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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FROM THE OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER STAN WISE NEWS RELEASE

Wise Appeals to EPA Head for Fair Treatment of Georgia under Proposed EPA Carbon Emission Rules; Asks for Extension of Comment Period

ATLANTA, September 9, 2014 — Commissioner Stan Wise, in a September 3 letter to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Gina McCarthy, says the EPA's draft rule to reduce carbon emissions from electric power plants, known as the proposed Clean Power Rule, will "place undue hardship on Georgia consumers." In the two-page letter to McCarthy, Wise says he is appealing to McCarthy's "sense of fairness" by sharing some insight into how the proposed rules might impact Georgia.

Wise says "the draft rule summarily discards billions of dollars in investment Georgians have made in state-of-the-art emissions controls on coal-fired units during my tenure." Wise points out that the EPA draft rule unreasonably expects natural gas units to operate greater than 70 percent of the time, regardless of whether it makes sense economically and without regard to the impact on customers.

Wise also writes that the draft rule "cancels out the benefits of our nuclear development." Wise says in approving the construction of two new units at Georgia Power's Nuclear Plant Vogtle, the Commission considered the potential carbon emissions reductions from those units. However, Wise says the draft rule penalizes Georgia for these advancements and "ignores the significant investment by making Georgia's goal more stringent than otherwise comparable states to account for operation of these new units."

Wise also adds that the four "building blocks" of the EPA proposal are all based on overly aggressive assumptions. "Even if Georgia could increase demand-side energy efficiency to 10 percent by 2030, it would create hardships on our ratepayers," Wise says. He adds that a 2012 Technical and Economic Achievable Potential Study evaluated similar aggressive targets and found that such levels of demand side energy efficiency have never been demonstrated on a sustained basis.

Finally, Wise requests an additional 90 days to file comments on the draft rule. "EPA's current deadline (of October 16) for commenting simply does not provide sufficient time to understand this far-reaching and complex proposal," Wise notes.

A copy of the full letter is available on the Commission web site on Commissioner Wise's My View page at <http://www.psc.state.ga.us/content.aspx?c=/commissioners/stan-wise/?tab=2>

FROM THE OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER STAN WISE
November 20, 2013

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

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