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For Immediate Release

Columbia, S.C., March 2, 2017 –

ORS Promotes 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 *Saving Energy Makes \$ense*. The ORS will be participating in the following events to educate consumers about their basic rights related to investor-owned utility companies:

- **Monday, March 6th from 9:00 a.m. until 2 p.m.**—The ORS and the SC Department of Consumer Affairs will host a consumer education event at the Harvest Hope Food Bank at 2220 Shop Road in Columbia. 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.
- **Tuesday, March 7th from 9:00 a.m. until 1 p.m.**—The ORS will host a Consumer Education event at Harvest Hope's Cayce location.
- **Wednesday, March 8th in the afternoon** – The ORS will be presenting information to the Public Service Commission of S.C. 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. that day.*
- **Thursday, March 9th from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.** – The ORS will be participating in a Community Outreach Event hosted by South Carolina Electric & Gas (SCE&G) at their corporate campus.
- **Friday, March 10th from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.**—The ORS and Consumer Affairs will host a Shred Day at Shandon Baptist Church, located at 5250 Forest Dr., Columbia, SC. The event will give consumers a chance to securely dispose of documents.

Throughout the year, 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 6th through 10th, 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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