



GPSC News

Volume 8 Issue 2

Spring 2009

*Commission Certifies Construction and cost of new units
 *Cost set at \$6.4 billion
 *CWIP approved
 *Projected completion in 2016/2017

Commission Issues Plant Vogtle Decision

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**Next Issue
July 2009**

The Commission March 17 approved the Georgia Power Company (Company) request for certification to build two new units at its Vogtle Nuclear Power Plant in southeast Georgia. This certification is required under Georgia law (O.C.G.A. §46-3A-3) for the Company to proceed with construction of these units and seek recovery of construction and financing costs from ratepayers. A majority of the Commission approved a motion by **Commissioner Stan Wise** to adopt the stipulation signed by both the



Company and the Commission Public Interest Advocacy Staff. In addition, Commissioner Wise moved to allow the Company to recover the cost of financing the plant during construction, known as Construction Work in Progress or CWIP, and approve a recommendation for the company and the PSC staff to work together to

develop an alternative risk sharing mechanism to provide some protection from significant cost overruns to ratepayers. Commissioner Wise said, "CWIP will save customers money and better ensure that the creditworthiness of the Company can withstand the financing of these

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Commission Hosts Federal Stimulus Legislation Workshop

The Commission held a two-day workshop March 30 and March 31 to hear from utilities, telecommunications providers, state agencies and other interested parties on how the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 affects regulators, regulated companies and



Commissioners listen to presentations

other state agencies. Over 50 people packed

the Commission hearing room on the first day of

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Legislative News

The 2009 Georgia General Assembly ended April 3 with both good news and bad news for the Commission. The good news is that the final Fiscal Year 2010 budget contains an extra \$100,000 in funding to pay for subject matter experts who testify in various proceedings before the Commission. Coupled with the \$380,000 recommended in the Governor's budget plan, the Commission will be able to meet its minimum requirements in presenting alternative evidence in contested proceedings.

The bad news is that the Commission backed legislation to provide for funding in rate cases and other proceedings



failed to pass during the session. **House Bill 52** stalled in the House Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications Committee. The bill was scheduled for a subcommittee hearing on March 9 but the Committee Chairman inexplicably cancelled the meeting on the morning of the meeting with no explanation.

The bill's author, Representative

John Lunsford (R-McDonough) did manage to attach his measure to another House bill already in a Senate Committee where it received a do pass recommendation. **House Bill 244** however failed to pass out of the Senate Rules Committee and make it on the debate calendar in the final week of the session.

Both measures remain alive and can be acted upon during the 2010 General Assembly which will convene on Monday January 11, 2010.

The Commission tracked a number of other measures which concerned the Commission, its budget and state government operations during this

If you have a story for the next GPSC News, please send to Bill Edge, bille@psc.state.ga.us. Next issue deadline is July 15, 2009.

session. They are listed below.

Legislation

H.B. 118-Amended 2009 Budget. Signed by Governor on March 13, 2009.

H.B. 119-Fiscal Year 2010 Budget. Awaiting Governor's action.

H.B. 168-Eliminates Universal Access Fund. Held in Senate Regulated Utilities Committee.

H.B. 302-Requires notice of third party telecommunications billing. Awaiting Governor's ac-

tion.

H.B. 376-Requires telecommunication rate parity. Held in House Committee.

H.B. 396-Requires notice of underage alcoholic laws to motor carriers. Failed to get passage.

H.B. 404-Brings taxi cabs under Commission regulation. Held in House Motor Vehicle Committee.

H.B. 440-Exempts government rideshare programs from PSC regulation. Awaiting Governor's action.

H.B. 568-Provides for three year

term for PSC Chairman. Passed House but tabled in Senate.

H.B. 569-Provides for district election of Commissioners. Held in House Committee.

S.B. 31-Provides for Nuclear power plant financing. Awaiting Governor's action.

The Governor has 40 days from the end of the session to either sign or veto legislation or it becomes law without his signature.

Commission Urges Consumer Awareness in Limousine Rentals

The Commission offers some helpful advice for Georgians who may be hiring passenger carriers for proms, graduations and reunions.

