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Columbia, S.C., February 26, 2015 –

ORS Celebrates National Consumer Protection Week

The SC Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) will partner with community organizations around the Midlands to host events in recognition of National Consumer Protection Week. This year's theme for National Consumer Protection Week is *Your Information Destination: Know Your Rights*. The ORS will be participating in events to educate consumers about their basic rights related to investor-owned utility companies.

The ORS and the SC Department of Consumer Affairs will host a consumer education booth at the main branch of the Richland County Public Library at 1431 Assembly Street in Columbia from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Monday, March 2nd. The agencies will provide consumers with information about basic consumer rights, winter weather heating, utility safety net provisions, protection from identity theft and mortgage fraud issues.

On Tuesday, March 3rd, the ORS will visit with the Winnsboro Lions Club to discuss challenges facing today's utility consumer. A luncheon sponsored by the Lions Club will be held from 12:00 p.m. until 1:00 p.m. Individuals interested in attending the luncheon should contact Club President Paul Dove at 803-635-9104.

The ORS will be presenting information to the SC Public Service Commission at the Commission's office at 101 Executive Drive, #100 in Columbia. The presentation will directly follow the Commission's meeting which starts at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 4th.

Outside of Consumer Protection Week, the ORS Consumer Services staff is available to assist consumers Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 800-922-1531 or at www.regulatorystaff.sc.gov.

National Consumer Protection Week, March 1st through 7th, is coordinated by the Federal Trade Commission to encourage consumers to take full advantage of their consumer rights and make better-informed decisions.

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/>.

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