologies mean for Georgia. General Electric (GE) Power and Water representatives described the challenges of integrating renewable generation resources into the power grid, based on a detailed study performed by GE Energy Consulting and the solutions GE offers to overcome these challenges. The presentation also included an overview of flexible gas turbine technology, power plant evaluation techniques for the future renewable-saturated power grid, as well as information on GE's current solar portfolio products.

Among the legislators in attendance were Representative Amos Amerson, Chairman of the House Science and Technology Committee and Representative Don Parsons, Chairman of the House Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications Committee.

“Long term energy security and cost effective electricity generation planning is a top priority for any state. As the State of Georgia seeks to meet the future electricity demand of its consumers with reliable generation solutions, General Electric is sensitive to the costs associated with such an effort. GE will continue to be available to assist our customers within the state with both the knowledge and products to help find the best solutions for the state and its growing energy market.” said Claire Phibbs, of GE Power and Water.

“Chairman Amerson and I wanted to showcase General Electric's gas turbines that work in conjunction with solar energy,” said Tim Echols, who becomes the PSC Chairman on January 15, 2012. “It might be that as solar comes down in price Georgia Power can deploy large solar fields on existing plant property and economically allow us to increase our renewable portfolio of energy,” Echols added.

“With the increasing pressure of environmental regulations on coal-fired electric generation, it is a pleasure to see other renewable energy sources that are both economically and technologically feasible,” said Commissioner Chuck Eaton, Commission Vice-Chairman.

Commissioner Echols is the newest member of the Georgia Public Service Commission, having been elected statewide to a six-year term in November, 2010. His complete biography is at <http://tiny.cc/y5ktq>. The Commission web site is www.psc.state.ga.us.

For more information on the Commission, visit our web site at www.psc.state.ga.us.

###