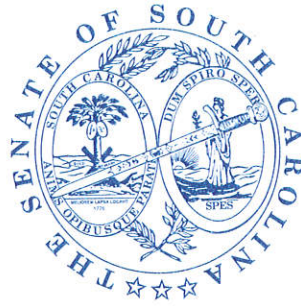


LUKE A. RANKIN
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COMMITTEES:
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BANKING AND INSURANCE
EDUCATION
ETHICS
TRANSPORTATION

SENATE ADDRESS:
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August 2, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

At the Request of Senator Luke Rankin, Senator Thomas Alexander has agreed to call a special meeting of the Public Utilities Review Committee on August 23, 2017, at 10:30 am in Room 105 of the Gressette Building.

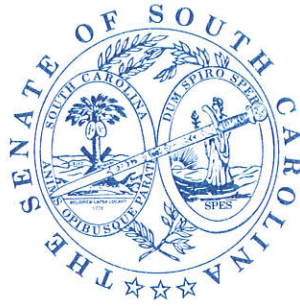
The purpose of the meeting is to explore the circumstances that led SCE&G and Santee Cooper to abandon their \$14 billion nuclear project at V.C. Summer. "This is a matter of utmost concern to the citizens of South Carolina," Rankin said. "It is imperative that governmental and regulatory leaders determine how this happened and what led to this decision," Rankin said. "This meeting of the Public Utilities Review Committee will be a good first step in that process."

More details are available in the attached letter from Senator Rankin to Senator Alexander.

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August 2, 2017

The Honorable Thomas Alexander
150 Cleveland Drive
Walhalla, South Carolina 29691

Dear Senator Alexander:

Roughly 48 hours ago, SCE&G and Santee Cooper announced the suspension of the construction of two new nuclear reactors at V.C. Summer. Their announcement comes in the wake of unfortunate news that the reactor contractor Westinghouse, a subsidiary of Toshiba, has filed for bankruptcy protection. As we discussed, this development impacts nearly every South Carolinian, many of whom have paid increased rates earmarked for this project. Clearly this is a matter that deserves our immediate attention.

Thank you for agreeing to convene the Public Utilities Review Committee as soon as possible. I am hopeful certain matters can be addressed and bring greater transparency to the process that has unfolded until this point.

Specifically, I hope the Committee can:

Receive input from the leadership of SCE&G and Santee Cooper on the circumstances that led to their respective decisions;

Ascertain if there were any warning signs during the decade-long project that could have helped us avoid the potential loss of this substantial investment by citizens of South Carolina;

Understand what steps are underway or being considered to address both the present and immediate future of the project and the costs the ratepayers incurred in support of the project;

Determine how suspension of the project impacts our overall ability to have abundant, affordable, and dependable energy in the coming years.

The importance of this matter to South Carolina affects us all. Thank you for taking a leadership role in agreeing to call this Committee together as quickly possible. Please know you can rely on my assistance throughout the process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "luke".

Luke Rankin