



Georgia Public Service Commission

Contact: Tricia Pridemore
Phone 404-657-4574
www.psc.state.ga.us

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

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FROM THE OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER TRICIA PRIDEMORE

Commissioner Pridemore Statement on Her Vote on the 19th Vogtle Construction Monitoring Report

ATLANTA, February 19, 2019 – Commissioner Tricia Pridemore issued this statement today following her dissenting vote on the stipulation to resolve the 19th Vogtle Construction Monitoring (VCM) Report.

Because the nature of a Stipulation requires Commissioners to adopt ALL sections in their entirety – without deletion or change, I am a NO vote on Docket #29849 – per the agreed upon Stipulation by Georgia Power Company and the Public Service Commission Public Interest Advisory Staff.

Sections 1 and 2 of the Stipulation provide for continuation of the Plant Vogtle Units 3 and 4 Construction Project by verifying and approving \$526.4 million for the first six months of 2018, and does not verify and approve \$51.6 million related to Georgia Power's portion of a \$112.9 million Administrative claim as part of the Westinghouse bankruptcy. These sections of the Stipulation make sense for the continuation of the project.

Both use sound judgment of expense review and continued oversight. However, section 3 gives a 200% increase to Commission staff consulting services resulting in an additional \$2.6 million for ratepayers to absorb. Combined with section 4 and the elimination of VCM 20 reporting, these additional costs are not in the best interests of ratepayers at this time.

With less than three years until it's planned to move at least one of the units into rate base and go live, more transparency is needed – not less. More cost savings is needed – not more spending. Re-baselining this project this year is likely to come with increased costs – the staff seeking additional consultants testified of this very likelihood.

While costs of construction average more than \$100 million per month, I want – as I believe all of my colleagues want – Vogtle units 3 and 4 to move quickly and safely into rate base as soon as possible. Any increase in spending should be assigned to getting more hands on deck to build. Any lapse in reporting should only come after several VCMs mark increased productivity, balanced budgets and a project significantly over schedule.

I am supportive of nuclear power and the Plant Vogtle Project, but I am a NO vote today because I do not agree with every part of this Stipulation. A Stipulation agreed upon while the Commissioners were under the ex parte rule. This rule removed elected Commissioners from the process of representing the people of Georgia in these negotiations. Public Service Commissioners are elected by the people of Georgia to represent their interests and ensure a healthy utility environment that produces necessary services. If we're not in the room

where it happens, we are not able to do just that. The PSC was warned about this possibility in the dissent to the ex parte rule adoption. “The people sent us here to deliberate, which requires one to communicate freely,” a dissenting Commissioner warned. Which is just the case as in this Stipulation, since I read about its existence in the January 30, 2019 Atlanta Journal-Constitution while under ex parte.

For the will of the people to be represented in this body, the PSC should revisit this self-inflicted rule. I believe that the Stipulation on Docket #29849 is flawed, therefore I vote NO.

The full copy of the Commissioner’s dissent is available at <http://www.psc.state.ga.us/content.aspx?c=/commissioners/tricia-pridemore/>

Commissioner Tricia Pridemore was appointed to the Commission by Governor Nathan Deal in 2018. She won election to a full six-year term in November 2018. Commissioner Pridemore’s full biography can be found on the Commission web site at <http://www.psc.state.ga.us/content.aspx?c=/commissioners/tricia-pridemore/>.

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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