

**GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

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**SAVANNAH SMALL BUSINESSES MAY SEE ELECTRIC RATE REDUCTIONS**

ATLANTA -- The Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC) will hold a public meeting in Savannah Thursday night to gather public opinion on a proposal to reduce Savannah Electric rates by \$11 million over the next four years. If the PSC approves an agreement between its staff and Savannah Electric and Power Company, small business customers could see rate reductions of 8.6% when the plan is fully implemented.

The PSC says Savannah Electric and Power Company could potentially be overearning six to seven million annually from ratepayers, a figure the company disputes, and that revenues must be reduced.

Thursday night at 6:00 p.m. at the Coastal Georgia Conference Center for Continuing Education, an agreement between the PSC staff and Savannah Electric will be presented which calls for reductions in earnings of nearly 22 million over a four-year period. The reductions will be accomplished through a combination of rate reductions, accelerated depreciation of assets and storm damage accrual.

The agreement calls for \$11 million in rate reductions for small business customers over the next four years. If the PSC approves the plan, 12,000 small businesses would see a 5% reduction as early as July. Over the course of the four-year plan, small business rates will be reduced by 8.6%.

The discounts are being applied to small businesses rather than residential or industrial customers because small business customers' pay above the median in the southeast. The PSC notes that residential customers already pay below the national average.

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