



GPSC News

Volume 8 Issue 1

Winter 2009

*Public witnesses speak
*Final hearings held
*Nuclear Power Certification
*Decision March 17, 2009
*Legislature considering
Nuclear Financing bill

Commission Completes Plant Vogtle Hearings

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The Commission held the second round of hearings before the Public Interest Advocate Staff on the Plant Vogtle and other intervenors presented their testimony. Request on January 12 to Unit 3 and 4 Certification Outside the Commission offices, a group gathered on January 14, 2009 and on February 9, 2009. About 15 members of the public to the proposed nuclear

power units, waving signs and talking with members of the news media.

The Commission also wrapped up the hearings on this issue during the Company's rebuttal hearing on February 9. Although the hearings were set for the entire week, the hearing fin-

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Everett Is 2009 Commission Chair

Commissioner **Doug Everett** started his one-year term as Chairman of the Georgia Public Service Commission on January 15, 2009, taking the gavel from outgoing **Chairman Chuck Eaton**. The Commission Chairmanship is rotated annually among the five Commission members

based on Georgia law and Commission rules. Everett is beginning his second six-year term on the Commission, having won re-election in November 2008. He was the first Republican from south-



west Georgia elected to the Commission in November 2002. Commissioner Everett's complete biography is on the Commission web site, www.psc.state.ga.us. Chairman Everett announced that **Commissioner Lauren McDonald** will serve as vice-chairman. He also has

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Legislative News

The 2009 session of the Georgia General Assembly is in full swing with the budget and declining state revenues the big story. The Commission presented its budget to two legislative committees in the first few weeks of the session amid reports that furloughs of more state employees might be needed to balance this year's budget.

The Governor released his budget recommendations during his annual State of the State address to a joint session of the Legislature on January 14, 2009.

Here are a few highlights of his recommendations for the Commission:

The budget recommendations were in areas similar to those we submitted in the 6-8-10% cut proposals supplied to the Governor during the summer.

The budget reductions were only taken in Utilities Regulation as we had suggested.

The headcount remains the same for each year at 100.

There is no allowance for state employee pay increases in either year.

FY2009 – the State adjustments for Salary increases, SHBP and GTA outsourcing was a reduction

of \$554,427. The impact to our remaining budget was \$732,692 or a 7.0% reduction after the State adjustments. The breakdown of the \$732,692 is: \$226,692 for Personal Services; \$306,000 for Operating Expenses; and \$200,000 for consultants. For FY2010 the State adjustments for Salary increases, SHBP and GTA outsourcing was a reduction of \$341,465. The impact to our remaining budget was \$520,889 or a 4.9% reduction after the State adjustments.

The breakdown for the \$529,889 is: \$321,549 for Personal Services and \$199,340 for Operating Expenses and

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If you have a story for the next GPSC News, please send to Bill Edge, bille@psc.state.ga.us. Next issue deadline is April 15, 2009.

Commission Mourns Passing of Longtime Commissioner Mac Barber

The Commission December 8, 2008 issued a statement on the passing December

7, 2008 of longtime former **Commissioner J. Mac Barber**.

"We mourn the passing of former Commissioner Mac Barber who served the people of Georgia on this Commission, in the Georgia General Assembly and as Mayor of Commerce over more than five decades. Mac was a friend to everyone and an advocate for the people. He was a one of a

kind in Georgia state government who will truly be missed."

Barber served on the Public Service Commission from 1973 to 1985 and from 1991 to 1998. Before serving on the Commission, he represented Jackson County in the Georgia House of Representatives from 1949 to 1970. He also served as Mayor of Commerce from



(above) **Commissioner Mac Barber** in his office in 1996 with stacks of consumer complaints. (Photo courtesy of AJC)

1988 to 1989.

A memorial service for Barber was held on Friday December 11, 2008 at the Commerce First United Methodist Church.

Commissioner Stan Wise, who served on the Commission with Barber from 1995 to 1998, said, "He was a consummate gentleman, a charmer and despite his eccentricities, was a genuinely interesting man just

to be around. He was remarkable, he was interesting and in the 1990s he seemed like he was from an age gone by."

Barber made it a practice to personally help people who were struggling to pay their power or gas bills.

Barber died at the age of 91 at a nursing home in Macon, Georgia.

Commission Hits Illegal Mover with Record Fine

The Commission December 2 will not allow rogue movers to unanimously approved a continue taking advantage of recommended fine of \$305,000 consumers." against Atlantic Relocation, Inc. The Commission staff discovered of Atlanta, Georgia for operating the illegal moves during an audit as a household goods moving of the Company on September 4, 2008. Staff presented this evidence during a hearing before a Commission hearing officer on September 26, 2008. The Commission found that the Company, operated by Mr. Yair Knafo, had conducted 61 illegal intrastate moves and levied a civil fine of \$5,000 per illegal move.

"Our action sends a message to all household goods movers operating illegally in Georgia," said **Commission Chairman Chuck Eaton**, "that this Commission

The Docket Number is 28097.



