

GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

145th ANNUAL REPORT

2023



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

2023 GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



Public Service Commission 2023 (left to right) Commissioners Fitz Johnson, Tim Echols, Jason Shaw, Lauren “Bubba” McDonald Jr. and Tricia Pridemore

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LETTER TO THE GOVERNOR

May 23, 2024

The Honorable Brian Kemp
Governor
203 State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Governor Kemp:

The Georgia Public Service Commission presents its 2023 Annual Report, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 46-2-31, which highlights the agency's major activities and achievements during the past year regarding the state's regulated utilities, telecommunications and infrastructure protection. In addition to responsibilities traditionally handled by the Commission over the past several decades, recent years have seen additional duties that help promote broadband Internet service in rural Georgia and the introduction and expansion of electric vehicle charging stations. The Commission is proud to assist in the advancement of these initiatives and supports their progress as key goals in your administration.

Perhaps the biggest highlight from this past year for the Public Service Commission is the completion of the Vogtle Unit 3 nuclear reactor. After considerable time and expense, the unit is now producing clean energy for 500,000 Georgia homes and businesses. The reactor is expected to run nearly non-stop for the next 60-80 years. The wait has been long, but the unit is absolutely a bragging right for Georgia.

In addition, Georgia has continued to prove that clean air can be achieved via the free market. The state has moved from the 9th top state in the nation for installed solar energy to 7th in the nation. Georgia accomplished this without state subsidies and without causing increased rates.

In 2023, the PSC once again proved a valuable asset to the state. For the fiscal year, the Commission returned \$1,287,635 to the state treasury in regulatory fees and assessed fines. These included fines from the PSC's pipeline safety and "Call Before You Dig" programs. Although the goal of our Facilities Protection Division is safety, not money generation, the collected fines are a solid indicator of the hard work the PSC performs to ensure compliance of safe utility practices.

Looking toward the future, 2024 will bring the completion of Vogtle Unit 4, providing another half-million homes and businesses with many, many years of carbon-free energy.

In sum, the Commission continues to ensure Georgia consumers receive the best possible value in utility and telecommunication services, while enforcing natural gas pipeline safety and protecting utility infrastructure from damage.

Respectfully submitted,

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

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION PROFILES



Jason Shaw

Commissioner Since: January 3, 2019

Elected: November 2020

Republican, Lanier County, Georgia

Chairman, 2023 Georgia Public Service Commission

James S. “Jason” Shaw Jr., a native of Lanier County, was appointed to the Public Service Commission by Governor Nathan Deal and sworn in on January 3, 2019. He won election to the Commission in November 2020. He was unanimously elected Chairman by his fellow Commissioners in July 2023.

Commissioner Shaw lives on a farm near Lakeland with his wife Katy Miller Shaw, from Valdosta, and their children, Anne Harvey and Slaton Shaw. He is the owner of Shaw Insurance Services Inc. and a founder of Georgia Olive Farms Inc., both of Lakeland. He and his family are members of Unity United Methodist Church where he serves as Finance Chairman.

Commissioner Shaw earned a Bachelor’s degree in political science from the University of Georgia and is a graduate of the Leadership Georgia class of 2004, the Leadership Lanier class of 2003, and the J.W. Fanning Institute for Leadership class of 2000. In 2011, he was recognized by Georgia Trend magazine’s “40 under 40” list of young Georgia leaders in business and government and has been named one of “The 100 Most Influential Georgians” by the magazine. Commissioner Shaw maintains a dedication to community service. He served as the Lanier County Lions Club President in 2001 and as the Lakeland/Lanier County Chamber of Commerce President in 2006. In 2018, the Lanier County Lions Club named him “Flatlander of the Year” and the Lakeland/Lanier County Chamber of Commerce named him a member of its Board of Directors for life. He is also a past director of the Greater Valdosta Area United Way and a past trustee of the Valdosta Technical College Foundation.

Commissioner Shaw formally represented Georgia House District 176 (Atkinson, Lanier, Lowndes and Ware counties) for four terms since his election in 2010. In his tenure with the Georgia General Assembly he chaired several committees including the Georgia Legislative Rural Caucus, a bipartisan group that takes a leading role in issues and legislation that impact the state’s rural communities.

In addition to his public service, professional, and civic responsibilities, Commissioner Shaw enjoys spending time with his wife and children. He also enjoys outdoor activities, including: hunting, fishing, and golfing.



Tim G. Echols

Commissioner Since: January 1, 2011

Elected: 2010, Re-elected: 2016

Republican, Hoschton, Georgia

Vice Chairman, 2023 Georgia Public Service Commission

A younger Tim Echols was selected by the Atlanta Airport Rotary Club as "Student of the Year" from his high school in 1978. While at the luncheon, he met Truett Cathy, a member of the Atlanta Airport Rotary Club. After the meeting, Mr. Cathy invited Echols to come to his office. There he received a set of motivational tapes. Echols said the tapes changed his life and as a result of listening to Zig Ziglar and his teaching, he set a goal to be a statewide elected official.

Shortly after graduating from UGA, Echols and his wife Windy founded TeenPact, a training experience for conservative high school students. The program began at the Georgia Capitol and now operates in all 50 states, having trained 50,000 students. After building TeenPact, Echols ran for and was elected to statewide office in 2010 serving as Public Service Commissioner.

The PSC's primary job is energy regulation. When Echols took office, Georgia was 34th nationally in solar power. Now, the state is 7th in the nation for installed solar. In 2020, Conservatives for Clean Energy dubbed Echols the "Solar Architect of Georgia."

Echols also created the Clean Energy Roadshow that travels the state every summer. This educational event helps commuters, businesses and municipal governments evaluate alternative fuel for their transportation and residential use.

Echols authored the December 2017 motion to keep Plant Vogtle moving toward completion. He believes carbon-free nuclear energy plus solar is the way forward for Georgia. He has represented the United States at the World Nuclear Exhibition for the past six years.

Outside of his work with the Commission, Echols has been at the forefront in fighting human sex trafficking. He created the "Unholy Tour" that helps policy makers see first-hand the harms of human trafficking. As a part of his efforts to educate the public about the harms of trafficking, Echols created the Wilberforce Fellowship that meets annually at Georgia's oldest state park, Indian Springs. Echols and Judge Tim Batten head this effort.

Tim has a weekly radio show, Energy Matters, airing on Cox Media Group. Back episodes can be found at [WGAU Radio - Energy Matters](#)

Tim and his wife, Windy, have been married 40 years. They have seven children. He has three degrees from the University of Georgia and lives in Hoschton, Georgia.



Fitz Johnson

Commissioner Since: August 26, 2021

Republican, Atlanta, Georgia

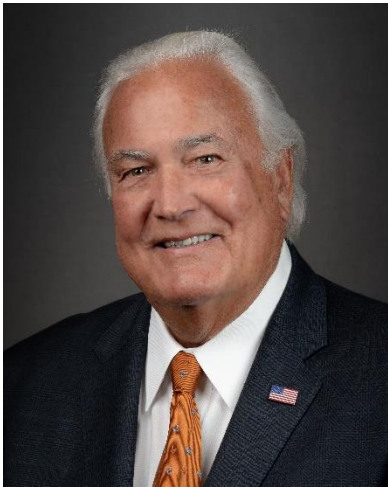
Commissioner, 2023 Georgia Public Service Commission (Sworn-in August 26, 2021)

Fitz Johnson is a businessman, a 21-year veteran of the U.S. Army, and a long-time Georgia resident. He has vast experience in building and leading companies as well as non-profits, driving growth and producing positive results.

An active member in his community, Johnson has served over three decades on several boards, including Kennesaw State University Foundation Board of Trustees, the Cumberland Counseling Center, the Wellstar Health System Board of Trustees, as a Commissioner on the State Charter Schools Commission, and an active member of his local Chamber of Commerce.

A passionate sports fan, and former owner of the Atlanta Beat (Women's Professional Soccer), Johnson has served for over a decade as a community football, soccer, and wrestling coach helping to mentor, develop, and teach today's youth through sports.

Johnson is a graduate of The Citadel and holds a Master's degree in education from Troy University and a J.D. from the University of Kentucky College of Law. He is a member of LifeBridge Church. He and his wife, Suzann Wilcox, have four wonderful children and six beautiful grandchildren.



Lauren “Bubba” McDonald

Commissioner Since: January 1, 2009

Elected: 1998, 2008; Re-elected: 2014, 2020

Republican, Clarkesville, Georgia

Commissioner, 2023 Georgia Public Service Commission

McDonald, who served 20 years as a State Representative, was appointed to the Commission in June 1998 by Governor Zell Miller to fill a vacated post and then re-elected in a special mid-term election in November 1998. He held the seat until 2002. In 2008, 2014 and 2020, Georgians again elected McDonald to serve on the Commission.

McDonald has a deep knowledge of the energy industry. He puts that knowledge to work as a member of the Electric Committee of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners and as an executive member of the Nuclear Waste Strategy Coalition.

During his time on the Commission, McDonald has presided over the advent of solar power in Georgia resulting in the state becoming one of the top five fastest growing in the nation for solar energy. He has accomplished this through a conservative and thoughtful free-market approach without putting upward pressure on rates and without state-sponsored financial incentives. In 2013, Georgia had virtually no solar power on the grid. McDonald was able to garner support to add 525 megawatts of solar energy to the portfolio of the state’s investor owned utility. By the end of 2022, a total of 2,810 megawatts of solar energy had been erected with nearly twice that much currently under approval and planned for construction. McDonald has also supported the construction of solar facilities at six of Georgia’s military bases, contributing to national security and helping to protect the bases from future base closure proposals.

McDonald is a graduate of the University of Georgia with a BBA in Business. He also served six years in the Georgia Air National Guard. He owns businesses in the private sector and is married to Shelley McDonald. He was married to the late Sunny Nivens McDonald for 45 years. He has a son, Lauren, three grandchildren, and four step-grandchildren.



Tricia Pridemore

Commissioner Since: February 21, 2018

Elected: November 2018

Republican, Marietta, Georgia

Commissioner, 2023 Georgia Public Service Commission

Tricia Pridemore was elected to the Georgia Public Service Commission in 2018. She serves on many boards in the energy industry, and works on constructive solutions to our nation's electric transmission, pipeline safety and energy transition issues:

- 1st Vice President, National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC). She will serve as President of NARUC in 2024.
- Immediate Past Chair, Board of the Financial Research Institute (FRI) at the University of Missouri
- Member, Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) Advisory Board
- Member, Gas Technology Institute (GTI) Public Interest Advisory Council
- Member, New Mexico State University Center for Public Utilities Advisory Council

Pridemore was recognized by Georgia Trend Magazine as one of the 100 Most Influential Georgians in 2022 and 2023. She served on both the 2019 Transition Team of Gov. Brian Kemp and the 2011 Transition Team of Governor Nathan Deal. She co-chaired both of Governor Nathan Deal's Inaugurals.

Pridemore is a member of the Rotary Club of Marietta. She earned a bachelor's degree from Kennesaw State University.

Tricia and her husband Michael reside in Marietta, Georgia and are members of Mount Paran Church in Atlanta, where Tricia serves on the Women's Ministries Board.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION LEADERSHIP TEAM

DECEMBER 31, 2023

Commissioners

Jason Shaw, Chairman
Tim G. Echols, Vice Chairman
Fitz Johnson, Commissioner
Lauren “Bubba” McDonald, Commissioner
Tricia Pridemore, Commissioner

Administration Division

Reece McAlister, Executive Director
Sallie Tanner, Executive Secretary
Terry Pritchett, Chief Financial Officer
Lynn Page, Office of Human Resources Director
Max Stroev, Office of Operations Support Director
Tom Krause, Public Information Officer and Legislative Liaison
Monique Andrews, Office of Consumer Affairs Manager

Utilities Division

Tom Bond, Director, Utilities Division
Robert Trokey, Director, Electric Unit
Nancy Tyer, Director, Natural Gas Unit
Leon Bowles, Director, Telecommunications Unit
Jamie Barber, Director, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Unit
Michelle Thebert, Director, Facilities Protection Unit

MISSION AND HISTORY OF THE COMMISSION

MISSION

The Georgia Public Service Commission is a quasi-legislative, quasi-judicial agency comprised of five Commissioners elected statewide. The Commission's mission is to exercise its authority and influence to ensure consumers receive safe, reliable and reasonably priced telecommunications, electric and natural gas service from financially viable and technically competent companies. The Commission's regulatory activities are primarily focused on investor-owned natural gas and electric power utilities. The Commission has the authority to set rates, require long-range energy plans, provide for the safety of natural gas pipelines and protect underground utility systems from damage.

Over the past three decades, growth, competition and technological advances have significantly changed the Commission's role. With some retail market segments of the telecommunications and natural gas industries open to competition, the Commission facilitates market development, educates consumers, arbitrates complaints among competitors and monitors the effectiveness of the competitive markets.

HISTORY

On October 14, 1879, Georgia became one of the first states to establish a regulatory body to resolve complications resulting from railroad expansion and competition. Created as the Railroad Commission of Georgia, the Governor originally appointed the three members of this body for the purpose of regulating railway freight and passenger rates.

As electricity, natural gas and telecommunications evolved from novelties into major necessities for modern society the roles and responsibilities of the Commission evolved as well. Major expansions of the Commission's jurisdiction took place between 1890 and 1935.

In 1891, legislation added telegraph and express companies to the Commission's jurisdiction.

The years 1906 and 1907 saw two major changes to the Commission's make-up. In 1906 the legislature allowed the voters to elect the Commissioners for six-year terms and in 1907 lawmakers expanded the Commission to five members. Also in 1906, the legislature gave the Commission authority over telephone, natural gas and electric companies. Cognizant of the changing role of this regulatory body, the General Assembly in 1922 changed the name of the Railroad Commission of Georgia to the Georgia Public Service Commission.

In 1943, the Commission became a constitutional body (Article 4, Section 1, 1983 Georgia Constitution). Its powers and duties are established by legislation and described in Title 46 of the Official Code of Georgia.

In 1970, the Commission began its gas pipeline safety program.

Legislation in 1991 required integrated resource planning by electric utilities.

The Natural Gas Competition and Deregulation Act of 1997 became effective on July 1, 1997.

The legislature in 1998 required the five Commissioners to reside in separate districts though they remain elected by the voters statewide. This change was effective for the 2000 elections.

In 2002, Earleen Sizemore became the first woman to serve on the Commission following her appointment. Later that year in the general election, Angela Speir became the first woman elected to the Commission.

In 2009, the Commission approved the construction of the nation's first new nuclear-powered generation facilities since the 1970's – Units 3 and 4 at Plant Vogtle.

Legislation in 2012 changed the method of selecting the Commission Chairman, allowing the Commission to elect its own chairman for a two-year term with the possibility of one additional two-year term.

In August 2015, Southern Company, the parent company of Georgia Power Company, announced plans to acquire AGLC Resources, the parent company of Atlanta Gas Light Company. The Commission approved the acquisition in April 2016.

The Commission on December 21, 2017 approved the continued construction of Georgia Power's Plant Vogtle Nuclear Power Plant Construction Project. The Commission accepted the Company's revised schedule and forecasted costs.

In 2019, the Georgia General Assembly passed Senate Bill 2 that gave the Commission compliance authority over EMCs that expand into broadband Internet service.

In 2023, Vogtle 3 came into operation and began producing power for 500,000 Georgia homes and businesses. It is expected to continue generating zero-emissions energy for the next 60-80 years.

The Commission operates four committees, Energy, Telecommunications, Facilities Protection and Administrative Affairs. As of December 2023, Commissioner Fitz Johnson chaired the Energy Committee, Commissioner Lauren "Bubba" McDonald Jr. chaired the Telecommunications Committee and the Facilities Protection Committee, and Vice Chairman Tim Echols chaired the Administrative Affairs Committee.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023

The highlights of the Commission's major activities and achievements during 2023 regarding its Utility Regulation, Facilities Protection and Administration Programs are set forth below. A more detailed report from each Commission organizational unit follows this summary.

ELECTRIC

Electricity is vital to the economy of the state and to the quality of life of Georgia's citizens. Of the three regulated utility industries in Georgia, the electric industry is the most universally utilized and most essential. The sole investor-owned electric utility, Georgia Power Company, is regulated by the Commission and serves approximately 2.75 million retail customers. The Commission has limited regulatory authority over the 41 Electric Membership Corporations (EMCs) and 49 municipal-owned electric systems in the state.

