



# The PSC Pulse

## Legislative Wrap Up



Governor Nathan Deal signed the Fiscal Year 2019 State Budget, H.B. 684, on May 2, 2018, which includes an additional \$231,652 to fund two positions at the Commission. The Georgia General Assembly wrapped up its 2018 session at midnight on March 29, 2018.

Among the other bills which passed this session was S.B. 402 which designates the Georgia Technology Authority to provide grants to local governments to expand broadband throughout rural Georgia. The measure however contains no funding mechanism to provide money for those grants. Lawmakers are expected to address that issue in the 2019 General Assembly.



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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Commissioner reduces NCCR fee
- Refunds for Georgia Power customers
- Community Solar visit
- Echols visit to see AP 1000
- New Employees

## COMMISSION REDUCES NUCLEAR CONSTRUCTION COST RECOVERY FEE

Beginning April 1, 2018, Georgia Power Company customers will save an estimated \$139 million in 2018 following the unanimous Commission decision on March 20, 2018 to reduce the Nuclear Construction Cost Recovery (NCCR) fee in Docket 32539.

The NCCR is collected from Georgia Power customers to pay the financing cost on the construction of two new nuclear power units at Plant Vogtle near Waynesboro, Georgia.

The reduced fee is due to two factors: one, the reduction in the federal corporate income tax rate from 35 to 21 percent; and two, the payment of the remaining parental guarantee by the Toshiba Corporation.

The reduction will save the average Georgia Power residential customer using 1,000 kilowatts about \$1.03 per month.

“This reduction means keeping more money in the pockets of Georgia Power customers,” said **Commission Chair Lauren “Bubba” McDonald**.

**News for the next newsletter? Send to Lynn Page...**

## COMMISSION HOLDS FIRST HEARINGS FOR THE 18TH VOGTLE CONSTRUCTION MONITORING REPORT



*Georgia Power witness panel takes the stand to present their testimony.  
L-R: Jeremiah Haswell, Stephen Kuczynski, David McKinney*

The Commission completed the first set of hearings for the 18<sup>th</sup> Vogtle Construction Monitoring Report on May 2, 2018 as Georgia Power witnesses presented direct testimony in support of the report. The Company is seeking Commission approval of \$448 million in expenditures on the Plant Vogtle project from July 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017. Additional hearings are set for June 27, 2018 and July 26, 2018. The Commission will issue a decision at its August 21, 2018 Administrative Session.

## APRIL WAS DIG SAFE MONTH



**Commission Chairman Bubba McDonald** (left) and **Commissioner Tricia Pridemore** (right) join Governor Nathan Deal (center) Commission staff, Utility representatives and excavators in proclaiming April as Dig Safe Month.

## CONSUMER AFFAIRS TEAM PARTICIPATE IN OLDER AMERICANS MONTH



L-R: Lisa Jensen and Stephanie Billups

May was Older Americans Month, and The Atlanta Housing Authority (AHA), in conjunction with Quality Living Services (QLS) hosted their 11th Annual Senior Wellness and Resource Fair on Thursday, April 19th.

Over 350 seniors attended and participated in health screenings, information dissemination, low-

impact exercising and dancing, and a healthy cooking demonstration.

The PSC Consumer Affairs team were on hand to assist seniors with their utility questions.



## CHAIRMAN MCDONALD MODERATES PANEL ON “THE FUTURE OF THE ENERGY INDUSTRY” IN WASHINGTON D.C.



L-R: Chairman Lauren “Bubba” McDonald-GA, Chairman Gladys Brown-PA, Commissioner Dan Lipschultz-MN, Commissioner Talina R. Mathews-KY and Chairman Swain Whitfield-SC.

## COMMISSION APPROVES ADDITIONAL REFUNDS FOR GEORGIA POWER CUSTOMERS



The Commission on April 3, 2018 unanimously approved \$330 million in refunds to Georgia Power Company customers

over the next three years as a result of the lower corporate tax rate under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) which President Trump signed into law on December 22, 2017. The first refunds will total approximately \$70 over the three year period for a residential customer using 1000 kilowatt hours per month.

“This Commission is pleased to ensure that Georgia Power customers will enjoy the benefits due to the lowering of the federal tax rate,” said **Commission Chairman Lauren “Bubba” McDonald.**

An additional \$700 million in benefits for Georgia Power customers is being held for the Commission to allocate during the upcoming Georgia Power base rate case in 2019. These monies are deferred income taxes held as a regulatory liability by the Company.

The Commission action brings to more than \$482.6 million in Commission approved refunds and reductions that Georgia Power customers will receive over the next three years.

**COMMISSION APPROVES SCANA AS REGULATED PROVIDER OF NATURAL GAS**

On May 1, 2018 the Commission approved natural gas marketer SCANA Energy as the state’s regulated provider for another two



year term.

