

**DOCKET NO. 29849:**

**In Re: Review of Proposed Revisions and Verification  
of Expenditures Pursuant to Georgia Power Company's Certificate of Public Convenience  
and Necessity for Plant Vogtle Units 3 and 4, Nineteenth Semi-Annual Construction  
Monitoring Report**

**DISSENT**

The nature of a stipulation requires Commissioners to adopt ALL sections in their entirety, without deletion or change. Because of this, I am a NO vote on Docket No. 29849 which includes the agreed upon stipulation by Georgia Power Company and PSC Public Interest Advisory Staff.

Sections 1 and 2 of the stipulation provide for continuation of the Plant Vogtle Units 3 and 4 Construction Project by verifying and approving \$526.4 million for the first six months of 2018, and does not verify and approve \$51.6 million related to Georgia Power's portion of a \$112.9 million administrative claim as part of the Westinghouse bankruptcy. These sections of the stipulation make sense for the continuation of the project. Both use sound judgment of expense review and continued oversight.

However, section 3 gives a 200% increase to PSC staff consulting services resulting in an additional \$2.6 million for ratepayers to absorb. Combined with section 4 and the elimination of VCM 20 reporting, these additional costs are not in the best interests of ratepayers at this time.

With less than 3 years until it's planned to move one of the units into rate base and go live, more transparency is needed, not less. More cost savings is needed, not more spending. Re-baselining this project this year is likely to come with increased costs, one staff member seeking additional consultants stated this very likelihood.

While costs of construction average more than \$100 million per month, I want as I believe all of my colleagues want, Vogtle units 3 and 4 to move quickly and safely into rate base as soon as possible. Any increase in spending should be allocated to getting more hands-on deck to build.

Any lapse in reporting should only come after several VCMs mark increased productivity, balanced budgets and a project significantly ahead of schedule.

I am supportive of nuclear power and the Plant Vogtle Project, but I vote NO because I do not agree with every part of this stipulation. A stipulation agreed upon while PSC Commissioners were under the ex parte rule. This removed elected Commissioners from the process of representing the people of Georgia in these negotiations. Public Service Commissioners are elected by the people of Georgia to represent their interests, and ensure a healthy utility environment that produces necessary services. If we're not in the room where it happens, we are not able to do just that. The PSC was warned about this possibility in the dissent to the ex parte rule adoption. "The people sent us here to deliberate, which requires one to communicate freely," a dissenting Commissioner warned. Which is just the case in this stipulation, since I read about its existence in the January 30, 2019 Atlanta Journal-Constitution, while under ex parte.

For the will of the people to be represented in this body, the PSC should revisit this self-inflicted rule.

I believe that the stipulation on Docket No. 29849 is flawed, therefore I vote NO.

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Tricia Pridemore  
Commissioner  
Georgia Public Service Commission  
February 19, 2019