

NEWS RELEASE GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 4, 2001 CONTACT: Bill Edge, Public Information Officer MEDIA CONTACT ONLY: (404) 656-2316; EMAIL ADDRESS: <u>BillE@psc.state.ga.us</u> CONSUMER CONTACT: (404) 656-4501; 1-800-282-5813;gapsc@psc.state.ga.us

PSC Approves Additional Assistance For Low Income Customers

ATLANTA – The Georgia Public Service Commission ("the Commission") today voted to earmark \$5 million from the Universal Service Fund to provide further assistance to low-income consumers with their outstanding natural gas bills. The plan calls for the Department of Human Resources to disburse these monies in the following fashion: \$2 million will be used to assist low-income senior citizens and \$3 million will be used to assist low-income households meeting federal poverty guidelines. The Commission action today brings to \$15 million the total monies the Commission has distributed this year from the Universal Service Fund to assist low-income customers in paying their natural gas bills. This vote does not apply to any area served by United Cities Gas Company, which has not opted to operate in a deregulated environment.

The Commission vote on this issue was 4-1, with Commissioner Stan Wise dissenting.

For further information, visit the Commission website: <u>http://www.psc.state.ga.us</u>

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