



## The PSC Pulse

### COMMISSION VERIFIES EXPENSES FOR GEORGIA POWER'S 18TH NUCLEAR PLANT VOGTLE CONSTRUCTION MONITORING REPORT



On August 21, the Georgia Public Service Commission unanimously verified and approved \$448 million in expenditures on the Georgia Power Plant Vogtle Construction Project for the reporting period of July 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017. This decision is not a ruling on whether the expenditures are prudent but only acknowledges that the Company has spent the funds on the project. This decision closes out the 18<sup>th</sup> Semi-annual Vogtle Construction Monitoring (VCM) Report in Docket 29849.

As part of this decision, the Commission accepted both the Public Interest Advocacy Staff and Advisory Staff recommendation that Georgia Power file a more detailed discussion of project risks in their future VCM filings.

(See page 6)



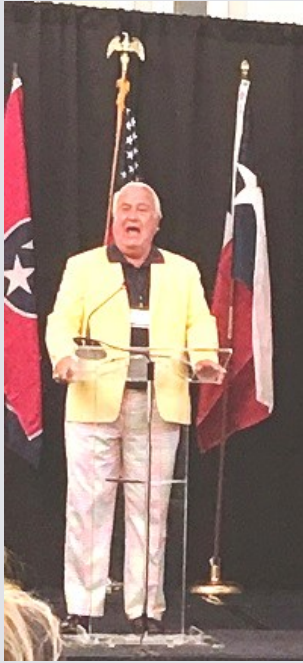
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#### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Chairman McDonald sings National Anthem
- Commissioner Pridemore at Cartersville Event
- Public Utilities Fortnightly interviews
- German Consul General
- NARUC
- Employee News

**CHAIRMAN  
MCDONALD SINGS  
THE NATIONAL  
ANTHEM AT OPEN-  
ING OF SEARUC**



And look for him to sing the National Anthem at SunTrust Park for the Braves game Wednesday, September 5!

**Pipeline Safety staff** is investigating a natural gas explosion in Homerville, Georgia on August 17 that injured three people and destroyed a local coffee shop. The cause of the explosion is believed to be natural gas that leaked into a sewer line.

## COMMISSIONER ECHOLS WRAPS UP CLEAN ENERGY ROADSHOW TOUR

The 2018 Clean Energy Roadshow featured a unique partnership



Columbus, Georgia June 6

with the Technology Association of Georgia and Denton's USA LLP of Atlanta. Each stop also featured a showcase of vehicles fueled by alternative fuel sources, and then seminars featuring an in-depth look at the cost savings and implementation considerations of switching to alternative fuels for fleet and transit operators. Panels were grouped by fuel type and included specialists from Georgia Power, Natural Gas Association of Georgia, Atlanta Gas Light, Blue Bird Bus, Nissan and several electric vehicle charging and vehicle conversions.

This is the 8th year Commissioner Echols has hosted his Roadshow.



Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce, July 17

## 2018 TAX REFORM WORKSHOP

**Commissioner Doug Everett** and **Chief Financial Officer Terry Pritchett** have graciously offered to bring in a tax expert to educate staff on all the changes in the tax laws.

Many of you have conveyed your interest so stay tuned for the date in the September timeframe.



## PIPELINE SAFETY UNIT RECEIVES



*L-R Joseph Jones, Lynn Buffington, Terry Pritchett, Will Culbreath, Alan Towe, David Lewis, Bill Edge and Jeff Baggett*

The Commission's Pipeline Safety Unit recently received 11 new vehicles for its inspectors to replace the current high mileage fleet. The new Chevrolet Tahoes are equipped with the latest in emergency equipment to facilitate the inspection of our state's intra-state natural gas pipelines and the investigation of damage to the state's underground facilities.

Some of the older vehicles will be surplused and sold by the Department of Administrative Services while some will be retained for use by the Facilities Protection investigators. Two of the vehicles will replace aging vehicles currently assigned to the Administration Division.

## COMMISSIONER TIM ECHOLS SPEAKS AT THE GEORGIA ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE



The conference took place August 21-24 on Jekyll Island. **Commissioner Tim Echols** along with Lynn Smith, Georgia House of Representatives, were the keynote speakers. Both shared the best Georgia has to offer for environmental protection and wise use of our state's natural resources. Echols said "It's the understanding between people that can help bring focus to environmental issues, especially on the coast."

