



NEWS RELEASE
GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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**PSC Removes Limitations On Natural Gas Customers' Ability To Switch
Marketers; Approves SCANA Petition For Allocating Costs of Lost/Unaccounted
For Natural Gas**

ATLANTA – The Georgia Public Service Commission (“the Commission”) today approved the removal of limitations on natural gas customers’ ability to switch marketers. The 4-1 vote, with Commissioner Stan Wise dissenting, repeals the “Request Off Non-Pay” (RONP) rule that took effect on May 15, 2001. Under the RONP rule, customers who left their original marketer owing an unpaid balance and then switched to a second marketer were prohibited from going to a third marketer until they had paid the balance owed to the first marketer. Currently there are 100,000 natural gas customers with RONPs on their accounts. The RONP repeal is effective immediately.

On another issue, the Commission voted 4-1 with Commissioner Lauren “Bubba” McDonald, Jr. voting no, to grant a petition by SCANA to allocate the costs of lost/unaccounted for natural gas to all classes of natural gas customers. The Commission approved an amendment by Commissioner David Burgess to require the marketers to file a mechanism for allocating the costs within 15 days and to allocate the costs to the base customer charge.

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