



DeKalb County Government

Manuel J. Maloof Center
1300 Commerce Drive
Decatur, Georgia 30030

Agenda Item

File #: 2022-1949
File Status: Action

8/9/2022

Public Hearing: YES NO

Department: Board of Commissioners - District 6

SUBJECT:

Commission District(s): All Districts

To Approve the Continuation of the Governing Authority of DeKalb County to Intervene in the 2022 Public Service Commission Rate Case, as a Member of the “Local Government Coalition.”

Information Contact: Commissioner Edward “Ted” Terry

Phone Number: 404-371-4909

PURPOSE:

DeKalb is reaffirming our participation as an intervenor with our coalition partners (City of Atlanta, City of Decatur, Athens-Clark, and City of Savannah) in the case before the Georgia Public Service Commission for the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) and the Rate Case. Our goal in this effort is to reduce the energy burden for DeKalb ratepayers, to affirm our goal of 100% renewable energy, and engage support for Make Ready funding for Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure.

NEED/IMPACT:

DeKalb seeks to continue participation now because the IRP is nearing completion and the Rate Case follows immediately. DeKalb and our coalition partners are confirming our position. DeKalb is seeking funding under the Make Ready program to support our transition to Electric Vehicle transportation; our support in the Rate Case reinforces our position.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no cost to the county, staff time of DeKalb and coalition partners is already in place.

RECOMMENDATION:

To approve a resolution continuing the Governing Authority of DeKalb County to intervene in the 2022 Public Service Commission Rate Case as a member of the “local government coalition” and authorize the chief executive officer to execute all necessary documents.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE DEKALB COUNTY GOVERNING AUTHORITY
TO CONTINUE ITS INVESTMENT IN GEORGIA'S ENERGY FUTURE
BY SUPPORTING GEORGIA POWER'S 2022 RATE REQUEST
TO ALLOW FOR THE DELIVERY OF CLEAN, SAFE, RELIABLE AND
AFFORDABLE ENERGY TO CUSTOMERS**

WHEREAS, on December 21, 2021, DeKalb County's Governing Authority passed a Resolution to adopt a Vision and Transition Plan of 100% Clean Energy and Clean Transportation powering the County's need by 2050 ("Clean Energy Resolution"); and

WHEREAS, a part of the Clean Energy Resolution, DeKalb County's Governing Authority resolved to participate in related regulatory proceedings and State legislation to advocate for rules and policies that support DeKalb County's energy goals, including intervening in the 2022 Integrated Resource Plan ("IRP) at the Georgia Public Service Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Public Service Commission recently approved the 2022 IRP which sets forth a proactive, innovative and transformational roadmap for how Georgia Power will continue to meet the energy needs of customers, local communities and the State of Georgia for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Georgia Power's 2022 Rate Request, which is a companion process to the 2022 IRP has begun, and is also subject to approval by the Georgia Public Service Commission; and

WHEREAS, in the 2022 Rate Request, Georgia Power is seeking approval from the Georgia Public Service Commission to set rates at a level that will enable Georgia Power to continue making the essential, critical investments needed to meet customers' evolving energy needs; and

WHEREAS, the 2022 Rate Request seeks to continue the investments approved in the Georgia Power's 2019 Rate Case; and

WHEREAS, if the 2022 Rate Request is approved, customer rates would presumably increase a total of 12% over the next three years, lower than the current projected rate of inflation; and

WHEREAS, the 2022 Rate Case supports making the electric grid more reliable and more secure to improve service and reduce outages through transmission and distribution infrastructure investments including enhancing substations, replacing transformers, moving powerlines underground and more; and

WHEREAS, the 2022 Rate Case supports utilizing cleaner and more economical ways to generate power to help keep customer rates affordable - transitioning our generation resources and continuing to serve customers with a diverse and balanced portfolio of generation resources, which include additional cost-effective renewable sources; and

WHEREAS, the 2022 Rate Case supports deploying new and expanded resources in solar, wind, hydro and energy storage to continue reducing carbon emissions - with plans to double our renewable generation resources by adding 6,000 MW by 2035; and

WHEREAS, the 2022 Rate Case supports investing in technology to enhance our customers' experience, including investments in a new Customer Information System that enables customer service employees to quickly access customer information and provide more comprehensive and timely solutions; an integrated software resource platform that offers real-time visibility into the impact of distributed energy resources on the electric system; and investments in the infrastructure and technology needed to support the continued growth of electric transportation in Georgia.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE DEKALB COUNTY GOVERNING AUTHORITY RESOLVES TO SUPPORT GEORGIA POWER'S 2022 RATE REQUEST GENERALLY AND TO ADVOCATE FOR SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL GOALS, AS FOLLOWS:

DeKalb County's 2022 Rate Case Goals:

1. Adjust the community solar subscription fee to be cost-of-service based, rather than based on lost revenues.
2. Make rooftop and small scale solars more accessible to customers, either by uncapping monthly netting or by offering a solar rebate.
3. Collaborate with Georgia Power to develop criteria for the administration of any funds that are raised for pre-weatherization repairs.
4. Advocate for the development of the Commercial and Industrial Renewable Energy Development Initiative (C&I REDI) tariff and related terms and conditions.
5. Collaborate with Georgia Power to simplify and streamline the income verification process for Home Energy Efficiency Assistance Program (HEEAP) and Residential Investment to Save Energy ("RISE").

6. Support Georgia Power's commitment to exploring the possibility of expanding the RISE pilot to metro Atlanta which could include less advantaged parts of DeKalb County.
7. Advocate for the development of the Distributed Energy Resource (DER) program and related terms and condition.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, DeKalb County affirms its continued participation in Georgia Power's transformational plan for the state's energy future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, DeKalb County will participate in related regulatory proceedings and State legislation to advocate for rules and policies that support DeKalb County's energy and customer rate goals, including intervening in the Georgia Power 2022 Rate Case at the Georgia Public Service Commission as part of the Georgia Coalition of Local Governments; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this Resolution is effective immediately upon approval.

ADOPTED by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, this ____ day of _____, 2022.

ROBERT J. PATRICK
Presiding Officer
Board of Commissioners
DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED by the Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County, this ____ day of _____, 2022.

MICHAEL L. THURMOND
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

ATTEST:

BARBARA SANDERS-NORWOOD, CCC
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners and
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

VIVIANE ERNSTES
County Attorney