In 2023 the Electric Unit analyzed and filed testimony in dockets related to Georgia Power Company's Fuel Cost Recovery, Vogtle Construction Monitoring and the investigation to determine the prudence of construction costs for Plant Vogtle Units 3 and 4. The Electric Unit also completed its review and recommendations related to Georgia Power's Company's 2022 Annual (Earnings and Compliance) Surveillance Report. For the twelve months ended December 31, 2022, the Commission found that Georgia Power Company had earnings of 13.69% Return on Equity (ROE), and excess revenues of \$292.8 million. Of this amount, \$117.1 million was applied to regulatory assets, \$117.1 million was refunded to ratepayers and \$58.6 million was retained by the Utility, per the Short Order Adopting Settlement Agreement as Modified in Docket No. 42516.

In February of 2023, Georgia Power Company filed a request to increase its Fuel Cost Recovery rates. Staff and the Company reached a settlement agreement, in which Georgia Power Company agreed to a reduction of the fuel balance by \$7.0 million as of May 31, 2023. The Commission approved the revised fuel rates in May 2023.

On October 27, 2023, Georgia Power Company filed its 2023 IRP Update to request, among other things, approval to procure additional generating capacity for the years 2026-2028. A Procedural and Scheduling Order was issued on November 21, 2023 to direct intervenors who participate in the docket.

The Electric Unit also reviewed applications to adjust rates related to certain Plant Vogtle costs and interim fuel costs, and monitored Georgia Power Company's ongoing coal ash pond closure strategy.

NATURAL GAS

Natural gas is vitally important to the economic prosperity of Georgia. Over 1.7 million consumers in Georgia benefit from natural gas delivered by the State's two investor-owned natural gas systems, Atlanta Gas Light Company (AGL) and Liberty Utilities Georgia Corporation (Liberty). At the end of 2023, Georgia had 13 natural gas marketers with a Commission-approved Certificate of Authority, 13 of whom were actively serving customers on the AGL distribution system.

As part of Staff's due diligence, approximately 2,200 data requests, including subparts were submitted to Atlanta Gas Light, Liberty Gas, and the Natural Gas Marketers, collectively, and approximately 121 Commission orders were approved in 2023.

The Natural Gas Unit is also the custodian of the Universal Service Fund (USF). The State of Georgia considers the USF a Custodial Fund for reporting in the State's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. On August 4th and 8th 2023 annual reporting was sent to the State Accounting Office that included the Form 470 Trial Balance Shell and Form 21 Investments. The Cash and Deposits form was completed and submitted to the Commission's fiscal office for the period ending June 30, 2023, for fiscal year 2023.

For FY 2023, the beginning balance was \$38.7 million. During FY 2023, the USF had \$25 million in deposits and \$1.5 million in withdrawals. The net funding was \$23.5 million, for an ending balance of \$62.2 million.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The Commission Telecommunication Unit is in charge of several programs that directly benefit Georgians on a daily basis.

The Commission facilitates the telecommunications market in Georgia by certifying new providers, arbitrating interconnection agreements, and resolving complaints among competitors. Additionally, the Commission provides specialized telecommunications equipment to Georgians who, because of physical impairments (particularly hearing and speech), cannot otherwise communicate over the telephone. The Commission contracts with Georgia Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (GCDHH) to be the distribution agency for the Georgia Telecommunication Equipment Distribution Program (TEDP).

In 2006, the Legislature created a statewide Audible Universal Information Access Service to provide blind and print-disabled citizens of Georgia with telephonic access to print media publications.

Likewise, the Commission runs the Hearing Aid Distribution Program. There were 857 Adults and 29 children that were served by this program in 2023.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

In June 2020, the Commission created a new utilities unit, the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) Unit. Previously renewable energy was handled under other units.

In 2023, the EERE Unit addressed energy efficiency and renewable issues that came before the Commission, issues required to be addressed by the 2022 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) Order and participated in Georgia Power Company's 2023 IRP Update filing.

In the Commission's 2022 IRP Final Order, Staff and Georgia Power were ordered to develop guidelines for establishing a Distributed Generation Working Group (DGWG) for the purpose of improving previous procurement practices to fulfill the procurements approved in the 2022 IRP Final Order. The 2023 distributed generation request for proposal sought to procure approximately 193 megawatts of energy from solar resources with facilities sized greater than 250 kilowatts up to 6 megawatts.

FACILITIES PROTECTION

The Facilities Protection Unit of the Georgia Public Service Commission is composed of two distinct areas: Pipeline Safety and enforcement of the Georgia Underground Facility Protection Act (GUFPA) also known as “Call Before You Dig.”

Facilities Protection is one of the few areas where Commission jurisdiction extends beyond the electric, telephone, and natural gas industries. The Commission is responsible for enforcing the Call Before You Dig law for all utility facilities, including water and cable TV. In 2023, system owners and operators reported 4,714 incidents where facilities were damaged. Over 65% of the damages were to natural gas lines.

ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

In 2023 the Administration Division continued to efficiently maximize its task to support the Commission’s mission. The Executive Director heads the Division and oversees the Executive Secretary, the Fiscal and Budget Office, the Human Resources Office, the Operations Support Office, the Public Information/Legislative Liaison and the Consumer Affairs Office.

In FY 2023, the Fiscal and Budget Office accurately monitored and effectively managed a budget with revenues and expenses of \$12.8 million dollars – \$1.2 million more than 2022.

The Commission also opened 570 new case dockets; processed 4,623 filed documents; and filed 1,045 orders prepared for the Chairman’s and Executive Secretary’s signature. The number of dockets has grown tremendously over the past two decades.

The Commission’s Operations Support staff ensured public meetings of the Commission were accessible by the public via the Commission YouTube page yet remained secure. The Office of Operations Support also continued its mission to provide data transparency, efficiency, improved functionality of applications, system stability, and resilience. This allowed the Commission’s information technology infrastructure to maintain its dependability at high levels.

The Public Information Officer/Legislative Liaison fielded numerous calls from local, state and national media regarding Georgia Power’s Fuel Recovery Case as well as continued monitoring of the Vogtle 3 and Vogtle 4 expansion project, and continued efforts to ensure Georgia Power successfully, safely, and economically stores coal ash. Legislative actions in 2023 monitored by the Commission included a bill that helped convenience stores and gas stations sell power for electric vehicles, a bill to protect critical infrastructure from attack, and a bill to protect Georgians from high pressure sales and scams regarding rooftop residential solar power.

The Consumer Affairs Unit reported 8,307 phone calls in 2023 (this includes Spanish and Asian calls), 3,548 email contacts, 2,830 online contacts, 209 letters and faxes, and three walk-in consumers. In all, Consumer Affairs processed 4,190 inquiries, complaints, and opinions from the general public in 2023.

In 2023, the Commission lost seven staff members, all of whom left for other opportunities. Five new staff members were hired. At the end of 2023, the Commission employed 84 staff members.

UTILITIES DIVISION

Since the early 20th century the Georgia Public Service Commission has been responsible for setting rates charged by telecommunications, natural gas, and electric companies, ensuring the reliability and availability of utility services, and establishing and enforcing quality of service standards. The telecommunications, natural gas, and electric industries are natural monopolies, but some segments of these markets have been opened to retail competition that allow customers to choose among multiple providers for certain services with pay rates set by the provider. Other services, such as distribution of natural gas and electricity by investor-owned companies, remain regulated by the Commission, which sets the rates charged for these services.

The pace of the implementation of competition and deregulation varied among the regulated industries. In the telecommunications industry, long distance service has been competitive since the mid-1980s. In 1995 and 1996, authorities opened local telephone service to competition by federal and state legislation, respectively. Local telephone competition was redefined due to technological advances of broadband, Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) and wireless telephone. State legislators and federal agencies recognized that local telephone companies face intermodal competition from cable TV companies and wireless providers, not just intermodal competition from other telephone companies.

In 1998, Georgia opened the natural gas commodity market to retail competition. Only one of the two investor-owned natural gas companies elected to open its territory to competition and now 13 Commission-certified marketers sell gas commodity service to customers in the Atlanta Gas Light Company (AGL) territory. Marketers set their own prices, but the Commission sets the rates charged by AGL to distribute the natural gas for the marketers.

In 2019, the Georgia General Assembly passed Senate Bill 2 that allowed Electric Membership Corporations (EMCs) to provide high-speed broadband Internet service to their customers. The Commission was tasked with the approval of the EMCs' cost allocation manuals.

In 2023, the Public Service Commission saw a unique development when Georgia Power filed an Integrated Resource Plan update. Typically, Georgia Power files an IRP every three years. The IRP helps set the amount of energy to be produced and the sources from which that energy will be produced. In 2023, Georgia Power determined it needed to increase its energy sources to keep up with demand and the company felt the need for more energy could not wait until the scheduled 2025 IRP. The update required several hearings through 2023 and 2024.

In spite of the ongoing evolution of the regulatory environment, the Commission's mission remains the same: To ensure consumers receive safe, reliable and reasonably priced telecommunications, electric and natural gas service from financially viable and technically competent companies and to protect utility infrastructure from damage. In the sections that follow are an overview of the role that the Commission has played and the key decisions in each of these utility industries in 2023.

ELECTRIC UNIT

Electricity is vital to the economy of the state and to the quality of life of Georgia's citizens. Of the three regulated utility industries, the electric industry is the most universally utilized and the most essential. The sole investor-owned electric utility, Georgia Power Company, is fully regulated by the Commission and serves approximately 2.75 million retail customers. The Commission has limited regulatory authority over the 41 Electric Membership Corporations (EMCs) and 49 municipal-owned electric systems in the state.

SIGNIFICANT MATTERS IN THE PSC'S REGULATION OF THE ELECTRIC UTILITY INDUSTRY IN 2023

2023 Fuel Cost Recovery

The Fuel Cost Recovery Case (FCR) docket was conducted to set new fuel rates, which allow Georgia Power Company to recover the cost of fuels for electricity generation.

Georgia Power filed its Application for Fuel Cost Recovery (FCR-26) on February 28, 2023. Fuel costs had been under-recovered by approximately \$2 billion. The primary driver of the under-recovery were higher fuel prices in natural gas markets. The Interim Fuel Rider (IFR), which adjusts fuel rates any time the under- or over-recovery exceeds \$200 million, had reached its adjustment cap of 15 percent.

The FCR-26 fuel rates filed by Georgia Power were designed to cover both the recovery of projected fuel costs over a test period from June 2023 to May 2025 as well as the under-recovered fuel balance from the period of June 2023 to May 2026. Georgia Power requested that the new FCR tariffs would go into effect on June 1, 2023 and would result in an increase of roughly \$23 on the bill of a typical residential customer using an average of 1,000 kWh per month. Georgia Power also requested an increase in the Income Qualified Senior Citizen Fuel Discount from \$6 to \$8 per month.

On April 13, 2023, the Commission's Public Interest Advocacy (PIA) Staff and Georgia Power agreed to a Stipulation. Under this Stipulation, Georgia Power provided revised FCR-26 fuel rates updated to include the under-recovered fuel cost balance through March 31, 2023 and projected fuel costs with a more recent natural gas price forecast all by April 24, 2023. This agreement was made to lower FCR rates for customers. The collection of FCR-26 rates was designed to include a two-part rate with Part A tracking the projected fuel costs and Part B for the under-recovered balance. Part B will expire once the under-recovered balance is fully collected.

Other terms in the Stipulation include a change to the IFR mechanism where the maximum amount by which fuel rates are adjusted between fuel cases is 40 percent above or below the approved rates. In addition, a motion was made in the Order Adopting Stipulation that the Income Qualified Senior Citizen Fuel Discount also get an additional boost of \$1.50 from Georgia Power's original request. The motion increased the discount from \$6 per month to \$9.50 per month for fuel costs. Lastly, the Stipulation set forth that Georgia Power would file an FCR-27 application no later than February 28, 2026. Through the end of 2023, the under-recovered balance has fallen to around \$1.9 billion.

Coal Combustion Residuals Asset Retirement Obligations

In accordance with the Commission’s Final Order in the 2019 Integrated Resource Plan, Georgia Power Company provides semi-annual reports regarding its Asset Retirement Obligations (ARO) for its Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR) compliance strategy activities.

Georgia Power is required to comply with federal and state CCR rules at its ash ponds and CCR landfills. The Company has 29 ash ponds and 12 current CCR landfills at 12 sites across the state. Georgia Power’s Environmental Compliance Strategy (ECS) to comply with these rules was reviewed and approved by the Commission in the Company’s 2019 IRP. An update to the ECS was filed with the Commission with the 2022 IRP and updated in March 2023.

Tables 4 and 5 below are from October 2023 Semi-Annual CCR ARO Report and summarize the estimated closure construction timeframes for ash ponds and landfills.

Table 4. Ash Pond Estimated Closure Construction Timeframes

	Closure by Removal	Closure in Place	Total	Estimated Closure Construction Completion ^{1,2}
Bowen		1	1	2034
Branch	5		5	2036
Hammond	3	1	4	2032
Kraft	1		1	2016^A
McDonough	1	3	4	2025
McIntosh	1		1	2022^A
McManus	1		1	2020^A
Mitchell	3		3	2030
Scherer		1	1	2032
Wansley	1		1	2034
Yates	4	3	7	2024
Total	20	9	29	

¹ For those sites with multiple ash ponds, the date above reflects the last pond’s estimated closure construction completion date for the site in total. The “Estimated Closure Construction Completion” date reflects the estimated end of closure construction and estimated completion of major restoration activities that may go beyond the submittal of the Closure Certification Report or the Certification of Removal Report.

² Based on a comprehensive review performed during 3Q23, the current schedule forecast for several sites was determined to be substantially consistent with the prior update reflected in the March 2023 Semi-Annual Report and is therefore reflected as consistent with that report. All significant schedule changes since the March 2023 Semi-Annual Report are reflected above. The Company will continue to monitor all project assumptions and provide updates in the future.

^A Denotes actual closure construction completion date.

Table 5. Landfill Estimated Closure Construction Timeframes

	Existing CCR Landfills	Future, New Permitted Landfills	Total	Estimated Closure Construction Completion ^{1,2}
Arkwright	3	1	4	2031
Bowen	1		1	2039
Branch		1	1	2037
Hammond	1		1	2032
Kraft	1		1	2020 ^A
McIntosh	2		2	2022 ³
Scherer	1		1	2046
Wansley	1		1	2034
Yates	2		2	2024
Total	12	2	14	

¹ For those sites with multiple landfills or landfill cells, the date above reflects the last cell's estimated closure construction completion date for the site. The "Estimated Closure Construction Completion" date reflects the estimated end of closure construction and estimated completion of major restoration activities, which may go beyond the submittal of the Closure Certification Report or the Certification of Removal Report.

² Based on a comprehensive review performed during 3Q23, the current schedule forecast for several sites was determined to be substantially consistent with the prior update reflected in the March 2023 Semi-Annual Report and is therefore reflected as consistent with that report. All significant schedule changes since the March 2023 Semi-Annual Report are reflected above. The Company will continue to monitor all project assumptions and provide updates in the future.

³ In 2023, a request was submitted to the EPD to allow for the episodic disposal of CCR at Plant McIntosh.

^A Denotes actual closure construction completion date.

Georgia Power's current forecast for CCR ARO activities applicable to retail customers over the next approximately 60 years is \$7.8 billion, which includes the approximately \$1.3 billion in actual costs previously incurred. This current forecast is approximately \$180 million lower than the previous forecast included in the March 2023 Semi-Annual Report.

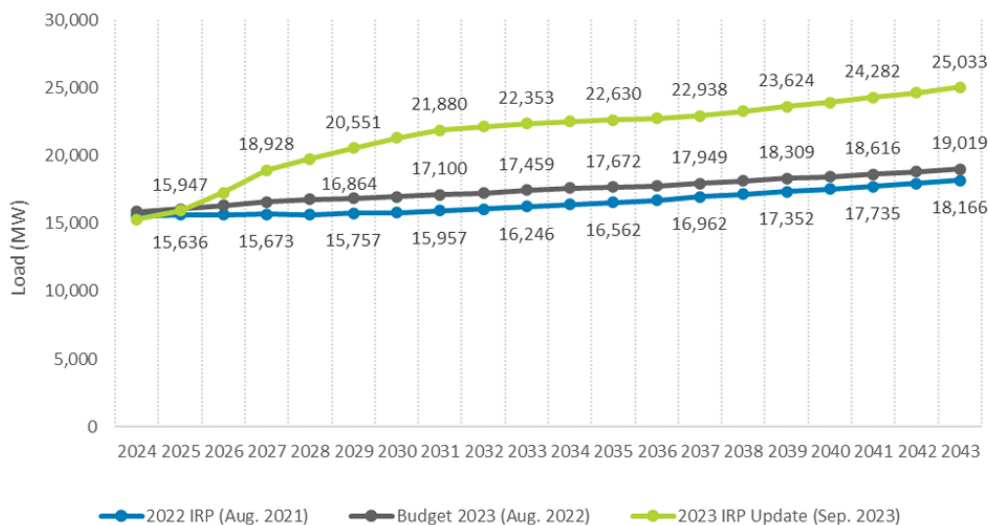
2023 IRP Update

On October 27, 2023, Georgia Power submitted its 2023 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) Update pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 46-3A-1.

