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# FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CHAIRMAN HÉBERT TO LEAVE COMMISSION  
AFTER GUIDING IT THROUGH HISTORIC PERIOD**

Chairman Curt L. Hébert, Jr. announced today that he would leave the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission at the end of this month.

He has guided the Commission through a number of key decisions. Electricity prices were stabilized while incentives for supplies were preserved, and the groundwork was done for regional transmission organizations (RTOs) to run the national power grid in a reliable manner embracing competition and free markets. At the same time, intense attention was given to natural gas pipeline certification to speed delivery and improve infrastructure, and the importance of the hydroelectric industry was underscored. In all cases, a market approach was the key to future consumer benefits realized through incentives for the industry to provide the best possible service in a free-market environment.

The Chairman commented: "I am honored to have had the opportunity to lead this Commission at a vital time in its history. As it changes along with the industries it regulates, it has moved to a market-based approach that I believe is the only way to meet the nation's energy needs. I came to this job a strong advocate of free markets and, if anything, my time on the Commission has only strengthened this belief. We need to get the rules right, but it is free enterprise that will put more and more consumers in the winners' circle. For my part, it has been a pleasure and honor to serve this administration and the American people and to have had the opportunity to serve at the altar of freedom for this country."

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Chairman Hébert, who did not announce his plans for the future, had served as a Commissioner since 1997. President Bush named him Chairman in January. His term expires in 2004.

Before coming to FERC, Chairman Hébert was a member of the Mississippi House of Representatives from 1987 to 1992. He served as Chairman of the House Oil and Gas Committee and Chairman of the Ways and Means Severance Subcommittee. His legislative and leadership abilities were recognized in June 1992 by Governor Kirk Fordice when he appointed Mr. Hébert to the Mississippi Public Service Commission. At 29, he became the youngest Public Service Commissioner in the nation and in Mississippi's history. He was elected to a second term in 1995. He served on the Mississippi Commission until 1997, and as Chairman of the Commission from 1994 to 1996.

With Chairman Hébert's departure from FERC, the five-member Commission will have two Republicans, two Democrats and one vacancy. Commissioners are appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate to five-year staggered terms. Each Commissioner has an equal vote on regulatory matters and no more than three Commissioners may belong to the same political party. One member is designated by the President to serve as Chair and is the Commission's administrative head.

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