



Fall 2014



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GPSC News

Volume 13 Issue 1

*Wise outlines concerns
*House Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications Committee
*Georgia not getting credit for nuclear plants
*Comment period extended

Wise and Echols Outline Concerns on EPA Proposal to State Legislators

In this issue

- State Budget Update
- Commission Verifies Vogtle Expenditures 3
- EPA Extends Deadline for Comment on Proposed Clean Power Rule 3
- Echols Hosts Lunch and Learn 4
Wise Tours Plant Vogtle
- Commission Announces Lifeline Week 5
- Tribute to Truett Cathy 5
- Commission Approves Expansion of Hearing Aid Program 6
- Employee News 7
- Commission Calendar 8

Commissioner Stan Wise and **Commissioner Tim Echols**, detailed for state House members on October 9 how the proposed Environmental Protection Agency Clean Power rules would affect our state. Wise told members of the House Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications Committee meeting at the State Capitol that the proposed rule does not give Georgia credit for what the state has already done in lowering carbon emissions by 35 per cent, and for building the next generation of nuclear power plants.



Commissioner Wise

"It's expensive what they are proposing and we're not getting credit for we've done to reduce emissions from coal plant and the next generation of nucle-

ar power plants," Wise said.

Wise noted that he had written to EPA Administrator Gena McCarthy asking for an extension of the comment period for an additional 90 days. (See article on page 3) The EPA decided to allow comments for

(Continued on page 4)



Commissioner Echols

In Memoriam: Lisa Taylor (1959-2014)

Long time Commission employee **Lisa Taylor** passed away on August 31, 2014 following an automobile accident in Atlanta on August 14, 2014. She had been hospitalized in the Intensive Care Unit at Grady Memorial Hospital following the accident.



Lisa, who began her career at the Commission in March 2001, was the Ad-

ministrative Assistant for

the Pipeline Safety Unit. Commissioners, friends, and colleagues past and present remembered Lisa at a Memorial Service held on September 25 at World Changers Church International in College Park, Georgia. Her brother **Tim Taylor** gave a reflection on his sister's life. Commissioner **Lauren "Bubba"**

(Continued on page 2)

Next Issue January 2015

Hong Kong Power Officials Visit



Commission staff met with officials from **China Light and Power Hong Kong Limited** here on October 1. Staff briefed the Chinese officials on the electric utility rate making process here in Georgia. CLP is in the processing of renewing their contract with the Hong Kong government and is exploring whether to pursue traditional ratemaking or deregulation.

Wise Attends U.S. Global Leadership Coalition Meeting in Atlanta



U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson speaks to the USGLC meeting here

Commissioner Stan Wise, as a member of the Georgia Advisory Committee of the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, attended the Coalition's Impact on Georgia meeting in Atlanta on September 29, 2014. The featured speakers at the event were Georgia U.S. Senator

Johnny Isakson (shown at left), U.S. Army General (ret.) George W. Casey, Jr., Helene D. Gayle (CEO of CARE USA), Clyde C. Tuggle, V-P Coca-Cola Company and Richard Warner, CEO of What's Up Atlanta.

The U.S. Global Leadership Coalition is a broad based influential network of 400 businesses and NGOs, national security and foreign policy experts, and faith-based, academic and community leaders in all 50 states who support a smart power approach to build a better, safer world.

If you have a story for the next GPSC News, please send to Bill Edge, bille@psc.state.ga.us. Next issue deadline is January 15, 2015.

Commissioners, Staff and Stakeholders Participate in Price of Solar Workshop

Commissioners, Staff and interested stakeholders held an afternoon long workshop on September 16 in Docket 36325, Georgia Power Company's Advanced Solar Initiative and Docket 38619, Petition to Establish Value of Solar Energy. Commissioner **Lauren "Bubba" McDonald, Jr.** said the purpose was to bring solar participants together to exchange infor-



mation. Commissioners **Chuck Eaton, Doug Everett** and **Stan Wise** also attended. Workshop

participants included representatives from the Georgia Solar Energy Association.

Lisa Taylor

(Continued from page 1)

McDonald sang a beautiful rendition of "Holy Ground." Chairman **Chuck Eaton** spoke, as did former Pipeline Safety Director **Danny McGriff** and Pipeline Safety Inspector **Alan Towe**. **Monique Andrews** and **Yolanda Clay** read scripture and **Reece McAlister** gave the opening prayer.



