



GPSC News

Summer 2010

Volume 9 Issue 3

*AGLC seeking \$54 million increase in rates
 *Average monthly bill would increase \$3
 *Commission decision set for November 2, 2010

Commission Opens Hearings on Atlanta Gas Light Rate Case



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The Commission opened hearings into the Atlanta Gas Light Company 2010 rate case on August 10 with the Company's presentation of its direct case. **AGLC President Suzanne Sitherwood** testified to open the Company's presentation. She said the Company needs a \$54 million increase in base rates to upgrade its customer service program as well as to cover rising operational costs. The Company filed for an increase in base rates on May 3. Its proposal would increase customer base rates by about \$3 a month. At its April 20, 2010 Administrative Session, the Commission set the filing and hearing schedule for this case filed in this docket. The remaining schedule in this case is: August 19, 2010 – Staff and intervenors file testimony September 13-14, 2010 – Hearings: Staff and

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Commission Approves Georgia Power Integrated Resources Plan

The Commission July 31082. The plan will ensure that Georgia Power customers have an adequate and reliable electric supply, establish measures to conserve energy, and promote alternate energy supplies. "Georgia has to look to the future," said **Commission Chairman Lauren "Bubba" McDonald, Jr.**, "We are making decisions that affect millions of Georgians, ensuring that we have reliable electric service so we do not experience brownouts in extreme weather conditions and promoting economic growth and development."

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Legislative News

State revenues may have begun their long hoped for turnaround but more months of positive revenue increases are needed before anyone can say the state's economic picture is truly on the mend.

State revenues increased by 4.7 percent in July of this year compared to July 2009. It is the second consecutive month of revenue increase for the first time in over two years.

For fiscal year 2010 which ended June 30 2010, total revenues were down 9.1 percent compared to FY 2009. However June 2010 revenues were up 3.8 percent over June 2009.

In the meantime, the Governor



ordered four percent cuts to each state agency's allotment for July due to the fact that the Congress had failed to pass about \$375 in Medicaid funding for Georgia that was supposed to be part of the Economic Stimulus Package approved in 2009. However Congress did approve the funding on August 9. the measure will provide up to \$550 million addi-

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tional funding for Georgia. Looking ahead to the next budget cycle, the Office of Planning and Budget has instructed each agency to prepare budgets of four percent, six percent and eight percent cuts for the Amended FY 2011 Budget and budgets of six percent, eight percent and ten percent for the FY 2012 Budgets.

The Commission budgets are due to OPB on September 1, 2010.

Commission District 2 Republican Runoff Results

Tim Echols	52.3%
John Douglas	47.7%

Commission Approves Georgia Power IRP

(Continued from page 1)

Georgia law requires the Company to file an updated IRP every three years which details how it will supply the state's electric generation needs.

Under the stipulation the Company and the Commission Public Interest Advocacy staff reached agreement on the following issues:

1.The Company will be allowed to develop a portfolio of solar

demonstration projects up to one megawatt in size.

2.Certifies seven of the Company's proposed nine DSM programs with many of Staff's modifications to those programs.

These modifications not only increase the energy savings but also practically double the dollars savings at minimal additional costs, and therefore greatly improve the cost effectiveness of these programs. The energy sav-

ings that should result from these programs will benefit each and every one of the Company's ratepayers. While these programs are not designed to reach the potential identified in some studies, their achieved energy savings will help to lead Georgia out of the bottom of national and regional comparisons on energy efficiency.

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intervenors present testimony

October 1, 2010- AGLC files rebuttal testimony

October 12-13, 2010 - Hearings: AGLC presents rebuttal testimony

October 21, 2010 - All parties file proposed orders

October 28, 2010 - Energy Committee, Advisory Staff



AGLC President Suzanne Sitherwood opens the Company's direct case

presents recommendation November 2, 2010 - Commission issues its decision at Administrative Session

In 2005 the Commission approved a five year freeze in the Company's rates.

The AGLC rate case filing is found under Docket Number 31647.

