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October 9, 2026

VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

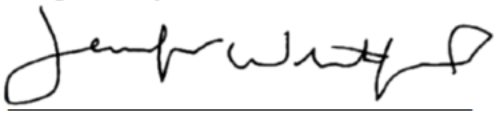
Ms. Sallie Tanner
Executive Secretary
Georgia Public Service Commission
244 Washington Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Re: Direct Testimony of Theodosia Wade; Docket No. 57243

Dear Ms. Tanner:

Please find enclosed an electronic version of the following **Direct Testimony of Theodosia Wade** to be filed in Docket No. 57243.

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Whitfield
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Counsel for Petitioners

BEFORE THE GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
STATE OF GEORGIA

Sustainable Newton, Sara and Randall ("Randy") Vinson, and Theodosia and William ("Billy") Wade, Petitioners, v. VoltaGrid, LLC, Respondent	Docket No. 57243

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF THEODOSIA WADE

October 9th, 2026

Q: PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME, TITLE, AND ADDRESS.

A: My name is Theodosia Rogers Wade. I am a resident of Newton County. My address is 1520 River Cove Road, Social Circle, GA 30025, where I have lived for almost 40 years with my husband, William B. Wade, Jr., who goes by Billy.

Q: MRS. WADE, PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR BIOGRAPHICAL, EDUCATIONAL, AND PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND.

A: Both Billy and I grew up in metro Atlanta and went to college in Clinton, South Carolina, where we met. We moved back to Georgia because Billy got a job as pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Covington, beginning in 1986. I worked as a senior lecturer and Professor of Pedagogy at Oxford College of Emory University in the biology department from 1988 to 2017. I taught a number of biology courses over that time, including the environmental science course which I taught for the last 15 years or so of my career. My passion for the natural world, my faith and my community inspired me to work with others to form Sustainable Newton in 2018.

Q: PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR PARTICIPATION IN SUSTAINABLE NEWTON.

A: I have been a founding and dues-paying member of Sustainable Newton since 2018. In addition, I am a past president and currently serve on several committees. Sustainable Newton is a grassroots, community-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Newton County, Georgia. Sustainable Newton partners with residents, businesses, and government officials to implement local climate solutions. Sustainable Newton's membership actively engages in government and community meetings to promote sustainable solutions including health and climate-protective air quality policies and to ensure that industrial facilities are in compliance with the laws designed to protect the

community. We are currently working with Covington and Newton County to help create data center ordinances for our community. Sustainable Newton is not just about discussing problems, but taking action in the community to make a difference on climate and public health.

Q: PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR LIFE IN NEWTON COUNTY.

A: Newton County is a wonderful place to live. It has a beautiful rural character and wonderful small-town communities in Covington and Oxford. As I mentioned, we moved here when Billy took a job as senior pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Covington, and we've been here for 40 years now. We raised our three children here, and two of our sons still live in the county with their families, including our grandchildren. Things that happen in Newton County do not just affect Billy and me, but also several generations of our family, not to mention friends and others in our community who have no voice. We care deeply about the people and the place. Billy has led, counseled, and cared for those in the First Presbyterian congregation for decades in addition to being a pillar of our community where he helped to start a number of our non-profits (Habitat for Humanity, The Newton Co. Community Food Pantry, Family Promise of NewRock). In 1990 he was awarded the I Have A Dream Award presented to a citizen of Newton County whose caring and concern has kept MLK, Jr's dream alive. I worked alongside a wonderful group of students, faculty and staff at Oxford College, and I still feel very connected to that community. Billy and I also both volunteer at the Newton County Community Food Pantry, and at a shelter for the unhoused, and we care deeply for those in our community who seek and receive help at those organizations. And, of course, I am active in Sustainable Newton and work with many people in our community to promote

sustainability, and to address harmful pollution and climate change through advocacy and our energy choices.

Q: HAVE YOU ADVOCATED ON UTILITY REGULATION OR ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES BEFORE?

A: I was very active in leading Sustainable Newton's first major project, Solarize Newton, which allowed folks in our community to take advantage of bulk pricing and add rooftop solar to their homes. In that process Sustainable Newton was also successful in getting the City of Oxford to remove their standby fee and the City of Covington to reduce their fee making it more economically feasible for residents to purchase solar. We attended a Covington city council meeting to show solidarity and advocate for removal of standby distributed generation fees. Solarize Newton led to the installation of sixteen solar projects, helping our community generate clean energy and reduce air pollution. More recently, the Environmental Hazards Committee that I am a part of has been actively following the ethylene oxide issue which stems from a medical device sterilization facility in our community. We commented on the changes to federal regulations and have worked with fellow citizens and advocacy groups in Georgia to make sure we are protecting our air quality. In addition, we have been following the BioLab fire incident in Conyers, which emitted a chemical plume that settled in our community for a day or two and even caused our schools in Newton County to close. Now we have turned our attention to the data centers along with their power plants popping up in our area which affect our water, energy, land, air, and wildlife. We obviously need data centers to support new technology, but we need to be proactive about

where we allow them to be built, reduce the impacts on water, land and air, and protect people and wildlife from noise, light, and other health concerns.

