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## **Georgia Public Service Commission**

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For immediate release

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### **News Release**

#### **PSC Decision in Atlanta Gas Light Rate Case Saves Customers \$46 Million**

Atlanta, April 27, 2005 -- The Georgia Public Service Commission (Commission) decision today in the Atlanta Gas Light Company (Company) rate case will save will save natural gas customers \$46 million over the next three years. By a vote of 3-2, with Commissioners Angela Elizabeth Speir, David Burgess and Robert B. Baker, Jr. voting yes, a majority of the Commission approved a freeze in the current base charges that residential customers pay each month to the Company. This decision will also mean an annual reduction of \$21.9 million in the Company's revenues.

The decision also increases the monthly discount for low-income senior citizens by \$3.50, from the current \$10.50 to \$14.00, giving those qualified senior citizens a rate decrease of \$42 a year. A majority of the Commission approved an increase in the Company's proposed Home and Heart Warming program to \$1 million. The monies will be used to buy space heaters for qualified low-income recipients.

In addition, a majority of the Commission voted to authorize a Comprehensive Rate Plan for the Company that includes:

- A freeze in the Company's rates, effective May 1, 2005.
- A Return on Equity (ROE) of 10.375%.
- Continuation of the Pipe Replacement Program (PRP) on its current 10-year schedule with current rates frozen for the next three years. This will save consumers \$46 million.
- A regulatory liability account established to collect the estimated \$21.9 million excess earnings per year to be used to offset increases in the Pipeline Replacement Program.

The Company had requested an increase in annual revenues of \$24 million that would have increased monthly residential bills by about \$1.39.

The Commission's decision follows extensive hearings on the issue this year. For more information, use the Docket Search function on the Commission website, [www.psc.state.ga.us](http://www.psc.state.ga.us), and enter Docket Number 18638.

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