Georgia Power Files 2010 Rate Case

The Commission is reviewing the Georgia Power Company request for an increase in its base rates filed with the Commission on July 1. The Commission will begin the first round of hearings on the Company's request on October 4, 2010 and will issue a decision on the request on December 21, 2010. Georgia law requires the Commission to issue a decision on the Company's rate request within 180 days from the date the proposed new rates are filed. According to the Company's filing, it is requesting an annual increase in its retail rates of \$615 million. This request, if approved, would be approximately

a \$10.88 increase for the average residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt-hours per month. The Commission decided the last Georgia Power rate request on December 18, 2007 in Docket 25060. At its June 17, 2010 Administrative Session, the Commission set the filing and hearing schedule for this case filed in Docket Number 31958. The schedule is: July 1, 2010 - Georgia Power files its case and also direct testimony
October 4-6, 2010 - Hearings: Georgia Power presents direct testimony
October 22, 2010 - Staff and intervenors file testimony

November 8-10, 2010 - Hearings: Staff and intervenors present testimony
November 19, 2010- Georgia Power files rebuttal testimony
December 1-3, 2010 - Hearings: Georgia Power presents rebuttal testimony
December 8, 2010 - All parties file proposed orders
December 16, 2010 - Energy Committee, Advisory Staff presents recommendation
December 21, 2010 - Commission issues its decision at Administrative Session



Commission Approves AGL Strategic Pipeline Corridor Plan

The Commission June 17 approved on a 4-1 vote two Atlanta Gas Light Company (AGLC) strategic corridors designed to extend natural gas service to White and Bryan Counties. The total estimated construction cost of the two projects is \$7 million. The Commission passed a motion by **Commissioner Doug Everett** to approve

the projects under the AGLC Strategic Infrastructure Development and Enhancement Program, known as STRIDE, and the Integrated System Reinforcement Program, approved by the Commission on October



6, 2009 in Dockets 8516 and 29950.

The projects are designed to extend natural gas service to areas currently not served and to promote economic development in those areas. The White County project will extend a 4" high pressure gas main approximately 10 miles from Clermont in Hall County

north along US 129 to Cleveland in White County. The Bryan County project consists of approximately 3 miles of 6" high pressure steel main beginning at the 12" high pressure gas line that runs from Jesup towards Richmond Hill. This main will run along state and county roads towards I-95 where it will terminate at the crossing of I-95 and Belfast Siding Road. Based

on Company filings, both counties are projected to see substantial population growth over the next five years.

In other action, the Commission: 1. Approved unanimously the elimination of the surcharge all landline telecommunications consumers pay to fund services for the state's hearing and sight impaired citizens. The Commission passed a motion by **Commis-**

sioner Robert Baker, Jr. to reduce the monthly charge to zero for the Georgia Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) for the next three years. The last reduction in the monthly charge was in August 2006 when the Commission reduced the charge from \$0.10 a month to the current \$0.05 a month. The reduction will continue to

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Commission to Hold Public Hearings on Rate Cases

The Commission will hold a series of public hearings throughout the state on the Georgia Power Company and Atlanta Gas Light Company (AGLC) requests to increase their current retail rates. The public hearing schedule is as follows:

August 18, in Macon, Georgia, beginning at 6 p.m., Bibb County Commission Board Room, Bibb County Courthouse, 601 Mulberry Street, Room 407 the Commission will hear the public on the Georgia Power rate case. At 7 p.m. the public will be heard on the AGLC rate case.

August 31, in Savannah, Georgia, beginning at 6 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 2 East Bay

Street, 2nd Floor Council Chambers; the AGLC hearing will begin at 7 p.m.

September 13, in Atlanta, Georgia, beginning at 6 p.m., Commission Offices in Room 110, 244

Washington Street, S.W. the Commission will open a public hearing on the AGLC rate case.

September 22, in Rome, Georgia, beginning at 6 p.m., Rome Civic Center, 400 Civic Center Drive; the AGLC hearing will begin at 7 p.m.

October 4, in Atlanta, Georgia, beginning at 6 p.m., Commission Offices in Room 110, 244 Washington Street, S.W. the Commission will open the public hearing on the Georgia Power rate case,

At each public hearing, the Com-

mission Staff will present an overview of the rate case filed by Georgia Power Company followed by an opportunity for the public to make their views known.

The Commission is scheduled to make a final decision in the Atlanta Gas Light Company rate case at a Special Administrative Session on October 28, 2010, at 1:30 p.m. Any new rates would take effect November 3, 2010.

The Commission will make a final decision in the Georgia Power rate case at its regularly scheduled Administrative Session on December 21, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. Any new rates would take effect January 1, 2011.

Commissioner McDonald Speaks at Opening of Atlanta Gas Light Customer Care Center

Commissioner Lauren "Bubba" McDonald, Jr. July 13 applauded Atlanta Gas Light Resources (AGLR) for bringing nearly 75 jobs back to Georgia at AGLR's new Customer Care Center in Riverdale, Georgia. McDonald spoke at the opening of the Center.

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Commissioner McDonald joins Governor Sonny Perdue and AGL officials at the Customer Care Center ribbon cutting



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3. The Company agrees to update its estimate of the cost of Unexpected Unserved Energy, which has not been updated since 1992 and prepare a revised reserve capacity margin based on this estimate. This information will assist the Company and the Commission in ensuring that the consumers have access to reliable and reason-

bly priced electric service.

