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For IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEWS RELEASE

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Commissioners Celebrate Opening of Solar Facility at Fort Benning in Columbus, Georgia

ATLANTA, June 1, 2016 – (Columbus) – Members of the Georgia Public Service Commission (Commission) joined community leaders, elected officials, Department of the Army officials, and Georgia Power representatives at the ribbon cutting ceremony today to officially open the first of five new solar facilities on Georgia military bases. Commissioners Tim Echols (R-Jefferson), Doug Everett (R-Albany) and Stan Wise (R-Marietta) took part in the ribbon cutting at the U.S. Army base at Fort Benning Georgia.

This project is the result of a partnership between the Commission, Georgia Power and the Department of Defense to build solar facilities at five Georgia military bases with a total capacity of 166 megawatts (MW). The other projects are at Fort Stewart in Hinesville, Fort Gordon in Augusta, the Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Georgia and the Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany. This project will generate 30 MW and covers more than 200 acres on Fort Benning.

Commissioner Wise in his remarks noted this installation will mean affordable renewable resources not just for the military but for the entire state. “They know they’re getting the best cost option, that they are serving the needs of all Georgians. So for all here today I salute you, I applaud you, for your efforts to make this happen. We at the Commission hope to continue to remain part of this partnership that makes this happen for this great state and this great country,” said Wise.

Other dignitaries taking part in today's ceremony were U.S. Representative Sanford Bishop (D-Albany), Assistant Secretary of the Army Katherine Hammack, Georgia Power Vice-President for Renewable Development William “Norrie” McKenzie, Lt. Gen. Todd T. Semonite, Chief of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Michael F. McGhee, Executive Director, Army office of Energy Initiatives.

The Commission approved the development of these solar facilities of up to 30 MW to be owned by Georgia Power in its approval of Georgia Power’s 2007 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). Georgia Power used the capacity from the 2007 IRP for the Fort Benning project. The Commission directed that the projects would be brought online at or below the company's long term avoided cost, the amount projected it would cost the company to generate comparable energy from other sources.

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 .



Commissioner Stan Wise (second from left) joins Georgia Power officials, Congressman Sanford Bishop and Department of the Army leaders to cut the ribbon to officially open the Fort Benning solar facility.

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