The Georgia Legislature established the regulated provider program in 2002. The Commission administers the program which enables low income natural gas customers to obtain service at lower rates. The regulated provider also provides natural gas service to credit challenged customers who are unable to obtain service from other natural gas marketers. The regulated provider offers service only in those areas served by the Atlanta Gas Light Company distribution area.

“The regulated provider enables thousands of low-income Georgians to enjoy natural gas service at reasonable prices or to obtain service they otherwise could not obtain,” said **Commission Chairman Lauren “Bubba” McDonald**.

**CHAIRMAN MCDONALD GOES ON THE AIR AT THE GEORGIA NEWS NETWORK PROGRAM “GEORGIA FOCUS”**



*Chairman McDonald discusses Safe Digging and Georgia 811. Also on the program from left to right are Roy Rogers (Blount Construction Company) Meghan Wade, President Ga811, Chairman McDonald and John Clark, host of Georgia Focus.*

**COMMISSION STAFF ATTEND NARUC FINANCING AND ACCOUNTING SUBCOMMITTEE**



*(L-R) Tom Bond, Ade Adeniyi, Bill Edge*



*Bill Edge*

**Commission Public Information Officer Bill Edge** briefed the NARUC Finance and Accounting Subcommittee on March 8 during their semi-annual meeting in Savannah. Edge updated the group on the Commission’s hot topics and current activities. Commission staff members Tom Bond, George Brown and Ade Adeniyi also attended the Subcommittee meeting.

## ATLANTA CLOCK ENTHUSIASTS REPAIR PSC GRANDFATHER CLOCK



An Atlanta clock club recently repaired and serviced the big grandfather clock that graces the Executive Secretary's Office. State Representative Brooks Coleman, a member of the Atlanta Chapter of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors, led the repair efforts. Coleman says the Commission's clock dates from between 1870 and 1890, making it well over 120 years old, and probably dates back to the establishment of the Commission in 1879.

Coleman says his group has repaired a number of the big clocks that belong to the state including one that now sits in the Governor's office that was headed for the trash heap. "It is in great shape and should last another hundred years," said Coleman following the service and repair of the

Commission clock. He said the clock probably cost \$45 to \$75 in the late 1800s but is worth considerably more than that now. Coleman added that at one time the state probably owned several hundred of these grandfather clocks but unfortunately many have been lost.

## NARUC APPOINTS PRIDEMORE TO DOE NATURAL GAS INFRASTRUCTURE MODERNIZATION PARTNERSHIP

Congratulations to **Commissioner Tricia Pridemore** on her appointment to the NARUC DOE Natural Gas Infrastructure Modernization Partnership Program. (NGIPM)



The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners on May 15 appointed new members to its natural gas partnership program with the U.S. Department of Energy.

When the NARUC-DOE NGIMP was established in 2016, its membership was assigned two primary goals. The first goal is to facilitate the exchange of information on emerging technologies and investments in natural gas infrastructure modernization. The second goal is to serve as a repository of information on the pipeline replacement and expansion mechanisms available to distribution networks.

NGIMP is a cooperative effort that convenes state regulators, federal agencies and other natural gas stakeholders to discuss natural gas pipeline leak detection and measurement tools and identify new technologies and cost-effective practices for enhancing pipeline safety, efficiency and deliverability.

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L-R: John Kaduk, Jamie Barber and Jared Bozarth

The PSC Energy Efficiency Renewable Energy staff visited the Georgia Power two megawatt (MW) Community Solar Site located in Comer, Georgia. Georgia Power completed the solar facility in January 2018. It provides energy for the Commission approved Community Solar Program which allows residential customers to support the development of solar power in Georgia. The Commission approved this program in 2017.

## WELCOME SHAUNDRA WORTHY



### Shaundra Worthy

joins the PSC Consumer Affairs team. She is a graduate of Georgia State University with a BBS degree. Shaundra enjoys hanging out with friends and listening to music. She enjoys motivating, empowering, and uplifting people.



**Commissioner Tim Echols** visited China May 4-11 to see China’s completed AP 1000 reactors and to speak at the Asian Nuclear Business Platform Conference. “Seeing the reactor in operation helped me know that we can complete our project here in Georgia”, said Echols.

**WELCOME NICK HALL**



**Nicholas Hall** joined the Electric Unit on April 16<sup>th</sup>. He is originally from Houston, Texas but recently returned to Atlanta for this position. He is a graduate of Morehouse College with a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration and a minor in Economics. He has industry experience in marketing, sales, and analytics, but he was first exposed to the utility industry by multiple consultants in Texas and Georgia.

**COMMISSION APPROVES LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

The Commission has approved three low-income assistance programs funded by the Universal Service Fund (“USF”).



