

Summary of Under-Construction Reactors at Plant Vogtle

What's happening? Two new Toshiba-Westinghouse AP1000 reactors, a design that has never been built or operated in the world, with estimated costs approaching \$18 billion are under construction at Southern Company's existing Plant Vogtle near Waynesboro, Georgia in Burke County along the imperiled Savannah River. The Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC) reviews Georgia Power's semi-annual Vogtle Construction Monitoring report¹ and holds public hearings that allow for public comment. **The five elected PSC Commissioners need to hear the concerns of Georgia Power customers.**

How are you being affected? Anti-consumer legislation passed by the Georgia state legislature in 2009, Senate Bill 31, the "Georgia Nuclear Energy Financing Act," or Georgia's "nuclear tax," also referred to as "CWIP" for "construction work in progress," allows Georgia Power to charge their customers in advance for financing costs associated with building the proposed Vogtle reactors.² Customers are paying today for future Georgians' electricity, with no refund if a family moves away or a business closes or the project is cancelled. **Unless Commissioners look out for customers' interests, Georgia Power's shareholders will benefit while ratepayers bear the risk.**

The proposed Vogtle reactors are over budget. Original estimates were ~\$14.1 billion with Georgia Power's certified cost set at \$6.113 billion. Their portion has now increased to \$7.518 billion³ with over \$1.1 billion in outstanding litigation⁴ that could bring the total estimated project cost to nearly \$18 billion.⁵

The proposed Vogtle reactors are delayed. Original operation dates of April 1, 2016 & 2017 are now estimated at June 2019 & 2020; a delay of 39 months. In fact, expert witnesses for the PSC estimate September 2019 & 2020 and have concerns about additional delays as serious construction challenges remain.⁶

Delays cost money. Up to \$2 million per day and the longer the delay, the more Georgia Power customers will pay – not only in pre-paid financing costs from Georgia's nuclear tax but also for the overall project and for replacement fuel costs.⁷ The longer the project is delayed, the less "benefit" customers receive – benefits that may not be expected to occur for 60 years from now – not until the 2076-2080 time period!⁸

¹ The semi-annual Vogtle Construction Monitoring docket is #29849. At <http://www.psc.state.ga.us/factsv2/Docket.aspx?docketNumber=29849>.

² See <http://blog.cleanenergy.org/2014/10/01/money-and-power-how-much-will-georgia-powers-reactors-cost-us/>.

³ Georgia Power, Twelfth Semi-Annual Vogtle Construction Monitoring Report, Docket 29849, February 2015, Table 1.1, pp. 10-11. At <http://www.psc.state.ga.us/factsv2/Document.aspx?documentNumber=157249>.

⁴ Georgia Power, Staff Data Request No. STF-73, Docket 29849, April 28, 2015. At <http://www.psc.state.ga.us/factsv2/Document.aspx?documentNumber=158222>.

⁵ Georgia Power is 45.7% owner (remaining utility partners are Oglethorpe Power-30%, MEAG-22.7% and City of Dalton-1.6%). Based on current cost estimates, the project is ~\$16.5 billion, not including outstanding litigation costs and costs associated with delays beyond 39-months.

⁶ Direct Testimony of Steven D. Roetger and William R. Jacobs, Jr., Ph.D., Docket No. 29849, Twelfth Semi-Annual Vogtle Construction Monitoring Period, June 10, 2015, p. 10. At <http://www.psc.state.ga.us/factsv2/Document.aspx?documentNumber=158939>.

⁷ Direct Testimony of Philip Hayet on behalf of the Georgia Public Service Commission Public Interest Advocacy Staff, Docket No. 29849, Twelfth Semi-Annual Vogtle Construction Monitoring Period, June 10, 2015, pp. 3-4. See <http://www.psc.state.ga.us/factsv2/Document.aspx?documentNumber=155941>.

⁸ Hayet, pp. 18-19.

For families and businesses that are already struggling to make ends meet today, paying now for the increasingly expensive reactors of the future will only make this worse through higher electric bills.

Over \$1.1 billion has been collected from Georgia Power customers.⁹ Georgia's nuclear tax has been collected since January 2011 with an additional \$395 million approved for collection in 2015. This year, a Georgia Power household using a monthly average of 1000 kilowatt hours (kWh) will pay over \$75.¹⁰ And Georgia Power makes money on these pre-paid financing costs.¹¹

The Vogtle project still has a long way to go. Georgia Power has spent \$2.96 billion in cumulative construction and capital costs as of December 31, 2014¹² but has less than 25% of construction complete.¹³

Plant Vogtle is a water hog. Plant Vogtle doesn't only drain wallets. It is along the Savannah River, the 3rd most toxic in the country. More reactors will result in more pollution being dumped into the river and much more water required—competing with other important needs, including drinking water supplies. Expanding Vogtle could result in a loss from all four reactors of 84 million gallons a day (MGD) from the river. That's enough water to provide for 1.1 million Georgia residents daily.¹⁴

Clean, safe & affordable energy choices exist: Using less electricity through energy efficiency measures is the most affordable way to save people money on their electric bills while also protecting Georgia's natural resources and dealing with global climate change. Renewable energy choices such as wind and solar are affordable, less water-intensive options that pose far fewer risks.¹⁵

Voice your concerns with the PSC:

Contact the Commissioners today and reference docket #29849:

- Online via: <http://www.psc.state.ga.us/content.aspx?c=/commissioners/>
- Phone: (800) 282-5813
- Mail: Georgia PSC, 244 Washington Street, SW, Atlanta, GA 30334-9052

For more information, visit:

www.cleanenergy.org/2014/05/01/prevent-new-vogtle-reactors-in-georgia/

⁹ Hayet, pp. 24-25.

¹⁰ Calculate the monthly charge you pay for Georgia's nuclear tax or the "Nuclear Construction Cost Recovery Rider" here: <http://www.psc.state.ga.us/calc/electric/GPcalc.asp>.

¹¹ The PSC currently allows Georgia Power to collect its return on equity ("ROE") of 10.95% on these prepaid financing costs. See http://www.cleanenergy.org/wp-content/uploads/F_SACEbrief_9_10VCM_080814.pdf.

¹² Georgia Power, Direct Testimony of Alison R. Chiock, David J. Clem and David L. McKinney in Support of Georgia Power Company's Twelfth Semi-Annual Vogtle Construction Monitoring Report, Docket No. 29849, May 1, 2015, p. 4. At <http://www.psc.state.ga.us/factsv2/Document.aspx?documentNumber=158302>.

¹³ Roetger & Jacobs, p. 10.

¹⁴ Georgia Water Coalition Dirty Dozen 2014 report, <http://www.garivers.org/gawater/dirtydozen2014.html> and <http://blog.cleanenergy.org/2014/05/29/vogtle-reactors-guzzle-more-from-savannah-river/>.

¹⁵ See <http://www.cleanenergy.org/wp-content/uploads/FINAL-SACE-Technical-Comments-on-Clean-Power-Plan-120114.pdf>.