

NEWS RELEASE GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 18, 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 Plan For Provider Of Last Resort For Disconnected Natural Gas Customers; Set Schedule For Savannah Electric Rate Hearings

ATLANTA – The Georgia Public Service Commission ("the Commission") today approved a plan to establish a "Provider of Last Resort" (POLR) that would allow natural gas customers disconnected for non-payment to reconnect their service. The Commission vote was 3-2, with Commissioners Lauren "Bubba" McDonald, Jr. and Stan Wise voting no. The Commission designated Infinite Energy, Inc., a Florida-based marketer, as the POLR. Under this proposal, customers would have to pay a \$150 deposit to be reconnected but would not be required to make payments on any past due balances owed other marketers prior to reconnection. Customers would pay ten cents above Infinite's current market rate and be charged an \$11.95 monthly customer service charge. The POLR plan will expire on June 30, 2002. Customers who were disconnected on or prior to November 15, 2001 will be eligible for this program.

Note: This plan applies only to Atlanta Gas Light Company distribution areas.

On another issue, the Commission voted 3-2 with Commissioners David Burgess and Stan Wise voting no, to deny a petition by SCANA to allocate the costs of lost/unaccounted for natural gas to all classes of natural gas customers.

On another matter, the Commission adopted a schedule for hearings in the Savannah Electric and Power Company rate case. Hearings will be held February 6-8, March 27-29 and April 24-25. A Commission decision in this matter is scheduled for May 23, 2002.