

NEWS RELEASE GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 3, 2001

CONTACT: Bill Edge, Public Information Officer

MEDIA CONTACT ONLY: (404) 656-2316; EMAIL ADDRESS: BillE@psc.state.ga.us CONSUMER CONTACT: (404) 656-4501; 1-800-282-5813;gapsc@psc.state.ga.us

COMMISSION OFFERS ATLANTA GAS LIGHT FINE IN PIEDMONT ROAD INCIDENT

ATLANTA – The Public Service Commission today in a split decision offered Atlanta Gas Light Company a \$10,000 fine as part of a proposed consent agreement in connection with a July 9, 2000 incident involving alleged violations of the Georgia Utilities Facilities Protection Act. The incident occurred on July 9, 2000 in the 2700 block of Piedmont Road when an excavator struck and damaged a 4-inch natural gas main and a 16-inch water line. If Atlanta Gas Light rejects the consent agreement then the Commission would conduct a hearing to receive evidence in the case before rendering a final decision.

Commissioner Stan Wise cast one of two dissenting votes. "UtiliQuest, the utilities locator, has already been found liable and fined in this case. I see no basis for this particular vote today." Commission Chairman Lauren "Bubba" McDonald, Jr. joined Wise in voting against the proposed consent agreement.

A separate Commission hearing against the excavator, B & O Boring, Inc. is still scheduled for Friday, April 20, 2001 at 10 a.m. The utilities locator, UtiliQuest, has already accepted a consent order and a \$ 4,500 fine in connection with this incident.

####