



Contact: Bill Edge
Phone 404-656-2316
www.psc.state.ga.us

Georgia Public Service Commission

244 Washington St S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
Phone: 404-656-4501
Toll free: 800-282-5813

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

12-09

NEWS RELEASE

PSC Continues Work despite Budget Cuts

Atlanta, June 3, 2009 – The Georgia Public Service Commission (Commission) remains committed to its core mission of balancing the interests of consumers and the utilities it regulates even during these difficult economic times. Due to the recession and decline in state revenues the Commission has taken a 14.6 per cent decrease in the agency's annual operating budget since August 2008.

“As a small agency with a wide ranging mission, any cuts in our budget have a dramatic effect on our regulatory duties,” said Commission Vice-Chairman Lauren “Bubba” McDonald, Jr. “Like all other state agencies, we have complied with the mandated budget cuts but they have had an impact on our ability to carry out our constitutional and statutory responsibilities.” McDonald noted however that the Commission has sought to implement innovative funding methods to provide the outside experts needed for rate cases and other proceedings.

Among the cost cutting measures the Commission has implemented:

1. Reached an agreement with Georgia Power Company for the Company to pay \$600,000 annually for an independent monitor to provide oversight for Plant Vogtle Nuclear Power Unit 3 and 4 construction costs.
2. Sought legislation to fund outside experts for rate cases without seeking additional state funds.
3. No new equipment purchases.

The five-member Commission, assisted by a staff of more than 90, is responsible for regulating investor owned electric and natural gas utilities, household goods movers and non-consensual towing, monitoring the deregulated natural gas market, protecting the state's underground utility facilities, enforcing pipeline safety and supervising the deregulated telecommunications industry.

The Commission is found on the web at www.psc.state.ga.us.

###