Celebrities Promote the Plus-1 Program

"Now is the perfect time to join me and thousands of your neighbors who support the Plus-1 program... trust me on this. It's a good program."

So says actor Samuel L. Jackson, who is joining actor/musician Isaac Hayes to promote MLGW services and programs through a series of public service and informational announcements. Nationally known sports figures John Calipari, head basketball coach of the University of Memphis, and Rudy Gay, star of the Memphis Grizzlies, will soon join Jackson and Hayes in promoting the Plus-1 program and MLGW energy conservation efforts.

All celebrities are donating their time for free. On radio, Jackson and Hayes have been heard in October on select dates and stations. Remaining dates in November and December are:

**December 3**
- WDIA AM 1070
  - Isaac Hayes for Plus-1
- WRVR FM 104
  - Samuel L. Jackson on Energy Conservation
- WXRM FM 98.1
  - Samuel L. Jackson on Energy Conservation

**November 26**
- WXRM FM 98.1
  - Samuel L. Jackson on Energy Conservation

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"Approximately 80 percent of a customer's electric and gas bill is passed on directly to TVA and natural gas suppliers. What we are working on is the 20 percent that MLGW has control over. While this budget does call for a modest increase in natural gas and water rates and a small decrease in electric rates, it will ensure that we are able to continue to provide quality, reliable services to our customers at the lowest possible cost," said Jerry Collins, MLGW's Interim Chief Utility Officer.

Highlights of the budget include:

- $106.3 million in capital investment into the MLGW infrastructure.
- Substation upgrades and installations across the service territory.
- Installation of an emergency generator at Shaw Pumping Station.
- Seismic improvements to Shaw Pumping Station.
- Street lighting installations.
- Reduction of the growth rate of core operating and maintenance expenses.
- Elimination of unnecessary overtime.
- Reduction of part-time and temporary employee workforce and the addition of full-time positions.
- Development of a new energy conservation and weatherization program.

"We work to ensure our customers pay the lowest possible rates, consistent with safe and reliable service. MLGW's portion of the average residential bill has increased only 2.9 percent since 2004, which is less than the rate of inflation. Even with the proposed modest rate increases, our customers will still pay some of the lowest utility rates in the nation," Collins said.

Community Calendar

**December 1** - Sounds of the Season mean the Memphis Symphony Orchestra. The MSO "Home for the Holidays" Pops concert features conductor Scott Speck at the Cannon Center Dec. 1 at 8 p.m. while "Classical Christmas" begins at 8 p.m. at First Congregational Church on Dec. 7 with Maestro David Loebel. For tickets and information call the symphony at (901) 537-2525 or go online at www.memphissymphony.org.

**December 13 and 14** - Please join the Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Mid-South and FM-100 for the 16th Annual Stories of Light Radio-thon on December 13th and 14th at Saddlerock on Poplar Avenue in Memphis. Tune in to FM-100 to hear stories of magical wishes and touching tales of hope, strength and joy, from volunteers, families and staff. Call 901-680-WISH (9474) and discover how you can share the power of a wish!

Customer CONNECTION

**2008 Budget, Rate Changes Presented to MLGW Board**

The MLGW Board of Commissioners approved at its October 18 meeting a $1.7 billion operating budget for 2008. Highlights of the budget include a temporary one-year weather credit in the electric division and modest increases in natural gas and water rates. When combined, the typical residential customer will see the cost of services go up an average of 1.9 percent or $3.26 per month (the actual customer impacts may vary depending on actual consumption). The gas rate change will also feature a proposed structure that will minimize the Purchased Gas Adjustment component of the bill and align the gas rates to encourage conservation.

This is the first rate increase proposed by MLGW in four years. The increases in gas and water rates are needed in order for MLGW to meet overall operating expenses. The budget will now go to the Memphis City Council for review and approval.

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How does your MLGW electric rate really compare?

According to recent news stories, Entergy Mississippi, which provides electricity to more than 427,000 customers in 45 counties in Mississippi, will cut its electric rates by nine percent in October. This new rate level will be in effect through the end of 2007. A typical Entergy Mississippi residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity per month will see a monthly bill decrease from about $103 to about $94.

Sound good? Well, before you move to DeSoto County to save money on electricity, consider what the comparable MLGW customer pays.

The cost of 1,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity per month right now for an MLGW customer is only $82.49.

And that's not all the good news. MLGW has proposed a temporary electric rate decrease that would take effect January 2008 — during the middle of winter — will drive electric costs down even further for MLGW customers.

MLGW is the largest three-service public power utility in the nation, serving more than 420,000 customers in Memphis and Shelby County. A 2007 national survey of large metropolitan areas showed that MLGW is ranked sixth for the lowest combined residential utility bill.

Change a Light, Change the World

Energy Star invites you to celebrate its Change a Light, Change the World campaign by making a simple pledge to help change the world, one energy-saving light at a time.

Energy Star-qualified light bulbs and fixtures provide bright, warm light yet require 75 percent less energy than standard lighting, generate 75 percent less heat, and last up to 10 times longer. On average, each Energy Star-qualified compact fluorescent light bulb can prevent more than 400 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions over its lifetime. By replacing the bulbs in five light fixtures you use most with Energy Star-qualified models, you can save more than $65 every year in energy costs.

Make a pledge today to "Change a Light." Visit www.energystar.gov, click on "Join Us," read the pledge information, and complete the online form. Please select MLGW as the referral organization. Also visit www.energystar.gov to receive special coupons on compact fluorescent bulbs and other energy-efficient products. For more information about Energy Star or to receive energy-saving fact sheets, e-mail wisenuse@mlgw.org.