



**For Immediate Release**

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**Georgia Women's Action for New Directions to hold press conference, distribute press packets regarding nuclear power in Georgia at Public Service Commission meeting**

**What:** Prior to the Public Service Commission meeting Tuesday morning to vote on removing risk sharing mechanism that would protect Georgia Power ratepayers from nuclear construction cost overruns, Georgia WAND will host a press conference and distribute to each member of the press a compilation of support materials as a guide to nuclear power in Georgia including financial reports, a chronology of the expansion at Plant Vogtle, and a list of relevant people and their contact information and much more

**Who:** Representatives from Georgia WAND, Sierra Club, Nuclear Watch South and Georgia Power rate payers will speak on the risk sharing mechanism to be voted on in the PSC meeting.

**Why:** The PSC recently withdrew their proposal for a risk-sharing mechanism that would have forced Georgia Power to pay, in part, for their own failures to stay within budget on the construction of two nuclear reactors at Plant Vogtle. Without this mechanism, the general public will be forced to finance all cost overruns to the \$ 6.1 billion project. Considering construction of Vogtle reactors 1 and 2 went over by 1200%, this could be a very hefty bill. The PSC will officially vote on the issue at Tuesday at 10 am, the last meeting currently scheduled for the year on Vogtle issues.

Georgia Power is planning the construction of two new nuclear reactors at Plant Vogtle near Waynesboro. This investment in high risk energy necessitates federal loan guarantees in the amount of \$ 8.3 billion from the U.S. Department of Energy. In order to qualify for these loans and afford processing fees, Georgia Power must increase its revenues from ratepayers, shifting the financial burden from their executives and stockholders to their customers.

**When:** Tuesday, August 2, 2011, 9:30 am press conference, 10 am meeting

**Where:** Public Service Commission, 244 Washington Street, SW, Atlanta, GA 30334,

**Statement to Press:** "It's time for the people of Georgia to speak out against the back room bargaining that persists between Georgia Power and the Public Service Commission. How much more money does Georgia Power have to extort from the people before we say enough is enough? Our silence will not protect us – not from the environmental burden of nuclear power, not from the safety risks and certainly not from the financial risks. Nuclear power expansion in Georgia is a move in the wrong direction," Bobbie Paul, Executive Director, Georgia WAND, said.