Be aware of illegal companies. Under current Georgia law all passenger carrier companies that fall under the Commission's authority

and operate within the state are required to be registered and have proof of insurance on file with the Commission. A list of the licensed companies can be found on the Commission's website:

(For limo companies) [http://www.psc.state.ga.us/](http://www.psc.state.ga.us/transportation/limodata.asp)

[transportation/limodata.asp](http://www.psc.state.ga.us/transportation/limodata.asp)

(For bus companies) [http://](http://www.psc.state.ga.us/transportation/BusCompanyData.asp)

[www.psc.state.ga.us/](http://www.psc.state.ga.us/transportation/BusCompanyData.asp)

[transportation/](http://www.psc.state.ga.us/transportation/BusCompanyData.asp)

[BusCompanyData.asp](http://www.psc.state.ga.us/transportation/BusCompanyData.asp)

Chauffeurs who drive for licensed limousine carriers are required to have permits which

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Commission Approves Atlanta Gas Light Plan to Promote Economic Growth

The Commission March 3 unanimously approved an innovative program that will allow Atlanta Gas Light Company (AGLC) to attract new business to Georgia while at the same time protecting the environment. Known as the "Georgia Sustainable Environmental Economic Development" program or SEED, the program allows AGLC to contract with business customers to help finance new line extensions, new natural gas equipment and equipment installations. The Commission and AGLC will work together to determine how SEED should be designed to best

meet the needs of Georgia business. Georgia SEED is a five year experimental program that allows AGLC to invest in capital projects and is available to customers who can show significant economic and environmental benefits for the state. Customers will have little or no upfront costs and can pay back the costs over the life of the project. "I'm not sure we've ever seen an initiative that's more progressive and innovative to promote job growth than what we've seen today," said **Commissioner Stan Wise**. Georgia SEED will allow for three potential avenues for contracts:

1. Provide customers with the benefit of a new utility service extension to new plant sites;
2. Offer financing for the purchase and installation of new higher efficiency gas equipment; and
3. Discounted utility rates to help lower overall energy costs.

The Commission approved five conditions proposed by **Commissioner Lauren "Bubba" McDonald, Jr.** McDonald said his conditions were aimed at minimizing cross subsidization from projects where AGLC might receive greater benefits than the ratepayers.



Commission Approves Vogtle Nuclear Plant

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costs, which again saves customers money."

Key points of the stipulation include:

- Sets the Company's portion of the certified cost of the new units at \$6.446 billion
- The Company will pay up to \$600,000 per year for each year of construction for an independent Construction Monitor

- Requires the Company to file semi-annual construction monitoring and quarterly status reports with the Commission

The Company will file the first monitoring report on August 31, 2009 with the next report to be filed on February 28, 2010.

Georgia Power filed its certification request on August 1, 2008. The Commission held three rounds of hearings in November and Decem-

ber 2008 and in January 2009 during which witnesses presented testimony and parties entered evidence to support their filings. Plant Vogtle, located near Waynesboro, Georgia, has been in operation since 1987 with the completion of Unit 1. Unit 2 went on line in 1989.

More information on this issue is filed under Docket Number

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WPBA-TV Interviews Commission Staff

Commission staff appeared April 12 on the renowned WPBA-TV public affairs program "Leyes Cotidianas." Consumer Affairs Director **Cynthia Johnson** and Public Information Officer **Bill Edge** took to the airwaves to inform the audience how the Commission affects consumers,



regulates utility rates, enforces underground facilities protection, regulates household goods movers and passenger carriers. The show is hosted by Atlanta lawyer Ralph Perales. The show's title means "Everyday Law" in English.

Commissioner Stan Wise Urges Congress to Move Cautiously on Mandating Renewable Energy

Commissioner Stan Wise testified February 26 before the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee in Washington, D.C. that a mandatory renewable energy policy would do more harm than good both to Georgia and Southeastern United States utility ratepayers. "I am concerned that a 'one size fits all' federal Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) mandate fails to recognize that there are significant differences among the states and regions in terms of available and cost-effective renewable energy resources," Wise said, "and that having such a standard in energy legislation will ultimately substan-



tially increase consumers' electricity bills." Wise warned, "Forcing southeastern utilities to comply with arbitrary renewable resource portfolio requirements will harm ratepayers in the region, because of the limited amount of renewable resources, enormous amounts of money will flow from ratepayers in Georgia and the south-

east to developers or utilities in other parts of the country or to Washington, D.C." He said if Congress decides to impose mandated renewable energy then it should take into account the following considerations:

- States should be allowed to develop renewable or clean energy standards that take into account the resources available in the state or region. This will ensure state to state equity while maximizing the benefits of expanding clean energy.
- Targets and timetables should be practical and allow

state or regional variations depending on the resources available.

