

GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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**ATLANTA GAS LIGHT COMPANY TO CHANGE NAME OF
AFFILIATED MARKETER**

ATLANTA -- When competition begins in the gas market this November, Atlanta Gas Light Company's (AGL) marketing affiliate won't be using "Atlanta Gas Light" in its name as it competes with other marketers to sell natural gas to consumers. Under terms of a settlement reached with the Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC) and other gas marketers, the marketing affiliate will be permitted to use the familiar blue flame logo of Atlanta Gas Light Company but will do business under the name "Georgia Natural Gas Services." The settlement was presented to Fulton County Superior Court Judge Stephanie Manis Thursday in lieu of her hearing the case.

"We are very pleased with the settlement," said Commissioner Lauren "Bubba" McDonald, Jr. "The settlement is consistent with our attempts to foster a competitive environment in which no marketer has an unfair advantage over another."

Under a new state law passed in 1997, the sale of natural gas in the AGL territory will be opened to competition November 1, 1998. Once the market is fully deregulated, AGL will no longer sell gas directly to consumers, but will become a distribution company responsible for transporting gas to homes and businesses. Marketing companies will be responsible for selling gas, at competitive rates, directly to the 1.4 million customers currently served by AGL.

In April of 1998, The Energy Spring, the initial marketing name of the AGL affiliate, notified the PSC that it had changed its name to Atlanta Gas Light Services. Marketers cried foul saying the name was exactly the same as that of the gas company that had served consumers for more than 100 years. On July 16 the PSC unanimously ruled the marketing company could not use "Atlanta Gas Light" in its name as use of the name and familiar blue logo would provide an unfair advantage over other marketers and stifle competition.

Fulton County Superior Judge Philip Etheridge on July 17 granted a stay of the PSC's order which permitted the marketer to operate under Atlanta Gas Light Services pending the company's court appeal.

Under the terms of the settlement, Georgia Natural Gas Services will use a disclaimer that identifies the marketer as an affiliate of Atlanta Gas Light Company, but at the same time specifying the relationship with the utility will not provide its customers with any preferential treatment. Georgia Natural Gas Services may petition the Commission to use the name "Atlanta Gas Light Services" once effective competition has emerged.

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