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## Georgia Public Service Commission

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### News Release

#### PSC Approves Cut in Atmos Energy Rate Request

Atlanta, November 17, 2005 – A majority of the Georgia Public Service Commission (Commission) today approved a \$3.8 million cut in the Atmos Energy Company (Company) request to increase its base rates. The Commission vote was 3-2 with Commissioners David Burgess, Robert Baker and Doug Everett voting yes.

The Commission decision means the average Atmos residential customer will see a small increase in their monthly bill of about \$.32. The Company will receive an annual increase in base revenues of \$345,505.

The Company's request, filed on May 20, 2005, asked for an annual increase in base revenues of \$4.022 million (later revised to a \$4.189 million increase) which the Company said would have increased the average residential bill by about \$4.52 a month.

Commissioner Doug Everett said of the Commission's decision, "This vote decreases the Company's profit making ability by lowering their Return on Equity to 10.125 percent from the current 11.5 percent. This reduction alone decreases the Company's base revenues by more than \$636,000 a year saving ratepayers an additional cost on their monthly bills."

Everett adds, "This vote should assure Atmos' customers that they will have safer infrastructure (pipes, meters, etc.) since we stayed the course on requiring Atmos to replace corroded pipes. This is very important since corroded pipes have recently burst and businesses and homes have been damaged."

The Commission adopted a motion by Commissioner Angela Speir that the Company establish a program whereby Atmos' Georgia ratepayers are provided with the option on their monthly bills to check a box that indicates that the ratepayer wishes to contribute an additional dollar (\$1.00) per month over and above their billed amount. These funds would be distributed to low income senior ratepayers to assist with the payment of their natural gas bills. The motion requires the Company to file the details of this program with the Commission by December 12, 2005.

The Commission decision on the Atmos request follows a six-month hearing process. The Commission held hearings in Columbus, Atlanta and Gainesville in September, October and November. More information on this issue is found on the Commission website, [www.psc.state.ga.us](http://www.psc.state.ga.us) under Docket

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