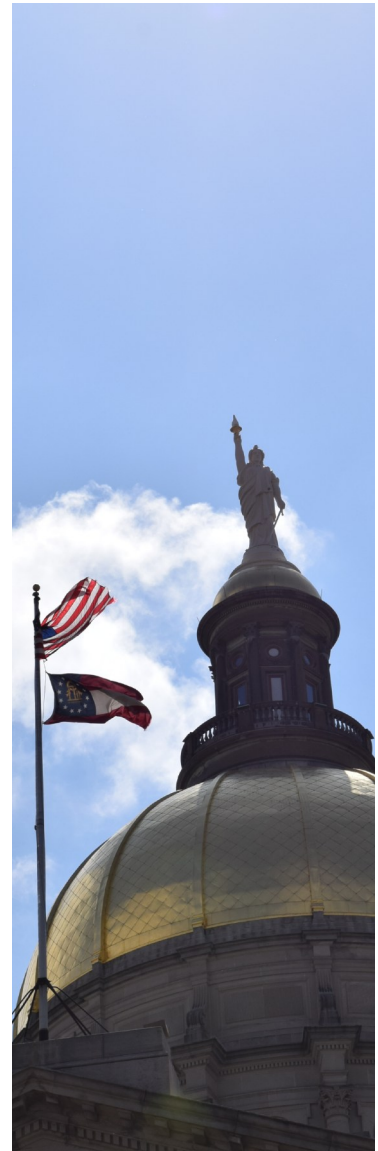


The PSC Pulse

Commissioner Pridemore Heads National Regulatory Association



Commissioner **Tricia Pridemore** has been sworn in as president of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), the first time in 19 years a Georgia Commissioner has led the organization.

“As President of NARUC, it will be an honor to represent regulatory Commissioners from across the U.S.,” Pridemore said. “I will represent my fellow Commissioners through hard work, a listening ear and with a heart to serve. I am grateful and humble for the confidence the organization has placed in me.”

At NARUC’s Annual Meeting, Commissioner Pridemore announced the new theme for the Association, “*Let There Be Light*,” focusing on the need to meet an ever-increasing demand for energy.

Pridemore’s tenure as NARUC president also will foster the sharing of best practices across utility sectors. To that end, she announced a new Demand Roundtable, where seven state Commissioners, seven utilities/regional operators and seven hyper-scalers/mega users will meet to discuss the critical issues surrounding increased demand and work toward innovative solutions.

CHAIRMAN SHAW NAMED ONE OF GEORGIA'S 100 MOST INFLUENTIAL



PSC Chairman **Jason Shaw** was named one of the 100 Most Influential Georgians in 2025 by Georgia Trend Magazine.

The magazine's annual list includes dignitaries in government, business and civic organizations. As the editors point out, the Georgians named in the issue make a positive impact whether through education, job creation, policy or hands-on healthcare services. Some perform their duties in the public eye; some work behind the scenes.

In Chairman Shaw's section, the magazine noted that PSC Commissioners ensured new businesses, including data centers, had access to sufficient energy produced by Georgia Power.

The magazine also noted Chairman Shaw's previous eight years in the General Assembly.

COMMISSIONERS JOIN GOVERNOR TO HONOR VETERANS

Two PSC Commissioners joined the Governor and First Lady at a Veterans Day ceremony held at the Georgia Supreme Court building.

Commissioner **Fitz Johnson**, a 21-year veteran of the U.S. Army, and Commissioner **Tim Echols** were present for the ceremony.

The event included a full color guard for the presentation of the flag, speeches, songs and Georgia veterans from across armed service branches.



Commissioner **Tim Echols**, Gov. **Brian Kemp**, First Lady **Marty Kemp** and Commissioner **Fitz Johnson**.

PRESIDENT CARTER FUNERAL PROCESSION STOPS AT GEORGIA STATE CAPITOL



President Carter's hearse stopped in front of the Georgia State Capitol on its way to the Carter Center, where he lay in repose.

