



**NEWS RELEASE**  
**GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 12, 2001**  
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**PSC Consumer Advisory**  
**Start Shopping Today for Next Winter's Natural Gas**

ATLANTA – Even though summer is just starting, the Public Service Commission advises natural gas consumers to begin planning for the upcoming winter heating season by checking pricing options available from their gas marketers. Most marketers offer several pricing options: 1. Market or variable rate: The variable price of gas consists of several components, such as the current price of natural gas and the cost of transporting the gas to Georgia. The variable price is subject to wide swings without prior notice. 2. Fixed rate: This price remains constant for a fixed period of time, usually 12 months, though some marketers offer a fixed price for as long as 24 months. Locking into a fixed rate now protects consumers against drastic increases in natural gas prices this winter heating season. On the other hand, customers on a fixed rate will not benefit if gas prices fall below the fixed rate. 3. Discounted rate: Some marketers also offer senior citizen discounts.

Fixed and variable rates are priced per therm. The average residential customer uses 162 therms per month in winter and 22 therms per month in summer. In addition to charging customers for the therms of natural gas they use, most marketers include additional, separate charges. Some marketers charge an exit fee for leaving a fixed term contract prior to the term expiring. Unless the customer notifies the marketer prior to the expiration date of a fixed rate plan, the marketer may switch the customer to a variable rate. Because no two marketers have the same terms and conditions, consumers should get all the details before they agree to any pricing plan. Consumers should request verification of their choice and terms in writing.

Consumers can find the latest natural gas marketer price information and marketer contact information on the PSC website: [www.psc.state.ga.us](http://www.psc.state.ga.us).

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