The IRP Update as filed explains the exponential increase in Georgia's peak electricity demand needs due to unprecedented economic growth in energy intensive sectors, the Company's updated load forecasting adjusted for this load growth and identifies Georgia Power's proposed capacity needs from the winter of 2025/2026 through winter 2028/2029. Through Georgia

Power’s projection shown in the graph below, the Company is projecting an additional need of 6,600+ MW through the winter of 2030/2031, with load adjusting as new customers choose a provider.

Figure 3: Georgia Power Projected Winter Peak Demand



The Company has supply-side and demand-side proposals to meet this forecasted need. Commission staff is reviewing the information provided by the Company and assessing potential impacts to residential, commercial, and industrial customers.

On January 16 - 17, 2024 the Commission will hold its first hearing for the IRP Update, during which Georgia Power Company’s panel will testify before the five Commissioners. This hearing will allow Commission Public Interest Advocacy (PIA) Staff and all other intervenors the ability to cross the panel’s testimony.

During this hearing Commissioners and PIA Staff will focus on Georgia Power’s assertion that, based on its analysis there will be a downward pressure on rates for all customers. Equally, the Commissioners and Staff will concentrate on the committed and projected Large Load (500 kW+) customers, specifically Data Centers, that are looking to do business in Georgia. The options under consideration include Power Purchase Agreement (PPAs), adding and expanding distributed energy resources, battery energy storage systems (BESS), and leveraging new solar facilities to meet this projected need. In February and March 2024, there will be additional hearings with a final decision expected in April.

Ongoing investigations

The Commission Staff continues to investigate and monitor the following:

1. Performance and reliability of electricity generating units, transmission and distribution infrastructure
2. Reported earnings and excess revenues available for sharing, as defined in approved accounting orders
3. Transactions by and between affiliates of Georgia Power

4. Electric transportation Initiatives
5. Effectiveness of hedging programs used to mitigate high natural gas fuel costs

Commission Monitors Progress of Nuclear Plant Construction

Docket No. 29849: Commission Reviews Expenditures for Georgia Power Company's 28th Plant Vogtle Construction Monitoring Report (VCM).

On February 16th, 2023, Georgia Power Company filed its Twenty-eighth Semi-annual Construction Monitoring Report for Vogtle Units 3 and 4 (VCM). For purposes of this proceeding, the Report was deemed filed on February 28, 2023. The Company incurred capital construction costs of \$461 million during the 28th VCM period of July 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. Consistent with the VCM 24 order these costs were presented by the Company for Commission review only and no action was required on these costs by the Commission since the Company has exceeded the approved revised capital cost of \$7.3 billion. Consequently, no issues involved were identified for this proceeding.

Georgia Power Company Brings Plant Vogtle Unit 3 into Commercial Operation on July 31, 2023

Upon completion of power ascension and required contemporaneous testing Southern Nuclear Company (SNC) declared Unit 3 as commercial on July 31, 2023. Since that declaration the Unit has operated at, on average, a net electrical output of 1,102 MWe, or the Unit's stated nameplate. Per the Stipulation reached between the Public Interest Advocacy Staff and the Company, and approved by the Commission under docket 43838, \$2.1 billion of the \$3.569 billion deemed prudent in the SIR proceeding was placed into rate base. The \$2.1 billion represents Unit 3's pro rata share of the deemed prudent amount.

The Company Initiates the Prudence Review for the Balance of Issues Needed to be Resolved Regarding the Vogtle Project Units 3 and 4

Per the Order under docket 29849 17th Vogtle Construction Monitoring proceeding "...once the fuel load of Unit 4 is reached, the Company may make a filing with the Commission to determine the adjustment to retail base rates necessary to include the remaining amounts of Units 3 and 4 into retail base rates." SNC completed fuel load in Unit 4 on August 19, 2023. On August 30th, 2023, the Company filed its Application to Include Reasonable and Prudent Plant Vogtle Units 3 and 4 Costs.

The Procedural and Scheduling Order for this proceeding required a decision from the Commission by December 19, 2023. During the pendency of the proceeding Staff, the Company, and four intervenors agreed to a stipulation that resolved all remaining issues related to the Vogtle Project Units 3 and 4. On December 19th, by unanimous vote, the Commission approved the stipulation.

Unit 4 is scheduled to be Commercially Operational in the second quarter of 2024.

PSC Oversight over EMCs and Municipal Electricity Providers

The Commission oversees territorial matters for all electricity suppliers including Electric Membership Corporations, municipal electricity providers and one investor-owned utility (Georgia Power Co.) pursuant to the Georgia Territorial Electric Service Act, O.C.G.A. § 46-3-1 et seq. The Commission and its Staff review and authorize requests for transfers of retail electric service, resolves disputes over service territories and maintains the electric supplier territorial maps for each of the 159 counties in Georgia. The Commission also approves requests for financing authority for Georgia Power Co. and EMCs. The Commission requires rate tariffs of all electricity providers to be on file at the Commission and publishes bi-annual (winter and summer) comparisons of residential electricity rates for all providers in the state.

The Commission Continues Its Involvement in State and Federal Activities That Impact the Electric Utility Industry

The Georgia Public Service Commission continues its involvement in the Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (SEARUC), as well as the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) to learn from other state regulators and share its knowledge for the benefit of Georgia utility consumers. Commissioners and staff serve on the committees of several national and local groups including NARUC, SEARUC, Southeast Electric Reliability Council (SERC), North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), Eastern Interconnection States' Planning Council and the National Council on Electricity Policy.

PSC Continues to Protect Ratepayer Interests by eliminating the collection of the Nuclear Waste Fee

Georgia Ratepayers have invested over \$1.7 billion dollars into the Nuclear Waste Fund (NWF) as of September 30, 2016, (this amount includes interest). This places Georgia among the top 10 states in terms of NWF contributions. The collection of funds from Ratepayers to dispose of the waste was halted in May 2014 by the Department of Energy as mandated by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. There have been several attempts in Congress to move forward with some implementation of Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, but every effort has failed. The PSC is a member of the Nuclear Waste Strategy Coalition to collaborate with other states and partner organizations on these issues.

Georgia Power Co. has four nuclear reactors with two more expected to come online in 2023 and 2024. Currently, the Company and all nuclear power companies in the U.S. store nuclear waste on site (this includes shut down reactors) pending resolution or direction from Congress. For years 2015-2019, the cost of interim nuclear waste storage totaled just under \$140 million.

NATURAL GAS UNIT

Natural gas is vitally important to the economic prosperity of Georgia. Over 1.7 million consumers in Georgia benefit from natural gas delivered by the State's two investor-owned natural gas systems, Atlanta Gas Light Company (AGL) and Liberty Utilities Georgia Corporation (Liberty). At the end of 2023, Georgia had 14 natural gas marketers with a Commission-approved Certificate of Authority, 14 of whom were actively serving customers on the AGL distribution system.

As part of Staff's due diligence, approximately 2,200 data requests, including subparts were submitted to Atlanta Gas Light, Liberty Gas, and the Natural Gas Marketers, collectively, and approximately 121 Commission orders were approved.

THE PSC'S REGULATION OF THE NATURAL GAS UTILITY INDUSTRY IN 2023

Docket No. 4167: Audit of AGL's Manufactured Gas Plant

AGL ratepayers pay a surcharge for the recovery of costs associated with this cleanup. Staff audits the expenditures for accuracy and financial prudence and Staff files an audit report for the costs for each fiscal year. The 2023 rider amount set to be recovered was \$2.29 per Dekatherms (Dth) per DDDC (Dedicated Design Day Capacity) per year. Staff will perform an audit on the associated costs and determine if they are reasonable.

Docket No. 8044: Active natural gas marketer update and staff's ongoing analysis of marketer financial & technical capability

Every quarter, Staff sends out Data Requests (DR) and receives responses from each active marketer regarding their financial and technical capability and performances. Staff conducts a comprehensive analysis of a marketer's financial performance covering various aspects. All Marketer DR responses are reviewed to identify any irregularities or concerning areas. This ensures the accuracy and integrity of financial reporting.

Staff reviews the company Income Statement for Georgia operations to monitor changes in revenue, cost of sales, gross profit, operating expenses, and net income. Then, Staff reviews the company's balance sheet to assess the company's total assets and total liabilities. As part of the review, Staff performs key financial ratios from both the Income Statement and Balance Sheet. The gross profit margin and operating profit margin are derived from the income statement of the company. The gross profit margin is a measure of a company's profitability in terms of sales activities and the operating profit margin indicates profitability after considering all operating expenses. The Balance Sheet of the company analyzes the current ratio and debt-to-equity ratio. The current ratio is used to evaluate a company's ability to meet its short-term obligations with current assets and the debt-to-equity ratio measures the proportion of funding provided by creditors compared to shareholders' equity and reflects the company's financial leverage. These ratios offer valuable insights into profitability, operational efficiency, liquidity, and leverage levels. By combining all these metrics alongside historical data on customer trends and term counts, Staff gains an overall understanding of the marketer's current financial capabilities, as well as the market condition. Staff also performs similar analyses on the parent

company's Income Statement and Balance Sheet. This thorough analysis helps Staff know the marketer's financial capability to serve customers in the Georgia natural gas market.

Docket No. 12897: USF Low-Income Assistance

During 2023, there were three Georgia non-profits that were approved to receive USF funding to provide low-income assistance to natural gas low-income Residential customers on AGL's natural gas distribution system. This included the Heating Energy Assistance Team ("HEAT"), HopeWorks, and The Salvation Army.

HEAT aids in helping Residential low-income customers to maintain or regain their natural gas service that are on AGL's natural gas distribution system. From July 2019 to November 2023, a low-income household could receive up to \$350 in assistance each year. On November 21, 2023, the Commission approved HEAT to increase its annual assistance up to \$500 each year. By the end of November 2023, HEAT had expended **\$169,684** and served 588 households. On November 15, HEAT had a balance of \$861,470. On November 21, the Commission disbursed USF funding in the amount of **\$300,000**. The ending November 2023 balance was **\$1,157,223**.

HopeWorks helps Residential low-income senior citizens on AGL's natural gas distribution system with the repair or replacement of natural gas heating furnaces and water heaters. By the end of November 2023, HopeWorks had expended **\$655,830** and served 162 households. On November 15, HopeWorks had a balance of **\$93,321**. On November 21, the Commission authorized a disbursement of **\$700,000**. On that date, the balance increased to **\$793,321**. The ending November 2023 balance was **\$752,220**.

On November 21, the Commission also authorized a disbursement of **\$660,000** for 2024, to The Salvation Army. This reflected \$600,000 in direct assistance and \$60,000 in administrative fees which were expensed immediately to The Salvation Army. The ending November 2023, balance was **\$600,000**.

Docket No. 14675: Southeastern Pricing Analysis

In compliance with Rule 515-7-12, Gas Staff conducts an analysis that compares the residential retail prices of the marketers on AGL's distribution system to other providers (municipals and local distribution companies) in the immediate surrounding Southeastern States. Marketer prices are obtained from Data Requests responses. By comparing marketer prices to providers in the surrounding area, Staff can determine whether the following criteria are met:

- The average of the Marketers' prices cannot be > 20% higher than the market 12 months ago.
- The average of the Marketers' prices cannot be > 30% higher than the market in the previous quarter.
- The average of the Marketers' prices cannot be > 50% higher than the market from month to month.

In 2023, Staff completed analysis for the year 2022. Staff determined that marketers met the following criteria:

- The average of the Marketers' prices was not > 30% higher than the market in the previous quarter.

- The average of the Marketers' prices was not > 50% higher than the market from month to month.

Therefore, based on the standard established by the Commission's rules, the market is not constrained.

Docket No. 15296: Service Quality Measures (SQMs) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR)

Staff closely reviewed the current rules and Order governing the SQMs and discovered a lack of clarity. Currently, the governing Order for SQMs is under docket number 15296. There are current rules regarding SQMs, but they precede the governing 15296 Order and do not address the benchmarks. Staff sought approval to issue an amended Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR) that will address the benchmarks, the remediation period, and other items.

Staff established a working group that included some of the marketers. The purpose of the working group was to collaboratively work together to amend the current proposed NOPR.

On October 4, 2023, the Commission issued a NOPR regarding the SQM rules. The Commission's primary goal in issuing the NOPR was to amend existing Commission Rule 515-7-8, Service Quality Standards for Certificated Marketers, and the Regulated Provider, to provide clarification regarding the reporting and penalty timeline.

The rulemaking focused on eliminating the months in which a Marketer could fail to meet the established benchmarks without any consequence. Also, since the SQMs are also currently governed by a Commission Order, those already established benchmarks were included in the proposed amended Rule. The rulemaking also included a shorter time for the remediation period and a tiered penalty structure by market share.

Marketers filed comments on November 3, 2023. Many of the comments concerned the remediation period and the penalty structure. Marketers did not agree with a shorter remediation period. They wanted to go back to the 90 days starting on the first day of the month following the second failing month, mirroring the current order. Also, marketers did not agree with a market share tiered penalty structure. However, the marketers did agree that any party has the ability of asking the Commission to lower the penalty.

On December 14, 2023, Staff met with the marketers to thoroughly address their comments and to understand their rationale. Staff remains in the process of drafting the NOPR, taking into consideration the marketer feedback. The NOPR will be reissued for comments in 2024.

Docket No. 15326: Consideration of Modifying the Existing PSC Rules Concerning Universal Service Fund Mandated by HB 1568:

A. Universal Service Fund 2023 Activity

In Docket No. 15326, the docket number for the administration of the Universal Service Fund (USF or Fund), Commission Rule 515-7-5-.02 states that, consistent with O.C.G.A. § [46-4-161](#) the Commission is authorized to create and establish regulations to administer a Universal Service Fund. The State of Georgia considers the USF a Custodial Fund for reporting in the State's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

On August 4 and August 8, 2023 annual reporting was sent to the State Accounting Office that included the Form 470 Trial Balance Shell and Form 21 Investments. The Cash and Deposits form was completed and submitted to the Commission’s fiscal office for the period ending June 30, 2023, for fiscal year 2023.

For FY 2023, the beginning balance was **\$38.7 million**. During FY 2023, the USF had **\$25 million** in deposits and **\$1.5 million** in withdrawals. The net funding was **\$23.5 million**, for an ending balance of **\$62.2 million**.

The table below provides the USF activity for the 12 months ending December 31, 2023.

USF Activity Ending December 31, 2023

Beginning Balance: 01/01/2023	\$52,281,324
Deposits	\$23,392,847
Withdrawals	\$10,208,883
Net Funding (Loss)	\$13,183,965
Ending Balance: 12/31/2023	\$65,465,289

Docket No. 18638 Atlanta Gas Light Company 2023 Recalculation of The Dedicated Design Day Capacity (DDDC) factors

The Commission Order in Docket No. 8390: Atlanta Gas Light filing of Election Application for New Rates and Tariff revisions, requires Atlanta Gas Light Company to recalculate the Dedicated Design Day Capacity (DDDC) factor for customers each year. The DDDC factor, which is used to calculate the Dedicated Design Day Capacity charge, recovers the common costs of providing delivery service based on a customer's demand on AGL's system on the coldest day of the year.

The components that are used to calculate and influence the DDDC factor are:

- Square footage of premises
- Location (North Georgia vs. South Georgia)
- Gas Appliances on Premises
- BTU load for Gas Appliances
- Customer Behavior – Usage During 2 Warmest Points and 2 Coldest Months over the last calendar year

A total of 1,673,984 active customer accounts as of April 1, 2023 were used in the recalculation process, which is revenue neutral. DDDC factors were also recalculated for all premises in the AGL territory, in the event that customers decide to establish gas service at inactive premises. To generate the true-up factor for each pool group, the pre-recalculated DDDC is divided by the total recalculated DDDCs in that pool group. The true-up factor maintains revenue neutrality for existing active customers across the system.

Staff verified that AGL was in compliance with the Commission-approved Tariff provisions 13.3.1 A thru L. This included reviewing components of the Georgia Customer Management Application System (GCMA), exception criteria, and the true-up process approved by the Commission on May 15, 2007. In the course of the analysis, Staff also:

- Examined the customers' usage information in the Georgia Customer Management Application;
- Acquired information as to factors that may have contributed to changes in some customers' DDDC factors;
- Manually verified the results of the DDDC calculations using a sampling of actual customer data; and
- Reviewed the process for the determination of exceptions, and a sampling of actual customer exceptions.

