

**QUESTIONS FROM THE GEORGIA SOLAR ENERGY ASSOCIATION
FOR ALL 2018 PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION CANDIDATES**

April 17, 2018

Section I – Power Resource Allocation

- A. Do you think the current factors used to determine the resource mix for power generation (i.e. capital investment, operations and maintenance, taxes) are sufficient? What additional factors – air quality impacts, water quality and water use, and land use impacts, for example – should be included in managing Georgia’s power generation decisions?

Any metric that includes more, rather than less (particularly environmental factors in the determination of the resource mix) should be included. The elephant in the room is water. Nuke plants suck the most of any source but to ignore the impacts of Nat Gas from my neighborhood’s nearby Chattahoochee would be a mistake. The water lost because of the 2500 megawatts of generation is breathtaking and not talked about in the current conversation. So yes, open up the environmental element – I think it helps our cause for clean green energy.

- B. What role does solar, both on-site and large-scale, play in the future generation mix for Georgia?

A huge one. In time we should be able to take internal combustion sources offline and replace them with clean energy generation and storage combined with extraordinary smart grid technology. When considering all the costs of fossil fuel that go unaccounted for it solar and other RE will be the end for the old way of power generation. My own example as a 10kW home solar owner and Tesla Powerwall user is testament to a microscale “microgrid” if you will.

Section II – Rate Structure

- A. What is the appropriate way to assess the value of on-site solar in the future generation mix for Georgia? **I’m not in the Solar Industry, and thus, not an expert. I’d follow the recommendations of GSEA in guiding my decisions. The problem heretofore in GA Power has been tell the PSC what to do. Wouldn’t it be nice if GSEA could!**
- B. What additional measures should be taken to support consumers’ private investment in on-site solar in Georgia? **I’m not in the Solar Industry, and thus, not an expert. A few general ideas are to have a fair rate plan designed specifically for solar owners, offer grid services to ESS facilities (including the EV community), and a net-metering policy that fairly rewards customer-generators. I’d follow the recommendations of GSEA in guiding my decisions. Clearly more can be done.**
- C. Do you support on-bill financing for solar installation? **Yes**
- D. As customer adoption of on-site solar grows in Georgia, how should that impact rate design? **I’m not in the Solar Industry, and thus, not an expert. I’d follow the**

recommendations of GSEA in guiding my decisions. In general, the rate designs haven't changed to accommodate the growing adoption of on-site solar and there should be more done to balance the scales.

- E. How should solar be treated compared with other demand-side energy investment, such as energy efficient lightbulbs, in rate design? **I have some bias here being in the EE business. But as I'm fond of saying, "the best dollar spent is on efficiency". Once we get a building as efficient as feasibly possible then it can be properly sized for solar. Insofar as rates, my suspicion is DSM would be prioritized.**

Section III – Power Consumer Protection

- A. What would you do to protect Georgia consumers from steep rate hikes to pay for the completion of Units 3 and 4 at Georgia's nuclear Plant Vogtle? **Stop the damn plant by shifting the burden of additional costs from ratepayers to shareholders. Then we'll find out how viable Georgia Power thinks this boondoggle is.**
- B. What are the lessons to be learned about the regulatory process that managed the construction of Vogtle? **That the PSC was asleep at the switch and they didn't listen to their own staff. There was a clear conflict of interest as GPC is managing the construction of the project and guaranteed 10% profit regardless of cost overruns and project delays. Essentially, GPC is incentivized to make the project as expensive as possible.**
- C. What changes should be made to the regulatory process to incorporate these lessons for future commission deliberations? **Replace PSC Commissioners with advocates for ratepayers and new (rather than incumbent) forms of energy. Hint: this is why I announced a year ago and have been going at them. And in fact have been "running" against the entire Commission because I think they are all part of the problem.**

Section IV – Utility Industry Regulation

- A. How should the PSC's role change or the regulatory process change as customers, accustomed to many options in other aspects of living, increasingly seek a range of choices regarding their energy provider, rate schedule and energy source? **Good question. Probably a lot. It used to be called the railroad commission and involved with the advent of electricity. So it's not without historical precedent. I'd take cues from other progressive states that have seen evolutions of their regulatory bodies.**
- B. How should the PSC's role or the regulatory process change in an era of growing adoption of on-site distributed energy and increasing adoption of electric vehicles? **Whatever is required to assist in the transportation revolution. The key is to being a leader not a follower in innovation and technology. Our current commission thinks (certainly mostly acts) like dinosaurs. A new commission should be open and adaptive to the new wave.**

- C. How should the role of the utility adapt to an era of decreasing or flattening energy demand? **Carefully, or be left behind, and not saddle any residential or small commercial users with the cost of an aging incumbent electrical infrastructure.**

Section V – General (Ethics, transparency, constituent service, staff management and input)

- A. What is the proper relationship between Georgia Public Service Commission members and industry stakeholders such as utility executives, industry vendor companies and paid lobbyists? **Sure as heck not a cozy as it is now. Ex-Parte communication (read GA Power and the Commissioners) has been the practical rule of the day and it has left out stake holders (historically like GSEA). I'd call a stakeholders meeting and get by-in to the current rules or make new ones – but follow them.**
- B. In considering the input of the PSC staff on rate-making, resource allocation and other decisions, what latitude should the PSC Commissioners apply in deviating from staff recommendations? **Significant latitude. They are the elected entity - not the staff. That said, the flagrant disregard (and in the case of Stan Wise, distain) for the staff is unhelpful and a disservice to the good work they do. In my mind they ARE the commission. They are the brains of the operation (or could be) and I think a well motivated staff, empowered by the commissioners, that listens to them and acts thoughtfully (rather than with total disregard) for their recommendations, is what we need.**

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