



Contact:
Lauren "Bubba" McDonald, Jr.
Phone: 404-463-4260
www.psc.state.ga.us

Georgia Public Service Commission

244 Washington St S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
Phone: 404-656-4501
Toll free: 800-282-5813

For Immediate Release

10-12

FROM THE OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER LAUREN "BUBBA" MCDONALD, JR.

NEWS RELEASE

McDonald Calls for Repayment of Georgia Contributions to Nuclear Waste Disposal Fund

Atlanta, March 15, 2012 – Commissioner Lauren "Bubba" McDonald, Jr. says Georgia ratepayers need to be repaid their more than \$1 billion in contributions into the federal Nuclear Waste Disposal Fund before the state repays its more than \$757 million in loan obligations to the federal government for unemployment compensation benefits. "I believe there needs to be a true up," said McDonald during the Commission's Energy Committee meeting today.

"The federal government has taken Georgia ratepayers' money since 1982 to provide a site for the disposal of nuclear waste, yet all they have to show for it is an excavation in a mountain in Nevada," said McDonald. "The Obama Administration has killed the Yucca Mountain project meaning the federal promise to begin receiving nuclear waste in 1998 will never be fulfilled."

This is not the first time the Commission has called for repayment of Georgia ratepayer contributions. On February 2, 2010, the Commission adopted a unanimous resolution calling for the return of Georgia ratepayers' money paid into the Nuclear Waste Fund. McDonald noted that the federal government is legally required under the 1982 Nuclear Waste Policy Act to take spent nuclear fuel from nuclear plant operators and is financially obligated to repay expenses associated with onsite nuclear waste storage.

McDonald says, speaking only for himself, he also supports legislation sponsored by the State Labor Department to recover the cost of the payments for the federal unemployment loans.

Commissioner McDonald is in the fourth year of his six-year term on the Georgia Public Service Commission after having been elected in December 2008. He previously served on the Commission from 1998 to 2002 as well as serving 20 years in the Georgia General Assembly where he chaired the House Appropriations Committee. Commissioner McDonald's full biography can be found on the Commission web site at <http://www.psc.state.ga.us/pscinfo/bios/mcdonald.asp>.

###