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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**From the Office of Commissioner Angela Speir  
NEWS RELEASE**

### **COMMISSIONER ANGELA SPEIR PROPOSES RULES PROHIBITING DISCONNECTIONS ON HOTTEST DAYS**

Atlanta, August 16, 2007 – Today, Commissioner Angela Elizabeth Speir proposed that the Commission consider adopting new rules to govern the disconnection of consumers during extreme hot weather.

“The heat wave that Georgia has experienced over the last two weeks - and the unfortunate news that two Georgia seniors have died as a result of the heat - has brought this issue to the forefront,” said Commissioner Speir. “The elderly and the sick are extremely vulnerable during hot weather. Disconnection of one of these customers when the temperature is approaching 100 degrees could result in a life threatening situation. To its credit, Georgia Power Company does have internal operating procedures regarding the disconnection of consumers during hot weather, but those procedures are not enforceable by the Commission.”

The Commission has long had rules restricting utilities from disconnecting consumers on the coldest days of the year. In winter, consumers cannot be disconnected when the forecasted low temperature for the next 24 hours is below 32° F. However, the Commission currently has no rules in place governing disconnecting consumers on the hottest days of the year.

Commissioner Speir is serving her first six-year term on the Commission. In 2002, she became the first woman elected to the Commission and in 2005 was the first woman to serve as Commission Chairman.

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