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NEWS RELEASE

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PSC Approves \$6.6 million Grant for Low Income Natural Gas Customers

ATLANTA, February 21, 2008 – More than 26,000 low-income Georgia households on the Atlanta Gas Light Company system will be eligible to receive grants up to \$250 each to help pay their winter natural gas heating bills following the Georgia Public Service Commission (Commission) unanimous approval today of more than \$6.6 million in grant money to the Georgia Department of Human Resources (DHR). The grants will be disbursed from the natural gas Universal Service Fund (USF). Only those customers on the Atlanta Gas Light Company (AGLC) delivery system will be eligible.

Commissioner Angela Speir, who made the motion to provide assistance, said, “The cost of natural gas has increased dramatically over the last several years. This increase is a substantial problem for all consumers. But, it is especially difficult for low income consumers and senior citizens on fixed incomes. While the increases may be beyond our control, we do have the ability to help Georgia families and mitigate the problem using the USF. Assisting low-income residential consumers in times of emergency is one of the primary uses of the fund.”

The Commission will also provide funds to cover the administrative costs incurred by the local Community Action Agencies in processing the applications. The administrative costs will be 6.2% of the total grant or \$412,315 for a total USF disbursement of over \$7 million. DHR will continue to be required to file monthly financial reports to provide a detailed accounting of all funds used from the USF.

The Commission has disbursed more than \$59.1 million in refunds and grants to assist Georgia’s natural gas low-income senior citizens and other low-income citizens on the AGLC system since the advent of natural gas deregulation in 1998. Additionally, a total of \$117.8 million in total grants and refunds have been approved by the Commission to all natural gas customers on the AGL system since 1998.

You can find more information on these dockets on the Commission web site, www.psc.state.ga.us under the Docket Number 12897.

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