

PRESS RELEASE
GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 18, 2000

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**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION PROPOSES GEORGIA UTILITY FACILITY
PROTECTION ACT RULES AND APPOINTS AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

ATLANTA—As a first step in implementing the Georgia Utility Facility Protection Act, the Georgia Public Service Commission today voted 5-0 to issue a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking setting forth procedures for the Commission's enforcement of the Act. The Act is intended to prevent damages to underground gas, electric and telecommunication facilities by companies engaged in blasting or excavating. The Act requires any person who engages in blasting or excavating to call the Georgia Utility Protection Center to determine the location of underground facilities prior to commencing work, and requires utility companies, when requested, to clearly mark the location of their underground facilities.

The proposed rules describe the enforcement authority and sanctions to be imposed by the Commission under the new law. The rules allow a party to file a written complaint alleging a violation of the Act directly to an Advisory Committee of the Commission that will review the complaints and make appropriate written recommendations to the Commission as to action to be taken by the Commission. If a party is found to have violated the Act, the Commission may impose penalties up to \$10,000 for each violation.

In a separate action today the Georgia Public Service Commission voted unanimously to create an Advisory Committee to assist the Commission in the enforcement of the Georgia Utility Facility Protection Act. The Advisory Committee, consisting of eleven persons representing various interests as required by the Act, will assist the Commission by reviewing reported violations of the Act and preparing recommendations to the Commission as to the appropriate penalties to impose on persons violating the Act. Each member of the Advisory Committee has extensive experience and expertise in the areas covered by the Act. The initial members of the Advisory Committee are:

Thomas Jackson
Phillip Kempton
Gary Riggs
Jeffery Baker
Tommy Stalnaker
Kristie Holley
Robert Davis
George Summers
Roland Amerson
Tim Boatfield
Commissioner Lauren "Bubba" McDonald

Georgia Power Company
BellSouth Telecommunications
City of Cartersville
Georgia Department of Transportation
Houston County
Governor's Office of Consumer Affairs
RHD Services, Inc.
AnSCO & Associates
Affinity Service Group
Georgia Utility Protection Center
Georgia Public Service Commission