



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Brookhaven, GA, Oct. 22, 2013 – Georgia Power recently sent a letter to residents announcing the March 2013 franchise fee agreement. The following are answers to some of the questions frequently asked regarding franchise fees in Brookhaven. The information is from the Brookhaven Finance Department and the Georgia Municipal Association.

What is a franchise fee?

A franchise fee is a licensing fee for utilities to run lines, cables and other equipment through public right-of-ways. Under Georgia law, city governments may enter into agreements with utility companies and cable providers to authorize use of public right-of-ways. Without use of these right-of-ways, the utility would have to purchase private property to house wires and other equipment, which would increase utility rates for customers.

What is a public right-of-way?

A public right-of-way is an interest in property that is held by municipal governments and used for traffic, utilities, drainage and other public uses.

Is my Georgia Power bill going up?

Georgia Power's franchise fee in DeKalb County was 1.1 percent. Under the agreement with Brookhaven, the rate is 2.9 percent.

When does the new franchise fee go into effect?

Georgia Power signed an agreement with the City of Brookhaven in March 2013. Customers in Brookhaven will be assessed dating back to March.

Are franchise fees a tax?

No. Franchise fees are simply the cost utility and cable providers incur for being allowed to place their facilities in the public's right-of-way. Franchise fees are considered a cost of doing business.

What will Brookhaven use the money for?

The franchise fees collected by utilities will ensure that Brookhaven public right-of-ways are maintained. The money will go into the city general fund and be used for operating costs to fund city services.

How is the franchising fee in the city different than DeKalb County?

In Georgia, cities are allowed to collect franchise fees from electric, gas, telecommunication and cable providers. Counties are limited to collecting franchise fees from cable providers only. Historically, Georgia implemented franchise fees to encourage economic development in cities.



How will this look on my monthly bill?

Please see a sample bill below that includes before and after bills for an average home in Brookhaven.

Where can I get more information?

For questions about your bill, contact Georgia Power at 1-800-644-0570.

###

Media Contact:

Megan Matteucci

Office: 404-637-0506

Cell: 770-828-5932

news@brookhavenga.gov

BEFORE



Customer name
JOHN DOE

Account number
12345-67890

Please pay by Jul 17, 2013
Total due \$ 136.56

Current electric service - Residential

Service period	Next scheduled read date	Meter number
Jun 3, 2013 - Jul 2, 2013	On or after Aug 1, 2013	123456
Reading type	Current reading - Previous reading x Constant =	Usage
Tot kWh	11861 - 10861 x 1 =	1000 kWh
Current Service		\$ 113.12
Environmental Compliance Cost		7.48
Nuclear Construction Cost Recovery		5.66
Municipal Franchise Fee		1.36
Sales Tax		8.94
Total current electric service		\$ 136.56

Convenient payment programs

Budget Billing Avoid peaks in your power bill. We will average your power bill over 12 months, so you will pay roughly the same amount each month. To sign up, call 1-888-660-5890 or visit georgiapower.com/budgetbilling

Paperless Billing Pay your electric bill with a mouse click. It's quick, easy, and convenient. To sign up, call 1-888-660-5890 or visit georgiapower.com/paperless

Auto Pay Save time and effort. Auto pay is a free bill payment option—you can authorize your bill amount to be automatically debited from your checking or savings account. To sign up, call 1-888-660-5890 or visit georgiapower.com/paperless

Credit Card Credit card payments are only accepted through BillMatrix, an authorized independent automated payment service. BillMatrix is not affiliated with Georgia Power or Southern Company, and a service fee will be charged to handle the payment. To pay by phone: 1-800-672-2402 or visit our website and select Pay My Bill for the credit card option.

Consumer check conversion When you provide a check as payment, you authorize us either to use information from your check to make a one-time electronic fund transfer from your account or to process the payment as a check transaction. If you do not want your check converted, please call 1-888-532-2511.

Do we have your correct primary phone number and email?

Why? When you call to report a power outage, our automated systems identify your address by your phone number. We may occasionally want to contact you via email with important information.

If your phone number or email address has changed, please update our records in the box below and mark the box on the front of the stub if you have entered a correction.

Primary phone number

[Grid for entering primary phone number]

Email address

[Grid for entering email address]

AFTER



Customer name
JOHN DOE

Account number
12345-67890

Please pay by

Jul 17, 2013

Total due

\$ 139.04

Current electric service - Residential

Service period	Next scheduled read date	Meter number
Jun 3, 2013 - Jul 2, 2013	On or after Aug 1, 2013	123456
Reading type	Current reading - Previous reading x Constant =	Usage
Tot kWh	11861 - 10861 x 1 =	1000 kWh
Current Service		\$ 113.12
Environmental Compliance Cost		7.48
Nuclear Construction Cost Recovery		5.66
Municipal Franchise Fee		3.68
Sales Tax		9.10

Total current electric service \$ 139.04

Convenient payment programs

Budget Billing Avoid peaks in your power bill. We will average your power bill over 12 months, so you will pay roughly the same amount each month. To sign up, call 1-888-660-5890 or visit georgiapower.com/budgetbilling

Paperless Billing Pay your electric bill with a mouse click. It's quick, easy, and convenient. To sign up, call 1-888-660-5890 or visit georgiapower.com/paperless

Auto Pay Save time and effort. Auto pay is a free bill payment option—you can authorize your bill amount to be automatically debited from your checking or savings account. To sign up, call 1-888-660-5890 or visit georgiapower.com/paperless

Credit Card Credit card payments are only accepted through BillMatrix, an authorized independent automated payment service. BillMatrix is not affiliated with Georgia Power or Southern Company, and a service fee will be charged to handle the payment. To pay by phone: 1-800-672-2402 or visit our website and select Pay My Bill for the credit card option.

Consumer check conversion When you provide a check as payment, you authorize us either to use information from your check to make a one-time electronic fund transfer from your account or to process the payment as a check transaction. If you do not want your check converted, please call 1-866-532-2511.

Do we have your correct primary phone number and email?

Why? When you call to report a power outage, our automated systems identify your address by your phone number. We may occasionally want to contact you via email with important information.

If your phone number or email address has changed, please update our records in the box below and mark the box on the front of the stub if you have entered a correction.

Primary phone number

[Grid for Primary phone number]

Email address

[Grid for Email address]