



**Contact: Stan Wise**  
Phone 404-657-4574  
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

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### **From the Office of Commissioner Stan Wise NEWS RELEASE**

**Chairman Wise Calls for Reform in Funding for Nuclear Waste Facility; Opposes Multi-State  
Interim Waste Storage Sites**  
*Testifies Before House Energy Subcommittee*

Atlanta, September 12, 2006 — Stan Wise, the chairman of the Georgia Public Service Commission (Commission), in prepared testimony for the House Energy Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality, is urging Congress to support the Nuclear Fuel Management and Disposal Act (H.R. 5360) and end delays in building the Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository. Chairman Wise will testify on behalf of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) on Wednesday September 13, 2006 at 2 p.m. in Room 2322 Rayburn House Office Building.

In his prepared testimony, Wise said, “We continue to be concerned with delays in progress on the repository program. In the present fiscal year, \$750 million in fees are expected to be paid by utilities, from ratepayers, into the Fund, yet Congress appropriated only \$99 million for the same period. That means that 87 percent of the fees collected are not being used for their intended purpose.”

Wise also urged the Committee to oppose S. 2099, by Nevada Senator Harry Reid, that would authorize the Department of Energy to take title of spent fuel in dry cask storage and maintain it at reactor sites for an unspecified period at a cost that is likely to be billions of dollars per year. “Keeping the waste on-site is not what the utilities and their ratepayers have paid over \$25 billion for. The bill should be rejected,” Wise said.

Wise called on lawmakers to move cautiously on any interim nuclear waste storage proposals. “We need to know more about the costs and benefits before we consider whether it is appropriate to use the Nuclear Waste Fund to pay for interim storage. Until H.R. 5360, or something like it, reforms the Nuclear Waste Fund appropriations process, a dollar spent for interim storage is a dollar not available for developing the repository.”

The audio of the hearing can be accessed on the internet through the House web site, [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov)

Chairman Wise will also testify before the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee at 10 a.m. Wednesday in Room 2359 Rayburn House Office Building on the future of nuclear energy.

Commissioner Wise is currently chairman of the Georgia Public Service Commission. He is serving his second six-year term on the Commission, having been first elected in 1994 and re-elected in 2000. He previously served as Commission Chairman in 1997 and 1999. He is a past president of NARUC.

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