

# The PSC Pulse

## Commissioners Approve Agreement for New Power Infrastructure



*A new natural gas turbine is delivered to Plant Yates in Newnan. The turbine weighs nearly 350 tons, is 50 feet long and 18 feet wide*

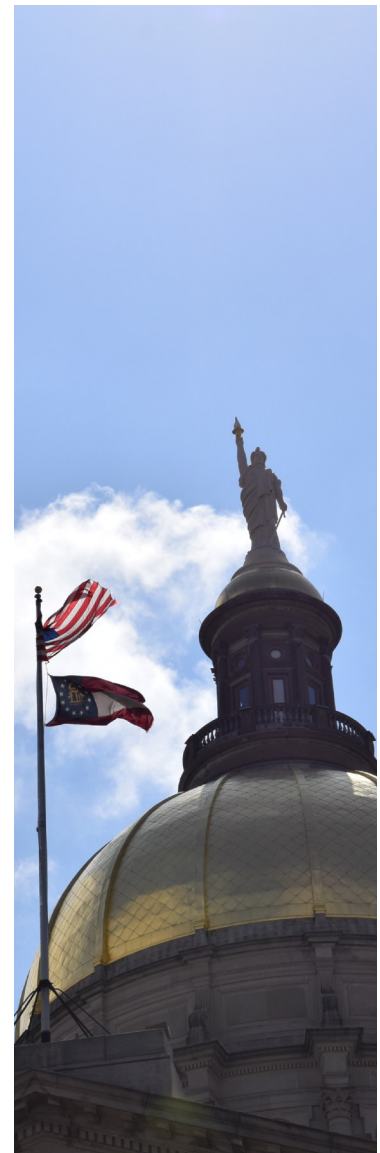
Late last year, the Public Service Commission approved an agreement that allows Georgia Power to produce 9,885 megawatts of new energy, about 80 percent of which will serve new large customers such as data centers.

The Commission is dedicated to protecting existing ratepayers from the costs of providing energy to new data centers. The agreement, therefore, ensures serving those new customers will not raise the rates for current Georgia Power customers.

The PSC does not approve data center construction, location or operation. Instead, its jurisdiction pertains to the regulation of Georgia Power as the utility supplies energy to new and existing customers.

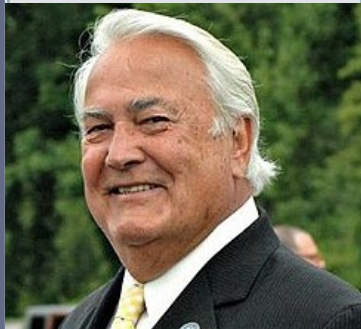
As part of the agreement, Georgia Power will financially backstop new projects in years 2029, 2030, and 2031. This is beyond the existing rate freeze that is in place through the end of 2028. Therefore, if Georgia Power does not sign contracts with enough new data centers to utilize the approved energy, the Public Service Commission has time to alter or reverse certification of these new projects.

Georgia Power expects to have contracts in place to utilize all the new energy production by the end of 2026.



## LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

### McDONALD NAMED COMMISSION VICE CHAIR



In January, Commissioner **Lauren "Bubba" McDonald Jr.** was tapped to serve as Vice Chairman of the Public Service Commission.

Chairman Jason Shaw said his choice for Vice Chairman reflected not only Commissioner McDonald's deep knowledge of the energy industry but his experience as a leader.

McDonald served six years in the Georgia Air National Guard and graduated from the University of Georgia with a business degree. He was elected to the Jackson County Commission and later served 20 years in the Georgia General Assembly before Governor Zell Miller appointed him to the PSC in 1998.

The Georgia energy industry and other Georgia utilities have been big news at the Georgia General Assembly for the past several sessions — 2026 was no different.

Some legislation passed, most did not, but state lawmakers filed as many as 50 bills over the two-year legislative cycle that affected industries regulated by the Public Service Commission.

Bills that did not pass included several that would have curbed the state's tax credits for data centers as well as a bill that would have



made recycling solar panels mandatory. Other legislation did pass, including a measure to adjust the parameters of the rural land and telephone Universal Access Fund and legislation that allows counties to waive taxes on backup equipment stored near energy generation plants.

---

### COMMISSIONERS PREVENT UTILITY CUTOFFS FOR UNPAID TSA AGENTS IN GEORGIA



Commissioners unanimously approved a motion by Commissioner **Tricia Pridemore** that ensured Transportation Security Administration agents at Georgia airports could not have their utilities shut off for nonpayment during the partial government shutdown.

According to the order, TSA agents must verify their employment with the TSA. Past-due balances must be paid within 30 days after the shutdown ends and TSA agents' back pay is restored.

The order pertains only to utilities under the Georgia Public Service Commission's jurisdiction. The PSC regulates investor-owned utilities in Georgia including Georgia Power and Atlanta Gas Light. Although Georgia has several natural gas marketers, Atlanta Gas Light maintains the pipeline infrastructure and is responsible for connecting and disconnecting service.