Commissioners **Stan Wise** and **Tim Echols** also attended along with past Commissioner **David**



Burgess. The **Reverend Rodney White**

(Continued on page 5)

Commission Verifies and Approves Expenditures from the Ninth and Tenth Vogtle Construction Monitoring Reports

The Commission August 18 unanimously approved Georgia Power Company's request to verify and approve the expenditures in the Combined Ninth and Tenth Vogtle Construction Monitoring Report for the period between January 1, 2013, and December 31, 2013, in Docket Number 29849. The total amount approved for the Vogtle expansion is \$389 million, bringing the total construction cost verified to date to \$2.599 billion. The decision follows hearings on June 1, 2014, for the Company's testimony and



on July 1, 2014, for the Public Advocacy Staff's testimony. According to the Company, Unit Three will begin commercial operation in late 2017, and Unit Four will begin operation during the fourth quarter of 2018. The Commission on March 17, 2009 certified Georgia Power's share of the cost

for the Plant Vogtle Nuclear Construction Project as \$6.114 billion. Plant Vogtle is co-owned by Georgia Power, Oglethorpe Power, City of Dalton Utilities and the Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia.

The Commissioners continue to acknowledge the benefits of this project. **Commissioner Tim Echols** noted, "Not only will this facility produce carbon-free energy for decades, but should the price of natural gas go up substantially, we will have a hedge against increased fuel costs."

EPA Extends Comment Period on Proposed Carbon Emission Rules After Wise Sends Letter to EPA Head

The Environmental Protection Agency on September 16 extended the comment period for its proposed Carbon Emission Rule following numerous comments including a September 3 letter from **Commissioner Stan Wise** to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Gina McCarthy. Wise had requested an additional 90 days to file comments on the



Commissioner Wise

draft rule. "EPA's current deadline (of October 16) for commenting simply does not provide sufficient time to understand this far-reaching and complex proposal," Wise noted. The EPA however will take comments until December 1, an additional six weeks past the original comment deadline of October 16.

Wise noted the EPA's draft rule to reduce carbon emissions from elec-

tric power plants, known as the proposed Clean Power Rule, will "place undue hardship on Georgia consumers." In the two-page letter to McCarthy, Wise appealed to McCarthy's "sense of fairness" by sharing some insight into how the proposed rules might impact Georgia. In his letter, Wise also said "the draft rule summarily discards billions of dollars in investment Georgians have made in state-

of-the-art emissions controls on coal-fired units during my tenure." Wise pointed out that the EPA draft rule unreasonably expects natural gas units to operate greater than 70 percent of the time, regardless of whether it makes sense economically and without regard to the impact on customers.

Wise also wrote that the draft rule "cancels out the benefits of our nuclear development." Wise

said in approving the construction of two new units at Georgia Power's Nuclear Plant Vogtle, the Commission considered the potential carbon emissions reductions from those units. However, Wise said the draft rule penalizes Georgia for these advancements and "ignores the significant investment by making Georgia's goal more stringent than other-

(Continued on page 4)

Echols Hosts Lunch and Learn Session on Human Trafficking in the Atlanta Metro Area

Commissioner Tim Echols on September 3 hosted a "Lunch and Learn" session on "Commercially Sexually Exploited Women and Children in the Atlanta Metro Area" at the Midtown Atlanta law offices of Arnall Golden Gregory LLP.

"Having four daughters and being a native of Georgia, I am deeply concerned about the exploitation that continues to occur in Georgia--especially in Atlanta," said Echols. "These events showcasing the folks working day-in and day-out on this issue are important to raise awareness."

Echols said he was particularly



Commissioner Echols

moved by Justice Melton's comments that showed the link between adult entertainment and the exploitation of women.

According to Commissioner Echols, organizations like the Salva-

tion Army have discovered that many women experiencing commercial sexual exploitation started being exploited as a child. The child victims of trafficking often continue to be exploited after turning 18 due to lack of education, resources, family support, etc. As these young girls turn 18, services provided become more limited even though they continue to be caught in the cycle of exploitation.

This event featured ten presentations that uncovered the full spectrum of sexual exploitation with hopes that greater efforts can be made to assist victims in Georgia.

Presenters included:

Caitlin Crane – Just1; Hillary DeJarnett – Salvation Army HavenATL; Andi Worley – Street-Grace; Phillip Bray – SafeHouse Outreach; Mary Frances Bowley – Wellspring Living; Tiffany Sawyer – Georgia Center For Child Advocacy; Patrick Palmer – Out of Darkness; Torrey Kennedy – DeKalb County Special Victims Unit; Dr. Gerald Durley – Providence Missionary Baptist Church; Justice Harold Melton – Georgia

Supreme Court

Echols plans to use a charter bus during the legislative session to take policy makers on an "unholy tour" of Atlanta showing them points of exploitation including Metropolitan Avenue, Fulton Industrial, mid-town, and other locations during a late night event featuring commentary by non-profit and law enforcement leaders.

State Hearing on EPA Rules

(Continued from page 1)

an additional six weeks until December 1, 2014.

Commissioner Tim Echols echoed similar themes. Echols said Georgia did not get credit for its solar and other renewable energy sources. He said the proposed rules are "an effort to browbeat states into adopting Renewable Portfolio Standards."

