

The PSC Pulse

PRIDEMORE'S TERM AS NARUC PRESIDENT PRAISED FOR SUCCESSES



Commissioner **Tricia Pridemore** has finished her year-long tenure as President of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners during which she pushed the theme: “Let There Be Light.”

At the NARUC Annual Meeting, association members ushered in a new president and gave much praise to

Pridemore for her long list of accomplishments including finding and hiring a new executive director, developing a 50-state compact, helping to fix Department of Energy funding issues, and organizing conferences and panel discussions — all while doing her day job as a Georgia Commissioner.

As a testament to her successful term, the National Association of Water Companies presented her with its prestigious “Water Droplet Award” for her work with private water companies — and the Georgia Public Service Commission doesn’t even regulate water. It was a topic she learned on the job as NARUC President.

Commissioner Pridemore’s successor thanked her for highlighting constructive dialogues on topics including data centers and gas and electric coordination.



CHAIRMAN SHAW AT ATLANTA CHAMBER



PSC Chairman **Jason Shaw** sat down with Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce President Katie Kirkpatrick for a Q & A session at the Chamber's Board of Directors meeting.

Shaw spoke about data centers and the unprecedented load growth for Georgia's energy production.

Georgia is one of the fastest growing states in the country. Shaw told the directors that the PSC plays a key role in economic development by ensuring reliable energy supply and delivery to new industries in Georgia. At the same time, Commissioners are working to protect residential ratepayers by ensuring data centers pay for the energy infrastructure they require.

PSC SET TO WELCOME TWO NEW COMMISSIONERS

The November 2025 election has brought two new Commissioners to the Georgia Public Service Commission. **Alicia Johnson** and **Peter Hubbard** will take office January 1.

Johnson, a native of Savannah, has worked as a consultant and holds a PhD from Northcentral University. She was elected to the District 2 post.



Hubbard, originally from Tennessee, holds bachelor's degrees in physics and math and a master's degree from Johns Hopkins University. He was elected to the District 3 post.

Although Commissioners must live in specific districts, they are elected statewide and each Commissioner represents the entire state.

The election of the two Democrats marks the first time since 2006 that a Democrat has served on the Commission.

Both Commissioners Elect have told media outlets they are eager to get to work for the people of Georgia.



COMMISSIONERS APPROVE 2025 IRP

To finalize the 2025 IRP, The Georgia Public Service Commission unanimously approved an agreement with Georgia Power to propose at least 6,000 new megawatts of energy between 2029 and 2031. If Georgia Power shows the need, the PSC can allow an additional 2,500 MW of new energy for a total of 8,500 MW in that time period.

During the subsequent All-Source Capacity RFP, the Commissioners heard testimony from Georgia Power, Public Interest Advocacy (PIA) Staff and various intervenors to determination the amount of energy needed and which methods of energy production will be used.

Throughout the 2025 IRP hearings and the All-Source hearings, Georgia Power and the PIA Staff disagreed over the amount of new energy large load customers were expected to consume over the next several years – although both sides did agree it would be significant.



LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW

The 2026 session of the General Assembly begins on Monday, January 12 and will run for 40 legislative days, typically ending in late March or early April. Each legislative session is part of a two-year biennium. That means bills that did not pass in the 2025 legislative session are still active in the 2026 session. If a bill does not pass in 2026, however, it will not remain alive for 2027.



Active bills and resolutions left over from 2025 include a Senate resolution to urge the Public Service Commission to form a study committee to advise the Georgia Senate on how the state can utilize advanced nuclear reactors to meet power needs; a bill that would allow the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority to invest in natural gas pipeline infrastructure; and a resolution for a study committee to look into how the state can best spend existing funds on telecommunications services for hearing and visually impaired Georgians.

PSC RELEASES \$5 MILLION FOR ENERGY ASSISTANCE TO CUSTOMERS OF ATLANTA GAS LIGHT

The Georgia Public Service Commission, through a motion by Commissioner **Fitz Johnson**, approved the release of \$5 million from the state Universal Service Fund for natural gas customers in need of energy assistance this winter.

