

For Immediate Release

November 25, 2019

Contact:

Brionté McCorkle, Executive Director, Georgia Conservation Voters Education Fund, brionte@gaconservationvoters.org - 478-919-5326

William Perry, Founder, Georgia Ethics Watchdogs Education Fund, watchdogwilliam@gmail.com – 678-358-6966 (text preferred)

The Georgia Public Service Commission Accountability Project Launches

GCVEF and GEWEF team-up to bring accountability to commission not known to many Georgia voters... but should be!

Atlanta, GA – Two organizations known under Georgia’s Gold Dome for very different missions have joined together on a project to bring accountability to the Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC). They will launch the project today at a press conference held at the PSC offices as the Commission conducts its [third and final hearing](#) to consider Georgia Power’s proposal to increase Georgian’s rates by at least \$200 or more per year.

WHAT: Launch of The Georgia PSC Accountability Project

WHEN: Monday, November 25, 2019, 11am

(note: the PSC will hold the Georgia Power rate case hearing beginning at 9am with public testimony estimated to run until 11am – media may arrive early for visual and sound of the hearing)

WHO: [Brionté McCorkle](#), Executive Director, [Georgia Conservation Voters Education Fund](#)

[William Perry](#), Founder, [Georgia Ethics Watchdogs Education Fund](#)

WHERE: Georgia PSC Offices, 244 Washington Street, Atlanta, GA 30334

(note: the public hearing is held in Room 110, the press conference will be held at a meeting room nearby, just ask for the “Accountability Project” at the front desk)

“I’m extremely excited to help bring accountability to a public body that has long flown under the radar of most Georgia citizens and voters,” said William Perry, Founder of Georgia Ethics Watchdogs and Georgia Ethics Watchdogs Education Fund.

“Under the watch of our Public Service Commissioners, Georgia Power has made risky decisions that benefit their own bottom line, decisions that they expect customers to pick up the bill for,” said Brionté McCorkle, Executive Director of Georgia Conservation Voters and the Georgia Conservation Voters Education Fund. “For years, Georgia Power has pumped cash into the campaigns of the public service

commissioners. These interests are not driven by the protection of Georgia's ratepayers, our environment or concerns about public health. They are driven by Georgia Power's profit motive."

Coming soon, the project will release episodes of "The Accountability Minute" – social media videos informing voters what they need to know about the GA PSC, and why the Commission should be accountable to them.

The groups also plan to create a webpage that tracks "influence dollars", a combination of lobbyist gifts and campaign contributions from those representing or benefitting from regulated entities, for the Commissioners as they become candidates for re-election.

"Influence dollars play a large role in steering public policy decisions on important issues. I normally steer clear of issue related work, even if its nonpartisan, because I like to keep a laser focus on ethics and transparency issues. However, from time to time, when I see public officials so out of step with the desires of their constituencies, I want to do all I can to bring about accountability. Georgians need education about the PSC to make sure the Commission is accountable to them, especially since this body continually makes decision that put special interests over public interests like unjustifiable rate increases and the Plant Vogtle Project," added Perry.

The groups chose to launch the project today to highlight the PSC's consideration of Georgia Powers' attempt to increase rates.

"What Georgia Power is doing is just plain wrong. It hurts customers, punishes conservation, and only helps Georgia Power's shareholders," said McCorkle. "The PSC was created to make sure the company doesn't take advantage of us ratepayers. They are the best option we have to keep Georgia Power accountable."

GCVEF has created a web page that Georgians who are serviced by Georgia Power can visit to see how much their bill would increase based on their current usage under Georgia Power's proposed plan -- www.DontRaiseMyBill.com.

###