

# The PSC Pulse

## Locations Proposed for New Battery Systems



Georgia Power has proposed locations for 500 megawatts of new battery energy storage systems. The battery systems were approved during the 2023 Integrated Resource Plan update.

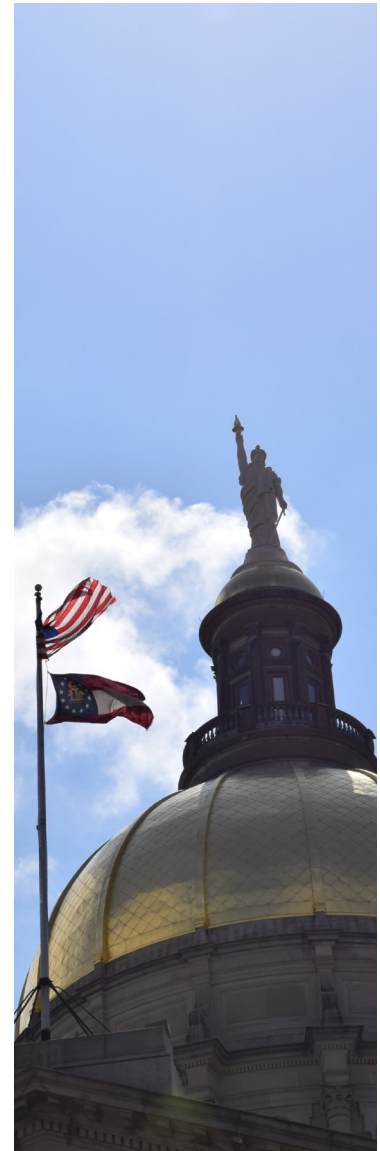
Proposed locations for battery systems include:

- ◆ A solar facility near Robins Air Force Base in Bibb County
- ◆ A solar facility near Moody Air Force Base in Lowndes County
- ◆ The retired Plant Hammond facility in Floyd County
- ◆ The McGrau Ford site in Cherokee County

Each of the proposed systems will consist of 4-hour duration battery systems and will be available for use by the winter of 2026/27.

Battery systems add to Georgia Power's diverse portfolio of energy generation. Energy stored in the batteries can be deployed during times of peak demand or during hours where intermittent energy generation methods (such as solar) are not producing power.

The PSC will hold hearings on the proposed locations over the next several months and will make a final ruling in December.



## TAX SAVINGS LEAD TO POWER BILL RATE RELIEF



The Georgia Public Service Commission unanimously approved a motion to expedite savings for Georgia Power customers based on recent corporate tax cuts.

About \$122 million in tax cuts realized by Georgia Power will be applied to customers' bills beginning in January.

In the 2022 Rate Case, the PSC directed Georgia Power to pass any savings from tax breaks to rate payers. Then, in April 2024, Gov. Brian Kemp signed a bill that reduced Georgia's corporate income tax rate.

PSC Commissioner **Fitz Johnson** entered a motion directing Georgia Power to apply the tax relief to customers' bills starting in January. This will expedite savings for Georgia Power customers. Without this motion, the tax savings would not have been applied to power bills until January 2026.

## STUDY COMMITTEE LOOKING INTO WATER REGULATION IN GEORGIA

During the 2024 session of the Georgia General Assembly, a bill was introduced that would give the Georgia Public Service Commission regulatory authority over private water systems.



Although the bill did not pass, a secondary bill set up a study committee to investigate the issue. PSC Chairman **Jason Shaw** was named as one of the study committee's eight members.

The study committee is expected to discuss how water utilities operate and whether pricing regulation is warranted. If the PSC were given regulatory authority, the study committee will help determine how that regulatory structure will work.

## FORMER COMMISSIONER EVERETT'S PORTRAIT HANGS IN PSC HALL OF HONOR

The Georgia Public Service Commission held a portrait unveiling ceremony for Doug Everett, a former Chairman of the PSC.

Everett served 16 years on the Commission from 2002 through 2018. He was a dedicated public servant for more than 40 years. Prior to his work with the PSC, he served on the Albany City Commission and three terms in the Georgia House of Representatives.

