



Columbia, S.C., December 6, 2011–

**S.C. Office of Regulatory Staff Receives Prestigious Lineman Award
from the Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina**

The Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) has received the highest distinction given by the Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina, the prestigious Lineman Award.

In a “surprise” ceremony in Charlotte, N.C., ORS Executive Director Dukes Scott received the award on behalf of the agency created in 2004 by the S.C. General Assembly and charged with representing the public interest in utility regulation.

Mike Couick, CEO of the Electric Cooperatives, explained the significance of the Lineman Award, reserved for those select few who “make it happen, day in and day out.” Couick was joined by three other presenters: Senator Luke Rankin, current Chairman of the subcommittee of the State Regulation of Public Utilities Review Committee (PURC) that oversees the activities of the ORS and former Chairman, Representative William Sandifer, now Vice Chairman of PURC and Senator Thomas Alexander, Chairman of PURC.

Each described notable achievements of the ORS. Excellence and integrity were cited as hallmark traits of the dedicated staff assembled to carry out the agency’s mission. Among the successes recounted were:

- A balanced approach to utility regulation that carefully weighs the interests of each facet of the public interest – consumers, utilities, and the economic well being of South Carolina
- Consistently successful negotiations in contested rate cases among parties with competing interests, made possible by the trust and respect engendered by ORS
- A collaborative approach to negotiations in matters running the gamut from nuclear plant construction to energy incentives for industry that has garnered attention nationwide from both a regulatory and an economic-development perspective
- A landmark energy policy report and plan that has given South Carolina a strong voice in Washington

The ORS was lauded as a “shining example” in state government and as a benchmark for further state government reform. “I can’t say enough,” said Senator Alexander, “about what the ORS has meant to communities around South Carolina.” This agency, which he noted is still in its infancy, “is the guiding light for a better South Carolina.”

The Office of Regulatory Staff is an agency of the State of South Carolina. Its mission is to represent the public interest in utility regulation by balancing the concerns of the using and consuming public, the financial integrity of public utilities, and the economic development of South Carolina. For more information, please visit the ORS web site at <http://www.regulatorystaff.sc.gov/>