

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

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**CONTACT: Helen O'Leary, Acting Public Information Officer/Executive Secretary  
(404) 656-4540 or 1-800-282-5813**

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**THE GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION MAY PULL THE PLUG ON  
NATURAL GAS MARKETER ENERGY AMERICA**

**ATLANTA**—In response to consumer complaints about the unauthorized switching of natural gas marketers—a practice known as “slamming”—and other unacceptable business practices allegedly being perpetrated by Energy America, the Georgia Public Service Commission today voted 5-0 to schedule a hearing to fully examine these allegations. If found guilty of the allegations the Commission may fine the company up to \$15,000 per violation and revoke the company’s certificate to conduct business in the state’s natural gas market.

The hearing, which has been scheduled for May 28, 2000, will allow the Commission staff to call witnesses who claim to have been “slammed” or otherwise treated unfairly by Energy America. The company will then have the opportunity to rebut witnesses’ testimony and present its case before the Commission.

“It is the Commission’s role to protect Georgia citizens from unscrupulous activities such as the ones that Energy America allegedly has committed,” commented Commission Chairman Bob Durden. “There is no place in this state’s natural gas market for companies that are found to have engaged in unsavory business practices,” added Durden.

Since deregulation began in November of 1998, the Commission has received approximately 700 complaints about Energy America. Although the overwhelming majority of these complaints stem from allegations about slamming, they also include claims that this company misrepresented itself to consumers and treated customers in an unfair manner.

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