## COMMISSIONER TRICIA PRIDMORE PROMOTES COAL, NUCLEAR POWER AT CARTERSVILLE

On August 21, **Commissioner Tricia Pridmore** addressed the North Georgia Power Connectors luncheon in Cartersville. In her speech, she said "The state has a very different philosophy on energy production and management than western states like California or Northeastern states like New York in that Georgia prioritizes the diversification of its energy portfolio."



"Based upon market conditions, we're always in a position to provide the lowest cost energy source to residents, a business or a manufacturing plant," She said "We operate gas plants, nuclear plants and coal plants, including the largest in our fleet right here in Bartow County... There are jobs and economic development attached to every piece of this string. The light bulb represents hundreds if not thousands of jobs all the way down through the process."

## PUBLIC UTILITIES FORTNIGHTLY SPENDS “A DAY AT THE GEORGIA PSC”



*Chairman McDonald with  
Steve Mitnick*

Public Utilities Fortnightly Magazine President and Editor in Chief Steve Mitnick and Editor Angela Hawkinson spent a day and a half at the Commission August 7 and 8 conducting interviews, taking photos



*Commissioner Tricia  
Pridemore with Steve Mitnick*

and gathering information for a profile article on the Commission. This article will be the latest in their ongoing series profiling Commissions across the country for the publication. Commissions profiled have included Florida, Michigan, California, Illinois, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. The article on our Commission is scheduled for the October 1 edition.

## FROM THE DESK OF HUMAN RESOURCES



*Cheryl Dumas*

When I first joined the Public Service Commission I paid \$14 for parking and \$45 for health insurance. A lot has changed in 22 years. Needless to say, the costs of many things have risen.

BUT... State employees have a number of benefits at their disposal they often forget to explore. Employees should visit the Team Georgia ([www.teamga.gov](http://www.teamga.gov)) website now and then just to check out the many discounts offered. Discounts include tickets to events like the Braves, Hawks and State golf courses and some attractions out of the State. There are discounts for electronics, cell phone service, and of course hotels and car rentals. The latest addition is a member's only rewards program where you can purchase items through payroll deduction.



[www.teamga.gov](http://www.teamga.gov)

## COMMISSION APPROVES PILOT SOLAR PROJECT



*Commissioner Echols points out a solar  
panel the at I-85 rest stop*



*Completed pollination project at  
The Ray rest stop on I-85*

On August 21, the Commission approved a pilot solar project that will use Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) right of way to finalize a one megawatt project at Exit 14 along Interstate 85 at the U.S. Highway 27 interchange. This pilot is a partnership with GDOT, The Ray and Georgia Power that will provide general benefits to the state and the consumers of Georgia Power.

“The portion of interstate 85 in West Georgia known as ‘The Ray’ is a living laboratory for many agencies in our state to explore emerging technology,” said **Commission Vice-chair Tim Echols**. “The solar and pollinator project we approved today may be something that the department of transportation duplicates all over Georgia.”



## SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF REGULATORY UTILITY COMMISSIONERS MEET IN CHARLESTON FOR ANNUAL MEETING

More than 250 people from 11 southeastern states gathered in Charleston, South Carolina June 11-14, 2018 for the annual Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (SEARUC) meeting. The theme of the gathering was “Effective Utility Regulation: All in the Public Interest.”

**Commissioner Pridemore** moderated the session Nuclear Waste,” Let’s Get to It Already! Nuclear Waste Management – Progress and Options” . The discussion focused on the potential for progress in Congress on used fuel management, including current legislation in the House to move forward on Yucca Mountain and consolidated interim storage and the lessons to be learned from other countries on the options that exist in the long term for establishing a sustainable and efficient back end of the fuel cycle.



*Moderator: **Tricia Pridemore, Commissioner, Georgia**, with Panelists: Katrina McMurrian, Executive Director, Nuclear Waste Strategy Coalition; Dr. David Gattie, Associate Professor, College of Engineering, University of Georgia and Mary Pietrzyk, Nuclear Energy Institute.*



*Roundtable Discussion – Effective Utility Regulation - How Do We Get it Right? From left to right: Bob Bockman, Commissioner, South Carolina Public Service Commission, Moderator; Panelists: Ken Hill, Commissioner, Tennessee; **Lauren “Bubba” McDonald, Commission Chair, Georgia**; Talina Mathews, Commissioner, Kentucky; Tonya Baer, Public Counsel, Texas Public Utility Counsel.*



**Commissioner Echols** guided the new German Consul General, Dr. Heiki Fuller, on a tour of the Georgia State Capitol, where they are pictured here in the House of Representatives Chamber.

