



VIOLA DAVIS  
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*HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*  
COVERDELL LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334  
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STANDING COMMITTEES  
Health  
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Defense and Veterans Affairs

October 6, 2025

Georgia Public Service Commission  
244 Washington Street, SW  
Atlanta, GA 30334

Subject: Formal Request for Independent Study on Georgia Power Budget Billing Overcharges and Fees

Dear Commissioners,

I write to you out of concern for potential systemic overcharges in electricity service and fees applied to customers of Georgia Power, particularly in underserved and under-resourced areas across our state.

As a State Representative for House District 87, I have carefully reviewed my own Georgia Power budget billing statements for the past year. That analysis revealed a troubling pattern:

- **Budget billing payments far exceeded actual charges** in many months, resulting in cumulative overpayments of more than \$1,500 in one year.
- **Mandatory fees**—including environmental compliance charges, municipal franchise fees, and sales tax—consistently inflated bills by 15–20% each month.

- **These fee structures and billing practices disproportionately impact low-income, elderly, disabled, and minority communities who rely heavily on budget billing to manage household expenses.**

Because Georgia Power is a regulated monopoly under your jurisdiction, it is vital that billing practices be transparent, equitable, and in compliance with the public interest.

Therefore, I respectfully request that the Public Service Commission engage an outside, independent, and reputable agency to conduct a comprehensive study to determine:

1. Whether Georgia Power's budget billing practices result in systemic overcharges for customers.
2. The extent to which fees and surcharges increase customer costs beyond the core service amount.
3. Whether these practices disproportionately harm underserved and under-resourced communities.
4. Recommendations for corrective action to ensure fairness, transparency, and compliance with consumer protection principles.

I am willing to provide my billing history and analysis as a catalyst for this study and encourage the Commission to examine broader billing data to confirm whether this problem is systemic.

The families of Georgia deserve accountability, and I believe the Commission is uniquely positioned to bring the transparency and oversight required.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your response and to working with the Commission to protect Georgia consumers.

Sincerely,



Representative Viola Davis  
House District 87



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**October 9, 2025**

**To:**

Chairman and Commissioners  
Georgia Public Service Commission  
244 Washington Street SW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

**CC:**

Dr. Benjamin Deitchman, Assistant Director, Electric Unit  
Georgia Public Service Commission  
[bdeitchman@psc.ga.gov](mailto:bdeitchman@psc.ga.gov)

**Re: Follow-Up Request for Independent Investigation and Study of Georgia Power Budget Billing System**

Dear Chairman and Commissioners,

On **Tuesday, October 7, 2025**, I personally hand-delivered a letter to the Commission formally requesting an independent, third-party investigation and **study** into Georgia Power's budget-billing practices. This follow-up transmittal provides the supporting data and documentation I promised to deliver to Dr. Benjamin Deitchman for review and analysis.

After a detailed month-by-month comparison of my own Georgia Power billing statements (October 2024 through October 2025), I identified consistent

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Follow-Up Request for Independent Investigation and  
Study of Georgia Power Budget Billing System

discrepancies between the budget billing amount and the actual service charges, including all fees and taxes. My review—verified through an AI-assisted audit—found that Georgia Power collected approximately \$1,881 more than the total cost of electricity actually used during this period.

**Key Findings from Billing Analysis (Oct 2024 – Oct 2025):**

- **Budget Billing vs. Actual Use:** Monthly payments were fixed at \$767 (or \$599 in late 2024), while actual service charges ranged from \$300 to \$1,400. In low-usage months, Georgia Power retained substantial overpayments.
- **Add-On Fees:** Environmental Compliance Costs, Municipal Franchise Fees, and Sales Tax inflated monthly charges by 15–20%, exceeding core electricity costs.
- **Systemic Effect:** The “budget” structure effectively acts as a pre-payment system, giving Georgia Power advance use of customers’ money without interest or credit to the consumer.
- **Equity Concerns:** This practice disproportionately burdens low-income, elderly, disabled, and minority households—the very populations most reliant on budget billing to manage predictable monthly expenses.

A visual analysis chart (attached) illustrates these trends and clearly shows the consistent gap between budgeted and actual billed amounts, demonstrating a pattern of over-collection that merits regulatory review.