Wise Tours Plant Vogtle Construction Project



Commissioner Stan Wise looks over the construction underway at Georgia Power's Nuclear Plant Vogtle Project in southeast Georgia. With him is David Clem, Nuclear Development Director, Georgia Power. Wise visited the site on August 28.

Letter to EPA

(Continued from page 3)

wise comparable states to account for operation of these new units."

Wise also added that the four "building blocks" of the EPA proposal are all based on overly aggressive assumptions. "Even if Georgia could increase demand-side energy efficiency to 10 percent by 2030, it would

(Continued on page 5)

Commission Announces Lifeline Awareness Week

The Commission joined with the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) in announcing September 8-14, 2014 as National Lifeline Awareness Week in Georgia. Access to local emergency services and community resources is vital to all residents. Lifeline helps low income consumers connect to the nation's communications networks, find jobs, access health care services, connect with family, and call for help in an emergency. For some, a local phone can be the difference between social connection and complete isolation. Under the federal Lifeline program, telephone customers

who participate or are eligible for certain public assistance programs are entitled to receive a basic telephone service discount of at least \$9.25 per month. More information on program eligibility, rules and key messages is available at <http://www.fcc.gov/lifeline/outreach>. To sign up, consumers should contact their prospective telecommunications provider. Consumers should be aware that not all providers offer the Lifeline discount and should contact any potential provider before making a commitment. Consumers can find more information at: <http://www.fcc.gov/lifeline/outreach>. Consumers can find Lifeline providers by State

(www.lifelinesupport.org) and a Lifeline Eligibility pre-screening tool (<http://www.lifelinesupport.org/ls/am-i-eligible.aspx>). NARUC is the national association representing the state public service commissioners who regulate essential utility services in their states. NARUC members are responsible for assuring reliable utility service at fair, just, and reasonable rates. Founded in 1889, the Association is an invaluable resource for its members and the regulatory community, providing a venue to set and influence public policy, share best practices, and foster innovative solutions to improve regulation.

Commissioner Echols: Tribute to Truitt Cathy

I met Truett Cathy at a Rotary Club meeting where I received a certificate for my high school leadership achievements. I was just 17 years old. Little did I know the impact that meeting would have on my life. Mr. Cathy spent some time with me that day. In fact, he gave me a set of motivational tapes by Zig Ziglar, a tape recorder to play them on, a \$50 check, and

a promise to put me to work for Chick-fil-a if I would go on to college and graduate. Off to Athens I went to attend the University of Georgia. I listened to those tapes, served my fellow students in various capacities, and set some goals. One of those goals was to become a statewide elected official. Upon graduation, I went back to Mr. Cathy's humble Hapeville office, did the interview, got



Truett Cathy

the offer—but turned down the opportunity to run a Chick-fil-a store in Texas because of my desire to enter Georgia politics one day. Looking back, I can't

(Continued on page 6)

Lisa Taylor

(Continued from page 2)

delivered the eulogy.

Not only a colleague and co-worker but a friend to many at the Commission, Lisa will be missed.

Lisa was an accomplished author who authored wrote two publications, "God's Sent Messenger" and "Kingdom Scribe Your Way to Life."

She was also a veteran, having served in the U.S. Coast Guard for four years and achieving the rank of Petty Officer Second Class.



Wise Letter to EPA

(Continued from page 4)

create hardships on our ratepayers," Wise said. He added that a 2012 Technical and Economic Achievable Potential Study evaluated similar aggressive targets and found that such levels of demand side energy efficiency have never been demonstrated on a sustained basis.

Commission Expands Coverage for Hearing Aid Services for Uninsured Children

The Commission on September 16 unanimously approved an expansion of the Hearing Aid Distribution Program which provides hearing aid services to children from ages 0 to 19. The Commission approved an amendment to its contract with the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation which contracts with the Commission to provide hearing aid services.

The amendment means the Foundation will be able to serve up to an additional 100 children per year whose families fall between the gaps in Medicaid, Peach Care and the federal limit for families



receiving subsidies or tax credits. The Foundation partners with hearing aid manufacturers and maintains a network of over 150 audiologists throughout the state. As of December 31, 2013, the Program has distributed 9,142 hearing aids to 5,331 applicants. The legislature established the Hearing Aid Distribu-

tion Program in 2007 under the provisions of House Bill 655.

"Our vote today will help children in our state with hearing impairments," said

Commissioner Tim Echols. "I appreciate

the good work of the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation and the leadership they provide."

Under Georgia law (O.C.G.A. §46-5-30(h)), the Commission administers a fund that can be used for four different purposes: the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS), the Audible Infor-

mation Access Service, the Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Service and other hearing technology which includes the Hearing Aid Distribution Program. The Commission is authorized to fund these programs through a small surcharge on all local exchange telephone access lines.



