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## **Georgia Public Service Commission**

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### **News Release**

#### **PSC Votes To Proceed Against Energy America For Slamming Complaints And Atmos Energy For Pipeline Safety Violations**

ATLANTA, March 4, 2003 – The Georgia Public Service Commission (Commission) today approved the scheduling of a proceeding to hear allegations that Energy America engaged in 14 instances of “slamming”, which is the unauthorized switching of customers’ preferred natural gas providers. At this time, no date has been set for the hearing. If the Commission finds the allegations are true, Energy America could face maximum fines of \$15,000 for each violation.

The Commission also set a hearing for May 22, 2003 to receive evidence on alleged safety violations by Atmos Energy in maintaining and repairing its pipeline system. The allegations came to light following an explosion investigation at 10 Tate Street in Gainesville, Georgia on December 17, 2002. One person died from his injuries as a result of the incident.

In other action, the Commission approved a schedule for hearings on Georgia Power Company’s and Savannah Electric & Power Company’s proposed Green Energy Programs. The Commission will hold public hearings on June 2-4, 2003 and is scheduled to issue a decision in these dockets during its regular Administrative Session on July 1, 2003.

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