PSC Commissioner **Lauren "Bubba" McDonald** came to the Capitol Building on a sunny but cool January afternoon to offer farewell to former U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

In 1971, Carter was sworn in as Governor of Georgia. That same year, McDonald was sworn in as a freshman member of the Georgia State House of Representatives. McDonald said he has been honored in his many years of public service to have three presidents call him "Bubba," his nickname: Presidents Carter, Clinton and Trump.

Carter's funeral procession made a stop in front of the state capitol where Gov. Brian Kemp and three previous Georgia Governors (Roy Barnes, Sonny Purdue and Nathan Deal) greeted the Carter family.

Commissioner McDonald and several dozen assorted dignitaries were likewise on hand to pay their respects to the beloved Georgian.



Former Gov. **Nathan Deal** and Commissioner **Lauren "Bubba" McDonald** share a moment shortly after President Carter's funeral procession left.

GEORGIA POWER OPENS NEW BATTERY FACILITY

Georgia Power’s first “grid-connected” battery energy storage system (BESS) has opened in Shiloh, Ga., northeast of Columbus. The Mossy Branch battery facility is capable of 65 megawatts of battery storage that can be deployed back to the grid over a four-hour period, adding resiliency to the state’s power grid and helping ensure reliable energy for a growing Georgia.

The Georgia Public Service Commission approved the facility as part of Georgia Power’s 2019 Integrated Resource Plan. It is a standalone storage unit that connects with and charges directly from the electric grid. BESS projects like Mossy Branch support the overall reliability and resilience of the electric system, while also enhancing the value of intermittent renewable generation resources such as solar.

When the sun isn’t shining, or the clouds are blocking its rays, solar panels cannot provide energy to the power grid. Battery systems can help store solar energy for use during peak times or off hours, helping to create a cleaner and more flexible grid.



*PSC Commissioners **Tim Echols**, pictured, and **Fitz Johnson** attended the operational opening of the Mossy Branch battery facility.*

UTILITIES UPDATE COMMISSIONERS ON HURRICANE DAMAGE

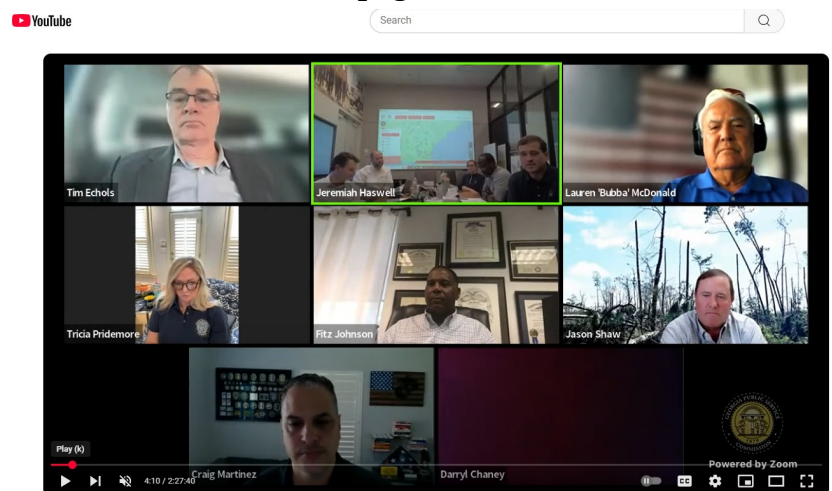
The Georgia Public Service Commission held a livestream Zoom call with utility officials across the state in the days following Hurricane Helene for an update on service outages and repairs.

Officials providing updates included Georgia Power, Atlanta Gas Light, electric membership corporations (EMCs), the Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia (MEAG), the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia (MGAG), as well as telecommunications providers. Members of the public and the media were able to watch the update live via the PSC YouTube page.

Members of the public were also provided the opportunity to email questions to the Commissioners in advance of the meeting.

The Commissioners also took the time following the hurricane to remind the public about the vital work performed by Georgia’s linemen and linewomen.

In a statement, the Commissioners said: “As always, when you flip the switch and the lights come on, you can thank a lineman. When the storms are over and your power is restored – quickly, correctly and safely – you can thank a lineman.”



PSC Utility Outage Update after Hurricane Helene - 10/3/2024

Commissioners receive an update from state utilities on damages to state infrastructure following Hurricane Helene.

GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2025 SESSION BEGINS

The latest session of the Georgia General Assembly has begun and Georgia's energy usage seems to be on everyone's mind.

In the Georgia House of Representatives, Speaker Jon Burns formed the Special Committee on Resource Management that will look into Georgia's production, distribution and usage of energy.

Similarly, legislation is expected regarding the ever increasing presence of data centers, solar projects and whether the Georgia Public Service Commission should begin regulating water.

The main order of business in any session of the General Assembly is the state budget. The Public Service Commission worked with the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget and is in the process of working with the House and Senate on PSC appropriations.



STATE OF THE STATE



Gov. Brian Kemp kicked off the 2025 Legislative year with his traditional State of the State address.

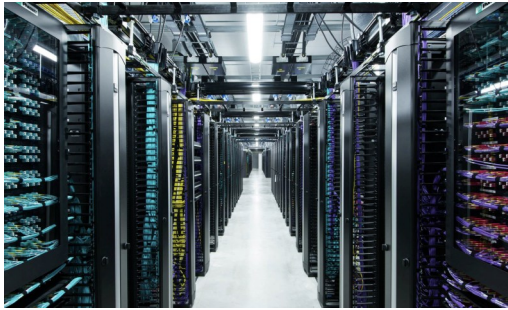
In his seventh State of the State, Kemp spoke about Hurricane Helene relief, tax cuts and his top issue for 2025, tort reform.

Four of the five PSC Commissioners were able to attend the speech. From left to right **Lauren "Bubba" McDonald, Fitz Johnson, Jason Shaw and Tim Echols.**

PSC ADOPTS NEW DATA CENTER RULE

The Public Service Commission voted unanimously to approve a new rule that allows Georgia Power to charge new data centers in a manner that will protect ratepayers.

The rule derived from the Commission's decision on the 2023 interim Integrated Resource Plan that added capacity to the grid.



The rule states that new customers using more than 100 megawatts can be billed using terms and conditions beyond those for standard customers to address risks from these large-load users. In addition to site specific costs, the data centers would pay for costs incurred by upstream generation, transmission and distribution to data centers as construction of the centers progresses. This protects Georgia Power's residential and other commercial/industrial customers.

The new rule also allows for longer contract lengths and minimum billing requirements. This helps ensure any new high-usage customers do not leave the state before paying for new infrastructure built to handle their needs.

The rule also states that any new Georgia Power contract with a company that fits the 100 MW usage category must be submitted to the PSC for review.

Further action on data centers could occur in the 2025 IRP and in subsequent rate cases.

ALL IN A DAY'S WORK



Commissioner **Fitz Johnson** and staff from several utility units, toured the Qcells solar factory in Dalton and the fully integrated solar supply chain factory in Cartersville. The tour highlighted the complexities of solar panel manufacturing including quality control procedures.

PRIDEMORE AT TECH SUMMIT IN D.C.

Public Service Commissioner **Tricia Pridemore** recently spoke at the U.S. Energy Association's Energy Tech Conference in Washington DC sharing the work Georgia has done in integrated resource planning and the role of State Commissioners as the U.S. plans for increased demand in the energy sector.



Commissioner Pridemore called for customer and system protection measures that will allow for energy systems – electric and gas – to grow to meet this new demand. The growth is occurring with and without proper system planning varying by region and state. The system planning measures in Georgia and several other states will ensure reliability. Reliability, affordability and safety remain the primary responsibilities of state commissions as these energy demands are being met.

By ensuring contract legitimacy and consistent and near constant review of system capabilities as advised by North American Electric Reliability Corporation, states can grow generation and transmission assets to ensure reliability of systems and keep downward pressure on utility rates.

Through her work as NARUC President for 2025, Commissioner Pridemore is a leading voice on state commissions knowledge sharing and regulatory processes for meeting the growing demand of electric and gas utilities in the country.

2025 PSC HOLIDAY LUNCHEON AND FAITHFUL SERVICE AWARDS CEREMONY



The Public Service Commission honored longtime employees, then broke bread with a holiday feast organized by Executive Secretary **Sallie Tanner**, Executive Assistant **Quawanda Boyer** and Human Resources Director **Lynn Page**.