## COMMISSIONER JOHNSON FEATURED IN TIME MAGAZINE

In March, the national publication Time Magazine interviewed Commissioner **Alicia Johnson** for a story called “The People vs. A.I.” Her portrait was on the cover of the magazine, along with eight other “A.I. skeptics.”

The story pointed out that Johnson’s 2025 campaign for Public Service Commissioner was partly based on “reining in” data center construction and helping to ensure data centers pay their fair costs in infrastructure buildout.

Commissioner Johnson also told the magazine that she hopes the PSC and lawmakers will push data centers to use clean energy and slow usage during peak times.

“I don’t know about you,” she told the magazine, “but I don’t want to pay for some billionaire’s server farm.”

The Atlanta Metro Area is the second largest data center hub, behind Northern Virginia.



Commissioner **Alicia Johnson**, middle left, appeared on the March 9 cover of Time Magazine

## CLAYTON SCHOOLS WELCOME COMMISSIONER HUBBARD



Commissioner **Peter Hubbard** traveled to Riverdale for a visit with Clayton County Public Schools’ Transportation Team. The team updated Commissioner Hubbard about the school district’s electric buses and their successes in implementing the new fleet.

Hubbard and his assistant, Campbell Diaz, even got a ride on one of the electric buses.

## SPECTRUM NEWS INTERVIEWS CHAIRMAN SHAW

In an in-depth interview with Spectrum News, Chairman **Jason Shaw** discussed data center growth in Georgia and said it shows no sign of slowing. He emphasized their importance to economic development and national security, reducing reliance on foreign technology.

But he also acknowledged major concerns, including energy consumption, water use, and infrastructure capacity. Throughout the interview, Chairman Shaw explained how Georgia is meticulously addressing each of these challenges and is ensuring extra costs are not imposed on everyday consumers.



## GOV. KEMP DECLARES 'SAFE DIGGING MONTH'

Gov. Brian Kemp issued a proclamation announcing April 2026 as Safe Digging Month in Georgia. The proclamation reminds Georgia professionals and homeowners to call 811 before starting any outdoor digging projects.

The event brought together a broad coalition of damage prevention leaders, including representatives from Georgia 811, the Georgia Public Service Commission, Georgia Power Company, Southern Company Gas, GDOT, the City of Savannah, and key industry associations.

Contacting 811 online or by phone connects individuals to Georgia 811, which notifies the appropriate utility companies of planned digging activity.



Professional locators are sent to the requested digging site to mark the approximate locations of underground lines with paint and flags. Once lines have been accurately marked, digging can begin around marked lines.

When residents or work crews do cause damage to utilities, the PSC holds hearings and can levy fines for those who chose to dig without calling 811 first.

---

## RULES GOVERNING UTILITY DISCONNECTS DURING HEAT

With spring already here — and summer close behind — the Georgia heat is on the way.

When the National Weather Service Issues heat advisories, rules regarding disconnections of service kick in. Per PSC rule, Georgia Power cannot disconnect electric service to a residential customer for non-payment if, prior to 8 a.m. on the date of the scheduled disconnection, a National Weather Service Heat Advisory or Excessive Heat Warning is in effect, or is forecast to be in effect, for the county where the meter is located.

This rule pertains specifically to Georgia Power, the only electric provider regulated by the PSC. Electric Membership Corporations and municipal electric systems may have similar rules. PSC Commissioners recommend customers of those utilities contact their provider if they are in danger of a service disconnect during a high-heat event.

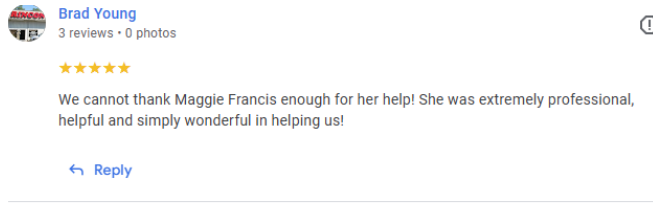
The PSC rule is a temporary restriction on power disconnection. As soon as a heat advisory has ended, the disconnection can be reinstated. The PSC highly encourages those who are in danger of service interruption to make payment arrangements with their power provider as soon as possible.

PSC Consumer Affairs can refer qualifying customers to social service organizations if they cannot afford their bills. PSC Consumer Affairs can be reached at (404) 656-4501, (800)282-5813 or via email at [gapsc@psc.ga.gov](mailto:gapsc@psc.ga.gov).



## 5-STAR GOOGLE REVIEWS FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Often, the “reviews” section on Google creates a forum where people complain about utility providers. Recently, two Consumer Affairs staffers received 5-star reviews for helping constituents work through their issues. Congratulations and thank you **Maggie Francis** and **Karen Howell**.



## STAFF, CHAIRMAN TOUR TOTO MANUFACTURING

In August, TOTO USA opened a \$224 million manufacturing plant in Morrow, making top-of-the-line, luxury toilets. Bill Strang, the president of corporate strategy for TOTO USA, led a tour of the facility in April. Strang said strong relationships with partners in the energy sector helped ensure the modern plant became operational.

