



**Contact: Bill Edge**  
Phone: 404-656-2316  
www.psc.state.ga.us

## **Georgia Public Service Commission**

244 Washington St S.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334  
Phone: 404-656-4501  
Toll free: 1-800-282-5813  
Fax: 404-656-2341

**For Immediate Release**

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### **NEWS RELEASE**

#### **COMMISSION APPROVES CONSTRUCTION OF SOLAR FACILITY AT MARINE CORPS LOGISTICS BASE IN ALBANY**

ATLANTA –July 21, 2015 – The Georgia Public Service Commission (Commission) today approved the construction of a new 46 megawatt (MW) solar facility at the Marine Corps Logistics Base in Albany, Georgia. The Commission approval follows a Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Navy and Georgia Power Company with the aim of furthering the Marine Corps’ renewable energy, climate action and energy security goals. This is the fifth solar facility that will be constructed at Georgia military bases as a result of the partnership between the Commission, Georgia Power and the U.S. Department of Defense. Contracts for solar facilities at Fort Gordon, Fort Stewart, Fort Benning and the Kings’ Bay Naval Submarine Base have already been approved. Georgia Power will construct all of these projects and as with the other self-build projects, the Marine Corps project will be completed by the end of 2016 and have a 35 year life.

“With the closing of Plant Mitchell, this project gives us the opportunity to provide jobs and economic development with a clean renewable energy source while at the same time contribute to national energy security,” said Commissioner Doug Everett of Albany. “We hope these projects at our Georgia military bases will also offset any future plans for base closures,” added Everett.

“This project is a credit to the Commission and our work with our partners, Georgia Power and the military. It will give us the opportunity to make a great investment for the people of Georgia,” said Commissioner Lauren “Bubba” McDonald. “One thing that is important to note, is that this project is part of the Defense Department’s cybersecurity program to protect our military bases should their outside power sources be interrupted.”

The Marine Corps project stems from the Commission’s 2014 decision to reallocate 46 MW of capacity from the Plant Mitchell biomass project to other military self-build projects. The Company requested approval from the Commission to use the remaining capacity for this purpose. The Commission approved the three U.S. Army projects in October 2014 and the U.S. Navy project in May 2015. The Commission authorized the Company to build these four 30 MW renewable projects provided that the cost of the projects is equal to or less than the Company’s avoided costs, meaning no upward pressure on rates. The cost of installing solar has dropped dramatically in recent years, allowing Georgia Power to now meet the avoided cost condition.

“The Commission is proud to be able to play a role in improving national security, increasing energy independence, and supporting our Georgia bases,” added Commission Chairman Chuck Eaton.

“Georgia is an early enactor with the Department of Defense to make these important projects happen,” said Commissioner Stan Wise. “The opportunity to build these projects has been accomplished through a collaborative process between the Department of Defense, Georgia Power, and the Commission.”

"Georgia has done solar differently than California, Arizona and other states," said Commissioner Tim Echols. “We're doing projects like these on military bases as well as large utility scale arrays in South Georgia--without a subsidy and without a renewable portfolio standard."

The Georgia Public Service Commission is a five-member constitutional agency that exercises its authority and influence to ensure that consumers receive safe, reliable, and reasonably-priced telecommunications, electric and natural gas service from financially viable and technically competent companies. For more information on the Commission visit our web site at [www.psc.state.ga.us](http://www.psc.state.ga.us) .

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