4. Requires a new mix study to show the effect of potential new federal regulations on fossil fuel generation. This study may lead to additional coal plant retirements beyond the retirements identified in the Company's filing. This study or studies are underway as part of the ongoing 2015 solicitation for new generation sources because any potential

plant retirements could affect the need for new generation resources in this solicitation.

This compromise results in an additional sum that provides for an equitable sharing of the benefits between the ratepayers and Georgia Power, and is adequate to provide the Company with a meaningful incentive to ensure that the energy

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Lifeline-Linkup Week Coming in September

This year's Lifeline Linkup Week is September 12-18, 2010, a national recognition of this important asset to ensure that many low income residents have access to telecommunications service. The Commission in conjunction with the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners and other Commissions around the country will sponsor a number of events to make the public more aware of this benefit.

Governor Sonny Perdue has proclaimed the week of September 12-18 as Lifeline Linkup Week in Georgia. In addition, the Commission will kick off the week with a news conference on

September 9 at a senior citizen workshop. Other participants tentatively slated to take part in the event are representatives from AT&T, Atlanta Regional Commission and Community Action Agencies.

Eligible participants must provide proof of participation in one of the following programs:

Link-Up Georgia reduces the cost of having a telephone installed by providing one-half of the connection charge or \$30, whichever is lesser, off the cost of having a telephone installed. However, AT&T-Georgia credits 100% of the connection charges for its eligible Link-Up customers.

In order to receive the Lifeline Assistance and/or Link-Up Georgia

credit, you must provide proof and certify under penalty of perjury that you are currently participating in one of the following programs.

1. Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
 2. Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 3. Food Stamps
 4. Medicaid
 5. Senior citizen low-income discount plan offered by the local gas or power company
 6. Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
 7. Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Additionally, local telephone companies that receive dis-

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Commissioner Wise Speaks to Leadership Forum in Columbus

Commissioner Stan Wise spoke June 23 to the Industry Leaders in Public Policy Program sponsored by the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce.

The topic of Commissioner Wise's presentation was "Energy, national trends, &



Looming Changes in the Market Place".

Wise highlighted his commitment to promoting a free market system in the management of Georgia's electricity, natural gas and telecommunications industries.

Commissioner Wise is serving in his third term on the Commission.

Commission Approves IRP

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efficiency programs are cost-effective and hopefully successful, while still protecting the ratepayers from paying an excessive incentive. Consideration of site specific biomass conversion of certain coal units.

AGL Call Center Opening

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"These jobs mean Georgians will be answering the telephones in Georgia and serving Georgians", said McDonald, who is currently serving as Chairman of the Georgia Public Service Commission for 2010. "Georgia money will stay in Georgia to the benefit of all Georgia residents."

The Customer Care Center will

serve customers of Atlanta Gas Light Company which serves more than 1.5 million customers in Georgia as well as AGLR's five other natural gas distribution companies in the Southeast. AGLR is bringing 74 new jobs to the Customer Care Center, jobs which had been outsourced overseas. Total employment at the CCC is 223.

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Commissioner H. Doug Everett Wants Georgia to be a Leader in CNG Fueling Stations for Commercial and Passenger Vehicles

Commissioner **H. Doug Everett** on July 29 challenged Atlanta Gas Light Company to develop a proposal to construct the infrastructure for a network of compressed natural gas (CNG) fueling stations to be operated by retailers here in Georgia. His statement follows:

"Yesterday, AGL Resources announced a joint venture with El Paso Corporation to distribute LNG across the southeastern U.S. for use in long-haul commercial fleets. Twenty-five percent of the



nation's tractor trailer traffic occurs in the Southeast where AGL and El Paso have infrastructure.

There have also been other developments in the advancement

of use of natural gas as a transportation fuel. Last summer, T. Boone Pickens' company, Clean Energy, opened a CNG refueling station down by the airport. This past April, AT&T made a commitment to deploy 8,000 CNG fleet vehicles across the country. And on the heels of the BP oil spill in the Gulf, there is renewed interest in using CNG for passenger vehicles.

Just this week Democratic leaders in Congress announced their new energy bill and it includes

\$4 billion in incentives for natural gas vehicles. The current version includes between \$10,000 and \$64,000 in rebates for the purchase of natural gas powered cars and heavy trucks. Station fuelers could get up to \$50,000 to install CNG pumps.