**The Salvation Army** was originally approved in February 2011 and focuses on helping with late bills, deposits, and reconnecting natural gas service. Through March 2018, it has been approved for \$1.6 million and it has expended over \$1.2 million and served 6,241 low-income customers.



**HopeWorks**, formerly Resource Service Ministries, was originally approved in December 2011 to help with the repair or replacement of natural gas furnaces and water heaters for low-income senior citizens. Through March 2018, it has been approved for \$6.3 million and it has expended \$5.3 million and served 1,607 low-income senior citizens.

**Heating Energy Assistance Team (“H.E.A.T”)** was originally approved in October 2015 for USF



funding to serve low-income customers to help with late bills, deposits, and reconnecting natural gas service. Since October 2015, it has been approved for \$1 million and it has expended \$521,316 and served 2,700 low-income natural gas customers.

Through March 2018, the Commission has approved \$8.5 million in USF funding for these three low-income assistance programs and a total of \$7 million that has helped to keep 10,548 low-income customers on Atlanta Gas Light Company’s (“AGLC”) system. This has provided a direct financial benefit to AGLC’s revenue requirement, to the bottom line of the natural gas marketers, and a benefit to all customers on the system. The average benefit to each low-income customer has been \$700. Since 1998, the Commission has approved a total of \$77 million in USF funded low-income assistance not connected to general refunds, the Regulated Provider program, or Social Responsibility Cost payments. Thank you to the Natural Gas Unit here at the PSC for managing such important programs.



The PSC on May 15 celebrated Employee Appreciation Day with coffee and donuts for all!

*Chairman McDonald and Jamie Barber enjoy the refreshments*

**HAPPY  
ANNIVERSARY!**



10 YEARS

Allison Morris (6/1)

David Lewis (6/1)

**WELCOME  
JACK BRANCH**



**Jackson T. Branch** was born and raised in Tifton, Georgia. He attended the University of Georgia for both his undergraduate and graduate studies earning degrees in Economics and a Juris Doctor respectively. Jackson has studied and trained to go specifically into the utility and energy sectors with courses and experience in Administrative Procedure, Environmental Law, and Corporate Structure. In his free time, Jack enjoys traveling, hiking, and cooking new recipes.

**NEW BEGINNINGS**



*Proud parents TJ and Emily*

**Commissioner Tim Echols** is the proud grandfather of Caeden James Truax, his first grandbaby! Caeden was born on May 2, 2018 at 8:55am, weighing in at 7 pounds and reaching 21 inches long. Pictured here are the proud parents, Commissioner Echols daughter Emily and her husband TJ. Congratulations!!

Monica Flannagan, Executive Director **Deborah Flannigan's** daughter, is graduating from Maynard Jackson High School in May. Since the beginning of her junior year Monica has been taking classes at Atlanta Metropolitan State College. She has already earned 60 hours of college credit with a GPA of 3.05 and will complete her Associate of Arts in Mass Communications by the end of the year. She wants to work in the film industry after college.

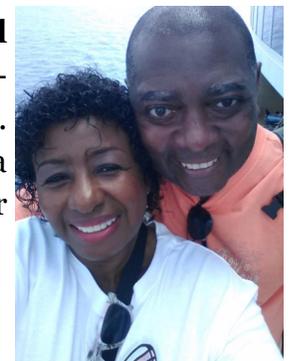


**CONGRATULATIONS!**

**Sheree Kernizan**, Director of the Electric Unit is proud to announce that her son, Marcus Kernizan is engaged to be married to Miss Desirae. Some of you may remember when Marcus interned with the Commission in the Natural Gas Unit. He proposed at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts. The couple lives in Boston. Congratulations!

**CONDOLENCES**

Our thoughts and prayers go to **Cheryl Vinson-Dumas** on the passing of her husband, Alexander Dumas on March 22, 2018. They were married for 6 1/2 months after a two year courtship but the memories of their happiness live on.



We are saddened to hear of the unexpected passing of **Max Stroev's** father who resided in Russia. Our hearts are with Max and his family during this difficult time.

# COMMISSION CALENDAR

## June 2018

5 – Administrative Session  
 9-13—SEARUC  
 14—Committee Meetings  
 19—Administrative Session  
 28—Committee Meetings

## July 2018

3 – Administrative Session  
 4—July 4th Holiday  
 12—Committee Meetings  
 15-18—NARUC  
 19—Administrative Session

## August 2018

2—Committee Meetings  
 7—Administration Session  
 16—Committee Meetings  
 21—Administration Session  
 30—Committee Meetings



### UPCOMING HOLIDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS!




**Flag Day**  
Thursday, June 14th



**Happy Father's Day!**  
Sunday, June 17th



**Wednesday, July 4th**

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### COMMISSIONERS

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 Chuck Eaton  
 Tricia Pridemore

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