

COMMISSIONERS:

CHUCK EATON, CHAIRMAN
TIM G. ECHOLS, VICE-CHAIRMAN
LAUREN "BUBBA" McDONALD
TRICIA PRIDEMORE
JASON SHAW



FILED

APR 14 2020

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
G.P.S.C.

DEBORAH K. FLANNAGAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REECE McALISTER
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Georgia Public Service Commission

(404) 656-4501
(800) 282-5813

244 WASHINGTON STREET, SW
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334-5701

FAX: (404) 656-2341
www.psc.ga.gov

Docket No. 42516

ORDER ON COVID-19 COSTS

In Re: Georgia Power Company's 2019 Rate Case

DOCKET# 42516
DOCUMENT# 180678

On March 14, 2020, Governor Brian P. Kemp signed a public health state of emergency to address novel coronavirus and COVID-19 in Georgia. The same day, Georgia Power Company ("Georgia Power" or "Company") temporarily suspended residential disconnections and waived late fees for 30 days in response to the novel coronavirus pandemic. On March 25, 2019, the Company began discussions with the Public Interest Advocacy Staff ("Staff") regarding expected incremental costs associated with suspending disconnections and waiving late fees.

The Company had stated it would reevaluate the policy and time frame as the coronavirus situation developed. With the 30-day suspension period approaching, Commissioner Shaw offered a motion in the April 7, 2020 Administrative Session of the Georgia Public Service Commission ("Commission"). The motion:

1. Commencing March 14, 2020, Georgia Power Company ("Georgia Power" or "Company") has suspended disconnections for non-payment for all customers (Residential, commercial and Industrial) including prepay customers. Due to the continued uncertainty surrounding the duration of COVID-19 response, the suspension of disconnections shall continue until such time as the Commission terminates the suspension of disconnections for non-payment. The Company will keep the Commission abreast of conditions during the period of this suspension to aid the Commission in determining the timing for reinstatement of disconnections for nonpayment. The Company will report to the Commission on the level of delinquent accounts monthly during the suspension. All late fees will be waived during the period of the suspension of disconnections.
2. Customers will remain responsible to pay their bills and are encouraged to remain current with their payments. However, customers will not be disconnected for non-payment during the suspension period. Reasonable payment arrangements will be made available to customers.

3. The suspension of disconnections in response to COVID-19 is anticipated to lead to increased charge-offs. Georgia Power shall be allowed to defer the incremental cost of bad debt resulting from the suspension of disconnections for nonpayment due to COVID-19. The period over which such costs will be recovered shall be determined in the Company's next base rate case. The cost deferred will also be subject to review through the Annual Surveillance Reporting process. The storm damage reserve may be utilized to defer this cost. The Company and Commission Staff shall work collaboratively on establishing a methodology for identifying incremental charge offs resulting from the suspension of disconnections due to COVID-19. To the extent there is a disagreement on this methodology the Commission shall make the final determination on the appropriate methodology no later than June 30, 2020.
4. There may be other incremental cost resulting from COVID-19 that should be deferred to a regulatory asset. Commission Staff and the Company shall work collaboratively on determining whether deferrals are appropriate and, if so, identifying any eligible costs. To the extent there is a disagreement on whether deferrals are appropriate or, if deferrals are appropriate, the categories of costs to be deferred, the Commission shall make the final determination on whether to allow deferrals and on the appropriate categories of cost to be deferred, if any, no later than June 30, 2020. For any deferrals allowed under this provision, the period over which such costs will be recovered shall be determined in the Company's next base rate case and the storm damage reserve may be utilized to defer these costs.
5. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented disruption to the lives and daily activities of customers across Georgia Power's service territory. The Commission Staff is currently reviewing the 2019 ASR that was filed in March 2020. To help alleviate some of the financial burden on customers, the Company shall facilitate refunds to customers resulting from the 2019 sharing mechanism in 2020. The Company is not required to wait until Staff completes its review of the 2019 ASR to issue such refunds. Georgia Power may propose a date or dates for refunds to be issued; provided, however, that the Commission reserves its authority to set such date or dates on its own motion.

In its Administrative Session held April 7, 2020, the Commission approved the motion unanimously.

* * * * *

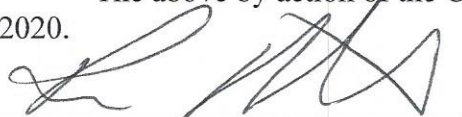
WHEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED, that the motion was approved.

ORDERED FURTHER, that all findings, conclusions, statements, and directives made by the Commission and contained in the foregoing sections of this Order are hereby adopted as findings of fact, conclusions of law, statements of regulatory policy, and orders of this Commission.

ORDERED FURTHER, that a motion for reconsideration, rehearing, or oral argument or any other motion shall not stay the effective date of this Order, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission.

ORDERED FURTHER, that jurisdiction over these matters is expressly retained for the purpose of entering such further Order or Orders as this Commission may deem just and proper.

The above by action of the Commission at its Administrative Session on the 7th day of April, 2020.



Reece McAlister
Executive Secretary

4-14-20
Date



Chuck Eaton
Chairman

4/14/20
Date