PRESS RELEASE GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 21, 2000

CONTACT: Helen O'Leary, Executive Secretary/Acting Public Information Officer

(404) 656-4540 or 1-800-282-5813

COMMISSION ORDERS REFUND IN EXCESS OF 33 MILLION DOLLARS TO ATLANTA GAS LIGHT COMPANY CUSTOMERS

(ATLANTA)—Earlier today, the Georgia Public Service Commission ("Commission") voted to refund in excess of \$33,776,746.00 to eligible natural gas customers. This money was previously overcollected by Atlanta Gas Light Company ("AGLC") for purchased gas costs during the 1999 winter heating season. Since this money was placed in an escrow account by the Commission last December, it has earned approximately \$500,000 in interest—money that also will be credited back to gas consumers after bank fees are deducted. "I am delighted that this money will be returned to those Georgia citizens who contributed to this overcollection," commented Commissioner Stan Wise.

It is estimated that consumers who are qualified to take part in this refund will receive somewhere between \$25.00-\$26.00, which will appear in the form of a credit on gas bills issued by marketers during the month of May. AGLC must still determine exactly which customers qualify for the refund and which marketers will be responsible for passing this credit through to them.

To be eligible to participate in this refund, a natural gas consumer had to be receiving gas from AGLC or a marketer on May 25, 1999, and must still be a natural gas consumer as of April 3rd of this year. Credits will only be given to consumers who do not owe money to AGLC. If a consumer owes AGLC less money than the credit that is due, he or she will be given a partial credit.

In ordering the marketers to pass these credits through to their customers, the Commission expressly rejected requests to deduct expenses and costs that may be incurred by marketers in effecting this refund.