



Energy storage policy georgia

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The future of renewable energy relies directly on the strength, quality, and longevity of energy storage technologies. Advances in energy storage technology have the potential to positively affect the energy distribution and transmission systems (smart grid), our energy consumption (electric vehicles), make electricity more reliable and ...

ever. The 2022 Georgia Energy Report highlights the growth of energy efficiency and renewable energy, the future of energy, and changes in American energy policy and production. The report also summarizes GEFA programs that support Georgia's energy goals to conserve and improve energy resources. The report contains an overview of Georgia's ...

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ATLANTA (AP) -- A \$249 million federal grant to Georgia aims to prevent power outages and store electricity on the grid. The money was granted to a state agency, which will pass it to entities owned by electric cooperatives.

Georgia Power will operate 80 megawatts of battery energy storage alone. Continued advancements in energy storage technology promise to have world-changing effects on the auto and energy industries as well as commercial and residential energy consumers.

On Tuesday, April 16, the Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC) voted on Georgia Power's 2023 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) Update, approving much of what the utility requested in this off-cycle proceeding. Many observers may be wondering why this proceeding was needed, what was involved, and what it means going forward. Read on if you share any of these questions.

Georgia law requires that Georgia Power, the state's only investor-owned electric utility, file a long-term IRP every three years. The utility must estimate demand for energy in its service territory for the next 20 years and then describe how it plans to meet its forecasted load reliably and cost-effectively. In January 2022, the utility filed its tenth IRP, which was approved by the PSC in July 2022.

In late October 2023, Georgia Power filed a 2023 IRP Update. This surprised many. By law, the next IRP is not due until January 2025. So, what happened? Georgia Power initiated this IRP update because it says the state has experienced unprecedented economic growth and the utility, in turn, faces unprecedented electrical load growth. Most of the anticipated load growth stems from the proliferation of new data centers in Georgia, but is also driven by several large industrial developments.

Georgia Power emphasized that it must act on an expedited basis to secure more capacity than expected and to acquire it sooner than anticipated to keep pace with demand. To underscore the changes, Georgia Power highlighted that economic development in the state has driven a 17-fold increase in electricity load growth through 2031, compared to what the utility forecasted just 18 months earlier in the 2022 IRP. As a result, Georgia Power argued that it must acquire new resources starting in the winter of 2025-2026, three years earlier than projected in 2022 IRP.

The prospect of rate impacts cast a long shadow over these deliberations. In the 2022 - 2025 period, Georgia Power has - or will - raise customer's rates six times to cover cost increases associated with Plant Vogtle, power plant fuel, transmission, and coal ash cleanup. The issue of customer costs remained at the center of the 2023 IRP Update discussions.

The 2023 IRP Update review process followed the normal IRP review process - a full, six-month proceeding with discovery, pre-filed testimony, three rounds of hearings before the PSC, and final briefs. The proceeding attracted a lot of attention - 17 parties intervened, on par with the 2022 IRP. The PSC staff and the intervenors filed 20 sets of expert witness testimony. The proceeding got underway with Georgia Power's October 2023 filing and wrapped up with the PSC's April 16 decision.

While a typical IRP docket touches on a broad range of planning and resource issues, Georgia Power's 2023 IRP Update focused largely on acquiring capacity resources needed to meet winter peak demand and the transmission resources needed to deliver this power to customers. Speed was of paramount concern to the utility. Many of Georgia Power's resource acquisition requests were made under exceptions to PSC rules that would typically require the utility to competitively bid on their resource needs. Specifically, the utility requested to:

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