Commissioner Phillip D. Moeller of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission paid a visit to the Commission on December 10. He met with several Commissioners during his time here. He is shown above chatting with **Commissioner Doug Everett**.



Plant Vogtle Nuclear Power Hearings

(Continued from page 1)

ished in one day. Georgia Power presented its rebuttal to the staff's recommendation and argued that they should be allowed to recover financing costs for Plant Vogtle prior to the completion of the plant. The Plant is scheduled to be completed in 2016 and 2017. The Commission will



issue its decision in this docket on



March 17, 2009. The Docket Number is 27800.

Commissioner Wise Speaks to Senate Committee

Commissioner Stan Wise spoke to the Senate Regulated Utilities Committee February 4 in favor of Senate Bill 31, which would allow Georgia Power to collect financing costs upfront on the con-

struction of two new units at Plant Vogtle near Waynesboro, Georgia. The Committee approved the bill on February 9 and it passed the full Senate on February 11.



Commissioner Everett Sworn into Second Term

Commissioner Doug Everett took the oath of office December 29 to begin his second six-year term on the Georgia Public Service Commission. Georgia Court of Appeals Judge A. Harris Adams administered the oath of office to Everett as his family, friends and colleagues looked on.

Everett won re-election in November to his second term on the Commission with over 68 percent of the vote. He was elected to his first term in 2002 after serving six years in the Georgia General Assembly and three terms on the Albany City Commission, including two as Mayor Pro Tem. Com-



missioner Everett served as Commission Chairman in 2004 and is a past president of the Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (SEARUC). He will chair the Commission in 2009.

Commissioner Everett was born in Cordele, Georgia but moved to Sylvester where he graduated from high school. He entered Georgia Tech but later transferred to Georgia Teachers College (now Georgia Southern University) and majored in math.

After moving to Albany, Commissioner Everett first worked for Albany First Federal Sav-

ings and Loan before starting his own business in 1974, member of the Albany Rotary Club, that specializes in appraising large commercial and industrial properties. In 1980, he received his MAI appraisal designation, the highest appraisal designation one can receive.

Everett is married to Janice Perry Johnson of Montezuma. The couple has three grown children, Mitch, Mike and Denice Delk, five grandchildren, and one great-grandson.

Everett is a former member of the Albany Rotary Club, the Sylvester JAY-CEES, and the Sylvester Kiwanis Club.

Commissioner Everett flanked by his family and Court of Appeals Judge Harris Adams. (far right)



Everett Takes Over as Commission Chair

Legislature 2009

(Continued from page 1)

made the following committee assignments: **Commissioner Stan Wise** will chair the Telecommunications Committee; **Commissioner Chuck Eaton** will chair the Energy Commit-

tee; and **Commissioner Lauren "Bubba" McDonald, Jr.** will chair the Transportation Committee. **Commissioner Everett**, as Chairman, will head the Administrative Affairs Committee.

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(ZERO reduction) for Consultants. In FY2010 we have \$380,000 in the Budget for Consultants.

It appears that the Governor understands and supports our needs in this area.

Commission Approves Hot Weather Utility Disconnection Rule

The Commission on December 16, 2008 gave final approval to a proposed rule prohibiting hot weather disconnection under certain conditions. Under the rule as amended, residential electric service could not be disconnected if, prior to 8:00 a.m. on the date of the scheduled disconnection, a National Weather Service Heat Advisory or Excessive Heat Warning is in effect for the county of the scheduled disconnection. The Commission opened a docket on hot weather disconnections in August 2007 at the urging of Commissioner Angela Speir. The Commission has had in place since 1979 rules prohibiting disconnections of residential electric service between November 15 and March 15 when the forecasted low temperature for a 24 hour period beginning at 8:00 A.M. on the date of the proposed disconnection is below 32 degrees. Commission rules also specify under what conditions residential electric service can be disconnected, such as nonpayment of bills. More information on this issue can be found on the Commission's

website, www.psc.state.ga.us, using Docket Number 25877.



McDonald Takes Oath to Begin New Term on Commission

Lauren "Bubba" McDonald, Jr. took the oath of office December 18, 2008 to begin a six-year term on the Commission. Governor Sonny Perdue administered the oath of office to McDonald as family, friends and colleagues looked on. McDonald's term officially began on January 1, 2009. He won election on December 2, 2008 in the General Election Runoff with 56 percent of the vote. McDonald, who served 20 years as a State Representative, was first appointed to the Commission in 1998 by Governor Zell Miller to fill a vacated post and then re-elected in a special election later that year. He held the seat until 2002. McDonald has a deep knowledge of the energy industry. During his previous term, he served on the Committee on Electricity of the National Association of Regulatory Utility

Commissioners, chairing that body's subcommittee on Nuclear Issues and Waste Disposal in 2001 and 2002.

