

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.