

The PSC Pulse

THREE YEAR RATE FREEZE FOR GEORGIA POWER CUSTOMERS

The Georgia Public Service Commission unanimously approved an agreement with Georgia Power to freeze base rates at the current level for at least three years, preventing the company from filing a 2025 Rate Case.



“This is a very big deal,” said PSC Chairman **Jason Shaw**. “Energy customers have seen unprecedented inflation in the energy sector across the U.S. My fellow Commissioners and I urged staff and Georgia Power to come to some agreement where base rates would not increase. This is nothing but good news for Georgia Power ratepayers.”

Had Georgia Power filed a Rate Case, instead of agreeing to the freeze, the company was also expected to ask for recovery of expenses for storm damage caused primarily by Hurricane Helene. Per the rate freeze agreement, Georgia Power will wait until 2026 to ask for recovery of storm expenses. In public hearings, Georgia Power officials said they hope overall reductions in the cost of fuel will offset the costs the company expended on hurricane damage, preventing bills from rising.

Staff is auditing Georgia Power’s storm recovery expenses now. Hearings next year will determine what storm damage costs were “reasonable and prudent.”



COMMISSIONER PRIDEMORE SPEAKS AT INGAA CONFERENCE



PSC Commissioner **Tri-cia Pridemore** spoke at the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America 2025 Spring meeting.

Pridemore, who also serves as the president of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, spoke about the crucial role state regulators play in shaping the energy landscape.

Within NARUC, Pridemore serves as the chair of the Gas-Electric Alignment for Reliability (GEAR) Taskforce. She explained to those in attendance the potential impact and importance of the taskforce on the natural gas pipeline industry.

INGAA is a trade organization that advocates regulatory and legislative positions of importance to the natural gas pipeline industry in North America.

GOV. KEMP SIGNS BUDGET TO CAP OFF 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The 2025 Session of the Georgia General Assembly included several proposed bills regarding energy and the regulation of energy. PSC Commissioners and staff worked hand-in-hand with legislators to maintain the PSC's mission — ensuring Georgians have safe, reliable and affordable energy.

To cap off a successful session, the Governor signed the state's \$37.7 billion balanced budget, which included \$13.2 million for the PSC.

"Here in Georgia, we're keeping government in check, cutting taxes, and returning taxpayer money where it belongs — back to hardworking Georgians," Kemp said. "We balance our budgets and encourage economic growth statewide without growing government."



Gov. Brian Kemp signs the FY2026 state budget

PSC-AUTHORIZED BATTERY STORAGE SYSTEMS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Construction is underway on 765-megawatts of energy storage capacity at new battery energy storage systems (BESS) across the state. The new storage systems will be strategically located in Bibb, Lowndes, Floyd and Cherokee counties.

BESS projects were authorized by the Georgia Public Service Commission through the 2022 Integrated Resource Plan and will provide quickly dispatchable capacity for customers. The new projects follow the company's first-ever BESS facility at Mossy Branch near Columbus, which entered service last year.



*Commissioner **Lauren "Bubba" McDonald** speaks at the BESS groundbreaking ceremony in Middle Georgia.*

Construction is currently underway at the following BESS locations: Robins BESS in Bibb County, Moody BESS in Lowndes County, Hammond BESS in Floyd County and McGraw Ford Phase I & II BESS in Cherokee County.

GEORGIA POWER'S 2025 IRP IS UNDERWAY

In January, Georgia Power filed its 2025 Integrated Resource Plan, the three-year update to the utility's long-range power production forecast.

During public hearings before the Public Service Commission, the primary focus of the IRP was the proliferation of data centers and cryptocurrency mining in Georgia. Both industries use large loads of energy, creating an unprecedented spike in new energy needs for Georgia.

Georgia Power and the Public Service Commission's Public Interest Advocacy Staff agree that power production must increase to meet the demand by new large-load users. Much of the testimony focused on the amount of power production that will be needed.