The manual verification process occurs for the accounts of active customers in which there is a substantial change from the previous year's DDDC to the recalculated DDDC. Manual verification was performed by AGL for 19,955 *residential* customers. Manual verification was performed by AGL for 15,468 *commercial* customers. Commercial customers include poultry houses and agricultural customers. AGL submitted the recalculated DDDC information to Staff on July 20, 2023.

Based on its analysis and the information submitted by the Company, the Staff recommended that the Commission approve the recalculation of the DDDC factors. The 2023 Recalculated DDDC factor went into effect on September 1, 2023.

Docket No. 41559: Atlanta Gas Light's Petition to Approve ECON-1 Tariff

On October 10, 2017, the Commission approved AGL's Economic Development Tariff (ECON-1 Tariff) as part of efficiency changes to AGL's customer growth initiatives. In January-June 2023, the Staff and AGL had numerous meetings to modify certain areas of the tariff language and craft a surcharge recovery mechanism for ECON-1 projects. The Staff and AGL agreed to modify the tariff to increase the annual limit on projects from \$15 million a year to \$25 million. The language was further modified to remove any reference to Georgia Rate Adjustment Mechanism (GRAM) recovery and include a discussion on a surcharge recovery. The ECON-1 surcharge was mirrored similar to the existing System Reinforcement Rider (SRR) in Docket No. 43820. By October 1st of each year, AGL will file for a new surcharge rate to be considered by the Commission for the following year. If the new rate is approved, it would become effective on January 1. On October 1, 2023, AGL filed for a 2024 surcharge of \$0.00.

The formerly approved ECON-1 projects will be recovered in the GRAM rate base, and any projects approved for 2024 and going forward, will be recovered through the ECON-1 surcharge.

Docket No. 42959: Liberty Utilities (Peach State Natural Gas) Corporation 2024 Annual GRAM filing

On October 3, 2023, Liberty filed with the Commission its 2024 Annual Georgia Rate Adjustment Mechanism (GRAM) pursuant to the stipulated agreement resulting from the Liberty 2020 Rate Case. In the initial GRAM filing, the Company requested the following:

- \$1.2 million rate increase to meet the revenue requirement
- General Inflation Factor of 5.11%
- Rate base of \$117,925,322

After reviewing the filing, Staff issued its 18th set of Data Requests (DRs) on November 3, 2023. On November 8, Staff issued a Supplemental filing to its 18th set of DRs. The company responded to both sets of DRs on November 20, 2023. The 18th set requested information regarding the rate base which included Schedule 2 and its workpapers. Rate base encompasses Plant in Service, Capital Spending, Allowance of Funds During Construction (AFUDC), Accumulated Deferred Income Taxes (ADIT), Customer deposits, effective tax rates, etc. Liberty has proposed a number of rate base additions through Capital Spending projects. These items included Automated Meter Reading technology, leak detection technology, cybersecurity improvements, and new-business interconnects to new RNG plants. Staff and the company met on Dec. 5 to discuss the 18th set related to rate base issues from WP 2-1-1 Plant in Service, WP 2-1-2 Capital Spending, WP 2-6 CWC, Customer Deposits, and other workpapers. The company agreed to adjust several items in the 2024 GRAM model to reflect agreed upon revisions in a future revised filing. On Dec. 6, 2023, Staff filed its 19th set of DRs related to the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) and operating expenses of the company for the forward-looking test year. On Dec. 14, 2023, the company responded to the 19th set of DRs.

Negotiations between Staff and the Company resulted in a lower revenue requirement. The items negotiated were error correction adjustments regarding plant additions made in incorrect accounts, separation of Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Expenses from Pension Expenses (which were inadvertently lumped together), removal of O&M costs associated with correcting customer billings as part of the Customer First Program implementation, and ensuring the model complies with the 2020 rate case. Staff and the Company reached a stipulation on January 4, 2024, to include the following:

- Reduction of revenue deficiency by \$138,266, resulting in a revenue requirement of \$1,079,813 to fully recover approved costs from the 2020 rate case including the revenue true-up (RTU).
- This revised GRAM filing will result in an overall rate increase of \$0.70 per month for residential customers, or an annual increase of \$8.40.
- Increases in Rate of Return from 9.43% to 9.52%.
- Increase in Rate Base Attributed to Common Equity from \$117,919,318 to \$117,925,322, or an increase of \$6,004.

Some of the Settlement items included in the stipulation are as follows:

- The decrease in the Revenue Deficiency was the result of the resolution of several items at issue within the Initial Filing of the GRAM. First, during the due diligence period, Staff and the company identified an incorrectly applied WP 2-1-1 Plant addition to account 39700 - Communication Equipment, which should have been applied to 37900 – Meas. & Reg – City Gate. Upon review, the company determined that correcting this account balance and depreciation amount would reduce the 2023 GRAM deficiency by \$71,290.
- In WP 2-6 CWC, Staff identified a larger than usual Pension expense adjustment for O&M. The company found that OPEB and Pension expenses were lumped together. The company corrected this error which had no effect on the revenue deficiency initially. However, after an actuarial study update of the OPEB expense amount, the revenue requirement was reduced by \$36,785 after this study was applied.
- O&M costs associated with the implementation of the Customer First program were removed. This was agreed upon earlier in the year, as the Commission was

made aware of software issues that billed customers incorrectly due to the Customer First Program. The revenue reduction associated with this removal was \$63,367.

On February 1, 2024, the Commission approved the GRAM stipulated agreement.

Docket No. 42959: Liberty Tariff Schedule 870 – Local Conforming Gas

At the beginning of 2023, Liberty Utilities approached Staff to discuss the transportation of Renewable Natural Gas (RNG). Staff had several concerns related to the production, transportation, and consumption of this product. First, Staff wanted assurances that the co-mingling of this product would not affect the integrity or the safety of the Liberty Utility pipeline infrastructure. Second, Staff wanted assurances that ratepayers for strata or traditional natural gas fed from a transmission pipeline or storage would not supplement the production or transportation of the renewable natural gas product to its voluntary customers.

Staff performed due diligence in this matter, meeting with a chemical engineer and reviewing industry standards for safe chemical parameters of transportation of RNG product. At the end of 2023, no RNG production facilities were in service. Such facilities would be produced at the cost of third parties. The incentive for production of RNG facilities would be to obtain a Renewable Identification Number (RIN) from the EPA, which is a marketable credit for the production and conversion of methane byproduct from landfills and stockyards into useable natural gas. Once the RNG passes from the producer to Liberty's pipeline interconnect through a metered connection, the RIN is earned and the RNG is injected into the city gate as chemically indistinguishable natural gas. Liberty is making this product available to transportation only customers under Schedule 870.

On July 17, 2023, the company filed a petition to approve Tariff 870. Staff met with the company during this time to discuss final matters relating to its presentation in the Tariff and the upcoming 2024 GRAM model as a revenue projection. On August 31, 2023, the Commission approved Tariff 870 and supporting documents.

Docket No. 42315: Atlanta Gas Light Company Georgia Rate Adjustment Mechanism (GRAM)

A. Quarterly Reports

In Docket No. 42315, AGL files quarterly reports that provide financial statements, customer numbers, DDDC numbers, full-time Employee numbers, Affiliate Transaction cost data, capital budget data, and Return on Equity (ROE) calculation. The Staff performs a due diligence analysis of the data to review financial trends, customer trends, and other relevant analyses. As a routine matter, the Staff issues data requests to gather additional information.

B. 2022 Revenue True Up (RTU) Filing

On March 1, 2023, AGL filed its 2022 RTU to true-up the actual revenue collected during the 2022 Rate Effective Period to the estimated tracking revenues associated with the 2022 GRAM. The GRAM Rate Effective Period is January through December of each year. As part of the 2022 GRAM Filing, the Commission approved estimated tracking revenues in the amount of **\$825,529,354**. The 2022 RTU Filing reported actual revenues totaling \$829,388,420. This also reflected a reduction of \$15,996 in a credit to the marketers. The total over-recovery was

\$3,875,042. The projected interest for the period ending December 31, 2024 was **\$378,062.** The total 2022 RTU credit applied against the projected 2024 GRAM revenue adjustment was **\$4,253,111.** On June 28, 2023, the Staff filed a statement confirming the 2022 RTU credit. This appeared in AGL’s 2024 GRAM filing Schedule-11a filing on July 14, 2023 and again in the revised filing December 7, 2023 as a revenue requirement reduction.

C. 2024 GRAM Filing

I. 2024 GRAM Filing

The timeline (six-month process) from the filing of the GRAM, the Staff review and Analyses performed, Meetings held with the Company, the issuance and review of data requests, and the approval by the Commission, has to be completed by December 31st of each year. On July 14, 2023, AGL filed its 2024 Georgia Rate Adjustment Mechanism (“GRAM”) Filing (“2024 GRAM” or “Original Filing”) with a Forward-Looking Test Year (“FTY”) of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. The Rate Effective Period (“2024 REP”) for new rates is the same as the forward-looking test year. The Historic Test Year (“HTY”) was the 12 months beginning August 1, 2022, and ending July 31, 2023. AGL’s 2024 GRAM filing had seventeen (17) files. The four (4) primary files were the following:

Attachment-A: 2024 GRAM Model

Attachment-B: AGL’s 2024 GRAM Capital Budget Components

Attachment-C: AGSC’s 2024 Capital Budget Components

Attachment-D: 2024 Peaking Service Rate Model

The other thirteen (13) files supported the 2024 GRAM Model. Attachment-B and Attachment-C was supported the 2024 GRAM model. The 2024 GRAM model provided the ratemaking items necessary for the Attachment-D 2024 Peaking Service Rate Model.

a. Proposed Revenue Adjustment

The total 2024 GRAM Proposed Revenue Adjustment is provided. The Operating Income attributed to equity was **\$185,921,163.** The reported ROE was 7.63% compared to the approved target ROE of 10.25%. On Schedule-11a, the ROE shortfall was 2.62% that was multiplied by the Rate Base Attributed to Equity percentage, 56%. This produced an operating income deficiency of **\$63,917,215.** When this was grossed up for income taxes at 133.86%. The proposed revenue adjustment increase was **\$85,560,069.** This was reduced by the 2022 RTU Adjustment, **(\$4,253,111),** the 2021 GRAM Carry Forward, **(\$693,022),** and the 10% Revenue Adjustment from the i-CDP, **(\$8,610,992).** AGL included a 6% Customer Billing Adjustment of **(\$19,006,054).** This provided a Total Proposed Revenue Adjustment of **\$53,124,980.**

II. Staff Analysis

a. The Review

The Staff thoroughly reviewed the Original Filing’s 17 schedules, 41 workpapers, and 17 supporting attachments in the GRAM model and 13 worksheets in the Peaking Model. The Staff reviewed items that impacted rate base. On August 29, the Staff issued its 42nd Set of

Data Requests to gather information on WP 2-1 Plant in Service and WP 2-2 Accumulated Depreciation. On the same date, the Staff issued its 43rd Set of Data Requests to gather information on WP 2-3 CWIP, WP 2-4 RWIP, and WP 2-5 AGSC Allocated Rate Base. On the same date, the Staff issued its 44th Set of Data Requests to gather information on WP 2-6 ADIT, WP 2-7 CWC, and WP 2-8 Customer Deposits. AGL filed responses to Staff's data requests on September 15th. The Staff also reviewed items that impact Operating Income, which included the WP 4 and WP 5 group of workpapers. The revenue information is transferred to Schedule-4, and the O&M information is transferred to Schedule-5. The results on those schedules were transferred to Schedule-3 for the Operating Income calculation. Schedule-3 also receives information related to Schedules 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, WP 2-3, and WP 2-8. The Staff also reviewed these items and developed an "issues" lists. Additionally, the Staff reviewed the Peaking Model and its supporting components that were transferred from the GRAM model.

b. Staff and AGL Meetings

On August 29th, the Staff and AGL had a meeting to allow the Company to ask clarifying questions related to Staff's 42nd, 43rd, and 44th Sets. The DR's were filed after the meeting. On September 7, 2023, the Staff and AGL had a meeting to discuss issues with WP 5, to address the O&M presentation. On October 24th, the Staff and AGL met to discuss the forty-eight (48) items on the issues list. The result of the two meetings was that forty-five items with issues were resolved. Three items remained unresolved. Of the forty-five (45) items that were resolved, twenty (20) were clarifications or providing additional data. There were twenty-five (25) items that were agreed on pertaining to the GRAM Model and Peaking Model changes. The changes will make both models more accurate and efficient to review.

III. Revised GRAM Filing Revenue Adjustment and Rate Impacts

After a December 5, 2023, meeting between the Staff and AGL, the Company filed a revised GRAM Model on December 7th, and an additional filing on December 8th to include missing files. The Staff reviewed the GRAM Model and the Peaking Model and found that they met the agreed to changes discussed in prior meetings. The revised Rate Base Attributed to Equity was **\$4.363 billion** with a ROE of 7.54% for the FTY under current rates. The revised Operating Income totaled **\$184,215,653**.

The ROE shortfall of 2.71% was multiplied by the Rate Base Attributed to Equity, **\$2.443 billion** to obtain the Operating Income Deficiency of **\$66,243,843**. This was grossed up for income taxes for a Proposed Revenue Adjustment of **\$88,674,512**. AGL then applied the 2022 RTU Refund of **(\$4,253,111)**, the 2021 GRAM Carry Forward of **(\$692,022)**, and the 2022-2024 10% i-CDP adjustment of **(\$9,014,105)**. This resulted in an Adjusted Revenue Adjustment of **\$74,714,273**. AGL then applied what it calls a 6% Customer Bill Commitment Revenue Adjustment that reduced the Adjusted Revenue Adjustment by **(\$21,717,384)**. The Total Proposed Revenue Adjustment was **\$52,996,889**.

The revised 2024 Peaking Model provided a ROE shortfall of 3.40%, and it was multiplied by the Rate Base Attribute to Equity, **\$106,392,372** to obtain the Operating Income Deficiency of **\$3,613,573**. This was grossed up for income taxes for a Proposed Revenue Adjustment of

\$4,837,155.69. The Peaking Service Rate increase was calculated by dividing the Proposed Revenue Adjustment in Row-43, **\$4,837,155.69**, by the Total Peaking DDDC, 28,815,139, or an increase to the current rate of **\$1.07** by **\$0.17** per customer per month. The new monthly Peaking Service Rate will be **\$1.24**.

As provided in Schedule-11e, AGL provided rate impacts. These proposed and approved rates can be found in Column-II, and this is compared to the current rates in Column-I. The rate difference can be found in Column-V. The approved rates will be effective for the Rate Effective Period of January 1st – December 31st, 2024.

During the December 19, 2023, Administrative Session, the Commission approved AGL's Revised 2024 GRAM Model with a rate increase of **\$52,996,889**. The new rates will be effective January 1, 2024. The Commission approved the 2024 Peaking Rate Service Model with a rate increase of **\$4,837,153** with a new Peaking Service Rate of **\$1.24** per month. The new rate will be effective January 1, 2024.

Docket No. 43404: 2021-2024 Regulated Provider

As of December 1, 2023, the Regulated Provider reported a total customer count of 27,778 compared to 29,662 reported on December 1, 2022. The Regulated provider reported that of the 27,778 customers, 10,433 were Group-1 customers. The Department of Human Services (DHS) uses the same guidelines to qualify Group-1 customers as those established for the Federal Low-Income Housing Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Group-2 customers are those who cannot obtain service from other marketers due to poor credit or no credit.

By the end of 2023 (as of September), the Commission had approved a total of \$636,504.75 in Universal Service Fund (USF) Disbursements. This is in comparison to the \$678,357 approved by the end of 2022. These funds provide assistance to the Regulated Provider (SCANA) for bad debt recovery for Group 1 customers, pursuant to the Consent Order approved on July 6, 2021. The Regulated Provider is not entitled to funds for Group 2 customers' bad debt recovery.

SCANA made changes to its billing system that affected its Regulated Provider filings. The total number of customers no longer matched what AGL filed on their market share. Staff worked with SCANA and agreed to SCANA filing a sworn notarized statement with the number of Group-1 customers for Staff to review.

Docket No. 43510: Atlanta Gas Light Company's Year 2024 Universal Service Fund Facilities Expansion Plan

A. Background

Commission Rule 515-7-5-.02 states that, consistent with O.C.G.A. [§46-4-161](#), the Commission is authorized to create and establish regulations to administer a universal service fund for each gas company that elects to become subject to the provisions of Article 5 of Chapter 4 of Title 46 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, and which satisfies the requirements of O.C.G.A. [§46-4-154](#).

