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## Georgia Public Service Commission

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**For Immediate release**

**NEWS RELEASE**

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### **PSC Moves Ahead with Ex Parte Rule Making Proposal**

ATLANTA, March 6, 2007 – The Georgia Public Service Commission (Commission) today issued a formal notice of proposed rulemaking (NOPR) to begin the process of crafting a rule to create an open hearing process and govern ex parte communications between Commissioners, Commission staff, utilities regulated by the Commission and other parties in contested cases. The Commission, on a 4-1 vote, approved a motion by Commissioner Angela Speir that the Commission issue the NOPR so that the Commission may receive comments on this proposal. An ex parte communication is a communication by one party with a Commissioner about a case without the other parties to the case having the opportunity to respond and without members of the public being able to know what was said.

The proposed rule would require that all communication between parties to a contested case and Commissioners be done in an open and public manner.

Commissioner Speir said, “The rule would ensure the public and the parties that decisions are based solely on the record and not on private conversations. This is about fairness and transparency.”

The NOPR will be submitted for comments from all interested parties and is tentatively scheduled to be adopted at the Commission’s May 15, 2007 regular Administrative Session.

You can find more information on this issue on the Commission web site, [www.psc.state.ga.us](http://www.psc.state.ga.us) under Docket Number 24838.

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