While serving in the PSC, Everett was elected to a stint as president of the Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners. He passed away in 2021. His wife of 61 years, Janice, and family members attended the portrait ceremony.

Everett, who was born in Cordele but spent most of his life in Albany, is the fourth former PSC Chairman to be honored with a portrait in the Commission's hall. In 2021, former Chairman David Burgess was honored with a portrait unveiling. Burgess was the first African American to serve as a Commissioner. Fulton County Superior Court Judge Chuck Eaton, also a former PSC Chairman, was honored with a portrait in 2023 and former Chairman Stan Wise's portrait was unveiled earlier this year.



*Chairman Jason Shaw, Janice Everett, and Commissioners Lauren "Bubba" McDonald, Tim Echols and Fitz Johnson with the portrait of Doug Everett*



## HOPEWORKS BUDGET TO INCREASE OVER NEXT FOUR YEARS

At a recent meeting of the Public Service Commission, Ms. Pearl Glover thanked the Commission for its support of HopeWorks. Through the program, the retiree said, she received a free hot water heater and furnace. Without assistance from HopeWorks, Ms. Glover would not have been able to afford the much needed appliances.

In 2015, the Georgia Public Service Commission approved a grant for the HopeWorks program through the Atlanta Gas Light Company Universal Service Fund. The program can repair or replace gas furnaces or hot water heaters for seniors who own and live in their home and who meet financial restrictions.

At a PSC meeting to renew the petition for the HopeWorks program, Commissioner **Fitz Johnson** made a motion that the PSC increase the disbursement into HopeWorks by 3 percent each year between 2026 and 2029. The motion was approved unanimously.

Just since 2020, HopeWorks has serviced 734 homes of low-income senior citizens by repairing or replacing 984 gas appliances.



*Ms. Pearl Glover attended a meeting of the Public Service Commission to provide first-hand testimony about the HopeWorks program.*

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## CIVIL ENGINEERS GIVE GEORGIA INFRASTRUCTURE A “C+”

The American Society of Civil Engineers in its annual grading of states on infrastructure gave Georgia a “C+”, listing significant areas that need improvement.

Where schools and bridges each received a “B”, and Georgia’s ports received a “B+”, Georgia’s overall grade was brought down by a “D” in transit and “C-” grades in stormwater and wastewater infrastructure.

At a press conference to discuss the report, Public Service Commissioner **Tim Echols** said Georgia needs to become more committed to infrastructure improvement.

“This is a wakeup call,” he said. “We need to get better.”

Georgia’s energy infrastructure received a “B”. Georgia was specifically recognized for a diverse energy generation mix including nuclear, natural gas, solar, coal, hydro-electric, biomass and petroleum. The report mentioned Georgia’s reduction of coal-fired plants coupled with increases in carbon-free solar and nuclear energy. The report included the addition of Vogtle Unit 3 but was completed before Vogtle Unit 4 came online.



*Commissioner **Tim Echols** speaks about the infrastructure report at a Capitol press conference*

## GEORGIA PSC REPRESENTED AT SEARUC AND NARUC CONFERENCES

PSC Commissioners and staffers attended two energy seminars over the summer. Both the Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (SEARUC) and the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) held learning sessions for regulators.



Commissioners **Lauren "Bubba" McDonald**, **Jason Shaw** and **Fitz Johnson** enjoy a break between SEARUC sessions.



Commissioner **Tricia Pridemore** moderated sessions at both events. Pridemore currently serves as first-vice president of NARUC and will become NARUC president in November.

At the national conference, Commissioner Pridemore moderated a panel called Enabling a Clean Energy Economy. At SEARUC, she moderated a panel on strengthening grid infrastructure.

*Commissioner **Tricia Pridemore** moderates a session at SEARUC.* The SEARUC meeting brought utility regulators from around the Southeastern U.S. to Asheville, NC. The subsequent NARUC conference brought regulators from across the country to Palm Beach, Fla.

Founded in 1889, NARUC is a non-profit organization dedicated to representing state public service commissions who regulate utilities. NARUC's are from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.