- The definition of qualifying resources that would count toward compliance with a federal standard should be expanded from the list in current proposals. In this regard:
 - Existing hydro should count towards compliance the same as existing wind and solar.
 - Nuclear generation should be included due to the fact that

it emits no carbon.

- The definition of biomass should be expanded to include all recoverable wood material. This would include whole trees which are currently excluded from credit toward compliance.
- Energy efficiency should be included as a resource that would count toward compliance. This is a resource that is being expanded in Georgia and the southeast and its use should not be limited in any federal stan-

dard.

- Utilizing municipal solid waste for energy production should be included toward compliance. This is a renewable resource that is available across the country and its use will reduce other environmental impacts from its disposal. Finally if there are Alternative Compliance Payment provisions then payments under such a program should remain in the state where the utility rate-

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Commission Hosts Stimulus Workshop

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the hearings, which was dedicated to discussing grants for energy efficiency, conservation and reducing energy demands. The second day workshop concentrated on the broadband implications of the ARRA.



Tom Bond moderates discussion

Chairman Doug Everett (below) welcomes participants to the workshop



Commission Retains SCANA Energy as Natural Gas Regulated Provider

The Commission March 17 unanimously approved their monthly customer service to Group 2 (Group 2). SCANA Energy as the Natural Gas Regulated Provider for a two year term beginning September 1, 2009 and ending August 31, 2011. The new Regulated Provider contract provides savings for customers in both Group 1 and Group 2. Group 1 senior customers will see their monthly customer service charge drop by \$1, from \$2.95 to \$1.95 while Group 2 customers will also see a \$1 decrease in their monthly customer service charge from \$10.95 to \$9.95. In addition, Group 2 customers who paid on

time for six months will see reason for transfer from Group 1 to Group 2 (Group 2). The Regulated Provider serves those customers in the Atlanta Gas Light Company service areas that are served by one of the nine certificated natural gas marketers.

charge decrease to \$6.95. They will also be eligible to return to the SCANA Energy deregulated market. The Regulated Provider, established under O.C.G.A. §46-4-166, provides natural gas service to low-income consumers (Group 1) and to customers who are unable to obtain or maintain natural gas service from other market-ers or whose utility payment history is cited as



Governor Proclaims April Dig Safely Month

Governor Sonny Perdue joined the Commission and representatives from the Utilities Protection Center, utilities, excavators, local governments and Senator Mitch Seabaugh in proclaiming April as Dig Safely Month.

Commission Chairman Doug Everett said, "The Commission reminds all Georgians that Call Before



You Dig is the law. Failure to obey the law can have serious consequences. I am pleased that the Governor has proclaimed April as Dig Safely Month to remind everyone of the importance of Call Before You Dig."

Commission Approves New Nuclear Power Plants

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27800.

In other action, the Commission approved the Company's request to certify the conversion of Unit 3 at its Plant Mitchell generation plant from burning coal to biomass fuels. Georgia Power has indicated in its filing that conversion of the Plant Mitchell Unit 3 is

consistent with the Company's renewable expansion plans, adds to fuel diversity and maximizes the life and value of the unit. As part of the 2007 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), the Commission found Georgia Power's plan to develop cost-effective renewable resources to be reasonable. The plant is

scheduled to be in commercial operation for the summer of 2012. Under the IRP statute, new power generation cannot be added to the system without a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity issued by the Commission.

Commission Approves West Georgia Pipeline for Kia Motor Company Plant

The Commission March 3 approved a 12.5 mile long steel natural gas pipeline in West Georgia that will deliver over 14,000 million cubic feet daily of natural gas to the Kia Motor Company automobile manufacturing plant now under construction in Troup County. The plant is scheduled to open in the fall of 2009. The Commission action will ensure that the plant has an adequate supply of natural gas for its operations.

"This pipeline will promote economic development in West Georgia," said **Commission Chairman Doug Everett**. "At

the same time, we are ensuring that this pipeline will operate in a safe and reliable manner."

The Commission approved the request by the City of LaGrange (Docket Number 28727) to construct the pipeline through Coweta County to connect LaGrange's existing pipeline to the Transcontinental Gas Pipeline (Transco) in order to provide natural gas service to the Kia plant. The pipeline will run from the Grantville meter station to the Transco pipeline in Coweta County.

The Commission decision requires that the City of LaGrange must submit con-

struction and economic feasibility information within 30 days of a signed final Commission order.