B. Chatham County Project – Igneo

At the conclusion of the USF 2023 Plan, the Commission issued an Order on December 13, 2022, approving the Chatham County Project for Igneo and the Alamo Segment 3 Project of the 2023 Plan. Under the Commission's Order, the recovery of the estimated \$28,126,896 for the Igneo Project was to be recovered. On May 16, 2023, AGL filed a petition, that in part, requested a withdrawal of the Igneo Project. The petition stated that on April 26, 2023, Igneo informed AGL that it would be suspending the project indefinitely. On September 19, 2023, AGL filed an amendment to its USF 2023 Plan.

On September 1, 2023, Atlanta Gas Light Company (AGL) filed a Notice of Filing 2024 Universal Service Fund (USF) Facilities Expansion Plan. AGL stated it would file Minimum Filing Requirements on or before October 1, 2023. Through discussions with AGL, the primary reason for the delay was more time was needed to complete the engineering estimates for the proposed projects. The Company considered moving the stakeholder process to earlier in the year to allow it enough time to process the engineering estimates in order to comply with a September 1 filing date. The Staff suggested that AGL file a waiver to Commission Rules to allow the company time to ensure that the new time period requested will be sufficient.

On October 2, 2023, AGL filed its Year 2024 Universal Service Fund Facilities Expansion Plan. AGL filed the seven required minimum filing requirements (MFR).

On October 6, AGL filed a First Amended 2024 Plan filing to include revised petition language. On November 16, AGL filed a Second Amended 2024 Plan filing to update project estimates. On November 21, AGL filed a Third Amended 2024 Plan to update additional project estimates.

As part of the USF 2024 Plan, AGL provided five potential projects for consideration. In MFR-1, the project details were discussed. Below is a synopsis of each project. It should be noted that the three residential projects were included in the 2023 GRAM but weren't approved to move forward.

1. Glynn County Project #1 – Residential
2. Glynn County Project #2 – Residential
3. Cherokee County Project – Residential
4. McIntosh County Project – Commercial
5. Athens-Clarke County Project - Commercial

C. Staff Analysis

The Staff reviewed the filing to ensure that all MFR details were provided, and that they were whole and complete. On October 19, the Staff issued its 14th Set of Data Requests to obtain additional information on each project. This included tariff Rule 7 assessments on the residential projects, tariff Rule 8 assessments on commercial projects, and tariff ECON-1 assessments on all the projects. The purpose of the assessments was to obtain a better understanding of the other possible sources of funding for the projects. The Staff analyzed numerous items.

During the December 19, 2023, Administrative Session the Commission approved the following:

- a. The Commission denies the three Residential projects, Glynn County Project #1, Glynn County Project #2, and the Cherokee County Project because of low economic value.

- b. Of the **\$18,782,801** approved for the Chatham County Project for Igneo approved on December 13, 2022, in Docket No. 43510 and Docket no. 41559 as part of the 2022-2023 ECON-1, **\$13,954,253** will be approved for Project Forage (Wal-Mart) in Lowndes County that was filed with the Commission on December 13, 2023.
- c. Of the **\$19,657,977** requested for the McIntosh County Project, the Commission approves that the remaining 2022-2023 ECON-1 funding of **\$4,828,548** allotted for the Igneo project be used for the McIntosh County Project, and the remaining **\$14,829,429** needed will be funded by USF.
- d. The Commission approves the withdrawal of the Igneo Project to allow its funds to be used for Project Forage and the McIntosh County Project.
- e. The Commission approves the Jackson County Project in the amount of **\$150,663**.
- f. The Commission approves the Athens-Clark County as an ECON-1 project in Docket No. 41559 using the 2024 ECON-1 funding in the amount of **\$1,321,203**.
- g. Commission denies AGL's language in its October 2nd petition third paragraph sentences 4 and 5 and the October 6th petition third paragraph and third sentence and approved Staff's language from the Commission Rule 515-7-5-.07(1), which states:

The disbursements to the EDC for completed projects will be for actual costs that are below the EDC's 5% budget cap for that Annual Plan year. The disbursements for completed projects will be limited to unencumbered funds in the USF. For any amounts that exceed the 5% budget cap or the unencumbered USF funds, those amounts will go into the EDC's rate base for ratemaking purposes.

Regarding g., in the beginning of 2024, the Commission ultimately approved petition language that Staff and AGL agreed to.

Docket No. 43820: AGL's 2022 – 2031 Integrated Capacity and Delivery Plan (i-CDP)

The Commission, in its December 19, 2019, Administrative Session, voted to approve a motion to resolve the issues of the fully litigated general rate case in (Docket No. 42315) filed by AGL on June 3, 2019.

On January 28, 2021, AGL and Staff filed a Joint Stipulation establishing a Long-Range Comprehensive Planning Process that is in compliance with Commission Orders (the Stipulation Governance Document).

On April 28, 2021, in accordance with the Commission-approved Stipulation Governance Document, AGL filed the first i-CDP filing for 2022 – 2031, which included projects and budgets for the first three years, 2022 – 2024. The Commission approved capital budgets for the GRAM, the new SRR surcharge for certain capital projects, and the Cherokee LNG expansion. The Staff reviews quarterly reports to track actual capital budget and O&M budget spending.

A. GRAM

See the GRAM section on pages 28-31 for 2023 activity.

B. SRR

In Docket No. 43820, AGL filed quarterly reporting on the SRR capital budget and the approved SRR projects, Staff compared the approved 2023 capital budget to the actual capital budget activity in the quarterly reporting. Staff found no material issues. Additionally, Staff reviewed the project costing ledger and invoices related to the capital expenditures and found no material issues. Staff reviewed the SRR surcharge model and found no material issues.

C. Cherokee LNG Expansion

Atlanta Gas Light Company filed Quarterly Reports for the Cherokee LNG Expansion Project (the Project) in compliance with Appendix A of the Stipulation approved by the November 18, 2021, Order in Docket No. 43820 (the i-CDP Order) approving AGL's amended 2022-2031 i-CDP. The Stipulation approved by the i-CDP Order required that AGL submit Quarterly Reports to the Staff that document the execution of the progress of the Project.

Quarterly reports have been filed on May 25, September 5, and November 30, 2023. As part of Commission oversight, Staff visits the site periodically and issues Data Requests regarding the status of the LNG building process and costs as needed.

In October 2023, Staff toured the construction-in-progress of the new LNG tank being built in Cherokee county. Staff was able to view the outer shell, supporting liquification and vaporization equipment, and speak to construction managers on site. Staff also viewed the construction-in-progress of drainage improvements for the LNG retention pond.

Docket No. 44093: Bryan County Mega Site

Staff's investigation of the Bryan County Mega Site began in 2021, to determine the operator capable of serving this Economic Development. The customer seeking service at the Mega Site is Hyundai Motor Company. Hyundai is constructing an electric vehicle manufacturing plant, which will attract additional business and revenue to the nearby area. By 2023, it was determined that the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia (MGAG) would be the operator for the project. Throughout the year, MGAG has kept Commissioners and Staff apprised of any new developments that have taken place thus far. Such developments include but are not limited to executed agreements, estimated load, changes in load, costs, and pipeline construction and installation. Per Staff's latest updates from MGAG, pipe installations are completed and over 10,000 feet of pipe have been installed. The meter station has also been installed, and Hyundai is in the process of procuring gas. Staff continues to stay apprised of the situation.

Docket No. 45083: 2023-2024 Liberty Utilities Gas Supply Plan

Liberty Utilities filed its Design Day Forecast on June 1, 2023. The methodology used in the forecast statistically determines with 95% confidence the peak day firm load requirements of Columbus and Gainesville service areas, the appropriate 5% capacity reserve margin, and any associated turnback of capacity. The forecast model is developed from regression analysis, which analyzes historical data to predict customer usage. The model is analyzed for validity and stability using the following indicators, tests, and charts: R-squared statistic, the Durbin Watson statistic, the Quandt Andrews Breakpoint test, and the cumulative sum for recursive errors. These tests identify the precision in which the model explains the relationship between the variables. In addition, these tests identify autocorrelation, breakpoints, and irrelevant outliers. Per the 2022-2023 Gas Supply Plan Stipulated agreement, this Design Day Forecast

methodology uses an HDD step factor, which is an additional variable included in the regression analysis that compensates for increased consumer demand when temperatures are forecasted to be above a certain Heating Degree Day threshold.

On June 14, Staff issued its first set of Data Requests (DRs) and the company responded on June 29. On June 30, the company filed its 2023-2024 Gas Supply Plan. The Plan identified the interstate storage and peaking assets needed to meet the Company's forecasted peak demand for its approximately 55,832 customers in the Gainesville and Columbus service areas. Staff reviewed both documents and ensured that they met the Commission's Minimum Filing Requirements. Immediately after receiving the Gas Supply Plan, Staff began its analysis, and in doing so, issued its 2nd set of DRs which were filed on July 14. The Company responded to the data requests on July 31, and Staff met with representatives of Liberty Utilities to clarify any further outstanding items. On August 8th, the company filed a supplementary filing to exhibit statistical outcomes using two different independent variables related to the Heating Design Day. This did not affect the outcome of the Gas Supply Plan.

On September 8, 2023, Staff and the Company filed a stipulation to resolve all issues in the Gas Supply Plan, with supporting testimony. On September 28, 2023, the Commission voted to approve the 2023-2024 Gas Supply Plan for Liberty Utilities. This Gas Supply Plan is in effect until September 30, 2024.

Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity

Natural gas operators have the legal requirement to obtain a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity before they can construct or operate in intrastate commerce within Georgia. Specifically, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 46-4-21 et. seq. and Commission Rule 515-7-1-.01 et. seq., a natural gas operator is required to obtain a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for any pipeline or distribution system, or any extension thereof, for transportation, distribution or sale of natural or manufactured gas.

The Commission also implements the Countywide Natural Gas Safety Plan Rule (CWSP) (Commission Rule 515-9-7-.01). The rule was created to require natural gas operators to establish, in consultation with all other natural gas operators in a particular county, a safety-based boundary and emergency response procedures. The Natural Gas Unit and Facilities Protection Unit work jointly on CWSPs.

By the close of 2023, the Commission amended five certificates and granted one new certificate. The Commission has approved a total of 107 certificates affected by the CWSPs.

In 2023, Staff reviewed the following Countywide Safety Plan and Certificate amendments, and they were approved by the Commission, however, the Hall County and Gwinnett County Amended Certificates and CWSPs were agreed to by the operators by Settlement.

Docket Nos: 29322 and 30700: Bartow Countywide Safety Plan; Application of Atlanta Gas Light for Amended Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for Bartow County

Docket Nos: 29334, 30709, and 31852: Jackson Countywide Safety Plan; Application of Atlanta Gas Light Company for Amended Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for Jackson County; Liberty Utilities Application for Amended Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity

Docket Nos: 29324 and 44561: Cobb Countywide Safety Plan; Joint Application of the City of Austell, Georgia and Atlanta Gas Light Company for Exception from Commission Rule 515-7-1-.15(6)

Docket Nos: 29301 and 30331: Elbert Countywide Safety Plan; Royston Application of MGAG for Amended Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for Elbert County

Docket Nos.: 29330, 29331, 30706, and 30707: Dispute regarding Hall and Gwinnett Countywide Safety Plans

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

Atlanta Gas Light Company (AGL) and the City of Buford (Buford) reached a Settlement Agreement that resolved the Hall CWSP and Gwinnett CWSP as it relates to the territorial dispute between AGL and Buford. On January 4, 2024, AGL and Buford filed the Settlement Agreement and the Joint Motion of Atlanta Gas Light Company and the City of Buford for Approval and Adoption of the Settlement Agreement.

Under the terms of the Settlement Agreement, the Settlement Agreement does not become effective until and unless each of the following conditions is met:

1. The Commission approves the Settlement Agreement and the incorporated Hall CWSP and Gwinnett CWSP to the Settlement Agreement as a resolution to the Hall CWSP and Gwinnett CWSP, as well as AGL's Amended Certificates in Hall County and Gwinnett County. The Parties anticipate that the Commission will enter an Order adopting and incorporating the terms and conditions of this Settlement Agreement

2. The Commission's Order approving the Settlement Agreement includes language agreeable to AGL that reaffirms the Commission's policy and practice regarding Commission Rule 515-9-7-.01 as it relates to preventing multiple operators from serving within certain developments and subdivisions unless doing so is determined by the Commission to be unavoidable.

COMMISSION APPROVAL

On January 11, 2024, Staff recommended the following:

1. Approval of the settlement agreement between AGL and Buford
2. Approval of the consent agreements for the Hall and Gwinnett CWSPs
3. Approval of the Hall and Gwinnett CWSP amendments and associated amended certificates of public convenience and necessity
4. A waiver of all hearing requirements
5. Approval of the proposed order

Staff's recommendation received Commission approval at the January 16, 2024, Administrative Session.

2023 Universal Service Fund Audit by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts

On May 25, 2023, the Commission received an engagement letter from the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts (DOAA) with an intention of auditing the USF at the request of the House Appropriations Committee. The letter stated the audit would focus on three areas including:

- Determine the stipulations for disbursement of funds and use of spending;
- Assess companies' ability to utilize the fund; and
- Identify factors that affect the fund's balance.

On June 20, 2023, the Department of Audits had a meeting with the Commission to discuss its intent of beginning an audit of the USF. As a result of that meeting, on June 29, DOAA met with Staff to discuss requested information. On July 6, Staff provided a number of deliverables. Staff had numerous meetings with Audits to answer questions and provide additional information.

On November 28, the DOAA emailed the completed USF audit report to the Commission. It was published on the DOAA website on November 30 using the following link: <https://www.audits2.ga.gov/reports/summaries/universal-service-fund>

Liberty Utilities Customer First Consumer and Billing Issues

At the beginning of 2023, it was brought to the Commission's attention that Liberty Utilities had some customer service issues. The Commission's Consumer Affairs Unit received a high number of customer complaints during January.

It was determined by Staff that Liberty had utilized, too often, the number of estimated bills issued during the latter part of 2022, and January and February of 2023. Furthermore, during February 2023, Liberty sent over 400 inaccurate bills. Staff prepared a set of questions for the Company regarding these issues. The Company, in its first responses, explained that it had a problem with its billing system which triggered the high amount of estimated bills deviating from typical usage causing inflated bills. Liberty also stated that some of the estimated bills were due to the inability of some Field Service Representatives to be able to access meters adequately. Staff sent out a second set of questions to follow up on Liberty's previous responses. Liberty stated that all issues that caused the overestimation of bills had been corrected and that it was no longer experiencing the inaccurate bill problem from the previous winter heating season. Liberty sent revised bills to all affected customers along with an apology letter. Liberty also addressed staffing issues at its call center by increasing staffing, authorizing overtime and upgrading technology. Liberty updated bills to show, in a conspicuous manner, when the bill is an estimate. It stated that the new bill design is more transparent by detailing the customer's current charges.

Marketer Touch Base Meetings

Staff attended the AGL & Marketer EXPO held in Atlanta, GA in August 2023. This event commemorated the 25th anniversary of deregulation of the natural gas industry. Commissioner McDonald, former Commissioner Wise, and AGL discussed the highlights and challenges of the deregulated natural gas market, from its beginning. Representatives from various departments in the Company discussed the scope of its responsibilities. Other topics discussed

were natural gas vehicles, natural gas environmental concerns, the growing natural gas customer base, billing process, and technologies.

Terms and Conditions of Service and Disclosure Statement

In September 2023, Staff received Gas South's proposed changes to its current Terms and Conditions and Disclosure Statement, that specifically addressed the discontinuation of its Budget Billing plan due to compatibility issues with their CIS system. Staff meticulously conducted a comprehensive review process that ensured compliance with relevant rules and regulations related to the matter. After discussions with Gas South, Staff made the necessary amendments to the Terms and Conditions and Disclosure Statement. Gas South accepted the changes and officially filed the revised Terms and Conditions and Disclosure Statement on November 27, 2023.

SCANA sent proposed changes to its Terms and Conditions that included the addition of a new optional carbon neutral plan. The proposed new carbon neutral plan included a per therm adder that will be incremental to the customer's regular per therm rate. The program would be subject to all other provisions of SCANA's Terms and Conditions of Service.

As of the closing of 2023, Staff is still reviewing SCANA's Terms and Conditions.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNIT

The telecommunications industry is indispensable to the state economy. Over the past 20-plus years, Georgia's Telecommunications and Competition Development Act of 1995 and the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 have had a great impact on the Commission's role in this vital industry. The goal of these statutes was to replace traditional regulated monopoly service with a competitive market. For competitive segments of the industry, the Commission does not set rates but instead facilitates market development by certifying new providers, arbitrating interconnection agreements, and resolving complaints among competitors.

The total number of active certificates in 2023 was 866, distributed among industry segments, as follows: 202 resellers of long-distance service, 37 alternative operator service providers, 244 competitive local exchange service providers, 90 interexchange service providers, 240 payphone service providers, 18 institutional telecommunications service providers, and over 35 incumbent local exchange service providers.