**George Brown**, **Janey Chauvet**, **Blair Fink** and **John Kaduk** grab some food and discuss an upcoming SEARUC session.

## ALL IN A DAY'S WORK

Three utility analysts in the Public Service Commission's Natural Gas Unit, **Krushmi Chheda**, **Anjali Dube**, and **Brian Artis**, were excited to spend a day with Juana Gonzalez, an Atlanta Gas Light accountant executive. The three analysts got the chance to observe work at a development site in Atlanta, where an AGL crew installed a natural gas service line and upgraded a meter.



**Krushmi Chheda**, **Anjali Dube**, and **Brian Artis**

During the visit, the trio of analysts watched a "Mud Dog 1200 Vacuum Excavator" as it prepared the site. The innovative piece of equipment minimizes jobsite restoration and stays out of the roadways, eliminating traffic congestion during natural gas upgrades.



*PSC Gas Staffers watch the Mud Dog 1200 Vacuum Excavator in action*



## FROM HUMAN RESOURCES: TEAMWORKS TO BE REPLACED BY NEXTGEN



HUMAN RESOURCES NextGen.

Human Resources Director **Lynn Page** is involved in preparing the human capital management module for the April 2025 changeover. Training will begin in the coming months. Once the new program is online, employees can expect an enhanced user experience through intuitive technology, maximized use of resources and reduced redundancy. One particularly innovative change with NextGen is its cloud-based platform. All transactions are updated in real time rather than requiring overnight processing.

Also included in the NextGen rollout is a major financial and budget component. Chief Financial Officer **Jane Stroeva** is overseeing the that program's conversion, which will come online in October 2025.

## PSC STAFFERS PROMOTED TO ASSISTANT DIRECTOR POSITIONS

The PSC's Electric, Natural Gas, Telecom, and Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy units have each named an assistant unit director.

The new Natural Gas Unit Assistant Director is **Tony Wackerly**. The new Electric Unit Assistant Director is **Ben Deitchman**. The new EERE Unit Assistant Director is **John Kaduk**. And the new Telecom Unit Assistant Director is **Patrick Reinhardt**.



**Tony Wackerly**



**Patrick Reinhardt**

The assistant directors will continue to work on assigned cases and will report to their unit directors. They will also take on supervisory duties. The addition of the assistant director positions will be mutually beneficial to the PSC and to the assistant directors.

The new assistants will gain management experience and the PSC will benefit from increased management continuity.



**John Kaduk**



**Ben Deitchman**

## IN MEMORIUM MARILYN MORRIS



Marilyn Morris-Simmons, an investigator in the PSC's Damage Prevention division died on August 26.

She started with the PSC in March 2016 as an administrative assistant in the Facilities Protection Unit. In 2022, she was promoted to damage prevention investigator, where she was assigned cases for individuals and companies suspected of violating the "Call Before You Dig" law.

Marilyn was known for her hard work and her attention to detail. Regardless, her family said, she also found joy in the simple pleasure of sitting on the porch on a sunny day. She deeply loved music, crocheting, cross-stitching, and baking Red Velvet cakes.

Marilyn is survived by her mother, Hazel Wright; three siblings, Beverly, Manualynn, and Quinton; her daughter, Jovae; and two grandchildren, Jaiden and Kendal.

Her presence at the PSC will be missed.

## PSC EMPLOYEE 'APPRECIATION DAY' LUNCHEON

The Public Service Commission marked the end of the fiscal year with an Employee Appreciation Day. Included in the event was a game presented by Consumer Affairs Manager **Monique Andrews** where employees guessed which of their colleagues held special skills. We learned that **Yves Avady** was the chess champion at his university, **Bobby Isley** has hiked 241.3 miles of the Appalachian Trail and **Bree Lawrence** is an avid knitter.



## NEW FACES AT THE PSC



The Public Service Commission has welcomed four new staffers.

