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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEWS RELEASE

12-15

Commission Statement on Release of Final E.P.A. Clean Power Plan Rule

ATLANTA, August 3, 2015 – The Georgia Public Service Commission (Commission) today issued this statement about the final U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Clean Power Plan Rule under section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act.

While the Clean Power Plan rule released today incorporates some of the changes proposed by Commissioners it still contains some of the same flaws the Commissioners pointed out in their testimony last summer at the EPA hearings here in Atlanta. This rule is seen as a huge power grab by the federal government and tramples over the careful planning, which has achieved competitive and reliable electricity in our State. The rule will seriously tie the Commission's hands in our Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) process that allows this Commission, working with our investor-owned utility and other interested parties, to decide on the generation mix that best provides reliable electricity at reasonable rates. This rule will significantly limit fuel diversity and increase the cost of electric power in Georgia and nationwide.

We are pleased, however, that the EPA did heed a very important comment the Commission made on the draft rule, that is to consider the effect on CO₂ emissions from nuclear units still under construction. The final rule now gives Georgia credit for two nuclear power units that will provide carbon-free emissions for the next 60 years. This modification in how emission targets are calculated makes the 2030 goal less stringent than previously proposed.

The final rule also gives States two additional years from September 2016 to September 2018 to file their final compliance plan and adds two years from 2020 to 2022 before the interim compliance goals begin.

While we appreciate the extended timeline and the recognition of the value our new nuclear plants bring, we are disappointed that EPA failed to make other changes which will cost Georgia ratepayers and reduce reliability in the long run.

The Georgia Public Service Commission is a 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.

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