**Georgia Lions
Lighthouse Foundation**

Tribute to Truett Cathy

(Continued from page 5)

believe I told this man I couldn't move out of state.

After being elected, I visited Mr. Cathy that first year and thanked him for his challenge and mentoring—albeit it through cassette tapes. The result was still the same—a changed life. Something, it turns out, that he did with literally thousands of young people like me.

You see, helping kids was really Truett Cathy's specialty. People just think it is chicken because his company does that so well. Look at their business today. Of their 60,000 employee workforce, 80 percent are less than 21 years old. This is a company that gets these young people to say "It's my pleasure" on cue whenever a customer says any version of thank you. Those who are parents know that this is no

small feat. This respect, an accompanying work ethic, and career opportunities have served many of his former employees well in life. But Truett Cathy's commitment to children and youth extends far beyond Rotary Club honorees and store employees. Mr. Cathy, with profit made from selling chicken sandwiches, has rescued hundreds of orphans and under-privileged kids from a certain life of poverty and all that can go with that. Mr. Cathy's WinShape

Foundation establishes foster homes—paying a fulltime salary to foster parents to care for the kids, even buying the house, van, and groceries. He often funds vacations, college educations, and weddings. Add to that the WinShape camps serving 15,000 kids of all socioeconomic stripes per summer and his foundation is taking a huge burden off of our government social services. Truett Cathy lived a life of vision and purpose. He successfully built a

business that people usually feel fortunate to work for, and he transmitted his values continually—even through serving fried chicken. He was focused on young people, and knew how to assess character and potential. He was not afraid to challenge a person, and certainly not afraid to give his money away.

We'll miss Truett, but his legacy will live on through the many people he has touched.

Employee News

Congratulations

To **Katherine Leigey** on her marriage September 13, 2014 to **William Montross** at the Wahoo Grill in Decatur, Georgia. Katherine works in the Internal Consultant Unit.



To **Tony Wackerly**, Utilities Analyst, and wife Indah on the birth of a son, John Krishna Wackerly on July 14, 2014.



To **Terry Pritchett**, Budget and Fiscal Officer, on the birth of grand-daughter Charlotte Devi Rice on August 8, 2014. Charlotte was 6 pounds 14.2 ounces and was 19 3/4 inches long.



Retirement



The Commission bade farewell to long time employee **Mike Russell** on August 28 as he closed out 34 years of ser-

vice with the state. Colleagues, friends and family gathered to celebrate his time here and wish Mike farewell. Mike's wife Deborah joined him for the celebration. Mike started his career with the Commission in 1980. We wish Mike well as he enters this next phase of his life.



Mike Russell (top) speaks to the gathering as he retires from the Commission

Mike and Deborah listen to the program

Farewell

To **Shaun Rosemond** who resigned on August 19. Shaun was a Utilities Analyst who had served at the Commission since 2002.

Team Regulators Run Kaiser Permanent 5K

Team Regulators again took part in the Kaiser Permanent 5K race on September 11 through downtown Atlanta. Thanks to all including the runners who were **Dennis Sewell**, **Sheree Kernizan** and **Janey Chauvet** and to **Monique Andrews** as the Chief Organizer.





Commission Calendar



Georgia State Holidays for 2014

Veterans' Day	November 11
Thanksgiving Day	November 27
Robert E. Lee's Birthday	November 28
Christmas Day	December 25
Washington's Birthday	December 26

Georgia State Holidays for 2015

New Year's Day	January 1
M.L. King, Jr. Day	January 19
Confederate Memorial Day	April 27
Memorial Day	May 25
Independence Day	July 3
Labor Day	September 7
Columbus Day	October 12
Thanksgiving Day	November 26
Robert E. Lee's Birthday	November 27
Washington's Birthday	December 24
Christmas Day	December 25

November 2014

4-Administrative Session
11-Holiday
13-Committees
20-Administrative Session
25-Committees
27-28-Holiday

December 2014

2-Administrative Session
11-Committees
16-Administrative Session
25-26-Holiday
31-Committees

Commission Calendar

January 2015

1-Holiday
6-Administrative Session
15-Committees
19-Holiday
20-Administrative Session
29-Committees

February 2015

4-Administrative Session
11-Holiday
13-Committees
18-Administrative Session

NARUC

Annual Convention 2014

November 16-19, 2014
San Francisco, California

Winter Meetings 2015

February 15-18, 2015
Washington, D.C.

Summer Meetings 2015

July 12-15, 2015
New York City, N.Y.

SEARUC

Annual Meeting 2015

June 14-17, 2015
San Antonio, Texas



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Discussion of regulatory matters in this newsletter should not be construed as legal interpretations of orders or rules issued by the Commission.



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