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News Release

PSC Approves Energy Assistance Grants For Low-Income Consumers

ATLANTA -- February 4, 2003 --The Georgia Public Service Commission (Commission) today unanimously approved a \$5 million disbursement from the Universal Service Fund to the Georgia Department of Human Resources (DHR) for energy assistance to low-income consumers. Specifically, \$3 million will be used to assist low-income senior citizens in paying their winter heating bills while the remaining \$2 million will go to assist other low-income consumers. Commissioner David L. Burgess, who made the motion to approve the disbursement, said, "This Commission, out of a sense of dignity, ought to reach out to those in need in this state." The Commission action is in accordance with the Natural Gas Consumers' Relief Act that authorizes the Commission to use the Universal Service Fund to assist low-income residential consumers in times of emergency.

DHR will distribute the funds through the various Community Action Agencies located throughout the state. Consumers wishing to apply for assistance with their energy bills should contact DHR at 1-800-869-1150.

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