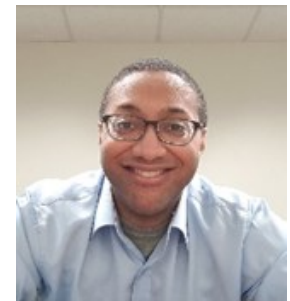
**Erica Graus** (pictured at the top left) is Commissioner Tricia Pridemore's new executive assistant.



The Natural Gas Unit has hired **Brian Artis** (pictured at the bottom right) as a new utilities analyst.



**Rupal Patel** (pictured bottom left) has been hired as the PSC senior accountant.



And the Facilities Protection Unit has hired **Chuck Whitaker** (pictured top right) as a new pipeline safety inspector.

The PSC is continuing to fill open positions. Look for more new hires in the office halls and in the next newsletter.



**HAPPY  
ANNIVERSARY!**



**5 YEARS**

**Jason Shaw**



**10 YEARS**

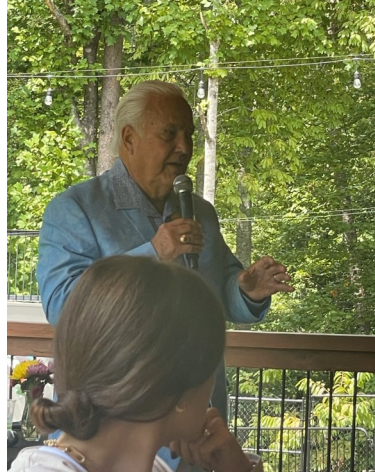
**Preston Thomas**



**Faith Henning**



**MILESTONES AND ACHIEVEMENTS**



Commissioner **Lauren "Bubba" McDonald** spoke to the 2024 class of Leadership Georgia.

Leadership Georgia touts itself as one of the nation's oldest and most successful leadership training programs. The program caters to young business, civic, and community leaders who have the desire and potential to work together for a better Georgia.

Commissioner McDonald was a graduate of the inaugural Leadership Georgia class in 1972.

Utilities Engineer **Joseph Schneider** and his wife Sylvia welcomed their second daughter in June. The PSC congratulates them on the birth of Josie.



Commissioner **Tim Echols** won a GABBY Award for his radio show "Energy Matters."



The awards are presented by the Georgia Association of Broadcasters for excellence in broadcasting. Echols won the award for the overall best small market podcast in Georgia.

**Michelle Thebert's** daughter, Charley, is attending Georgia College & State University in Milledgeville. Charley is studying chemistry with a minor in forensics.

In the spring, she graduated from Brookwood High School.



# COMMISSION CALENDAR

## September 2024

04 - Administrative Session

12 - Committee Meetings

17 - Administrative Session

17 - Hearing docket #55650 Liberty  
Utilities Gas Supply Plan

26 - Committee Meetings

## October 2024

01 - Administrative Session

10 - Committee Meetings

14 - Columbus Day holiday

16 - Administrative Session

31 - Committee Meetings

## November 2024

05 - Administrative Session

14 - Committee Meetings

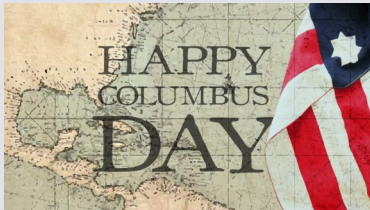
19 - Administrative Session

26 - Committee Meetings

28 - Thanksgiving holiday

29 - State Holiday

## UPCOMING HOLIDAYS



**Columbus Day**  
**Monday**  
**October 14**



**Veterans Day**  
**Monday**  
**November 11**



**Thanksgiving**  
**Thursday**  
**November 28**

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### COMMISSIONERS

**Jason Shaw, Chairman**  
**Tim G. Echols, Vice Chair**  
**Fitz Johnson**  
**Lauren "Bubba" McDonald Jr.**  
**Tricia Pridemore**

The Public Information Office publishes The PSC Pulse for the Georgia Public Service Commission. Information for The PSC Pulse should be sent to the attention of **Tom Krause, Public Information Officer** or **Lynn Page, Newsletter Editor**.

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**Utilities Director: Tom Bond**  
**Executive Secretary: Sallie Tanner**