Commissioners thanked Utilities Director **Tom Bond** for 30 years of service; Administrative Assistant **Cathy Nesbit** for 25 years of service; Director of Utilities Finance **Tom Newsome** and Facilities Investigator **Onterio Johnson** for 20 years of service; and Executive Assistant **Faith Henning**, Engineer **Nick Cooper** and Human Resources Director **Lynn Page** for 10 years of service.



NEW STAFFERS AT THE PSC

If it seems a little busier around the office lately, it's probably the upcoming Integrated Resource Plan hearings, or maybe the start of the legislative session. It could also be that you noticed several new employees at the Public Service Commission.

Over the past few months, the PSC has filled eight open positions.

Three new attorneys have been hired including **Chris Collado**, **Keimani Harvey** and **Justin Pawluk**.



Consumer Affairs has hired **Milagros "Millie" Williams** as an Information Referral Specialist.

Operations Support has two new IT Support Engineers, **Everett Maroney** and **Isabelle Murray**.

And lastly, the Facilities Protection Unit has hired two new investigators to keep the state's Call Before You Dig program running smoothly. **Travis Williams** and **Malinda Van Jenkins** have been hired as Damage Prevention Investigators.

**HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY!**



10 YEARS

Nick Cooper



Lynn Page



15 YEARS

Shemetha Jones



20 YEARS

Ontario Johnson



Tom Newsome



MILESTONES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

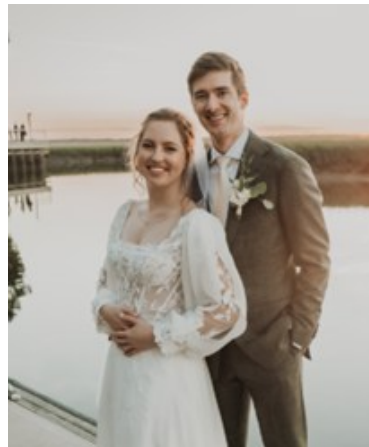


EERE Director **Jamie Barber** welcomed home her son SPC Zachary Barber.

Zachary served an 11-month deployment, including nine months at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq. He's a member of the Georgia Army National Guard's (Army Reserve) 1-121st Infantry Battalion (Attack Company).

The battalion served as Task Force Commando, deployed across CENTCOM as the Crisis Response Task Force in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. Jamie was very excited to have Zachary home in time for the holidays.

EERE Engineer **Bobby Iseley** and Rachel Iseley (nee Blaydes) got married this past fall in Amelia Island, Florida.



Director of Operations **Max Stroeve** and CFO **Jane Stroeve** are marking the successes of their two daughters.

Sofie, left, has started medical school at the University of Illinois College of Medicine. She wants to specialize in orthopedic surgery.

Paula, right, is a freshman at Georgia Tech, majoring in Biology with a Law, Science, and Technology minor, on the Pre-Law track.

Facilities Protection Director **Michelle Thebert's** daughter Charley made the Dance Team at Georgia College and State University. The Sassy Cats perform the half-time shows at the Bobcats' basketball games.



COMMISSION CALENDAR

February 2025

4 - Administrative Session
13 - Committee Meetings
18 - Administrative Session
26 - GUFPA Hearing
27 - Committee Meetings

March 2025

4 - Administrative Session
13 - Committee Meetings
18 - Administrative Session
19 - GUFPA Hearing
25 - 28 - Hearing Docket
#56002 GPC IRP, #56003 GPC
Application for Certification,
Decertification, and Amended
Demand-Side Management Plan
27 - Committee Meetings

April 2025

1 - Administrative Session
10 - Committee Meetings
15 - Administrative Session
23 - GUFPA Hearings

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS



State Holiday
Observed on Good Friday
April 18



Memorial Day
Monday
May 26

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COMMISSIONERS

Jason Shaw, Chairman
Tim G. Echols, Vice Chair
Fitz Johnson
Lauren "Bubba" McDonald
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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Executive Secretary: Sallie Tanner