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From the Office of Commissioner Doug Everett
News Release

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Commissioner Doug Everett Fights for Economic Development in Rural Georgia

Atlanta, April 5, 2005 – Commissioner Doug Everett says he is committed to bringing economic development to rural Georgia as shown by his votes to use the Universal Service Fund (USF) to expand natural gas service to unserved and underserved areas of the state. The Legislature created the Universal Service Fund under the Natural Gas Competition and Deregulation Act of 1997 in order to provide for the extension of natural gas service to underserved areas of the state and the promotion of economic growth.

The Commission today approved a project in Liberty County that will bring up to 800 jobs into that rapidly growing area. The USF monies will allow Atlanta Gas Light Company to build a four-mile long natural gas pipeline to serve a Target Distribution Center in the Mid-Coast Industrial Park. “This is a classic case why the USF was created as this area is growing rapidly,” Everett said.

Everett has spearheaded two other previous Commission decisions to disburse USF monies for economic development projects in rural Georgia.

On May 6, 2003 the Commission approved the grant of \$243,204 to build a natural gas line extension to serve the new Appling County Detention Center near Baxley. This project will create about 250 jobs.

On October 26, 2004 the Commission approved the disbursement of more than \$1.4 million from the Universal Service Fund for the construction of a new natural gas pipeline in Wilkinson County. The project will build a five-mile long six-inch steel gas main in order to extend natural gas service to Carbo Ceramics, Inc. According to the application, Carbo Ceramics will build a new facility in Wilkinson County will create 48 new jobs.

Commissioner Everett added, “I am trying to get natural gas in their area not only for economic development that will create jobs, but also to bring in an alternative heating fuel that is typically cheaper than the other means of heating.”

Commissioner Everett, an Albany native, is serving his first six-year term on the Commission having been elected in November 2002. He served as Commission Chairman in 2004.

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