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From the Office of Commissioner Doug Everett
News Release

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Commissioner Doug Everett Says Agreement with Atlanta Gas Light on Coal Tar Cleanup Saves Ratepayers Money

Atlanta, June 6, 2006 – Commissioner Doug Everett says ratepayers will save money as a result of today's Georgia Public Service Commission decision to approve an agreement to resolve issues stemming a Commission staff audit of the Atlanta Gas Light Company (AGLC) Manufactured Gas Plant environmental clean up program. A majority of the Commission voted 3-2 to approve the agreement.

Everett said, "I voted for the agreement, which was approved by the Commission staff, the Consumers' Utility Counsel and AGLC, because I strongly believe the agreement will save the ratepayers money. Of the \$664,000 that was in question from the staff audit, the stipulation requires AGLC to pay \$600,000 back to the ratepayers. It is obvious it would have cost more than \$64,000 to hold hearings to determine if any more funds could be returned to ratepayers. Also, the new audit could show that the costs in question were justified and the ratepayers could receive no refund."

Everett noted, "The agreement only covers costs through June 30, 2005. Furthermore, it allows the Commission to disallow any costs in previous years if the Commission finds such expenses have been the result of criminal misconduct, fraud, concealment, or failure to disclose a material fact."

Commissioner Everett is serving his first six-year term on the Commission having been elected in November 2002. He served as Commission Chairman in 2004. He resides in Sylvester and is the first Republican elected to the Commission from southwest Georgia.

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