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For immediate release

CONSUMER ADVISORY

Ways to Keep Bills Affordable ... and Stay Cool, Too!!

Atlanta, June 23, 2006 – The Georgia Public Service Commission wants to make sure consumers take steps to keep their bills affordable during hot weather. Customers who use more than 650 kilowatts each billing cycle may expect to see an increase in their bills for billing cycles during the months of June, July, August and September, when Georgia Power's summer rates are in effect. Georgia Power's summer rates recover the costs of bringing additional generating plants on line to meet the increased demand for electricity that occurs during the summer due primarily to air conditioning usage.

However, there are some things you can do to keep your bills affordable and stay cool during the hot, summer season. Consider using the following conservation measures:

- Have your cooling system serviced by a professional to insure that it operates efficiently.
- Keep your thermostat set at 78 degrees. If you're going to be away from home, set it higher.
- Do your cooking and laundry during the early morning or late evening when temperatures are generally not as hot.
- Use ceiling or floor fans to circulate the conditioned air. Using fans makes the air feel cooler to the body which allows you to set your thermostat to a higher temperature.
- Clean dust from supply and return air grilles.
- Change filters monthly. However, if you have pleated filters, change these at least every three months.
- Install programmable thermostats to help manage your kilowatt usage.
- .pdf Keep curtains closed on the sunny side of your home.

For other energy-saving tips, visit our website at www.psc.state.ga.us. Additionally, you may visit www.georgiapower.com or www.eia.gov (Federal Energy Information Agency).

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