In Dec. 2022, 20 Tier II Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers (ILECs) filed applications for disbursements totaling \$34,473,613 for the 28th Universal Access Fund year covering the period July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022. All 20 applications were audited by Hurlbert CPA, LLC.

On October 21, 2023, the Commission approved disbursements for the 28th UAF year totaling \$34,409,294. The approved disbursements are listed below.

28th UAF Year (7/1/2021-6/30/2022)	
Company	Approved Disbursement
Alma Telephone Company	\$2,108,134.00
Blue Ridge Telephone Company	\$3,166,998.00
Brantley Telephone Company, Inc.	\$500,234.00
Bulloch County Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.	\$449,084.00
Camden Telephone & Telegraph Co., Inc.	\$1,641,444.00
Chickamauga Telephone Corporation	\$1,158,907.00
ComSouth Telecommunications, LLC d/b/a Hargray	\$1,602,645.00
Darien Telephone Co., Inc.	\$2,125,835.00
Glenwood Telephone Company	\$426,715.00
Hart Telephone Company	\$1,676,900.00
Nelson-Ball Ground Telephone Company	\$1,156,014.00
Pembroke Telephone Company, Inc.	\$270,426.00
Pineland Telephone Cooperative, Inc.	\$1,083,536.00
Plant Telephone Company	\$1,716,892.00
Planters Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.	\$1,747,884.00
Progressive Rural Telephone Co-op., Inc.	\$3,172,598.00
Public Service Telephone Company	\$3,339,622.00
Ringgold Telephone Company	\$2,426,315.00
Trenton Telephone Company	\$4,051,255.00
Waverly Hall Telephone, LLC	\$587,856.00
	\$34,409,294.00

House Bill 168, which took effect June 4, 2010, phased out intrastate access charges and allowed the lost revenue to be offset by higher basic local exchange service rates. Pursuant to the statute, the Commission first determined a statewide benchmark local service rate by calculating 110% of the July 1, 2009, residential statewide average rate for basic local exchange service. Next, the Commission set a schedule by which local rates would be increased to the benchmark rate. The approved schedule required basic local exchange service rates to increase by an amount not to exceed \$1.61 per month per year for a period of nine years with a true-up in the tenth year. For 2023, the statewide benchmark local service rate was increased to \$24.97, after adjusting for inflation.

Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS)

Hamilton Telecommunications has been the Georgia TRS provider since April 2006. Headquartered in Nebraska, Hamilton currently provides relay service in 33 states. Hamilton, known here as Georgia Relay, operates a call center in Albany, Georgia, seven days a week, 24 hours a day, employing over 180 communications assistants. In 2023, the Relay Center in Albany processed an average of almost 15,000 relay calls per month or 83,000 session minutes. The total cost paid from the TRS fund was \$374,952 for 2023. The TRS portion was \$229,684.

With Commission approval, Hamilton implemented Captioned Telephone Service (CapTel®) in Georgia in January 2008. An enhanced form of relay service, CapTel® allows individuals with hearing loss to view word-for-word captions of their telephone conversations. Over 1,300 subscribers now use the system, averaging over 14,000 calls per month or 76,000 session minutes. The cost of this service for 2023 was \$145,268.

Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (TEDP)

The Commission established the Georgia TEDP in March 2003 pursuant to the provisions of House Bill 1003. This program provides specialized telecommunications equipment to Georgians who, because of physical impairments (particularly hearing and speech), cannot otherwise communicate over the telephone. Receipt of free equipment under this program is subject to medical and financial eligibility requirements. In 2023, approximately 507 equipment items, which includes approximately 27 CapTel® phones, have been distributed to hearing or speech-impaired applicants. The Commission contracts with Georgia Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (GCDHH) to be the distribution agency for the Georgia TEDP. The cost of this service for 2023 was \$901,677.

Audible Universal Information Access Service (AUIAS)

In 2006 the Legislature created a statewide AUIAS to provide blind and print-disabled citizens of Georgia with telephonic access to print media publications. The law gave the Commission oversight of the service. Following a competitive bidding process, the Commission selected the National Federation of the Blind to administer the service. Since June 2006, the AUIAS has provided continuous audible universal access to all Georgia telephone exchanges, 24 hours a day, seven days a week and 52 weeks a year. The system is accessible by dialing a toll-free or local number anywhere in the state and has the capacity to serve an unlimited number of subscribers. Currently, there are over 2,900 subscribers to this service. The total number of Georgia citizens that could potentially benefit from this service exceeds 25,000, as

demonstrated by the number of current subscribers to the Georgia Library for Accessible Services. The cost of this service in 2023 was \$223,410.

Hearing Aid Distribution Program

In August 2007, the Commission approved the Hearing Aid Distribution Program according to the provisions of House Bill 655, which authorized use of TRS funds for the distribution of hearing aids. In May 2022, the Georgia Public Service Commission awarded the Georgia Charitable Care Network (GCCN) as the new Hearing Aid Distribution Program Provider to provide hearing aids to low-income Georgians. Under the current contract, GCCN received \$545,295 which includes \$4,500 for each child under the age of 20 and \$1,287 for each adult who qualifies for this program. There were 857 Adults and 29 children that were served by this program in 2023. GCCN partners with seven hearing aid manufacturers and maintains a network of over 47 audiologists throughout the state. The program distributed 732 hearing aids and 364 molds to 886 applicants in 2023.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY UNIT

In 2023, the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) Unit addressed energy efficiency (EE) and renewable issues that came before the Commission, issues required to be addressed by the 2022 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) Order and participated in Georgia Power Company's (Georgia Power or Company) 2023 IRP Update filing which was filed on October 27, 2023, in Docket No. 55378.

During 2023, EERE Staff and Georgia Power met to address aspects of Georgia Power's Renewable Cost Benefit Framework (RCB Framework) and Renewable Integration Study which is used in the valuation of renewable resources including behind the meter (BTM) rooftop solar.

In particular, the issues discussed included methodological differences regarding the Deferred Generation Capacity Cost component, the use of Economic Carrying Costs (ECC) of a combined cycle unit instead of a combustion turbine, and how to appropriately value the Renewable Energy Credit (REC) component. Staff and the Company filed a joint compliance filing report which was approved by the Commission on June 26, 2023.

In the Commission's 2022 IRP Final Order, Staff and Georgia Power were instructed to develop guidelines for establishing a Distributed Generation (DG) Working Group (DGWG) for the purpose of improving previous procurement practices to fulfill the DG procurements approved in the 2022 IRP Final Order. The DGWG was ordered to consist of five Commission Staff members, five Solar Association representatives, five Georgia Power representatives, and five members of the general public who were to be appointed by the Commission Chairman and subject to approval by the full Commission.

The DGWG kickoff meeting was held on November 1, 2022, with one meeting in December 2022 and three meetings during 2023. One of the main goals of the DGWG was to enable collaborative group discussion regarding the proposed DG request for proposals (RFP) and power purchase agreement (PPA) documents and to determine modifications that can be made prior to the posting of the Draft RFP and PPA documents on the independent evaluator (IE), Accion Power, website. The DGWG discussed several modifications to the 2023 DG RFP Draft documents. Georgia Power agreed to modify some of its proposed changes to address developer concerns before posting the documents for public comment. Staff identified four main issues that needed to be addressed by the Commission as part of its consideration and approval of the DG RFP Final Documents. These issues include (1) Georgia Power's participation in the upcoming DG RFPs, (2) Georgia Power's proposed changes to interconnection costs, (3) Georgia Power's proposed changes to when performance security is required to be posted, and (4) Methods for valuation and ownership of RECs included as part of the DG bids.

The 2023 DG RFP sought to procure approximately 193 megawatts (MW) of energy from solar photovoltaic (fixed-tilt or tracking) DG resources with facilities sized greater than 250 kilowatts (kW) up to 6 MW. In order to participate, a facility must interconnect to the Company's distribution system. If the facility is located outside of Georgia Power's service territory, a three-party agreement with the service territory's electric service provider (e.g., an Electric Membership Cooperative (EMC) or municipality) will be required. All Environmental Attributes produced by or related to the facility must be bundled with the energy procured under the DG RFP. On May 30, 2023, draft RFP and PPA documents were posted to the IE Website to allow potential bidders the opportunity to submit comments and offer revisions to the documents. On

June 8, 2023, Georgia Power conducted an online Bidder's Conference for potential Bidders and interested parties to discuss the 2023 DG RFP process and the draft RFP Documents with Georgia Power, Staff, and the IE. On August 3, 2023, the Final Draft of the RFP and PPA documents were posted to the IE website and filed with the Commission for consideration and approval. The Final DG Documents were approved, and the bid window opened on September 12. Contracting for these projects will begin in July 2024.

The EERE Unit worked with Georgia Power and the IE to develop Georgia Power's 2023 Biomass RFP to procure up to 140 MW of new biomass capacity and energy for Georgia Power customers. As approved by the Commission in its 2022 IRP Final Order, the Company will procure biomass resources up to 80 MW in size with expected commercial operation dates of June 2025 through 2029. EERE Unit Staff worked with Georgia Power throughout the process in developing the final draft 2023 Biomass RFP and PPA documents. On March 10, 2023, Georgia Power filed its final draft RFP documents for Commission approval.

Bid proposals for new or additional capacity must be fueled by biomass and bundled with the environmental attributes and all electrical products produced by or related to the production of such energy. In accordance with the Commission's 2022 IRP Final Order, Bidders were requested to provide a description of the number and nature of new jobs, if any, that its project will provide, the amount of new capital investment that will be put into such project, and other information relevant to economic development stemming from the project to support rural job and economic development growth in Georgia.

On February 1, 2023, draft RFP and PPA documents were posted to the IE Website to allow potential bidders the opportunity to submit comments and offer revisions to the documents. On February 16, 2023, Georgia Power conducted a Bidder's Conference pre-bid webinar. On March 10, 2023, revised drafts of the RFP and PPA documents were posted to the IE website and filed with the Commission for consideration and approval. After Commission approval of the final RFP documents, bids were due on May 12, 2023. EERE Unit Staff evaluated the submitted bids in parallel with Georgia Power and the IE. The current schedule anticipates that the Company will file executed PPAs for Certification with the Commission by June 2024.

EERE Staff reviewed Georgia Power's requests for the transfer of renewable resources between Commission-approved programs to help meet customers' renewable energy needs and to help ensure that 1,030 MW of previously approved renewable energy are procured. Through the Customer Renewable Supply Procurement (CRSP) program, eligible commercial and industrial (C&I) customers can purchase a subscription to receive hourly credits and RECs retired on their behalf. The 2023/2024 Utility Scale RFP failed to procure any resources resulting in a 500 MW deficit to the CRSP program and 1,030 MW of unprocured renewable resources. As part of the Company's request, resources would be transferred from an undersubscribed renewable program to the CRSP program to help meet the immediate renewable energy needs of C&I customers. Additionally, 1,030 MW of unprocured renewable resources would be added to the total procurement target for the Clean and Renewable Energy Subscription (CARES) 2023 US RFP and CARES portfolio. Similar to the CRSP program, the CARES program is designed to allow eligible C&I customers to subscribe to hourly energy credits and RECs associated with the renewable energy output from facilities in the CARES portfolio. Georgia Power also requested that the customers who have continued to wait for renewable energy that was not procured in the 2023/2024 US RFP be given priority access to the first 500 MW of renewable energy procured in the CARES 2023 US RFP. EERE Staff met with the Company multiple times to understand the flow of MWs from the approved renewable programs along

with the recovery of the associated additional sum to prevent double recovery. The Commission approved the transfer of these resources on October 3, 2023.

EERE Staff worked with Georgia Power and the IE, to develop Georgia Power's 2023 CARES Utility Scale Renewable RFP. Georgia Power rolled forward 1,250 MW that was unfilled from previous utility scale procurements for a total CARES procurement target of 3,350 MW. As approved by the Commission in its 2022 IRP Final Order, Georgia Power will procure up to 2,100 MW of utility scale renewable resources, including energy from up to 650 MW of Carbon-Free Energy Around-the-Clock (CFE-ATC) resources that leverage renewable resources with battery storage systems. Georgia Power will issue at least two RFPs to procure the total MW target. The 2023 CARES RFP will seek to procure 2,875 MW of Utility Scale renewable resources with anticipated in-service dates of 2026, 2027, or 2028. Georgia Power will accept bids for facilities where the generating capacity of the renewable resource is greater than 6 MW. A second CARES RFP is expected to be issued in 2025 to procure any unfulfilled utility scale resources. In addition to the renewable energy procured by the 2023 and 2025 RFP, Georgia Power may procure additional Utility Scale Renewable Resources, that are not CFE-ATC Resources, for the CARES Economic Development Program.

Bids were accepted for both existing and new facilities. Awarded contracts for an existing facility would be in the form of either a Pro Forma Asset Purchase Agreement (APA) or Pro Forma Energy Only PPA, depending on whether Georgia Power or the bidder is the ultimate owner of the existing facility. Awarded contracts for a facility that has not yet been constructed, but meets the requirements of a Build Transfer Facility, would be in the form of a Pro Forma Build Transfer Agreement (BTA) or if the facility will be owned by the bidder would be a Pro Forma Energy Only PPA, Pro Forma Energy with Storage PPA, or a Pro Forma CFE-ATC PPA, depending on whether the facility includes a storage device and whether the facility being proposed would be a CFE-ATC Resource.

As required by the Commission in its 2022 IRP Final Order, Georgia Power will use a Best Cost analysis to evaluate bids and Company-Owned Proposals to one or more Solar Weighted Projected Avoided Costs (SWAC) Reference Benchmarks. The SWAC Reference Benchmark is a solar weighted projected avoided cost for a single Georgia Power generic single axis tracking solar profile modelled in one or more Georgia Power planning scenarios (e.g., MG0, HG0, MG20). A Best Cost Threshold will then be selected through the Best Cost Analysis to determine which projects are economically competitive. As part of the Best Cost Analysis, the evaluation of bids will focus on (i) the Contract Energy Price; (ii) the Purchase Price; (iii) the Projected Avoided Costs pursuant to the RCB Framework (iv) any transmission and distribution costs; and (v) a portfolio analysis to consider the impact of those costs. Once the Best Cost Threshold is determined in coordination with Staff and IE, bid ranking will be finalized.

On October 5, 2023, draft RFP, APA, BTA and PPA documents were posted to the IE Website to allow potential bidders the opportunity to submit comments and offer revisions to the documents. On October 11, 2023, Georgia Power conducted an online Bidder's Conference. On December 1, 2023, the Final Draft of the RFP documents were posted to the IE Website and filed with the Commission for consideration and approval. Bids were due on February 12, 2024, and Georgia Power will file executed PPAs and any selected Company-Owned Proposals, for Certification with the Commission by December 4, 2024.

During 2023, EERE Staff also oversaw Georgia Power's Demand Side Management (DSM) and EE programs that were approved during the 2022 IRP and DSM Certification. The Residential DSM portfolio reached 106% of its projected 2023 savings goal with the Behavioral

and Specialty Lighting programs exceeding their targets by over 15 gigawatt-hours (GWh) each. This overachievement made up for the underperformance of the Home Energy Improvement Program and the Refrigerator Recycling Plus Program. The Commercial DSM portfolio reached 41% of the approved 2023 savings goal. The combined savings for all programs reached 55.9% of the planned savings targets for 2023 while spending was 73.2% of the approved budget. Factors such as high interest rates and low occupancy of commercial buildings contributed to the underperformance of the Commercial programs. EERE Staff worked with Georgia Power to increase measure incentive levels to encourage participation with modest success. In the Company's 2023 IRP Update, Georgia Power requested to expand the Thermostat Demand Response program doubling participation from 25,000 to 50,000 customers.

EERE Staff worked extensively to research and plan for the funding from the Federal Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). The funds will be administered by Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) and could assist the EE programs with meeting their energy savings targets. EERE Staff has met with GEFA, Georgia Power, and various stakeholders to prepare for the funding allocation which is expected to begin during 2024 and will offer funding for equipment and programs similar to Georgia Power's current offerings. EERE Staff, along with Georgia Power, will work to synergize funding opportunities to ensure customers receive maximum benefits.

EERE Staff reviewed Georgia Power's Annual DSM True-Up to verify program spending and cost recovery. EERE Staff continued to provide oversight for Georgia Power's Prepay Program, which has continued to have strong participation and provides an alternative to traditional payment structures in the event that a customer has been shut off for non-payment. Residential Investment for Saving Energy (RISE) covered all the upfront costs of energy efficiency improvements and allowed the customer to pay for the investment as part of the customer's bill for up to 10 years or the average life of the energy efficiency measure that was installed. The RISE pilot was discontinued in 2023 due to lack of participation. The RISE pilot was approved as part of the 2019 IRP and was designed to serve up to 500 income-qualified homes in Athens, Atlanta, and Savannah areas. The pilot was expected to serve income-qualified customers; however, the pilot struggled to identify participants where the payback exceeded the costs.

