

PRESS RELEASE
GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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**GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION APPROVES A REFUND
OF \$40,900,000 AND MODIFIES AGLC'S BASE CHARGES**

ATLANTA—Tuesday, September 19, the Georgia Public Service Commission (Commission) voted to refund \$40,900,000 to residential customers being served by natural gas marketers. All residential customers will receive a credit of approximately \$13 on their natural gas bills for gas used during February 2001 and March 2001, as a result of a motion made by Commissioner Bubba McDonald and amended by Commissioner Robert Baker.

In addition to the two \$13 credits, low-income, senior citizens, who already receive a discount through the social responsibility rider, will receive three \$10 credits as a result of a motion made by Commissioner David Burgess. The \$10 credits will appear on the senior's natural gas bills for service during January, February and March 2001 and will help offset the higher wholesale natural gas prices expected during the coming winter heating season.

The credits to residential customers for natural gas usage in February and March will coincide with the effective date of the modified base charges approved by the Commission in a separate action. In response to a request by Commissioner Bubba McDonald last Thursday, Atlanta Gas Light Company (AGLC) filed an amended rate schedule to modify the billing of base charges so that the bills should more closely match gas usage. Since deregulation, AGLC's base charges have not followed consumption patterns but have been, essentially, the same all year long. This levelized billing of one-twelfth each month has resulted in higher summer bills, when customers use little or no natural gas. The adjusted base charges approved today will more closely mirror the average residential consumption pattern.

After these new rates go into effect in February 2001, the base charges paid by residential customers will be lower in summer and higher in winter. The \$40,900,000 refund was specifically targeted for the high usage months of February and March to offset the shift in charges from summer to winter that will occur with the new rate schedule.

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