



NEWS RELEASE

GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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COMMISSION APPROVES INCREASE IN LOW INCOME THRESHOLD; FINES UTILITY LOCATOR IN CONNECTION WITH PIEDMONT ROAD INCIDENT

ATLANTA – The Public Service Commission today unanimously approved a proposal to raise the qualifying annual household income level for the senior citizen/low income discount on natural gas utility bills. The income level will increase immediately to \$12,000 a year. The former limit, \$10,000 in annual income, had not been increased since 1988. The senior citizen/low income discount exempts those seniors 65 years or older from Atlanta Gas Light customer service charges of \$9 on their natural gas bills.

Upon a motion by Commissioner David Burgess, the Commission also directed all utilities to work with Commission staff in publicizing the availability of this discount. The proposal applies to all gas marketers as well as United Cities Gas Company. Senior citizens who qualify for the exemption should contact their gas marketer or United Cities.

In other action, the Commission also approved a \$4,500 fine against Utiliquest in connection with a July 9, 2000 incident in which an excavation crew severed a 4-inch natural gas line and a 16-inch water main in the 2700 block of Piedmont Road in Atlanta. Utiliquest agreed to a consent order in accepting the fine. The Commission postponed any action on a complaint against Atlanta Gas Light in connection with the same incident.

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