Georgia Power's 2022 IRP outlined the DSM portfolios for 2023-2025 with an increase of savings targets of fifteen percent, as compared to the 2019 IRP portfolio, due to a commissioner motion. There are seven Residential programs and four Commercial programs for the 2023-2025 program cycle. Due to technology improvements and Federal and Georgia code changes, the focus of the programs is shifting away from lighting toward whole home measures, behavioral programs, and low-income focused offerings. The Residential programs, especially Residential Specialty Lighting, Home Energy Improvement Program (HEIP) and Energy Assistance for Saving Energy (EASE) (Formerly Home Energy Efficiency Assistance Program), are concentrated on serving income-qualified customers who may not have participated in previous DSM offerings due to cost barriers. Additionally, a new carveout for manufactured homes was created within HEIP to help ensure serving a diverse range of participants.

EERE Staff provided oversight to the execution of all program offerings agreed upon in the 2022 IRP including the ongoing development of new income-qualified offerings conducting detailed reviews of the Evaluation, Measurement and Valuation plans and surveys for all the Company's certified programs. EERE Staff is the facilitator for the DSM Working Group which met four times in 2023. The DSM Working Group consists of advocates, Georgia Power, and Staff who provide expertise to assist in the development of Georgia Power's programs in the upcoming 2025 IRP as well as feedback for current programs.

FACILITIES PROTECTION UNIT

The Facilities Protection Unit of the Georgia Public Service Commission is composed of two distinct areas: Pipeline Safety and enforcement of the Georgia Underground Facility Protection Act (GUFPA or Damage Prevention).

The pipeline safety function is carried out under an agreement with the Federal Pipeline and Hazards Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). Pipeline safety inspectors are responsible for enforcing federal regulations for the safe installation and operation of natural gas pipelines.

The Commission assumed responsibility for damage prevention efforts in 2000, following the passage of GUFPA. The goals of GUFPA are to prevent injury to Georgia citizens and to prevent damage to buried utilities by requiring those who want to perform mechanized excavation to call 811 before digging, so facility owners can mark the location of buried utility facilities to avoid damage.

Pipeline Safety

The Commission has safety jurisdiction over the following different classifications of intrastate natural gas operators:

Private	2
Municipal	78
Master Meter	56
Liquid Propane	3
LNG	1
<u>Intrastate Transmission</u>	<u>15</u>
TOTAL	155 Operators

Additionally, there are more than 2,238,893 services, with 47,611 miles of distribution main and 1,290 miles of transmission main. The total number of inspection units is 512.

Inspection numbers per inspector vary annually depending on inspection type, however, each inspector is required to have at least 85 inspection days per year. Each inspector must conduct a compliance follow-up inspection if there are current or remaining violations. Often, follow-up inspections can take as many days as the actual inspection.

2023 Statistics

Of Georgia's 159 counties, intrastate natural gas is transported through 149 of them. The table below illustrates the various types of inspections that were performed in 2023. One of the benefits of the quarantine was the increased technology for conducting inspections virtually, some of these inspections were conducted virtually.

<u>Inspection Type</u>	<u>Inspection Days</u>
Standard Comprehensive	279
Design, Testing, and Construction	133
Integrity Management	235
Operator Qualification	94
Investigating Incidents or Accidents	26.5
Compliance Follow-up	151.5
Public Awareness	4
Drug & Alcohol	37
TOTAL Inspection Days	960

During 2023, Pipeline Safety Staff recommended the following as enforcement actions:

Notice of Probable Violation - 18
 Notice of Amendment - 5
 Warning Letter - 0
 Letter of Concern - 7
 Observed Issue - 6
 No Violation Found - 68

Georgia Underground Facility Protection Act (GUFPA) Enforcement

Efforts to prevent damage to buried utilities in Georgia stem from the requirements of the Georgia Underground Facility Protection Act of 2000, which assigns responsibility for enforcement to the Georgia Public Service Commission.

Facilities Protection is one of the few areas where Commission jurisdiction extends beyond the electric, telephone, and natural gas industries. The Commission is responsible for enforcing Call Before You Dig laws for all utility facilities. In 2023, system owners and operators reported 4,714 incidents where facilities were damaged. As demonstrated in the following table, more than 65% of the damages were to natural gas lines.

Reported Damages in 2023	
Natural Gas	3,188
Telephone	777
Electric	267
Cable TV	411
Water	64
Sewer	7
Total Non-Gas Incidents	1,526
Total Damages Reported	4,714

Staff investigated 1,848 incidents for alleged violations of the GUFPA law. The enforcement actions in 2023 included mailing 310 hearing notices, 507 consent agreements, and 460 final orders. The Commission’s Hearing Officer heard 113 cases in 2023. Of the 1,110 cases closed, 854 were related to damaged natural gas lines. These cases concluded with the Commission levying \$2,348,500.00 in civil penalties, of which \$2,108,500.00 were mitigated with training. The remaining amount is deposited into the State’s General Fund.

To further help promote safety and education between the excavators and facility owners, the Commission gives violators of the Georgia dig law the option of attending safety training, instead of paying the full civil penalty assessed. The Commission-approved safety training classes explain the severity of possible damage when safety regulations are ignored, as well as provide education on the legal aspects of the damage prevention law. In 2023, 812 locators, excavators, and facility owners, and operators attended one of the 177 Commission-approved dig law training presentations.

Training and Pipeline Safety Seminar

The Facilities Protection Unit continually offers training opportunities to operators, as well as the option of requesting an informal conference to discuss any probable violations of the Federal or State pipeline safety rules. Pipeline Safety Staff has spent a great deal of effort traveling throughout Georgia to provide all natural-gas municipalities the opportunity to meet with Facilities Protection Staff, to discuss issues or concerns, or to inquire about the Staff’s expectations for inspections. The goal is to ensure the municipal operators located outside of Metro Atlanta have the same opportunities as the operators located in Metro Atlanta.

In 2023, Staff worked with our state municipal association to conduct the Pipeline Safety Seminar. This annual meeting is in cooperation with the Georgia Municipal Association to provide regulatory updates to natural gas operators. These seminars offer attending municipal operators the opportunity to meet the Director/Staff and discuss issues, ask questions, etc., on both pipeline safety and damage prevention. Facilities Protection Staff strives to build strong and effective working relationships between the Commission and natural gas operators to achieve the goal of pipeline safety and preventing damage to underground facilities.

NAPSR and NARUC

In 2023, Staff attended the National Association of Pipeline Safety Representatives (NAPSR) Annual conference in Minnesota. The Southern Regional Conference was planned to be held in Clearwater, FL, however, the Gulf Coast was hit by a hurricane and the meeting was canceled. The annual Regional Conference is held in one of eight Southeastern states and serves to have regional pipeline safety and damage prevention departments meet and discuss regulations and other topics. The Facilities Protection Unit Director is a member of NAPSR's Public Awareness and Damage Prevention Task Group and the Security Integrity Foundation Advisory Group-Board of Directors.

The Director is currently on the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Pipeline Safety Staff Sub-Committee. In this role, she attends annual and quarterly NARUC meetings to exchange ideas and discuss pipeline safety and damage prevention issues with the other states in attendance. This group also assists the NARUC legal counsel with any questions or concerns regarding budget funding for the states.

Additional Facility Protection Program Activities

Pipeline Safety Staff continued enforcement of the federal public awareness regulations, including, Drug and Alcohol, Operator Qualifications, Construction, Comprehensive Inspections, Integrity Management, etc. In addition, several Staff members participated in numerous on-site operator training classes to expose operators to in-depth information on specific regulations, policies, and procedures.

Facilities Protection had eleven inspectors at the end of 2023, which included a newly hired inspector who started in December 2023. The new inspector is required to travel to Oklahoma City to participate in and pass, numerous training classes focusing on different areas of pipeline safety and the Code of Federal Regulations for Pipeline Safety. Before completing certification, new inspectors are paired with seasoned inspectors. This allows the new employee to train under the more experienced employee, which is invaluable for this work, given the steep learning curve.

ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

In 2023, the Commission maintained the highest standards in performing administrative functions, enabling the Commission to better serve the public through the most prudent use of its resources. The Commission worked within the constraints of its budget to promote efficiencies and maximize the use of taxpayers' monies to fulfill its mission.

The Commission's Administration Division, headed by the Executive Director, is comprised of the Executive Secretary, Fiscal and Budget Office, Human Resource Office, Public Information and Legislative Liaison, the Office of Operations Support and the Office of Consumer Affairs. An overview of the responsibilities and accomplishments of each of these is set forth below.

Executive Secretary

The Executive Secretary's Office is responsible for receiving all public documents filed at the Commission. The Executive Secretary's responsibilities include scheduling Commission proceedings, assigning hearing officers, signing and certifying Official Orders, and preparing lists of interveners for docketed matters.

The Office opened 570 new case dockets in 2023; processed 4,623 filed documents; and filed 1,045 orders prepared for the Chairman's and Executive Secretary's signature. The number of dockets has grown tremendously over the past two decades.

The Commission held – at the Public Service Commission hearing room or via zoom – 78 public hearings constituting either a quorum of the Commission or a hearing officer assigned by the Commission. Matters docketed for public hearing are generally heard by the entire Commission in open session with a majority of the five-member Commission constituting a quorum.

Regular Commission Administrative Sessions are held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Committee Meetings are held on the Thursdays prior to Administrative Sessions. The four standing Committees of the Commission are Facilities Protection, Telecommunications, Energy and Administrative Affairs.

Fiscal and Budget Office

The primary role of the Fiscal and Budget Office is to develop the Agency's Annual Operating Budget and monitor expenditures to ensure the Commission's compliance with all of its fiscal responsibilities. This task is accomplished in conjunction with the Executive Director, the Commissioners, and the Commission staff through interactions with the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) and the Legislative Budget Offices. The Office manages the fiscal responsibilities of the Commission through recommendations and monitoring of requests for the Agency's state and federal funding, purchasing, asset management and accurate financial reporting to federal, state and other agencies as required or requested. In FY 2023, the Fiscal and Budget Office accurately monitored and effectively managed a budget with revenues and expenses of \$12.8 million dollars that was \$1.2 million more than 2022.

The Office continued to support state leadership by following directives to effectively develop and manage the budget, to meet the General Budget Preparation Procedures and the submission requirements of the Budget Laws and the Prioritized Program Budgeting process by utilizing the Planning and Budget Cloud Services (PBCS) system for submission of the

performance measures and budget requests, amendments, and allotments. Implementation and enhancement of the analytical and modeling tools allowed effective forecasting, proactive monitoring, and conservative spending of the state and federal funds.

The PSC continues to utilize PeopleSoft Financials for financial records, transactions, and operations allowing its financial information to be timely updated and readily available for OPB, Legislative Budget Offices and SAO to view as they need to.

Human Resources Office

The Human Resources Office is responsible for planning, organizing and directing a comprehensive human resource services program for the Commission. This includes personnel and position management, labor relations, staff development, equal opportunity, recruitment and placement, succession planning, HR system administration, compliance reporting, employee benefits and services, and time and labor transactions.

The Commission continues to use a hybrid model consistent with the Governor’s updates on COVID-19 restrictions. An analysis of Commission work shows productivity holding steady.

In 2023, the Commission lost 7 staff members: all 7 left for other opportunities. Five new staff members were hired. At the end of 2023, the Commission employed 84 staff members. Staff demographics as of December 31, 2023:

	Percentage		
Years of Service	2023	2022	2021
30 years +	6%	2%	3%
20 years +	18%	19%	22%
10 years +	24%	28%	33%
5 years +	23%	17%	21%
Less than 5 years	29%	34%	21%

	Percentage		
Ethnicity	2023	2022	2021
Black/African American	42%	43%	39%
Hispanic/Asian/Indian/Other	6%	7%	4%
White	52%	50%	57%

	Percentage		
Gender	2023	2022	2021
Female	48%	47%	44%
Male	52%	54%	56%

Age of Employee	2023
65 +	12%
55 +	26%
45+	29%
35 +	19%
25 +	13%
Under 25	1%

In summary, recruitment of qualified candidates continues to present a challenge. The Commission continues to explore all options. Human Resources is a strategic partner in replenishing open positions with highly qualified individuals. Overall, the Commission is proud of its retention rate.

Office of Operations Support

In 2023, the Office of Operations Support continued delivering IT services to the growing Georgia Public Service Commission. With the great help from funding allocated by the Georgia State Legislature, the department successfully recruited new talent. Concentrating the efforts on cybersecurity and data safeguarding, the team steadily enhanced operational efficiency and productivity by leveraging cloud technologies.

The team diligently worked to upgrade and enhance the IT infrastructure and migrate critical services to more robust platforms, ensuring reliability and scalability. The department's strategic efforts resulted in increased productivity, enhanced security, and improved user satisfaction across the entire agency.

With the partial telework policy, the Office of Operations Support persistently pursued an inventive approach by introducing and rolling out new technologies. Simultaneously, the focus remained on maintaining a robust system, ensuring availability and regulatory compliance for the Commission.

The Commission held 78 in-person, remote, and hybrid proceedings that were publicly broadcasted with recordings available on the Commission's YouTube channel via secure link: <https://www.youtube.com/georgiapublicservicecommission>

The agency's website remained a hub of activity, drawing numerous visitors who were able to access the regularly and timely updated content. While enhancing ADA compliance, the team maintained a strong focus on ensuring the site's effectiveness and usefulness for all Georgia taxpayers.

Public Information and Legislative Liaison Office

The Public Information Office (per O.C.G.A. §46-2-7) coordinates official Commission news releases, media contacts and, along with the Executive Secretary, maintains Commission public information files. The office also helps produce much of the Commission's website content and manages the agency's internal communications. As the Commission's Legislative Liaison, the office coordinates the Commission's legislative agenda and acts as the contact for legislators' needs from the Commission. In 2023, the office responded to numerous legislator inquiries, tracked numerous pieces of legislation that had the potential to impact the agency and the utilities it regulates, provided daily legislative updates during the General Assembly session, and coordinated the Commission's analysis of legislative proposals.

Local, state and national news media as well as utility trade press publications continued extensive coverage of Commission activities and proceedings including:

- Continued monitoring of the Vogtle 3 and Vogtle 4 expansion projects including the start-up of Unit 3 and construction cost recovery;
- The Georgia Power Fuel Cost Recovery Case;

- Georgia Power’s continued efforts to ensure Georgia Power successfully, safely, and economically stores coal ash.

In the 2023 General Assembly, legislators introduced a number of bills affecting state government, the Commission and utilities. The Commission monitored several bills including those described below.

PSC Related Legislation in 2023

House Bill 73, by Rep. Joseph Gullett and others. The PSC and the Attorney General’s Office have seen significant upticks in consumer complaints regarding bad actors in the residential solar power market. Although unsuccessful, HB73 attempted to curb these bad actors from preying on Georgians. The PSC will continue its legislative effort on this topic.

House Bill 227, by Rep. Rob Leverett and others. This legislation makes it a felony in Georgia to attack critical infrastructure. The PSC supported this legislation in writing and in person. The legislation was signed into law.

Senate Resolution 146, by Sen. Steve Gooch and others. Late in the 2022 legislative session, a special joint committee to study electric vehicle expansion and various needs for the expansion of charging stations was passed. Then-PSC Chairman **Tricia Pridemore** was appointed as one of the few non-legislators to serve on the committee. SB146 stemmed directly from this committee and passed in the 2023 session. The legislation makes it easier for convenience stores and gas stations to sell power for electric vehicles.

Office of Consumer Affairs

The Office of Consumer Affairs is the primary path for consumers to contact the Commission to make their concerns and issues known. Consumers convey these concerns and issues in the form of complaints, inquiries, or opinions, collectively referred to as a Consumer Response System (CRS) Case.

The main method that consumers use to contact the Commission is by telephone. The Office of Consumer Affairs has a total of six staff members that answer all calls coming through the Automated Call Distribution (ACD) Phone System. Incoming Spanish calls are routed to a bilingual staff member for assistance. There is also an Asian descendant translator available from the Asian American Resource Center.