Since 2000, the Commission has approved \$96.6 million in USF grants to assist low-income customers on Atlanta Gas Light's system. This has ensured that these customers continue to receive natural gas service and keep their bills lower during the winter heating season.

Of the \$5 million approved, \$2.5 million will benefit approximately 12,824 customers currently enrolled in the Atlanta Gas Light Senior Citizen Discount Program. Each of the program's participants will receive a one-time credit of approximately \$194. This credit is in addition to the existing senior discount of \$14 a month off the base charge.



To be eligible for the senior discount, customers must be 65 or older and have total annual combined household income of less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (\$31,300).

Another \$2 million of USF funds will be distributed to HopeWorks, a non-profit that assists in repairing or replacing gas furnaces and gas water heaters. The final \$500,000 from the USF will be distributed to the Salvation Army Utility Assistance Program.

CHAIRMAN SHAW VISITS THE UNITED KINGDOM

PSC Chairman **Jason Shaw** participated in the Southeast U.S. Energy Security Strategy Delegation to the United Kingdom.

On the other side of the Atlantic, Shaw — along with a delegation of policy makers from Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina and Florida — met with officials from the U.K. Department of Energy and Security, the U.K. Atomic Energy Authority, and other agencies.



The United Kingdom is working to become an artificial intelligence superpower and a clean energy leader. To help accomplish this, their ambition is to utilize small modular reactor (SMR) nuclear power to create 24 gigawatts of energy by the year 2050.

Currently, the UK is one of the world's largest data center markets with more than 500 facilities. Energy demand from data centers takes up about 2.5 percent of the country's energy production. By 2030, that is expected to rise to 6 percent.



*PSC Commission Chairman **Jason Shaw** with state legislators and industry officials in London.*

COMMISSIONER PRIDEMORE SPEAKS TO H.E.A.T.

Commissioner **Tricia Pridemore** spoke at the annual meeting of the Heating Energy Assistance Team — or HEAT.

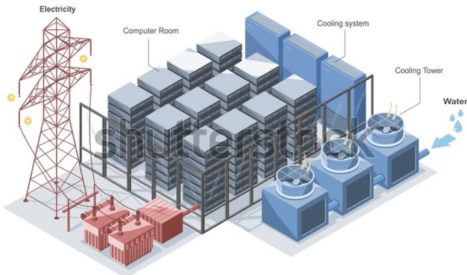
HEAT began as part of Atlanta Gas Light to help combat the energy crisis of the late 1970s. After 45 years — now a separate non-profit organization — HEAT continues to help those who have

a hard time paying gas bills in a rapidly growing state such as Georgia.

With the help of concerned citizens, businesses, and public agencies including the Georgia Public Service Commission, HEAT helps about 1,000 households each year pay their natural gas bills. Since the program began, more than a quarter million individuals have kept warm through HEAT assistance.



PSC ENSURES DATA CENTERS PAY THEIR OWN WAY



Data Centers

Georgia residents concerned about the recent growth of data centers and what that could mean for their electricity bills can take note of the leadership taken by the Georgia Public Service Commission in 2024 and 2025. Other states are now following Georgia's lead on data center policy.

Rules passed by PSC Commissioners ensure residents, small businesses, and other electricity customers will see NO increases on their power bills due to data centers.

Since 2022, the PSC has held approximately 103 hours of hearings, examined more than 3,644 pages of sworn testimony, and cross examined 90 expert witnesses in efforts to develop sound policy on data centers in Georgia.

On July 31, 2025, the Commission ordered a freeze of Georgia Power base rates through 2028. Over the next three years, the Georgia Public Service Commission will continue to enact measures to protect Georgia Power electricity customers from data center related costs.

CHRIS COLLADO SCHOLARSHIP TO RATE SCHOOL

The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners awarded Georgia PSC attorney **Chris Collado** the David K. Owens Tuition Scholarship for NARUC Rate School. The scholarship, funded by the Edison Electric Institute, allowed him to attend the Fall Rate School Oct. 19-24, in Clearwater, Fla.

To be eligible for the scholarship, applicants had to be working at a utility regulatory commission for less than five years directly in a regulatory role.

Collado came to the Georgia PSC in November 2024. He graduated from the Walter F. George School of Law at Mercer University in 2014.

