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For Immediate Release

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News Release

PSC Approves Rule Revision On Natural Gas Marketers' Late Fees

Atlanta, January 18, 2005 -- The Georgia Public Service Commission (Commission) today approved by a majority vote of 3-2 a revision of the Commission Rule relating to the minimum account balances that natural gas marketers can charge their customers late fees on past due bills. The revised rule raises the minimum past due balance in customer accounts on which natural gas marketers can assess a late fee from \$10.00 to \$30.00. The late charge fee is \$10.00 or 1.5%, whichever is greater.

Commissioner Angela Elizabeth Speir said she initiated the motion to increase the threshold as a result of an elderly customer who contacted her office to complain because he was charged a \$10.00 late fee on an outstanding balance of less than five cents. "It is our responsibility to ensure that consumers are treated fairly. This rule change will prevent marketers from charging high late fees on small unpaid balances," Commissioner Speir added.

The new rule takes effect 20 days after it is filed with the Secretary of State's Office.

More information on this issue can be found under Docket Number 12720.

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