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## Georgia Public Service Commission

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

### **Commission Prohibits Disconnections on Hottest Days, But More Work Is Necessary to Protect Most Vulnerable**

Atlanta, September 4, 2007 – Today, the Georgia Public Service Commission issued an order putting in stop gap measures to prohibit the disconnection of Georgia Power consumers during extreme hot weather.

“With the adoption of today’s order, we now have a measure in place to provide some basic protection during heat waves,” Commissioner Angela Elizabeth Speir said. “That will give us the time we need to study the issue more thoroughly to make sure that the policy we have is the best one.”

Speir initiated a rulemaking proceeding at the Commission two weeks ago when high temperatures were breaking all previous records.

“The heat wave that Georgia experienced last month - and the unfortunate news that several Georgia seniors died as a result of the heat - brought this issue to the forefront,” said Commissioner Speir. “The Center for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that on average 700 people per year die as a result of excessive heat in this country. <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5529a2.htm> As the news accounts from last month demonstrated, Georgia is not immune. The CDC also reports that the vast majority of those who die as a result of excess heat are 65 years old and up, but it is certainly not limited to them.”

“While I am pleased that the Commission acted today,” Speir continued, “this measure was adopted without any true analysis of its effectiveness. Is it the best policy? I certainly hope so, but now we need to roll up our sleeves and do the work necessary to find out. I have asked our staff to conduct a Workshop to gather information and hear from interested parties. Now that we have something in place and now that the hottest days are hopefully behind us, we can take a little time and give this important – literally life and death – issue the attention that it deserves, so that by next summer we can feel confident that we have the right policy in place.”

News Release  
July 3, 2007

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 had nothing in place governing disconnecting consumers on the hottest days of the year.

The Order the Commission issued today requires the Georgia Power Company to file an inclusion in its tariff providing for an exception for disconnections during hot weather as follows: Residential service will not be disconnected if at 8 A.M. on the scheduled disconnection day, the forecasted high temperature for the day is 98 degrees or higher or the heat index for the day is forecasted to be 110 degrees or higher.

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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