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## **Georgia Public Service Commission**

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### **News Release**

#### **PSC Approves Staff Efficiency Review Recommendations**

Atlanta, March 21, 2006 – The Georgia Public Service Commission (Commission) today adopted eight recommendations contained in the Staff Efficiency Review Report, Docket Number 22268, initiated January 24, 2006 at the request of Commissioner Stan Wise. These staff recommendations include:

- Rename the current Adversary Team to “Public Interest Advocacy Staff; rename the Staff Advisory Team the “Commissioner Advisory Staff.”
- The above named staff teams should be used in rate cases and other complex cases as designated by the Commission.
- During contested cases in which these teams are used, a “Chinese Wall” procedure or non-structural separation should be implemented.
- Preview of Commissioner Advisory Staff case recommendations at Committee meetings will be allowed.
- The Commission should continue to use the services of outside consultants for both staff teams to ensure both teams will have the expertise required in preparing their recommendations.

The Commission also adopted an additional recommendation by Commissioner Wise that calls for the Commission to initiate a Notice of Proposed Rule Making to improve due process practices at the Commission. This rule would essentially state the following:

In determining findings of fact or in its deliberations, the Commission will hold no presumption in favor of the position of any party, including Public Interest Staff. The Commissioners shall only give weight and credit to any party in the case as can be supported by credible evidence in the record.

The Commission’s decision follows a two month review process by a Staff Review Committee that included two public hearings and the issuance of a 19-page report.

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