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## Georgia Public Service Commission

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### **PUBLIC COMMENT GUIDELINES**

Pursuant to Commission Rule [515-1-1-.02\(1\)](#) it shall be the duty of the Chairman, or his/her appointee, to preside at all meetings of the Commission; to preserve strict order; to procure at all times the correct meaning and sense of the Commission; to conduct the business of the Commission when in session subject to the direction of a majority of the Commission. In an effort to accomplish this directive the Chairman, on behalf of a majority of the Commission, has established the below listed guidelines regarding public comments while the Commission is in session:

#### **HEARINGS**

- A sign-up sheet for public comments will be provided at the Executive Secretary's office 1 hour prior to the start time for that day's hearing.
- The Commission will hear public comments at the start of each hearing day. If a hearing is scheduled on a particular day and the hearing has already concluded, public comments will not be received on that scheduled hearing day since the hearing has already concluded.
- Each public commenter will be given up to 3 minutes at the podium to offer comments. All persons making public comments will be expected to conduct themselves appropriately. Please note that the Commission may exclude from the hearing any person for "any indecorous or improper conduct," examples of which may include profanity, costumes, signs or props that disrupt the hearing. [O.C.G.A 50-13-13\(a\)\(6\)](#).
- Additionally, the Commission may disallow any person from making or continuing to make a statement if the statement is redundant or not related to the issues at hand, or if the person is conducting him or herself in "a disruptive, offensive, or defamatory manner." [GPSC Rule 515-2-1-.06\(4\)\(a\)](#).
- No decision to exclude a person from the hearing or to disallow a person from making or continuing to make a statement will be based on the person's viewpoint.
- If there are no public commenters at the start time of the hearing, the Commission will wait 10 minutes. If still no public commenters at 10 minutes past the start time, then the Commission will immediately proceed to the hearing. If a public commenter arrives after the hearing has begun for the day, the Commission will only hear from the public commenter in the discretion of the Chair.
- If the public comments conclude prior to the completion of the first scheduled hour of the hearing then the Commission will wait 10 minutes to ensure no additional public commenters arrive and if no additional commenters arrive after that 10-minute period, the Commission will immediately proceed to the hearing.
- As a reminder all Public Comments can be submitted in writing through the Commission's website at <https://psc.ga.gov/public-comments/>.

#### **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

- A sign-up sheet for public comments will be provided at the Executive Secretary's office 1 hour prior to the start time for that day's committee meeting.
- The Commission will hear public comments at the conclusion of the presentation of the Committee agendas.
- Each public commenter will be given 3 minutes at the podium. All persons making public comments will be expected to conduct themselves appropriately. Please note that the Commission may exclude any person, or disallow them from continuing to make their statement for acting in a disruptive manner, examples of such conduct may include profanity, costumes, signs, props, or making or continuing to make a statement that is redundant or not related to the matter at hand.
- No decision to exclude a person from the meeting or to disallow a person from making or continuing to make a statement will be based on the person's viewpoint.
- As a reminder all Public Comments can be submitted in writing through the Commission's website at <https://psc.ga.gov/public-comments/>.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION**

- No public comments allowed.

The above by directive of the Commission effective January 17, 2023.

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Tricia Pridemore  
Chairman