Georgia Public Service Commission

32-04

News Release

PSC Approves Schedule for Savannah Electric Rate Case Hearings; Initiates Rulemaking for Natural Gas Late Fee

Atlanta, December 7, 2004 —.The Georgia Public Service Commission (Commission) today unanimously approved the schedule for hearings and filings in Savannah Electric and Power Company's (Company) request for an increase in its base rates. The proposed schedule calls for hearings on March 2-4, 2005, March 29-31, 2005 and April 26-27, 2005. The Commission would issue its decision on the Company's request at its regular Administrative Session on May 17, 2005. Savannah Electric has filed a request to increase its base rates by $23.8 million a year, an 8.8% increase in a customer's monthly bill. The Savannah Electric rate case is found using the Docket Search function on the Commission website, www.psc.state.ga.us, and entering Docket Number 19758 or by clicking on "Major Rate Case" on the website.

Commissioners Robert Baker and David Burgess voted to support a motion by Commissioner Angela Speir to initiate a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR) that would raise the minimum past due balance in customer accounts on which natural gas marketers can assess a late fee from $10.00 to $30.00. Current Commission rules allow the natural gas marketers to charge $10.00 or 1.5%, whichever is greater, on any past due balance of more than $10.00. Commissioner Speir made the motion to increase the threshold as a result of an elderly customer who contacted her office to complain because he was charged a $10.00 late fee on an outstanding balance of less than five cents.

Comments on the NOPR will be due by January 13, 2005. The Commission will address the issue at the January 18, 2005 Regular Administrative Session. More information on this issue can be found under Docket Number 12720.

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