

**GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

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Bobby Baker, Chairman  
Dave Baker  
Bob Durden  
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**SAVANNAH SMALL BUSINESSES TO SEE ELECTRIC RATE REDUCTIONS**

ATLANTA -- The Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC) Wednesday approved electric rate reductions of \$11 million dollars over the next four years for small business customers of Savannah Electric. Beginning with the first billing cycle in July, small businesses will see a 5% percent reduction in rates and by the fourth year the reductions will climb to approximately 8.6% percent.

After learning Savannah Electric could potentially be overearning as much as \$7 million annually from ratepayers, the PSC staff successfully negotiated an agreement with Savannah Electric to reduce the company's earnings by 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 PSC approved the plan Wednesday after taking comments on the proposal from Savannah Electric customers at a hearing in Savannah May 28<sup>th</sup>. The reductions will apply to small businesses using 50,000-kilowatt hours or less per month.

"Small business owners will see immediate rate relief," said PSC Chairman Bobby Baker. "The reductions will apply to businesses ranging in size from a small business in a strip mall to a large grocery store."

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. Residential customers already pay below the national average.

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