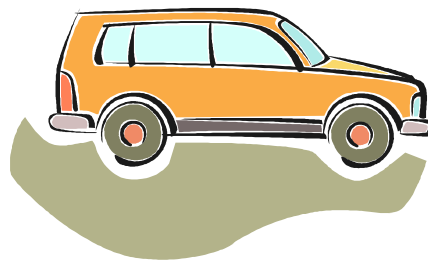
As my colleagues know, for the last twelve months I have been discussing various business models with AGL to construct the infrastructure for a network of CNG fueling stations to be operated by

retailers here in Georgia. We would begin with a handful of stations serving fleets and then move into passenger cars.

I want to renew my challenge to Atlanta Gas Light to bring forth

a proposal in the coming months to ensure that Georgia is well ahead of competing states when Congress announces grants and incentives."

Commissioner Everett is currently in his second six year term on the Commission. He was first elected to the Commission in 2002. He served as Commission Chairman in 2004 and 2009.



Commission Approves Strategic Corridor Plan

(Continued from page 3)

enable the Commission to collect sufficient monies to fund the TRS, the Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program, the Audible Universal Information Access Service and the Hearing Aid Program while eliminating any over collection. All of the aforementioned pro-

grams are required under Georgia law.

2. Approved the filing and hearing schedule for the upcoming Georgia Power rate case expected to be filed with the Commission on July 1, 2010 in Docket Number 31958. The schedule is:

July 1, 2010 - Georgia Power files its case and direct testimony
 October 4-6, 2010 - Hearings: Georgia Power presents direct

testimony

October 22, 2010 - Staff and intervenors file testimony

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Employee News Sympathy

To: **Lynn Buffington** on the passing of his father, Squire Buffington on July 2. The funeral was held July 4 in Zebulon, Georgia.



To the family of **Betty Lucas**, nature and her integrity. She never hesitated to give her opinion and colleague who passed thereby gained our respect and admiration. Funeral services were held on August 10 in Jonesboro, Georgia with graveside services in Hayneville, Alabama on August 11.



Congratulations

To **Bill Edge, Public Information Officer** on his selection to Captain in the Navy Reserve. Bill is a Public Affairs Officer and has served in the Reserves for the past 25 years.



To: **Jamie Barber** on her marriage June 12 to Jeff Aaron. Jamie is Director of the ARRA section in the Internal Consultants Unit.



To: **Tom Bond**, Director of Utilities and **Heather Borst**, staff attorney, on their marriage July 9 in Decatur.

Lifeline-Linkup Week

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bursements from the universal service fund (eligible telecommunications companies) will survey a random sampling of its subscribers receiving the Lifeline credit to ascertain subscribers' continued eligibility to receive the discount.

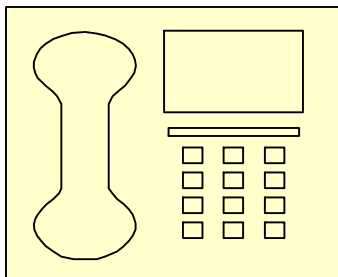
For more information, contact your current or prospective local telephone company. Be advised that not all competitive local exchange carriers offer Lifeline/

Lifeline Linkup Week

Strategic Corridors

AGL Call Center

Link-Up assistance. Therefore, you must ask the carrier whether these credits are available prior to making a commitment.



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file proposed orders December 16, 2010 – Energy Committee, Advisory Staff presents recommendation December 21, 2010 – Commission issues its decision at Administrative Session Georgia law requires the Commission to issue a decision on the Company's rate request within 180 days from the date the proposed new rates are filed.

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The Company says it has invested \$2.5 million to upgrade the facility.

Commissioner McDonald is in the second year of his six-year term on the Georgia Public Service Commission after having been elected in December 2008. He previously served on the Commission from 1998 to 2002 as well as serving 20 years in the Georgia General Assembly.



Commission News

Commission Calendar



Georgia State Holidays For 2010

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 18
April 26
May 31
July 2
September 6
October 11
November 11
November 25
November 26
December 23
December 24

August 2010

3-Administrative Session
 10-12-AGLC Hearings
 12-Committees
 17-Administrative Session

September 2010

2-Committees
 7-Administrative Session
 13-14-AGL hearings
 16-Committees
 21-Administrative Session
 30-Committees

Commission Calendar

October 2010

4-6-Georgia Power hearings
 5-Administrative Session
 14-Committees
 19-Administrative Session
 28-Committees

November 2010

2-Administrative Session
 10-Committees
 16-Committees

NARUC

Annual Convention 2010

November 15-18, 2010
 Atlanta, Georgia

Winter Meeting 2011

February 13-17, 2011
 Washington, D.C.

Summer Meeting 2011

July 17-20, 2011
 Los Angeles, California

SEARUC

Annual Meeting 2011

June 21-24, 2011
 Nashville, Tennessee



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