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PSC official visits Cumming Kiwanis

Leader touts alternative to crude

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Natural gas vehicles could be the way of the future, a state official told the Cumming Kiwanis Club.

Tim Echols, one of Georgia's five Public Service commissioners, said an effort by the panel may soon lead to more compressed natural gas pumps at stations across metro Atlanta.

Echols, who on most days drives a natural gas vehicle to Atlanta from his home outside Athens, said at least three commissioners must approve the plan.

If so, Atlanta Gas Light could receive \$10 million from the PSC's universal service fund to install about a dozen natural gas pumps.

He said the fund comes from taxes paid by large businesses that use substantial amounts of energy.

"A portion of the tariff those big businesses pay goes into that pot," Echols said. "The legislature