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## **Georgia Public Service Commission**

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From the Office of Commissioner Angela Speir  
**News Release**

42-05

### **Commissioner Angela Speir Sponsors a Proposal to Assist Thousands of Natural Gas Consumers**

Atlanta, October 4, 2005 – Commissioner Angela Elizabeth Speir’s proposal to disburse \$6 million from the USF was approved unanimously by the Commission. This decision means thousands of consumers will receive help in paying higher than usual natural gas bills this winter. The disbursement of \$6 million from the Universal Service Fund (USF) to the Department of Human Resources (DHR) will supplement grants from the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). DHR administers the LIHEAP program which is federally funded.

Commissioner Speir said, “This is an appropriate action for the Commission and an action that will help thousands of Georgians. The effects of Hurricane Katrina and the rising demand for natural gas mean many consumers are facing natural gas bills more than 70 percent higher than last year. This increase is a substantial problem for all consumers, but it is especially difficult for low-income consumers and Senior citizens on fixed incomes.”

Commissioner Speir is serving as the Commission Chairman this year. In 2002, she became the first woman elected to the Commission and is the first woman to serve as Chairman.

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