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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEWS RELEASE

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Commission Approves Atlanta Gas Light Company's Natural Gas Line Extension in Gilmer County

ATLANTA, October 20, 2015—Today the Georgia Public Service Commission (Commission) unanimously approved the first phase of a six-phase line extension project by Atlanta Gas Light Company (AGLC). Phase one will serve 10 of the 50 poultry farms in Gilmer County. When all phases of this project are complete, natural gas service will be available to all 50 farms, as well as other businesses and homes.

The need for this line extension project was identified earlier this year when AGLC and PSC representatives met with poultry farmers and the Gilmer County Farm Bureau in Ellijay. To serve these 10 poultry farms, approximately 64,000 feet of pipe will be placed along Maddox Drive, Yukon Road, and Clear Creek Road and tied-in at Progress Road. Two regulator stations will be built to boost pressure in the area.

“With colder winters and higher propane prices in recent years, energy is among the highest input costs for a poultry farm operation,” said Mark Holden, an Ellijay poultry farmer and President of the Southern Farmers Association. The Association has been an advocate, along with the Gilmer County Farm Bureau, for extending natural gas service to fifty area poultry farms.

“The colder winters not only mean more expense in keeping the heaters running, but we have also felt the pinch of limited propane supplies in recent years,” Holden said. “We are grateful that members of the Public Service Commission, Senator Steve Gooch and Speaker David Ralston recognize the impact that poultry farmers have on our economy and the importance of having a stable energy source with pricing expected to remain comparatively low for the foreseeable future.”

Poultry remains the largest segment of Georgia agriculture, according to Mike Giles, President of the Georgia Poultry Federation. “Between the farms, processors and affiliated industries, poultry’s annual contribution to the Georgia economy is \$25 billion dollars and approximately 100,000 direct and indirect jobs,” said Giles.

“Access to reliable and affordable natural gas will help reduce production costs, increase profitability and make Georgia’s poultry more competitive,” said PSC Member Stan Wise, who sponsored the motion in support of the measure.

“Any time we can take action that will help boost Georgia’s economy, we should do it,” said Commissioner Tim Echols. “This Gilmer County pipeline extension will bring cheap natural gas to our hard-working poultry growers.”

Speaker of the House David Ralston (R-Blue Ridge), who represents Gilmer County, emphasized the significant, long-term impact of this project. “This line will be a huge benefit to the poultry industry,” said Speaker Ralston. “It will mean jobs in Gilmer County and stimulate our economy—benefitting residents for generations to come. I thank all the stakeholders involved, particularly Atlanta Gas Light and the members of the Public Service Commission, for their support of this important extension.”

For more information on this project see Docket 37371 at the Commission web site at www.psc.state.ga.us.

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