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Our 5 elected Georgia Public Service Commissioners hold positions of incredible power and responsibility. The decisions they will make in April will have state, national and international repercussions. Here is what is at stake:

### **The Climate Impact:**

Utilities have a critical role to play in our fight to stop climate change. As we follow the urgent call from the worldwide scientific community and move away from using fossil fuels in our cars, homes and businesses, it is critical that utilities lead the way and provide us with electricity that is generated using clean and renewable sources. Recognizing this, the US congress recently passed legislation that includes funding which makes building new clean energy infrastructure cheaper than building and relying on fossil fuels.

Despite this funding and the worldwide scientific communities urgent call to rapidly phase out fossils to avoid ever more dire catastrophic impacts, Georgia Power is seeking permission from our five Georgia Public Commissioners to greatly increase fossil fuel procurement and infrastructure. Not to keep our lights on, but to compete for new customers, over 80 percent of which are data centers that use massive amounts of electricity.

If our 5 Commissioners grant Georgia Power's request, cities and counties across Georgia won't be able to meet their clean energy goals. And it would set a dangerous precedent for other utility regulators. Duke Energy and the Tennessee Valley Authority are also seeking permission this year to increase their reliance on fossil fuels. If their regulators grant their requests, then critical 2035 targets to decarbonize our national electric grid will

already be out of reach. The United States would lose the opportunity to assume a leadership role and influence other countries to take essential climate action.

### **It is a social justice and climate justice issue:**

Georgia Power is choosing to ignore cost-saving clean energy alternatives such as solar and battery storage resources and instead is seeking approval for a major gas plant expansion project in Newnan, GA. These additional gas/oil turbines would heavily pollute our air, impacting communities across Metro Atlanta and beyond. This would cause greater negative health outcomes such as asthma, lung cancer, heart disease, etc.. for those most vulnerable from air pollution including children, low-income families, and communities of color.

Georgia Power is also proposing additional gas and coal power purchase agreements that would prevent the retirement of polluting coal and methane gas power plants in Mississippi and Florida. Further reliance on these fossil fuel plants would raise rates putting low-income and high-energy-burdened customers at risk of shutoff or having to make difficult budgetary decisions such as whether to pay for medicine, put food on the table, or keep the lights on.