



State of Alabama

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ALABAMA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OUTLINES RESPONSIBLE PATH FOR DATA CENTER GROWTH, RELIABILITY, AND RATEPAYER PROTECTION

As data centers rapidly expand across the Southeast, the Alabama Public Service Commission (APSC) is taking proactive steps to ensure Alabama captures economic benefits while protecting grid reliability and ratepayers. Data centers are transforming infrastructure planning nationwide, and the APSC is working to bring this important conversation to the forefront in Alabama.

APSC President Cynthia Lee Almond said the Commission is prepared to ensure Alabama benefits from data center growth while protecting ratepayers and maintaining grid reliability. Alabama has the opportunity to lead in the adoption of best practices ensuring that projects will not compromise reliability for existing customers.

"The challenge is to ensure the benefits of data centers for the economy and our state are realized, especially for the communities hosting these projects and for customers who can be affected by them," Almond said. Considered as "the backbone of the digital world," data centers do bring hurdles, such as electric grid stress, reliability and cost effectiveness. Almond said the APSC is ready to face those hurdles by setting the standard to verify proposed demand and require safeguards so that growth is responsible and ratepayers are protected.

"Our standard should be simple - no free rides for Big Tech," Almond said. "We can and will continue to base every incentive on real and measurable public benefit."

Energy reliability is at the forefront of the APSC's mission, something Almond does not take lightly when considering the impact it will have for ratepayers and Alabama's economy with talks of more data centers being built in the future.

"This is a defining moment for Alabama's energy future," Almond said. "While data centers bring opportunity, they also bring unprecedented demand. We are setting the standard nationwide for how to welcome investment responsibly, not by saying 'no,' but by saying 'yes' the right way."

The mission of the Alabama Public Service Commission is to ensure a regulatory balance between regulated companies and consumers in order to provide consumers with safe, adequate and reliable services at rates that are equitable and economical. For more information, visit psc.alabama.gov.

**The above press release is of the thoughts and opinions of President Cynthia Lee Almond and does not reflect those of Commissioner Jeremy H. Oden, Place 1, or Commissioner Chris V. Beeker III, Place 2, or the Alabama Public Service Commission.*

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