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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FROM THE OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER STAN WISE NEWS RELEASE

WISE QUESTIONS FEASIBILITY OF MULTI-STATE CAP AND TRADE PROGRAM UNDER PROPOSED U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY CARBON DIOXIDE RULES

ATLANTA, July 28, 2014 -- Georgia Public Service Commissioner Stan Wise today called “insurmountable” the challenges in trying to establish multi-state plans to meet the proposed U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Clean Power Rules under Section 111 (d) of the Clean Air Act. Commissioner Wise participated in a Workshop on Regional Compliance Options for Section 111 (d) in Washington, D.C sponsored by the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) under a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy.

Wise noted that Georgia has been in a running dispute over water rights with its neighboring states Alabama and Florida for over three decades so expecting the three states to work together on a multi-state compliance plan is unrealistic. He said before Georgia would engage in a multi-state plan, Georgia needs EPA to get the state’s required reduction in CO2 emissions correct. “We didn’t get credit for converting a coal plant (Plant McDonough) to natural gas,” Wise said, “and the EPA numbers assume that our two nuclear power plants under construction are already in production, when clearly they’re not. Our staff is very surprised by the numbers that came down. It’s not a 30 per cent reduction but a 50 per cent reduction. In my state, it will cost reliability and it will cost ratepayers dollars.”

Wise called for more time for states to come up with their own plans, noting that navigating between various state agencies, the Governor and legislators is arduous and time consuming. “The give and take is difficult just within one state,” Wise said.

Other speakers included Joseph Goffman, Associate Assistance Administrator and Senior Counsel, U.S. EPA; Lisa Edgar, Florida PSC and NARUC First Vice-President; and several other commissioners from around the country.



Commissioner Stan Wise (second from right) takes part in NARUC Workshop on Regional Cap and Trade Programs

Commissioner Wise is serving his fourth six-year term on the Georgia Public Service Commission. He was first elected in 1994 and re-elected in 2000, 2006 and 2012. He is a past President of NARUC.



See his full bio at <http://www.psc.state.ga.us/content.aspx?c=/commissioners/stan-wise/>

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