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NEWS RELEASE

PSC Receives Grant to Partner with Department of Energy and NARUC for Solar Energy Analysis

Atlanta, May 6, 2009 – The Department of Energy (DOE) and the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) has selected the Georgia Public Service Commission (Commission) as one of only seven state public utility commission partners to participate in a solar energy resource potential study. The project will last up to one year.

This new partnership activity aims to provide states in the beginning stages of solar energy deployment with a solar resource assessment. The project is a piece of a larger DOE and NARUC partnership that will bring State utility commission staff and researchers from the DOE National Laboratories together to identify and analyze technological, economic and regulatory barriers facing solar energy adoption and examine policy options to overcome these challenges.

“I am proud that the Georgia Public Service Commission and its staff have been selected for this innovative partnership. This project will enable our state to receive a detailed and quality analysis on solar energy issues for Georgia,” said Commission Chairman Doug Everett, “Efficient solar energy can be a part of any renewable energy package.”

DOE will provide \$150,000 to fund the project. Besides Georgia, the other states selected to participate are Kentucky, Tennessee, Michigan, Ohio, Missouri, and Colorado. Georgia was selected through a competitive application process.

Through a solicitation by NARUC, state commissions submitted research proposals covering a wide range of topics. Areas selected for analysis include an examination of feed-in tariff policies and implementation, solar energy grid integration issues, and the resource assessment analysis. This suite of projects will receive \$350,000 of funding from the DOE Solar Energy Technologies Program. Future areas of funding may include solar hot water technical standards, quantifying the benefits of solar energy, and examining the role of solar energy in utilities' integrated resource planning processes.

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