



Contact: Bill Edge
Phone 404-656-2316
www.psc.state.ga.us

Georgia Public Service Commission

244 Washington St S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
Phone: 404-656-4501
Toll free: 1-800-282-5813
(outside metro Atlanta)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEWS RELEASE

23-09

PSC Approves Major Atlanta Gas Light Distribution System Improvement Program and Cuts Cost Increase to Consumers; Approves One-Year Waiver for White Pages Printing in Metro Atlanta

ATLANTA, October 6, 2009 – The Georgia Public Service Commission (Commission) today approved by a 4-1 vote Atlanta Gas Light Company's (AGLC) request to implement a new program to ensure that the Company's natural gas distribution system will be able to handle increased load growth and improve the system's reliability. The Company has titled its proposal the "Strategic Infrastructure Development and Enhancement Program" or STRIDE in Docket Number 29950.

The Commission approved an agreement in the Docket signed by both the Commission's Public Interest Advocacy Staff and AGLC. However the Commission adopted an amendment proposed by Commissioner Lauren "Bubba" McDonald, Jr. to levelize the increase that consumers will see in their bills over the next three years.

The Commission decision means residential, commercial and industrial customers will pay an additional \$0.39 as part of the monthly AGLC base charge on their natural gas bill beginning October 1, 2009. Rates will increase by an additional \$0.39 on October 1, 2010 and another \$0.40 on October 1, 2011. The Company's original proposal would have increased bills by \$0.95 a month.

The Commission held a hearing in this docket on September 16, 2009 following the Company's filing on June 15, 2009.

Here are some facts related to the Commission's decision:

- The new STRIDE program would allow AGLC to invest approximately \$400 million over the next ten years in infrastructure improvements. Those improvements could include upgrading the utility's distribution system and liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities to improve system reliability and create a platform to meet forecasted growth.
- AGLC will be required to file quarterly progress reports. Every three years the Company must file a copy of its STRIDE plan for the next three years for Commission review and approval.
- STRIDE would merge into the existing AGLC Pipeline Replacement Program (PRP) that began in 1998.

Georgia Public Service Commission

- The Commission Staff will conduct quarterly financial and prudence of implementation audits of the STRIDE program.

In other action, the Commission approved a one year waiver within the metro Atlanta calling area for the printing of 2010 residential telephone directories by AT&T Georgia in Docket Number 30137. AT&T had sought a permanent waiver of the rule but will proceed with a proposed rule making to further clarify the issue. AT&T customers may request a free copy of either the printed residential white pages or a CD ROM by calling a toll free AT&T number or going to AT&T's website to order the directories. Additionally, free copies of the CD or printed book will be available at all AT&T stores. AT&T must include the above information on bill inserts for the next three months.

The Commission also approved a schedule for hearings and filings in the Atmos Energy request for a rate increase in Docket Number 30442 filed on October 1, 2009. Atmos Energy is seeking an increase of \$3.7 million in rates for its Georgia customers in Gainesville and Columbus. Hearings will be held January 12-13, February 18-19 and March 11, 2010. The Commission will issue its decision in this docket during a Special Administration Session on March 25, 2010.

For additional information, please visit the Georgia Public Service Commission web site, www.psc.state.ga.us.

###