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News Release

PSC Clarifies Low-Income Energy Assistance Grants

ATLANTA, February 6, 2003 -- Due to the tremendous response to the low-income energy assistance grants approved on February 4, 2003 by the Georgia Public Service Commission (Commission), the Commission wishes to clarify how the grants will be distributed.

The Commission approved the disbursement of \$5 million from the Universal Service Fund to the Department of Human Resources to provide assistance with paying natural gas bills of the certificated natural gas marketers' customers who are either low-income or a low-income senior. Specifically, \$3 million will be used to provide matching funds to senior citizen households, 65 years and older, who meet the federal poverty guidelines and who qualify for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. (LIHEAP) The remaining \$2 million will be used to assist non-senior low-income customers. Since funding is through the natural gas Universal Service Fund, customers of electric utilities are ineligible to receive assistance through this grant.

Consumers do not need to call their Community Action Agency if they have already qualified for the LIHEAP program, as the matching grant will be automatically applied to a future bill. However, if you have not qualified for assistance, you are encouraged to call the Department of Human Resources (DHR) at 1-800-869-1150 to initiate the process.

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