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## Georgia Public Service Commission

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Commission Reacts to NRC Approval of Plant Vogtle Combined Construction and Operating License**

ATLANTA, February 9, 2012 – Members of the Georgia Public Service Commission (Commission) are applauding the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's decision to grant the Combined Construction and Operating License (COL) to the Southern Nuclear Operating Company so that construction of the two new units at Plant Vogtle owned by Georgia Power and other co-owners can begin in earnest. This will be the first new nuclear power plant construction in the nation in 30 years.

"Getting the license to complete construction for our two new reactors is a great victory for Georgia, and nuclear power in general," said Chairman Tim Echols. "Now the Public Service Commission can get to work and help ensure that it is completed on time and on budget."

Commission Vice-chairman Chuck Eaton noted, "We appreciate the NRC's vote of confidence. The eyes of the country are upon us as we move forward with this nuclear project

Commissioner Stan Wise called this decision a pivotal step forward. "This is a significant milestone in the construction of Plant Vogtle. This action gives the NRC's blessing to accelerate the process on time and on budget. We appreciate the NRC's confidence in the decisions of those of us on the first level of response."

Commissioner Doug Everett said, "This new nuclear plant is very important to the people of Georgia. It ensures safe and reliable energy to the people for generations to come. The availability of electricity is as important as reasonable and just rates. This plant will help guarantee that Georgia will not have brown outs or blackouts such as you see in some of the other States."

Commissioner Lauren "Bubba" McDonald, Jr. noted the project's massive economic impact. "This decision shows that the Commission has the foresight to plan to provide the most reliable and cleanest energy source for future generations. This is one of the largest construction projects in Georgia history. That means jobs for Georgians."

Almost three years ago, on March 17, 2009, the Commission approved Georgia Power's request to build the two new units at Plant Vogtle. In that approval, the Commission also established an

innovative process to monitor the construction of the new units, with oversight by an independent Construction Monitor and the filing of semi-annual construction monitoring reports. The Company filed its first monitoring report on August 1, 2009.

Plant Vogtle, located near Waynesboro, Georgia, has been in operation since 1987 with the completion of Unit 1. Unit 2 went on line in 1989.

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