The Commissioners are set to vote on the IRP at the July 15 Administrative Session.



Commissioners listen to cross examination of staff witnesses

GOVERNOR DECLARES SAFE DIGGING MONTH

Governor Brian Kemp, PSC Commissioners, other elected officials and key stakeholders in the excavating industry met at the Georgia Capitol to issue an official proclamation recognizing April 2025 as Safe Digging Month.

As the spring digging season begins, Georgia 811, the Public Service Commission and Gov. Kemp urged homeowners and professionals to always call 811 before starting any digging projects. When the call is made, professional locators can mark utility lines to prevent costly and dangerous damage

— not to mention, it will prevent diggers from incurring fines levied by the PSC.



On hand for the reading of the proclamation were PSC Chairman **Jason Shaw** (bottom left), PSC Executive Director **Reece McAlister** (bottom right) and Pipeline Safety/GUFPA supervisor **Will Culbreath** (top row center).

COMMISSIONER ECHOLS IN SOUTH GEORGIA

PSC Commissioner **Tim Echols** recently headed to far Southwest Georgia to the city of Donalsonville.

There, he spoke to the Lions Club and toured a peanut shelling plant as well as a peanut shelling equipment manufacturing site.

Commissioner Echols also took the opportunity to visit with employees at Three Notch EMC.



TRAILBLAZER!



The Georgia Commission on Women presented PSC Commissioner **Tricia Pridemore** with their 2025 Trailblazer Award.

Pridemore, who also serves as this year's president of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, gave high praise right back to organizers of the Georgia Commission on Women.

"Thank you for the ways you give service to Georgia," Pridemore said. "Thank you for the ways you lift women up. Thank you for the ways you support other women in elected office as well as throughout the state."

A SERVANT'S HEART ... AND HAT

PSC Commissioner **Lauren “Bubba” McDonald** was presented with the 1st Annual Servant of the Year Award at the 2025 Bird Supper.

The Bird Supper, a charity event sponsored by the Balch & Bingham and Hall Booth Smith law firms, started in 1990 by attorneys Hugh McNatt and Cliff Adams.

The event raises money for Kids Chance of Georgia, an organization providing educational



scholarships to the children of Georgia workers who have been seriously, catastrophically, or fatally injured in work-related accidents.

The winner of the Servant of the Year Award is also awarded the Hugh McNatt Hat, a fedora similar in style to the hat often donned by the South Georgia lawyer who passed away in 2021.

2025 PSC EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

The Public Service Commission took time after a busy meeting to honor the staff that helps run the Commission all year long.

Whether those staffers work in the Electric Unit, Gas Unit, EERE, Telecom, Pipeline Safety or administration, their work helps serve the people of Georgia — often behind the scenes in ways the public may not see on a daily basis.



The Commissioners took time before the lunch to thank the staff for their efforts and to look forward to another year serving the people.



COMMISSIONER JOHNSON AND FORMER COMMISSIONER BURGESS TALK IN DEKALB



Commissioner **Fitz Johnson** was one of several speakers at a Decatur breakfast to help provide members of the community access to state government resources.

Joining Commissioner Johnson at the event were former PSC Commissioner David Burgess; Pamela Hill, with the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice; and DeKalb Juvenile Court Judge Temika Murry.

Commissioner Johnson spoke about the PSC's duties and jurisdiction. He also said the PSC's Consumer Affairs division can provide referrals to those having issues with their utilities.

The reception from attendees was well received. He brought 100 PSC brochures to the breakfast. By the end of the event, all the brochures were gone.

NOTES FROM HUMAN RESOURCES

OnMed CareStation Enhances Care access for State Employees

Located in the Sloppy Floyd building, East Tower balcony, the OnMed CareStation kiosk is a virtual, tech-enabled hybrid-care solution at no additional cost to all active state employees.



All state employees can access this CareStation for primary and urgent care services via a live remote connection.

