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## Georgia Public Service Commission

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### Customer Advisory

Be an “Energywiser” Consumer

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Atlanta, October 10, 2005 – The Georgia Public Service Commission urges consumers to be “energywiser” in their consumption of electricity and natural gas. Staff estimates that an average user may expect to see about a 10% increase in the electric bill and about a 50% increase in the natural gas bill this winter. Consumers may take several measures to keep utility bills affordable, of which one is to “weatherize” their homes.

Weatherizing includes such things as placing plastic and/or using lined drapery over windows; sealing cracks around windows, doors and pipes that lead to the outside; repairing leaky faucets; making sure the damper is closed in the fireplace when not in use; and wrapping exposed water pipes – to name a few.

Other measures one may take to manage utility bills include signing up for budget billing; lowering the water heater thermostat to 120°; setting the furnace thermostat at 68° during the heating season (lower to 65° when away for more than an hour); opening drapery/curtains on the sunnyside of the house; using less water when boiling foods; wearing a sweater or long sleeve clothing when at home, and enrolling in any discount plans that may be available through your local electric or natural gas company. Contact the company for details.

For other ways to help you manage your utility bills, visit the Consumer Corner portion of our website at [www.psc.state.ga.us](http://www.psc.state.ga.us).

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