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### **CAVANAUGH VOTES TO GIVE CONSUMERS EVEN MORE POWER OVER THEIR UTILITY COSTS WITH “TIME OF USE RATES”**

**Montgomery** – Alabama Public Service Commissioner Twinkle Andress Cavanaugh on Tuesday announced that the PSC has given consumers even more power to control their utility costs by voting to approve “Time of Uses Rates,” which reward those who choose to use electricity at off-peak hours. These rates are designed to provide savings to all Alabama Power Company customers by lowering the peak demand, thereby lowering the overall cost to serve all customers.

“Much like when consumers were offered reduced phone rates years ago through ‘nights and weekend’ plans, Alabamians will soon be able to save on their utility bills by choosing to wash clothes and dishes and use other high energy appliances during off-peak hours,” Cavanaugh said. “Time of Use Rates will provide direct financial benefits to those who wait to consume electricity during parts of the day when it also costs the least to produce.”

As an example, she noted that energy usage currently peaks during afternoons and early evening, when temperatures are at their hottest and air conditioning is run at higher levels. Consumers who run large appliances later in the night or in early morning hours will pay a discounted utility rate than those who use them when consumption levels spike.

The Commission approved four TOU rate plans for residential customers and businesses, including everything from small mom-and-pop establishments to large commercial and industrial operations. The various plans will become available on October 1.

“My goal is to give consumers as much control over their utility bills as possible and allow them to decide which plans and which rates best fit their schedules and lifestyles,” Cavanaugh said. “Taking advantage of Time of Use rates is a great way for families to save a few dollars when they need to, and I am happy we can offer this as just one option to the consumers we serve.”

Alabama Power customers who are interested in utilizing the new TOU rates should contact the company for more information on applying them to utility bills when they become effective.

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