Q: WHAT CHOICES HAVE YOU MADE ABOUT ENERGY USE IN YOUR HOME AND LIFE?

A: We're in Georgia Power's territory, so we have to buy electricity from Georgia Power. I know we need powerplants in Georgia, but I am invested in ensuring that I am doing my part to help reduce that need. I also have experienced the impact the regulation of Georgia Power has had on my own electric behavior. We have a rooftop solar system that we installed a few years ago as part of the Solarize Newton Program to generate clean electricity and save money on our electric bills. We are participants in Georgia Power's net metering plan for residential solar, so we sell extra energy from our solar system back to Georgia Power at a reasonable price. We also have an electric car. I have worked over the years to figure out how best to charge it and drive it, and I'm glad we have a solar system to help offset the costs of charging our vehicle. We are also on the "time-of-use" plan, meaning we pay more for power during the day, and less at night. Both our "time-of-use" plan and our home solar panels help us contribute to a more efficient and cleaner power system. And our solar system provides excess electricity to the grid, providing electricity without air pollution and decreasing the need for Georgia Power to build more power plants.

Q: HOW WILL VOLTAGRID IMPACT YOU AND YOUR COMMUNITY?

A: VoltaGrid, despite being in Georgia Power's territory, is attempting to build a private power plant that will pollute our air and cause noise and light disturbances that could ruin the health and peace of our community. VoltaGrid will emit a lot of formaldehyde, which

is a cancer-causing pollutant. During my work in the biology department at Oxford College we used formaldehyde as a preservative for various specimens. Whenever students were doing dissections, we had to use proper personal protective equipment (masks and gloves) and work in well-ventilated areas many times under hoods so that professors and students would avoid contact with formaldehyde. We had to follow certain protocols for disposing of the dissection waste so as not to release formaldehyde into the environment. It was a big deal! I know that VoltaGrid will also emit particulate matter, like PM2.5, and smog-forming chemicals like nitrogen oxides. These pollutants will get into the lungs of my grandchildren, my children, and me, and will make all of us less healthy. And I worry about the other pollutants from burning natural gas like the greenhouse gases that change our climate.

I also fear for the impact on the wellbeing and vitality of my community from additional pollution. Billy and I both know neighbors, people in the congregation, and people who get help at the food bank who suffer from diseases like asthma and COPD, which can be made worse by the kinds of pollution that VoltaGrid will emit. I am also very concerned that the pollutants emitted by VoltaGrid could interact with and accumulate on the air pollutants that already impose health burdens on people within my community, like ethylene oxide and emissions from other fossil-fuel burning operations. The noise and light impacts from VoltaGrid will also negatively impact our lives and this community. We drive by the VoltaGrid parcel on a near-daily basis on our way to-and-from town and would be subject to noise and light pollution up close and frequently. I fear that the noise pollution could also travel as far as our home, and disrupt our peace and quiet and affect how we enjoy our property. We love spending time outside on our property.

Q: ARE YOU ANTI-POWER PLANTS?

A: No. I understand the need for electricity and power plants. But I do not want a polluting power plant in my community, without proper regulation by the Public Service Commission, just because a data center has been allowed to operate here. If Georgia Power were planning a gas burning plant next door, within our community, I would be petitioning the Public Service Commission to reconsider approving such a plant nested within the community. If the City of Covington were planning a power plant next door, I would likewise work with our elected officials to relocate the facility or to take measures to protect the community.

Q: DO YOU ATTEST THAT THE ASSERTIONS IN PETITIONERS' COMPLAINT, PARAGRAPHS TWO, THREE, FIVE, AND SIX ARE TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF YOUR KNOWLEDGE?

A: Yes, they are.

Q: DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?

A: Yes, it does.

VERIFICATION

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF NEWTON

Personally appeared before the undersigned officer, duly authorized to administer oaths in the State and County aforesaid, **Theodosia Wade**, who, after being duly sworn, deposes and says that the facts contained in the foregoing Direct Testimony are true and correct to the best of her information and belief.

This 9th day of October, 2026.

Theodosia R. Wade

Theodosia Wade

Sworn to and subscribed before me
this 9th day of October, 2026.



Katelynn Anglin

Notary Public

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this day, I have e-filed with the Commission the foregoing Direct Testimony of Theodosia Wade served by email to the following:

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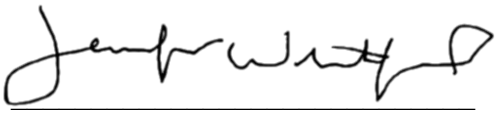
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This 9th day of October, 2026.



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