McDonald has spent decades serving the residents of Georgia. As a state Representative, he chaired the Industry Committee for five years and the Appropriations Committee for eight years. He also served as a commissioner in Jackson County,



served on the Board of Managers of the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia, and volunteered as a Firefighter for the city of Commerce for 35 years.

A native of Commerce who now resides in Clarkesville, McDonald

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Eaton Speaks to Annual H.E.A.T. Meeting

Commissioner Chuck Eaton gave the keynote speech at the annual meeting of H.E.A.T. November 14, 2008 at the Atlanta Gas Light headquarters building in midtown Atlanta.

Eaton explained to the group how the Commission assists consumers with paying bills during the winter heating season. He presented an overview of past Commission allocations of Universal Service Funds to the Department of Human Resources, and recent settlements with natural gas marketers which have resulted in funds going to H.E.A.T.



Speir Leaves Commission for Consumer Group

Commissioner Angela Elizabeth Speir

left the Commission on December 31, 2008 after serving one six year term. Speir announced that she would become the Deputy Director of Georgia Watch, a consumer oriented organization. Speir became the first woman ever elected to the Commission in November 2002 and she was the first woman Commission Chair in 2005.



Commission Holds Hearing in Albany on Plant Mitchell

The Commission February 5 held a hearing in Albany, Georgia to gather public input on Georgia Power's request to convert its Plant Mitchell Electric Generation Plant in southwest Georgia from a coal fired plant to a biomass burning plant.

Commissioners Doug



Everett and Lauren "Bubba" McDonald, Jr. heard from three members of the public. Two of them represented the Paper Corporation of America Plant in Valdosta while the third was from the Georgia Forestry Commission. The Commission will make a decision in this docket on March 17. The Docket is 28158.

McDonald Takes Office

(Continued from page 5)

is a graduate of the University of Georgia with a BBA in Business. He has long been a supporter of higher education, serving on the Board of Governors of Mercer Medical College and the Board of the Advanced Technology Center at

the Georgia Institute of Technology. He was also a director of the Small Business Development Center at the University of Georgia..

McDonald has lived his entire life within District Four of the PSC. Currently, he is a partner in L.W. McDonald & Son Funeral Home in

Cumming, with his son, Lauren III. He is married to Sunny McDonald, is an elder in the Presbyterian Church, a private pilot, and an avid golfer.



Employee News Sympathy

We extend our condolences to several Commission staff members who have recently lost loved ones.

We extend our sympathies to **Mike Russell** on the passing of his father, Frank Russell. His funeral was held on February 19 in Atlanta, Georgia. We express our sympathies to **Monique Andrews** on the death of her grandfather, Wil-

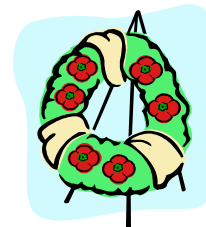
liam D. Lewis, on February 13. Mr. Lewis' funeral was held on February 20 in Jamaica, New York.

Jada Brock lost her mother, Betty Hite, on February 14. The funeral was held on February 17 in Rome, Georgia.

mourns the passing of her father, Charlie McBride on January 13. His funeral was held January 19 in Montgomery, Alabama.



Alicia McBride



Happy Birthday

Commissioners Stan Wise and Doug Everett

both celebrated January birthdays, Commissioner Wise on January 19 and Commissioner Everett on January 20. Both celebrated with sweets and treats in their offices.



(left) Commissioner Everett looks over his birthday spread in his office. His assistant, **Barbara Wolfe** baked the treats herself.



2008 Holiday Luncheon



The Commission family gathered on December 10 for the annual Commission Holiday Luncheon.

Executive Secretary Reece McAlister while **Commissioner Wise** performed his annual turkey fry.



Holiday Luncheon is a favorite Commission activity

visit from two of his youngsters





Commission News

Georgia State Holidays For 2009

Commission Calendar



New Year's Day
Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday
Confederate Memorial Day
Memorial Day
Independence Day
Labor Day
Columbus Day
Veterans Day
Thanksgiving
Robert E. Lee's Birthday
Washington's Birthday
Christmas

January 1
January 19
April 27
May 25
July 3
September 7
October 12
November 11
November 26
November 27
December 24
December 25

February 2009

3-Administrative Session
 9-13-Georgia Power hearing
 12-Committees
 17-Administrative Session
 19 Georgia Power hearing
 26-Committees

March 2009

3-Administrative Session
 12-Committees
 17-Administrative Session
 31-Georgia Power hearing

Commission Calendar

April 2009

2-Committees
 7-Administrative Session
 16-Committees
 21-Administrative Session
 27-Holiday
 30-Committees

May 2009

5-Administrative Session
 14-Committees
 19-Administrative Session

NARUC

Winter Meeting 2009

February 15-18, 2009
 Washington, D.C.

Summer Meeting 2009

July 19-22, 2009
 Seattle, WA

Annual Convention 2009

November 15-18, 2009
 Chicago, IL

SEARUC

Annual Meeting 2009

June 21-24, 2009
 Charleston, South Carolina



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