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GEORGIA CITIZENS TO ADDRESS PSC: "NOT ONE MORE CENT FOR VOGTLE"

Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC) public hearing: **10AM, 5/11/17, 244 Washington Street SW, Atlanta, GA 30334**

Press conference: **9:30AM, 5/11/17 directly across the street from PSC**

ATLANTA (5/11/17): Several local citizens groups are organizing a press conference immediately prior to the Georgia Public Service Commission's first public hearing since the consortium of companies building Vogtle reactors 3 & 4 went into financial free fall at the end of 2016.

Representatives of Nuclear Watch South, Georgia Women's Action for New Directions (WAND), Atlanta Grandmothers for Peace, Aging Raging Rate Payers (ARRP), Center for a Sustainable Coast, and Concerned Ratepayers of Georgia, will be available for comment at 9:30AM, Thursday, May 11, 2017, directly across the street from the PSC at 244 Washington Street SW, Atlanta, GA 30334. The PSC's public hearing is scheduled to begin with public witnesses at 10AM, followed by Georgia Power witnesses who will testify in the 16th Semi-Annual Vogtle Construction Monitoring Review.

In general, the groups are calling for the PSC to grasp and use its authority to subpoena information from Georgia Power and move rapidly to protect Georgia ratepayers from the steady flow of \$23 million per month from consumers to Georgia Power via the CWIP (Construction Work in Progress) tax AKA Nuclear Construction Cost Recovery tariff. Nuclear Watch South recently filed a formal request with the PSC to hold an emergency public hearing about Vogtle construction future, and to give Georgia Power a deadline to file information pertinent to deciding the future of Vogtle 3 & 4 construction.

Nuclear Watch South is a grassroots environmental group and among several citizen groups intervening legally at the PSC on the Vogtle docket. Nuclear Watch South is releasing updated Georgia Power performance data which includes the company's recent 2016 annual report filing. Analysis of 10 years of Georgia Power data shows that power from Vogtle 3 & 4 is not needed as electricity demand is down overall and the company has one-third of its power portfolio idled in reserve. The group first presented Georgia Power's data and conclusions in 2014. Neither Georgia Power nor the PSC staff have ever refuted the data.

"Georgia Power's own data have shown for many years that Vogtle 3 & 4 are not needed," says Nuclear Watch South Coordinator Glenn Carroll. "Now, when the companies building the reactors are failing and the unfinished project is only one-third complete, is the perfect time for the PSC to 'decertify' Vogtle for failure to meet the public necessity test. The PSC needs to seize control of this situation which has been languishing for five months already. It is high time to call Georgia Power's hand."

Concerned Ratepayers of Georgia's Steven Prenovitz has tracked Georgia Power performance figures for decades, including during construction of Vogtle 1 and 2. Says Prenovitz, an economist, "Nuclear construction costs were not, and are not, controllable. This is why there have not been any new reactors built in the U.S. for more than 30 years." Concerned Ratepayers of Georgia are also legal intervenors on the Vogtle docket.

Georgia WAND is a social justice group aligned with the community living closest to Vogtle and sensitive to issues of workplace justice. Becky Rafter, Georgia WAND executive director says, "Georgia Power should be investing in sustainable, clean, transferable and equally-paid jobs and renewable energy, not natural gas or other dirty energy sources." She points to the recent City of Atlanta resolution to power city buildings by 100% renewable by 2025 as a signpost of the future and challenges Georgia Power to take a

hard look at its portfolio and to place workers and the environment at the center of its growth model.

Robert Searfoss is convener of ARRP-Aging Raging Rate Payers and compares Vogtle to a vortex sucking public money into a black hole of profit for Georgia Power. Searfoss says, "Everyone knows now what a financial mess Vogtle has become. It is clear and cannot be denied ..there is no happy face to put on. To keep taking money now from elderly, from residential folks...to take money now from anyone but stockholders is clearly wrong. We need to stop Vogtle now, take the hit, cut everyone's losses and move forward."

Atlanta Grandmothers for Peace are members of the Stop CWIP Coalition and share ARRP concerns about the impact on the elderly to pay the nuclear construction tax for a service they do not need and may never receive. Betsy Rivard, an active member of The Grandmothers, says, "We object to the grave injustice of Georgia ratepayers and U.S. taxpayers footing the \$10 billion bill for Vogtle, a power source that is not even needed. We are also deeply concerned for future generations. If Vogtle construction continues according to the plan, which is now obviously off-track, our grandchildren will still be paying for two unneeded radioactive waste factories when they are old and gray."

Center for a Sustainable Coast is a Stop CWIP Coalition member and rounds out the group roster with this perspective from Executive Director David Kyler: "Ill-advised manipulations – such as imposing corporate costs, in advance, on consumers - make the energy market anything but 'free.' This policy amounts to corporate welfare that benefits the privileged few at the expense of the vast majority. Moreover, by distorting the market price, such hidden costs are also impeding urgently needed transformation toward clean, fairly priced energy sources. It should be noted that these clean energy sources create many more jobs in proportion to capital costs than investment in fossil-fuels and nuclear power."

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RESOURCES AND LINKS:

Georgia Power 2006-2016 performance data: http://nuclearwatchsouth.org/pdfs/4-17_GPC%20Key%20Fin%20Stats.pdf

Nuclear Watch South: <http://www.nuclearwatchsouth.org>

Georgia WAND: <http://gawand.org>

ARRP: <http://www.vogtle vortex.com/>

Center for a Sustainable Coast: <http://www.sustainablecoast.org/>

Atlanta Grandmothers for Peace: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/218474211499645/>

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