NARUC Rate School is a hands-on, comprehensive course that teaches the fundamentals of utility accounting and rate making. Students also work on a "mock" rate case.



COMMISSIONER PRIDEMORE AT GROUNDBREAKING



Commissioner **Tricia Pridemore** participated in a groundbreaking ceremony for a new Osmose Utility Services facility in Peachtree City.

The facility is expected to bring 160 jobs and \$13 million in economic impact to the area.

Osmose offers inspection, mobile contact voltage testing, maintenance, and restoration services for electric transmission and distribution, as well as telecommunications infrastructure.

The company's headquarters is in Atlanta but it provides services throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Osmose was founded in 1934.

THE GEORGIA PSC ATTENDS NARUC

Four Commissioners and more than a dozen staffers flew across the country to attend the 2025 Annual Meeting of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners in Seattle. Staffers in attendance represented almost every PSC Unit and many are sitting members of NARUC committees.



NOTES FROM HUMAN RESOURCES

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

The EAP program, recently rolled out to all Public Service Commission employees, can help assist with life's challenges. Whether you're dealing with relationship issues, stress at work, or just looking to grow personally or professionally, the EAP can be an excellent resource.

The program is completely confidential and is a no-cost benefit for you and your eligible family.

Topics for use include legal consultation, financial consultation, counseling, caregiver resources and resources to help with work/life balance.

For more information call 833-276-0988 or logon to EAPHelpLink.com and enter code: Georgia



NEW HIRES AT THE PSC

**HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY!**



**20 YEARS
Lisa Jensen**



administration, a bachelor's degree in accounting and a master's degree in accounting.



Ed Luebke, is welcomed to the PSC as a new Pipeline Safety inspector.

He comes from the private sector where he most recently worked as a senior vice president for TransMontaigne Product Services. He has also worked as the director of pipeline and terminal operations for TransMontaigne.

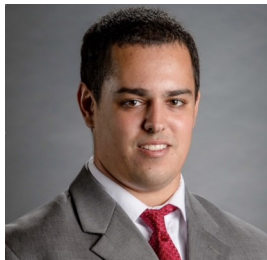
Ed lives in Alpharetta and has two grown children.

He holds bachelor's degrees in economics and history.

Zak Hamed is the new accountant in the Fiscal and Budget Office.

Zak previously worked as an accountant for AquaGuard Foundation Solutions and for Kennesaw State University.

He holds an associate's degree in business admin-



Brian Withrow, has been hired as a Pipeline Safety inspector.

Before coming to the PSC, Brian worked for Liberty Utilities in Gainesville.

He worked his way up over the years from meter reader, to service technician to compliance technician.

Brian, who lives in Lula, has two grandchildren.



Angela Laster, joins the GUFPA office as an administrative assistant.

Angela comes to the PSC from New American Funding where she worked as a mortgage closer. Before that, she worked for SunTrust Mortgage Center in Lawrenceville.

She has an associate's degree in human resources management and a bachelor's degree in business administration.

Angela lives in Stone Mountain with her husband and two children.



The Operations Support department has hired **Max Trivers** as the new systems administrator.

Max teaches classes on Information Technology Systems part time at Chattahoochee Technical College. Previously, he has worked as a lead deployment engineer at RedHelm, here in Atlanta.

He is a past president of the Association of Information Technology Professionals, Atlanta Chapter.



COMMISSION CALENDAR

December 2025

10 - 12 Hearing, Docket No. 56298
11 - Committee Meetings
16 - Administrative Session
16 - Hearing, Docket No. 43453
19 - Special Energy Committee, Docket No. 56298 & 56310
19 - Special Administrative Session, Docket No. 56298 & 56310
25 -26 - Christmas Holiday

January 2026

1 - New Years Day Holiday
6 - Administrative Session
15 - Committee Meetings
20 - Administrative Session
29 - Committee Meetings

February 2026

3 - Administrative Session
12 - Committee Meetings
17 - Administrative Session
17 - Hearing, Docket No. 56293
26 - Committee Meetings

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS



Christmas
Thursday/Friday
December 25 & 26



New Year's Day
Thursday
January 1



MLK Day
Monday
January 19

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COMMISSIONERS

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

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