Given these findings, I again respectfully urge the Commission to:

1. **Authorize an independent, third-party study** to determine whether Georgia Power’s budget-billing model results in systemic overcharging of customers.
2. **Quantify the statewide financial impact** of environmental compliance fees, municipal franchise fees, and sales taxes on residential bills.
3. **Assess demographic disparities** to determine if underserved communities are disproportionately affected.
4. **Recommend corrective actions** to ensure transparency, fairness, and compliance with Georgia’s consumer-protection principles.

I appreciate Dr. Deitchman’s prompt response and willingness to review the supporting materials. Enclosed you will find:

- **Copies of my Georgia Power billing statements** (Oct 2024 – Oct 2025);
- **Billing-cycle comparison table** showing monthly totals and differences; and
- **Analytical chart** titled “*Georgia Power Budget Billing vs. Actual Charges (Oct 2024–Oct 2025)*” highlighting the total overcharge of \$1,881.

I respectfully request that the Commission formally acknowledge receipt of these materials and inform my office of the next procedural steps for initiating a formal independent investigation.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and for your commitment to protecting Georgia’s consumers through transparent and accountable oversight of regulated utilities.

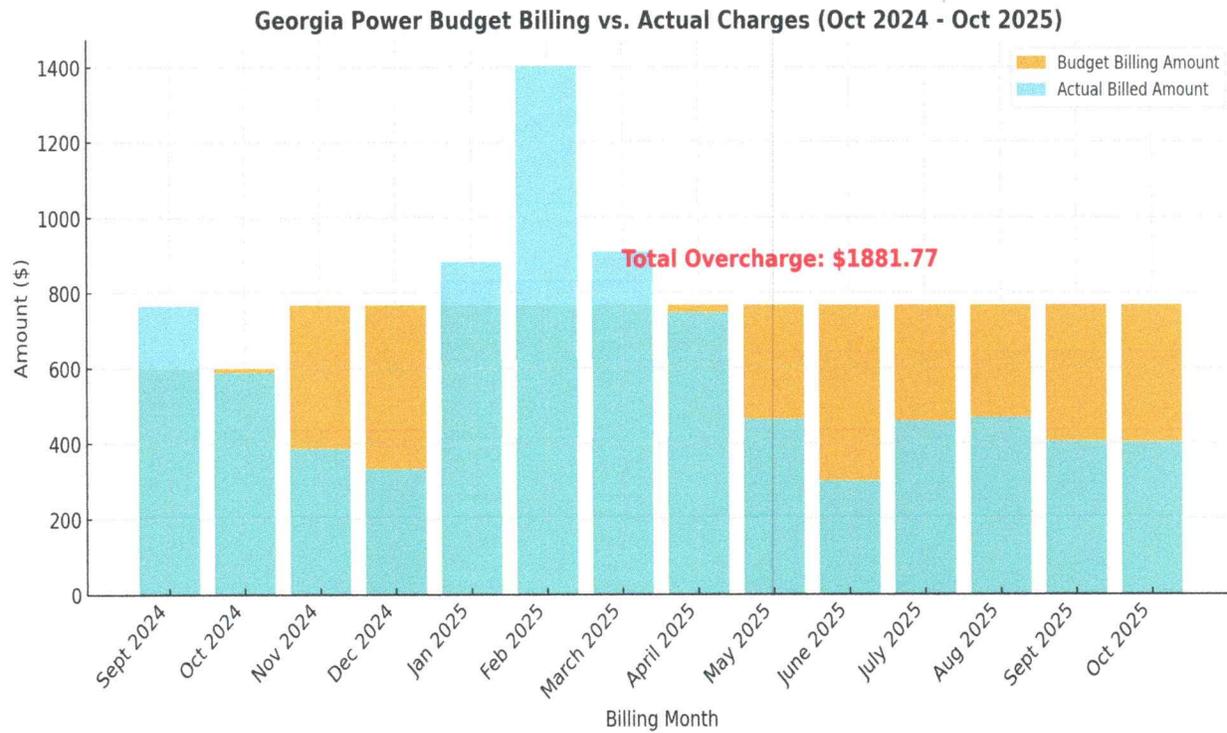
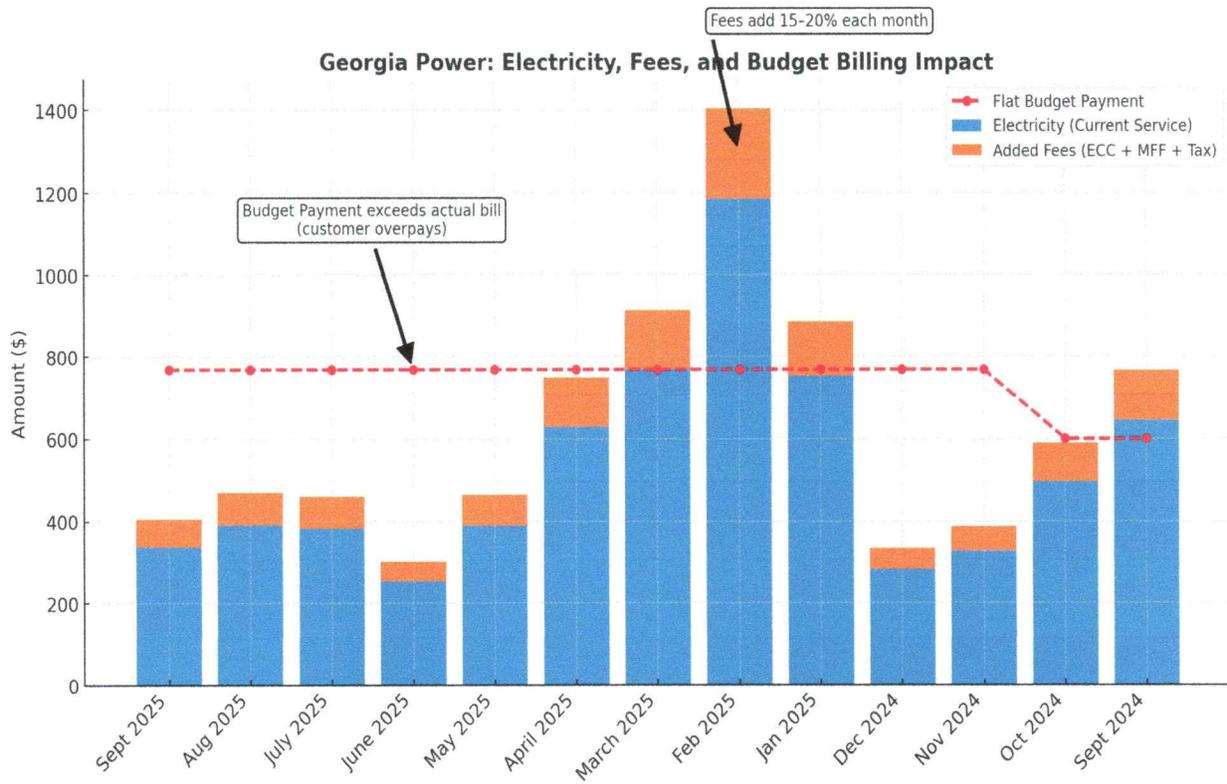
Sincerely,



**Representative Viola Davis**  
Georgia House District 87  
Vice Chair, DeKalb County House Delegation

**Attachments:**

1. Georgia Power Budget Billing vs. Actual Charges Table (Oct 2024 – Oct 2025)
2. Visual Chart – Budget Billing Comparison (Overcharge ≈ \$1,881)
3. Billing Statement Copies (Oct 2024 – Oct 2025)



## Current Electric Service - Residential

Next Scheduled Read Date: On or after Sept 19, 2024

Service Period	Meter #	Reading Type	Meter Reading			x	Constant	= Usage
			Current	-	Previous			
Jul 22 - Aug 21	3839290	Tot kWh	87929	-	84396		1	3,533

### Billing Period

July 22, 2024 - Aug 21, 2024

Current Service	\$ 643.83
Environmental Compliance Cost	55.76
Nuclear Construction Cost Recovery	0.00
Municipal Franchise Fee	8.29
Sales Tax	56.64

**Total Current Electric Service \$ 764.52**

## Billing Summary

Previous Bill Amount		\$ 767.00
Payment Received On 09/09/25	Thank You!	-767.00
Current Budget Billing Payment Due		+767.00

**Total Due \$ 767.00**