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News Release

PSC Votes To Lower Rates For Connection To BellSouth Network; Issues Notice Of Rulemaking For Determining If Natural Gas Prices Are Constrained By Market Forces

ATLANTA, March 18, 2003 – The Georgia Public Service Commission (Commission) today approved a staff recommendation lowering rates BellSouth charges to Competitive Local Phone Exchanges to connect to BellSouth’s network. Commissioner David L Burgess commented on the Commission’s decision. “This action should provide competitive local telephone service to underserved areas of Georgia. We hope the competitive carriers will provide that service as a result of this Commission’s action,” Burgess said.

In other action, the Commission issued a new notice of rulemaking to determine if natural gas prices are constrained by market forces. All parties have until April 25, 2003 to file comments. The Natural Gas Consumers’ Relief Act of 2002 requires the Commission to adopt the rules before the Commission can invoke its emergency powers to protect consumers in certain situations.

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