All parties in this docket must also file a mutually agreed upon Countywide Safety Plan for Coweta County within 30 days of the order.

The 2.4 million square foot Kia Motor Manufacturing Plant will employ more than 2,500 workers and produce an estimated 300,000 vehicles a year.



KIA MOTORS
The Power to Surprise™

Commissioner Wise Testifies

(Continued from page 4)

payer resides. This money should be available for energy investments and programs closest to and that will have the best chance of benefiting the ratepayer who will be paying the cost.

The subcommittee invited Commissioner Wise to testify at the hearing titled "Renewable En-

ergy: Complimentary Policies for Climate Legislation."

Commissioner Wise has served on the Commission since 1995, and was Commission Chairman in 1997, 1999 and 2006. He is a past President of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) and currently is a member of the NARUC Board of Directors.

Limousine Advice

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are only issued to drivers that work for limousine companies approved by the Commission and who have successfully completed a criminal history investigation permit and vehicle ID stamps. When making your reservations always get a written confirmation to confirm the arrangements.

Commissioner Wise Appears on The Lawmakers

Commissioner Stan Wise appeared March 17 on *The Lawmakers*, the daily public affairs program which airs on WGTV-TV when the Georgia General Assembly is in session. Reporter Brittany Evans interviewed Commissioner Wise in his office following the Commission's decision approv-



ing the Georgia Power Company request to certify new two units at its Plant Vogtle Nuclear Power plant in southeast Georgia.

Wise explained that his vote to allow Georgia Power to collect Construction Work in Progress would save consumers money prior to the plant's actual operation.

Employee News

Dennis Sewell Deployed Again Congratulations

Dennis Sewell left for a one-year tour in Afghanistan on March 19, his third tour of duty in the Global War on Terrorism since December 2001. Dennis is a Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve and works in the Army Signal Corps.

Dennis stopped by in uniform to say farewell to co-workers on his way to begin his preparatory training before heading over-



seas. Dennis hopes to return in early 2010.

Congratulations to: Tony Wackerly and wife Indah on the birth of their daughter, Neva Utaminingtyas Wackerly. She was born on April 9. Baby Neva weighed in at 7.2 pounds and was 19.7 inches long. **Bill and Debbie Edge** on the birth of a second grand-daughter, Addison Elizabeth Moore in Asheville, N.C on February 24. Addison weighed 8 pounds 13 ounces and was 20.75 inches long.

Happy Birthday

Commissioner Chuck Eaton celebrated the big 4-0 on April 1. After a spoof e-mail from unknown parties inviting staffers to a birthday party, a birthday cake appeared in the Commissioner's office on April 2 along with decorations inside and outside his chambers.



(above) Beverly Franks cuts the Commissioner's birthday cake while decorations line his office entrance (right)



Bernard Cameron Retires



Long-time Commission staff member Bernard Cameron retired on March 27 after 32 years of service to the

Commission and the state of Georgia. Baker and Chuck Eaton presented Bernard's family, friends and co-workers joined him for his retirement party. **Commissioners Robert**

consented Bernard with a resolution honoring his years of dedication and work.



Commission News

Georgia State Holidays For 2009

Commission Calendar



New Year's Day
Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday
Confederate Memorial Day
Memorial Day
Independence Day
Labor Day
Columbus Day
Veterans Day
Thanksgiving
Robert E. Lee's Birthday
Washington's Birthday
Christmas

January 1
January 19
April 27
May 25
July 3
September 7
October 12
November 11
November 26
November 27
December 24
December 25

April 2009

2-Committees
 7-Administrative Session
 16-Committees
 21-Administrative Session
 27-Holiday
 30-Committees

May 2009

5-Administrative Session
 14-Committees
 19-Administrative Session
 25-Holiday
 28-Committees

Commission Calendar

June 2009

2-Administrative Session
 11-Committees
 16-Administrative Session

July 2009

2-Committees
 3-Holiday
 7-Administrative Session
 16-Committees
 21-Administrative Session

NARUC

Summer Meeting 2009

July 19-22, 2009
 Seattle, WA

Annual Convention 2009

November 15-18, 2009
 Chicago, IL

Winter Meeting 2010

February 14-17, 2010
 Washington, D.C.

SEARUC

Annual Meeting 2009

June 21-24, 2009
 Charleston, South Carolina



GPSC ONLINE: psc.state.ga.us

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