

**NEWS RELEASE****GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

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PSC ISSUES ROADMAP TO ELECTRIC COMPETITION

ATLANTA -- After holding four public hearings last summer, the Georgia Public Service Commission issued a report today detailing the principles the agency will follow in proceeding with electric restructuring in Georgia.

"We plan to take a go slow approach on this complex issue," said PSC Commissioner Bobby Baker. "Since we already enjoy low rates in our state, before we change the system it must be proven that all consumers can benefit from competition," said Baker.

"We are studying the impact of competition now so that we can be prepared for any action the General Assembly or Congress might take in the near future," he added.

The comprehensive report contains guiding principles the PSC will employ as it evaluates the pros and cons of competition. The report also provides a roadmap the PSC will follow in examining the impact of competition in Georgia. If true benefits are demonstrated, the PSC will recommend legislative action for the 2000 session of the General Assembly.

The hearings, held between April and July of last year, considered such issues as the impact of competition on the consumer, the environment, energy efficiency, stranded costs and changes in public policy. Participating with the Commission were electric utilities, public advocacy groups, commercial and residential customers and Georgia homeowners.

The report can be accessed from the "electric page" of the PSC web page at www.psc.state.ga.us.

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