At the facility, robots and human employees work together to utilize next-generation manufacturing technology designed to advance quality, precision, and operational efficiency.

The Morrow manufacturing plant has a production capacity of approximately 300,000 units per year.

Kevin Greiner, president and CEO of Gas South, set up the tour. Those attending included Walt Farrell, president and CEO of Atlanta Gas



Light, PSC Chairman **Jason Shaw** and several staffers and executives with Gas South, Atlanta Gas Light and the Public Service Commission.

## COMMISSIONER HUBBARD TALKS DATA CENTERS



Commissioner **Peter Hubbard** has spoken at town hall meetings from Athens to Savannah with one primary topic: data centers.

At the meetings, locals expressed concerns about when and where new data center construction would occur, as well as environmental and noise issues.

Hubbard said his new position on the PSC gives him the ability to draw attention to small areas where cost shifting might occur and to help head off affects for residential energy users.

Hubbard also sat for a radio interview on WABE's Closer Look with Rose Scott. On Scott's show Hubbard was critical of state tax breaks to lure data centers to Georgia and advocated for an evidence-based regulatory framework for data centers.

## LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AT NARUC

A group of PSC staffers and Commissioners attended the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners Winter Policy Summit in Washington D.C. to help grow in their professional roles as energy regulators. The educational seminars included valuable information, especially in the critical area of data centers. Seminars included “Building Tomorrow's Grid: Training Today's Workforce for Tomorrow,” “Unlocking Distributed Energy Opportunities for Data Centers,” and “Strategies for Mitigating Impact from Data Center and AI Growth.”

NARUC training opportunities are considered essential for regulatory professionals, offering specialized education on utility regulation, technical, and policy issues.



---

## NOTES FROM HUMAN RESOURCES

**July 2026 marks the launch of GA@WORK**, the State of Georgia’s new Enterprise Resource Planning System. GA@WORK will replace PeopleSoft (TeamWorks) and is a user-friendly system designed to streamline HR, Payroll, Finance, and Procurement processes.

To prepare for our transition to GA@WORK, **all employees MUST** complete assigned training courses and be ready to use the system on day one. Training is a crucial step in preparing you with the knowledge and skills to use the new GA@WORK system. If training is not completed, this will affect our standing as an agency.

Online courses are available now and will end on June 11. Instructor-led training courses are also scheduled now and will end on June 4.

Anyone with questions, please contact HR Director Lynn Page. Thank you for your participation.



## WELCOMES, MILESTONES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!**



**25 YEARS**

**Tom Bond  
Reece McAlister  
Sallie Tanner  
William Upshaw**

**10 YEARS**

**Karen Howell  
Stephanie Smith  
Billups**

**5 YEARS**

**Jane Stroeve  
Brant Sweat**

The Public Service Commission has seen significant growth over the past few years. The Commission welcomes three new employees so far in 2026. With a few open positions remaining, we expect to see more new faces in the coming months.



**Campbell Diaz** is executive assistant to Commissioner Hubbard.

**Arni Parikh** is a utilities analyst in the Electric Unit.



**Antonio Alera** is a new attorney at the PSC.

**Monique Andrews** was honored by the Boy Scouts of America as the Superstar Scout Leader of the Year for Pack 1914, Troops 360G, 1914G and 2700.

Monique leads 20 girls and one Eagle Scout recipient. During the legislative session, she brought her scouts on a tour of the State Capitol.



The Georgia Public Service Commission's facilities protection unit was awarded the 2026 Golden Backhoe Award by the Georgia Utilities Coordinating Council. The Council's Safety Committee presents the award each year to a recipient that has promoted safe digging practices.

This year, the Council said the PSC is a critical stakeholder that doesn't often get the recognition it deserves.

"We can't do what we do without your team!" the Council said.

## COMMISSION CALENDAR

### May 2026

5 - Administrative Session  
5-6 Hearing Georgia Power Company's Fuel Cost Recovery, Docket No. 56765  
13-14 Hearing for Georgia Power Company's Storm Damage Recovery, Docket No. 44280  
14- Committee Meetings  
21- Administrative Session  
25 - Holiday, Memorial Day  
28 - Committee Meetings

### June 2026

2 - Administrative Session  
11 - Committee Meetings  
16 - Administrative Session  
19 - Holiday, Juneteenth

### July 2026

2 - Committee Meetings  
3 - Holiday, Independence Day (Observed)  
7 - Administrative Session  
16 - Committee Meetings  
21 - Administrative Session  
30 - Committee Meetings

## UPCOMING HOLIDAYS



**Memorial Day**  
**Monday**  
**May 25**



**Juneteenth**  
**Friday**  
**June 19**



**Independence Day**  
**Friday**  
**July 3**

### Georgia Public Service Commission

244 Washington Street  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334  
Phone: 404-656-4501  
psc.ga.gov



### COMMISSIONERS

**Jason Shaw, Chairman**  
**Lauren "Bubba" McDonald, Vice Chair**  
**Peter Hubbard**  
**Dr. Alicia M. Johnson**  
**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**.

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