### LIFELINE AWARENESS WEEK

The Commission will join The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, the Federal Communications Commission and consumer groups to celebrate National Lifeline Awareness Week September 10-14, 2018. Lifeline provides a discount on monthly service of \$9.25 per month for eligible low-income subscribers.

Subscribers may receive a Lifeline discount on either a wireline or a wireless service, but may not receive a discount on both services at the same time.

Lifeline also supports broadband and broadband-voice bundles. FCC rules prohibit more than one Lifeline service per household.

## COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF ATTEND THE NARUC SUMMER POLICY SUMMIT

The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners convened July 15-18 for a series of meetings that provided in-depth analysis of policy issues that are relevant to state utility regulators, stakeholder groups and federal regulators. The focus is to continue serving the public interest in providing safe, reliable, and affordable service.

**Commissioners McDonald, Pridemore and Everett** attended the summit in Scottsdale, Arizona while staff who attended included **Jamie Barber, Manager of the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy unit, Janey Chauvet, Dhwani Chheda, and Tara Surratt from the Natural Gas unit.**



Don't forget to fall back with the time change on Sunday, November 4.

## PLANT VOGTLE (continued from page one)

This more detailed discussion will include an up to date analysis of contingency and the quantification of each risk where reasonably estimated. Variances in cost and schedule should be fully quantified in dollars and days and fully explained.



*L-R Commissioner Pridemore, Commissioner Echols, Chair Lauren "Bubba" McDonald, Commissioner Eaton and Commissioner Everett*

"By passing these recommendations, we are requiring more transparency and more detailed information from the Company in future proceedings," said **Commissioner Doug Everett.**



**Commissioner Chuck Eaton** visited the construction site near Waynesboro of Plant Vogtle Units 3 and 4 on August 3. He said, "I'm very happy with the progress that is being made there."



**HAPPY  
ANNIVERSARY!**



**10 YEARS**

Steve Roetger (9/1)  
Internal Consultants

**FAREWELL**



*Leslie with Blair Fink*

**Leslie Tench in the Natural Gas unit** took early retirement on August 6. She will be missed and we wish her all the best in this next chapter of her life.



We also say farewell and best wishes to **EERE analyst Jared Bozarth** who left us on July 25th for another opportunity.

**NEW BEGINNINGS**



Son of **Commissioner Tim Echols**, John Echols, and Mary Catherine Keith were married on June 16, 2018 at the Hollow at Paris Mountain in Greenville, SC. Congratulations!



**CONDOLENCES**



Our condolences to the family of Rozelle Emery Walker, **Chairman Lauren “Bubba” McDonald’s** mother-in-law who passed away in July at the age of 101. Pictured here is the Commissioner’s wife Shelley, her daughter Claire, Ms. Walker “Nanners” and granddaughter Hailey.

Our sincerest sympathy goes to **Lisa Jensen in Consumer Affairs** and her family. Lisa’s grandfather, Mr. Rosendo Gomez-Rivera passed away on July 19. He lived in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands.



Franklin “Lanier” McClure, father in law of **Terry Pritchett, our CFO** passed away at the age of 96 on July 19. Mr. McClure lived with Terry and his family for most of this year. Our thoughts and prayers go to the entire family.

## COMMISSION CALENDAR

### Sept 2018

3 — Holiday  
6— Administrative Session  
  
13—Committee Meetings  
18—Administrative Session  
  
27—Committee Meetings

### Oct 2018

2 — Administrative Session  
8— Columbus Holiday  
  
11 — Committee Meetings  
16—Administrative Session

### Nov 2018

1—Committee Meetings  
6—Administration Session  
  
12— Holiday  
11-14— NARUC  
  
15 —Committee Meetings  
20— Administrative Session  
  
22-23— Holiday  
  
29— Committee Meetings

## HOLIDAYS COMING



Monday, Sept 3rd



Monday, Oct 8th



Wednesday, Oct 31



Monday, Nov 12th



Thursday, Nov 22nd

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### COMMISSIONERS

Lauren “Bubba” McDonald, Chairman  
Tim G. Echols, Vice Chair  
Doug Everett  
Chuck Eaton  
Tricia Pridemore

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