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From the Office of Commissioner Stan Wise
News Release

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Commissioner Stan Wise Demands Action on Nuclear Waste Repository

Atlanta, December 14, 2005 – Commissioner Stan Wise, concerned that recent federal action might cause more delays in the implementation of the Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Storage Facility in Nevada, met recently with Under-Secretary of Energy David Garman in Washington, D.C. to voice those concerns. The Department of Energy (DOE) recently directed the managing contractor Bechtel SAIC to devise a plan to change the direction in the design of the permanent repository at Yucca Mountain. Commissioner Wise is adamant that such a change in direction not be used as an excuse for further delay, failure to comply with existing law, or to place emphasis on reinventing the wheel.

“Continued delays in the completion of the Yucca Mountain repository and frequent reports of the Administration’s policy regarding reprocessing without establishing a date to remove the Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) and High Level Radioactive Waste (HLRW), is becoming a great concern to many nuclear utilities, state utility commissions and organizations such as the Nuclear Waste Strategy Coalition (NWSC) that nuclear plant sites are becoming permanent interim storage facilities.” Wise said.

Since 1983, Georgia electric ratepayers have paid over \$518.3 million into the Nuclear Waste Fund which with interest and return on investment now totals \$839.1 million, yet nuclear waste continues to sit on nuclear plant sites in Georgia. Georgia currently has two nuclear power plants in operation, Plant Hatch in southeast Georgia and Plant Vogtle in east Georgia. The plants are owned jointly by Georgia Power, Oglethorpe Power Corporate, Municipal Electrical Authority of Georgia and the City of Dalton. Current nuclear storage at these plants is expected to reach capacity by 2015.

Wise also met with staff members of the ranking Representatives on the House Energy and Commerce Committee. The Nuclear Waste Strategy Coalition facilitated the meetings.

Commissioner Wise is serving his second six-year term on the Georgia Public Service Commission. He was first elected in 1994 and re-elected in 2000. He served as Commission Chairman in 1997 and 1999.

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