Services include blood pressure monitoring; chest, respiratory, sinus, and eye exams; assessments for minor abdominal issues; RX services; and treatments for flu, skin conditions, and more.

The kiosk is open and available without an appointment from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

GA@WORK: The New Platform to Replace Teamworks

As of Oct. 1, GA@WORK will officially replace Teamworks as the platform for state employees to manage their work hours and annual/personal/sick leave.

Each employee will complete a series of tutorials prior to using GA@WORK. The tutorials will cover basic navigation and employee self service. Advanced training will be available for those who will use other aspects of the program. GA@WORK will be a more efficient tool for employees to manage their personal information, view compensation details, handle time tracking and leave.

Look for more details in the coming months.



DAVID LEWIS RETIRES

Pipeline Safety Inspector David Lewis has retired after 16 years and nine months with the Public Service Commission.

David and his wife, Jean, plan to spend their new-found time enjoying the company of their two daughters, two sons-in-law and five granddaughters (who affectionally call him “Dude”).

In lieu of chasing leaks in natural gas pipelines, David said he plans to become a “professional beach bum,” traveling, fishing and just enjoying life.



RATE SCHOOL DAYS

Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Unit Director **Jamie Barber**

served on the faculty of NARUC’s Rate School in Coronado, Calif. Through a week-long meeting, she coached 16 regulators from across the country on rate cases. Jamie also gave a presentation on rate design.



Jamie has been a faculty member at NARUC’s Rate School since 2020. The school is open to Commissioners, policymakers, staffers, financial analysts, consumer advocates, attorneys, engineers, journalists or anyone with a need or interest in utility rate making.

**HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY!**



25 YEARS

Patrick Reinhardt

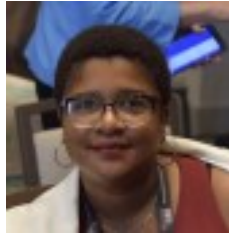


35 YEARS

Leon Bowles



MLESTONES AND ACHIEVEMENTS



Utilities Engineer **Janey Chauvet** has been named Vice Chair of the NARUC Staff Subcommittee on Gas. Georgia PSC Commissioner **Tricia Pridemore**, the current president of NARUC, appointed her to the position after discussion with NARUC Gas Committee Chair Stephen DeFrank.

“Your active service on this committee is important to the cause of strengthening effective public regulation,” Pridemore wrote in Janey’s appointment letter.

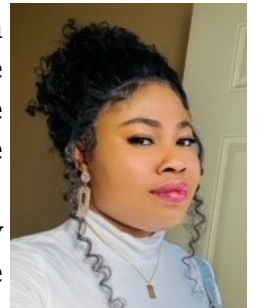
Janey has been a member of the subcommittee since 2015, when she was recommended by then PSC Commissioner Stan Wise.



PSC Attorney **Nancy Gibson** is happy to announce that her son, Davis Cowles, married Amelia Dotzenrod in Sante Fe, N.M. This comes just two years after her other son married in Portugal. Davis and Amelia live in Carbondale, Colo.

Ruth Somuah

has come onboard as the Public Service Commission’s newest Utility Analyst in the Electric Unit.



She holds an MBA from the University of St. Mary’s in Leavenworth, Kan.

Outside work, Ruth spends her time with her husband and two children.

PSC Staff headed west to San Antonio, Texas, for several days of learning and camaraderie at the Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (SEARUC) Annual Education Conference.



COMMISSION CALENDAR

July 2025

1 - Admin Sessions
4 - 4th of July Holiday
10 - Committee Meetings
15 - Admin Session. Vote on
Dockets #56002 and #56003
31 - Committee Meetings

August 2025

5 - Admin Session
14 - Committee Meetings
19 - Admin Session
28 - Committee Meetings

September 2025

1 - Labor Day Holiday
2 - Admin Session
11 - Committee Meetings
16 - Admin Session

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS



Independence Day
Friday
July 4



Labor Day
Monday
September 1

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COMMISSIONERS

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

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