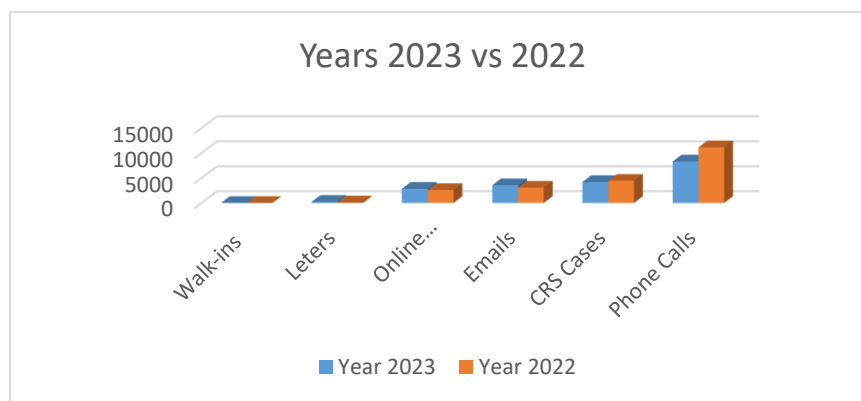
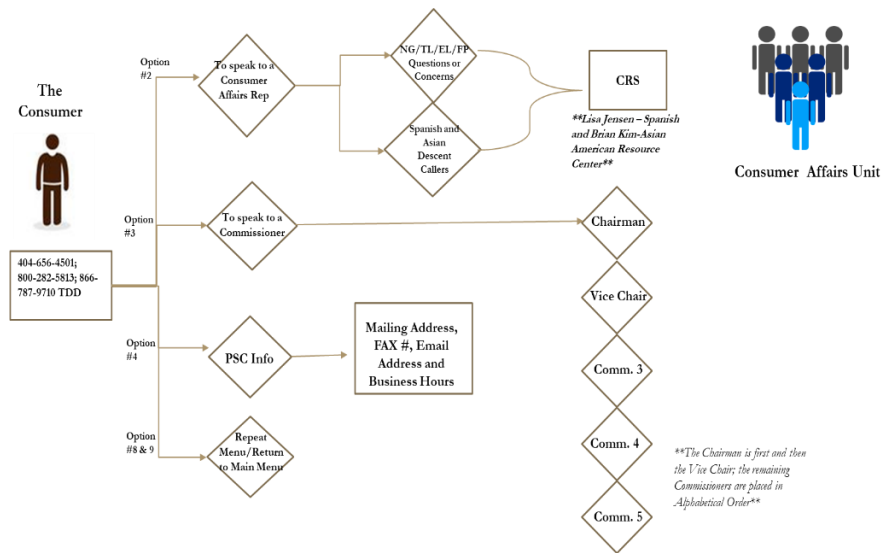
Inbound Contacts

The total number of calls reported by the ACD for Year 2023 was 8,307 (this includes Spanish and Asian calls). E-mail contacts continued to be the second preferred method of reaching the Commission in 2023 with a total of 3,548. Thirdly, there were 2,830 Online CRS Cases and this was an increase of approximately 300 from 2022. The total paper correspondence in 2023 (letters and faxes) increased to 209. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions that were put in place in 2020, we have had a decrease in walk-in consumers over the past few years and 2023 was no exception as there were only 3. In all, Consumer Affairs – Information Referral Specialists processed 4,190 inquiries, complaints, and opinions from the general public in 2023.

Some of the contacts received from consumers will require referral or follow-up by a Consumer Affairs staff member. Contacts requiring referral or follow-up are recorded in CRS. Referrals are the contacts that staff send via e-mail to the utility companies for a response. Follow-Ups include making calls or sending e-mails to the representatives of the utility companies as well as correspondence to and from consumers.

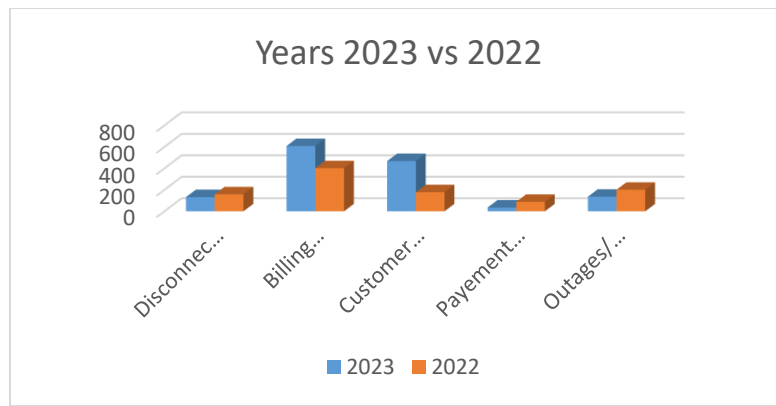
Hot Topics

In 2022, we experienced a higher call volume, emails and letter correspondences from consumers that wished to express their opinions regarding Georgia Power Company's Integrated Resource Plan and Rate Case, but in 2023 the call volume decreased by 3,000. There was an uptick of 113 in online complaints as it appears that consumers are being more proactive by utilizing the online system and uploading their own documents.



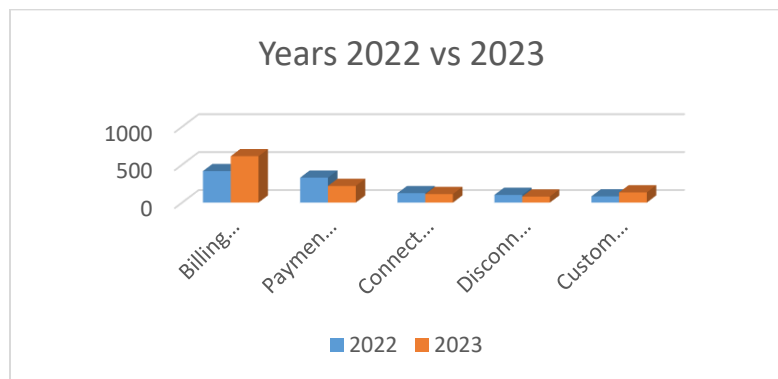
Electric Consumer Issues

Electric CRS Cases totaled 1,379 in 2023. This is an increase of approximately 300 from 2022. It appears this increase was a result of the rate increases associated with the 2022 Georgia Power Rate Case and Vogtle Prudency hearings. The chart below illustrates that billing charges and access to customer service remain the major issues for electric consumers.



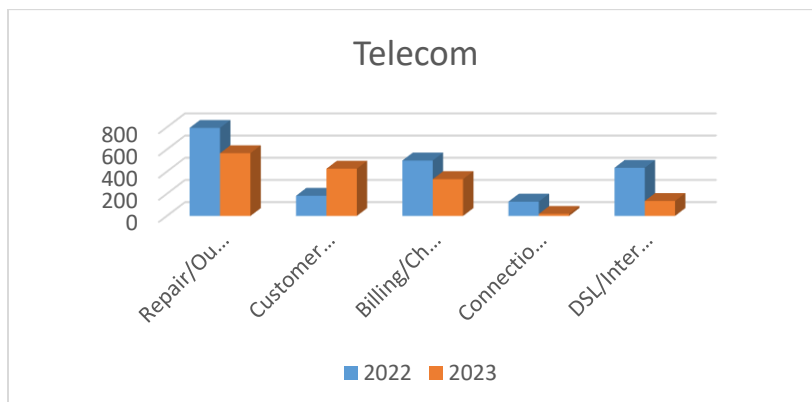
Natural Gas Consumer Issues

Natural Gas CRS Cases totaled 1,160 in 2023. The major Natural Gas issues for 2023 were calls concerning billing issues/charges and customer service call centers. The calls coming into the Office of Consumer Affairs were heavy beginning in October and continuing through January 2024. Due to the inclement weather during these months, many consumers were concerned about their bills and making payment arrangements.



Telecommunications Consumer Issues

Telecommunication CRS Cases totaled 1,477 in 2023. The major telecom issues for 2023 were calls concerning repair/outage and customer service. Customer Service issues increased due to Telecommunication Companies relying more on automated services. There were also problems with new developments losing service due to construction within the area. Additionally, cases increased when the Commission voted to expand Telecommunication and Internet Service to the rural areas in South Georgia.



NOTEWORTHY COMMISSION ACTIVITIES IN 2023

Vogtle Unit 3 Goes Online



Persevering through construction delays, cost overruns and a global pandemic, the Vogtle Unit 3 nuclear reactor went online July 31, 2023. It is now delivering power to an estimated 500,000 Georgia households and businesses. This is the first operational U.S. nuclear plant constructed in more than 30 years. Unit 4 is expected to become operational in 2024. Both are expected to deliver zero-emissions energy for 60 to 80 years.

Completion of the Unit 3 project spurred hearings at the Georgia Public Service Commission to determine which construction costs must be paid by Georgia Power and which can be passed to the ratepayer. The PSC Public Interest Advocacy Staff and several intervenors entered into a stipulated agreement with Georgia Power. It was approved by the Commission and will save ratepayers more than \$2.6 billion.

PSC Backed Significant Legislation in 2023



PSC Commissioners supported significant legislation during the 2023 Session of the General Assembly including a new law that will increase penalties for those who would attack critical infrastructure and another that will help Georgia prepare for the expansion of electric vehicle usage.

Senate Bill 146 helps neighborhood gas stations expand into the EV charging business. The bill changes the calculation for electric vehicle charging from the current method, where consumers pay by the minute, to a new method, calculated by the kilowatt hour. The new law also creates safeguards to ensure fair competition between utility companies that offer vehicle charging and small businesses trying to get into the EV game. The language for the new law came directly from a study committee where then-PSC Chairman **Tricia Pridemore** served as a member.

Also passing during the legislative session, House Bill 227 increases penalties for attacks on state infrastructure, including power substations. Such attacks have been on the rise nationally with noted incidents in North Carolina, South Carolina, Utah, Oregon, California and Washington state.

While the bill was under consideration, all five PSC Commissioners signed a letter of support, noting that the PSC is the Constitutional body charged with oversight of investment in critical infrastructure for the largest utilities in Georgia.

Commissioner Jason Shaw Elected Chair of PSC



The Public Service Commission has unanimously elected Commissioner **Jason Shaw** as Chairman of the Commission. His two-year term as Chairman began on July 22.

He succeeds Commissioner Tricia Pridemore in the role. Pridemore, while continuing her duties as a Georgia PSC Commissioner, will also serve as the president of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners. Her tenure in that role begins in 2024.

Commissioner Pridemore Serves on Legislative Study Committee for Electric Vehicle Charging



Late in the 2022 session of the Georgia General Assembly, a bill that would have helped shape the expansion of electric vehicle chargers in Georgia fell short and did not pass.

Undeterred, House and Senate legislators passed a bill to create a special joint committee to study electric vehicle expansion and various needs for the expansion of charging stations. Then-PSC Chairman **Tricia Pridemore** was appointed as one of the few non-legislators to serve on the committee.

After months of hearings across the state — and after input from EV users, EV manufacturers, convenience stores, power companies, academics, and experts from every aspect of vehicle charging — the Study Committee released a list of recommendations. These recommendations led to omnibus legislation passed in the 2023 session.

Commissioner Johnson to Lead National Energy Committee



The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) has named Georgia PSC Commissioner **Fitz Johnson** to chair a new committee — the Task Force on Natural Gas Resource Planning.

The task force was established to provide utility regulators across the country with tools, expertise and platforms to share information as they create energy policy for their respective states.

This initiative is supported by the Department of Energy Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management, Office of Policy and the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy and will be staffed by the NARUC Center for Partnerships and Innovation. The task force has been commissioned to work for two years.

Commissioner Echols Appointed to Chair Nuclear Committee at National Association of Utility Commissioners



The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) appointed Georgia Public Service Commissioner **Tim Echols** to chair NARUC's Nuclear Waste Sub-Committee.

The NARUC Committee now chaired by Echols will bring the brightest minds around nuclear energy to three national conferences each year. Echols said there will be a focus on small modular reactors. (SMRs)

Echols has long served as Vice-Chair of the Sub-Committee and is seen as an expert in the field of nuclear energy and reprocessing. As he has since 2014, Echols represented the United States at the World Nuclear Exhibition held in France November 28-30, 2023.

Commissioner McDonald named one of Atlanta’s 500 “Most Powerful Leaders”



PSC Commissioner **Lauren “Bubba” McDonald** was named by Atlanta Magazine as one of the city’s 500 “Most Powerful Leaders.”

The magazine pointed to McDonald’s 20 years of service in the General Assembly, his years of work on the Public Service Commission and his achievements in the private business sector.

McDonald is on the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners’ Committee on Electricity and is an executive member of the Nuclear Waste Strategy Coalition.

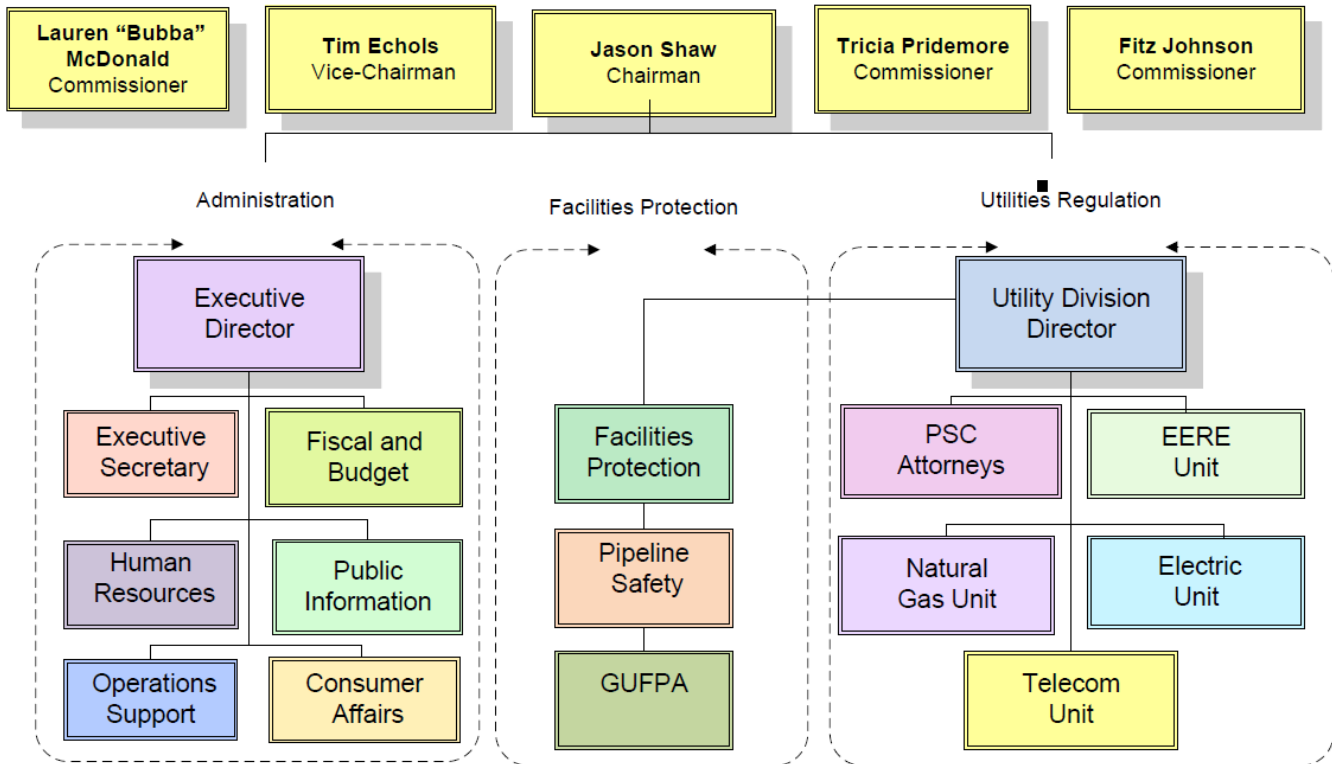
AGENCY BUDGET
Fiscal Year 2023 Budget

	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024 (AOB)
Revenue			
General Assembly Appropriations	10,544,213	11,603,054	11,872,624
Federal and Other Funds	1,101,321	1,237,836	1,343,100
Total	11,645,534	12,840,890	13,215,724
Budgeted Expenditures			
Personal Services	9,346,105	10,971,149	12,070,517
Regular Operating Expenses	736,284	778,794	226,000
Motor Vehicle Purchases	-	-	-
Equipment	126,880	114,037	9,000
Computer Charges	615,949	134,709	162,285
Real Estate Rental	676,759	669,559	501,332
Telecommunications	121,671	116,612	96,000
Contractual Services	21,886	6,030	150,590
Grants and Benefits	-	50,000	-
Total	11,645,534	12,840,890	13,215,724
Associated Revenue			
Regular Assessment Fees Paid Directly to Dept. of Revenue	1,050,000	1,050,000	1,050,000
Penalties and Fees Collected and Remitted to State Treasury	828,512	536,107	237,635
Total	1,878,512	1,586,107	1,287,635

***Note: Penalties and Fees
Collected in FY 2024 through
December 31, 2023**

PSC ORGANIZATIONAL CHART 2023

Georgia Public Service Commission



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