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## **Georgia Public Service Commission**

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For immediate release

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### **News Release**

#### **PSC Approves Assistance for Low Income Senior Citizens in Paying Natural Gas Bills**

Atlanta, December 19, 2006 – The Georgia Public Service Commission (Commission) today approved more than \$5 million in one-time grants to senior citizens receiving the low-income senior citizens discount in the Atlanta Gas Light Company (AGLC) delivery area. The Commission approved a \$150 credit that will be applied to the seniors' bills issued in the January and February billing cycles. The Commission estimates that more than 35,000 natural gas consumers are eligible for this grant. The grants are paid out of the Universal Service Fund (USF), a fund established by the Natural Gas and Competition Act of 1997 to provide for natural gas pipeline extensions and later amended to include low-income assistance.

Commissioner David Burgess proposed this one-time assistance to low-income seniors, who continue to struggle to pay their home heating bills. By giving this \$150 credit to all seniors receiving the Atlanta Gas Light Company (AGLC) Senior Discount, more people will be helped than under the Senior Match Program, another elderly assistance program funded by the PSC.

Since 2000 the Commission has provide more than \$72 million in refunds, grants and low-income assistance to natural gas customers in Georgia in the AGLC service territory.

You can find more information on this proceeding on the Commission web site, [www.psc.state.ga.us](http://www.psc.state.ga.us) under Docket Number 12897.

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