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## **Georgia Public Service Commission**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**15-11**

### **NEWS RELEASE**

#### **PSC Names Nantz New Head of Facilities Protection Unit; and Gibson New Head of Consumer Affairs Unit**

Atlanta, May 3, 2011 – The Georgia Public Service Commission today unanimously approved the appointment of Michael C. Nantz as the new director of the Commission's Facilities Protection Unit. Mr. Nantz will replace outgoing Director Danny McGriff, who is retiring after more than 31 years of service with the state.

Mr. Nantz has wide experience in the state regulatory arena. Prior to joining the Georgia Public Service Commission, he served more than 12 years with the Kentucky Public Service Commission where he held various staff positions which included working in the Pipeline Safety Division. He joined the Georgia Commission in January 2003 as the Assistant Director for Enforcement in Consumer Affairs. In July 2009, he became Director of the Consumer Affairs Section. He graduated from Francis Marion University in Florence, South Carolina.

"We are pleased to be able to promote someone with the caliber of Mr. Nantz's credentials to head our vitally important Facilities Protection Unit," said Commission Chairman Stan Wise. "This Unit carries tremendous responsibilities for protecting the citizens and the underground infrastructure of our state. We look forward to Mr. Nantz carrying our Facilities Protection Unit to the next level. We wish Mr. McGriff farewell as he pursues the next chapter in his career and express our appreciation for his outstanding service to the people of Georgia," Wise added.

The Facility Protection Unit is responsible for protecting the public and environment from accidental release of natural gas or other liquid products by incorporating a technologically advanced compliance program that promotes educational standards for the industry and contributes to the health and security of Georgia. In addition, the Unit is responsible for protecting the public from physical harm, preventing injury to persons and damage to property, and averting interruptions of utility service as a result of damage to utility facilities caused by blasting or excavating operations.

In accordance with the Commission's agreement with the Federal Department of Transportation (DOT) and Commission Rules, the Commission enforces safety standards outlined by the Natural

Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968, exercising regulatory jurisdiction over safety of pipelines transporting natural gas in Georgia.

The Facilities Protection Unit also enforces the Georgia Utility Facility Protection Act enacted by the Georgia Legislature in July 2000 that provides for the protection of the buried utility facility infrastructure within the State of Georgia. That protection is provided by requiring excavators to call for a facility locate prior to excavating or blasting and requiring the facility owner or operator to locate their facilities upon request.

The Commission also named James D. Gibson as Manager of the Consumer Affairs Group. Mr. Gibson came to the Commission in April 2000 as an Information Referral Specialist. He was promoted to Consumer Analyst One in 2001 and to Consumer Analyst Two in 2002. He previously had been with Atlanta Gas Light Company for more than 20 years where he held positions as a Credit Department Representative, as a Customer Service Representative and as a Customer Service Supervisor. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Georgia State University.

For additional information visit the Commission web site at [www.psc.state.ga.us](http://www.psc.state.ga.us)

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