

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

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**PSC REDUCES REAL TIME PRICING ELECTRIC RATES**

**ATLANTA**—Today, the Georgia Public Service Commission (Commission) voted to modify the manner in which Georgia Power Company calculates the real time pricing (RTP) rates paid by some of its largest customers. The Georgia Textile Manufacturers Association (GTMA) and the Georgia Industrial Group (GIG) requested a reduction in these rates at the end of last year.

RTP rates fluctuate hourly with the cost of electric generation and give large customers an incentive to reduce power consumption during peak periods when the weather is hot and wholesale prices are at their highest. The Commission's decision will result in Georgia Power Company using the average cost of power purchases when calculating RTP rates beginning in June 2000. As a result, RTP rates may be lowered by as much as \$7 million annually. Another component of the RTP rate, the risk adder, will be reduced by 20-33 percent in June 2000 and will be further reduced in the next Georgia Power rate case, which is expected to be filed in 2001. The effect of these reductions will be \$10.9 million annually beginning June 2000 and an additional \$10.1 million annually in 2002. The Commission also approved four new RTP pricing programs that large customers can choose to further reduce the variability of RTP prices.

The Commission denied several other requests that were made by GTMA and GIG regarding the RTP rates. After considering the benefits that RTP customers will derive from these rate changes, the Commission ruled that RTP loads would not participate in the sharing of overearnings pursuant to an accounting order under which Georgia Power Company is currently operating.

The Commission also directed its staff to audit Georgia Power Company's fuel and off-system power purchases and to evaluate whether the interruptible service tariff should be implemented on an economic basis, as well as on a reliability basis.