



## Georgia Public Service Commission

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**NEWS RELEASE**

**21-15**

### **Commission Reduces Fuel Rate for Georgia Power Customers; *Sets Schedule for Proceedings in Southern Company Acquisition of AGL Resources***

ATLANTA, December 15, 2015 – The Georgia Public Service Commission (Commission) today unanimously approved a decrease in the Fuel Cost Recovery (FCR) rate for Georgia Power Company customers that will save the average residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours about \$5.00 a month or a total reduction of 14 percent on their monthly bill. The Commission approved an agreement between the Company and the Commission Public Advocacy Interest Staff that increased the reduction from the Company's original filing on September 18, 2015. The Company's filing indicates the falling price of natural gas is a key reason for the decrease.

"We are pleased we can lower Georgia Power customers' rates and give consumers a price break, especially at this time of year," said Commission Chairman Chuck Eaton.

"Keeping rates low, making our military bases more resilient, growing solar in Georgia without a subsidy, protecting our gas pipelines, and providing needed services for the hearing impaired--all important duties of the Georgia PSC," said Commissioner Tim Echols. "It is my honor to serve my fellow citizens in this capacity."

Under state law Georgia Power's cost of fuel used for electric generation is passed along to customers on a dollar for dollar basis but the Company is not allowed to make a profit on the cost of fuel. The Docket Number in this proceeding is 39638.

In other action, the Commission approved a Procedural and Scheduling Order (PSO) in Docket Number 39971 that provides a timetable for filing testimony and briefs and conducting hearings in the proposed Southern Company acquisition of AGL Resources, the parent company of Atlanta Gas Light Company (AGLC). The Commission has regulatory authority over AGLC, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of AGL Resources.

The PSO also outlines the issues that the parties should consider as they file testimony and briefs. Those issues include but are not limited to:

- Whether the merger is in the public interest.
- Whether the merger will result in synergies, and if so, what is the appropriate allocation of any savings realized by such synergies?
- Whether the merger of AGL Resources with Southern Company will adversely affect Georgia ratepayers and/or competition among gas marketers, competition in the provision of electricity to consumers or commercial end users, competition in the transportation of gas, increase the costs of transmission of electricity, competition in the provision of electricity and gas to consumers or commercial end users, or among electric generation sources.

The schedule of review and hearings is as follows:

- December 17, 2015 Joint Petitioners file direct testimony
- March 15, 2016 Commission hears direct testimony of parties
- March 30, 2016 Staff and other parties file testimony
- April 14, 2016 Commission hears testimony of Staff and other parties
- April 22, 2016 Joint petitioners file rebuttal testimony
- May 3, 2016 Commission holds hearing on rebuttal testimony
- May 17, 2016 Briefs due from all parties
- May 24, 2016 The Commission issues its decision

For more complete information, refer to the filings on line in Docket Number 39971 available on the Commission web site at [www.psc.state.ga.us](http://www.psc.state.ga.us).

The Commission also approved Hamilton Relay, Inc. of Aurora, Nebraska to continue to operate the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) known as Georgia Relay in the state of Georgia for a five year period beginning April 1 2016. The Commission by state law manages and administers the TRS which provides telecommunications services for the hearing impaired, deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind or those who have difficulty speaking. Hamilton has been the service provider for the Georgia Relay since 2010.

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.

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