Echols: Facility is impressive

By Brian Arrington

District 2 Public Service Commission Commissioner Tim Echols spent a rain-soaked Friday morning at the Academy in Monroe, calling it a great benefit to the state.

The 4.5-acre facility provides educational opportunities through classroom training as well as hands-on areas and Echols said he will champion the facility which opened last year as a vital resource for utility workers.

"I couldn’t be more excited the academy is up and running, training employees around the state and I can see the improvements," Echols said. "The great thing about this facility the city of Monroe built is it is not just a training facility, it is also a resource for utility work."

Chalk up a win for Monroe because Echols said he will be telling other municipalities about the impromptu training facility of its kind in Georgia. It will serve 82 municipal gas systems in the state, providing career training, city officials said.

"I was just telling (Monroe officials) that this is beyond the job description of any to other city," Echols said. "This demonstrates great leadership. I commended them. It’s not just benefiting the city of Monroe, it’s benefiting the state."

Echols had more praise for Monroe and its training site, located on Highway 83.

“If more cities took this type of leadership in whatever area, I think people will be so much better off. The Monroe visit was another stop in Echol’s tour of the state, during which he is also promoting the utility crews to dial 811 before digging.”