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News Release

PSC Approves Hearing Into Alleged Violations By Natural Gas Marketer; Sets Hearing Into Fatal Gainesville Natural Gas Explosion

ATLANTA, April 1, 2003 – The Georgia Public Service Commission (Commission) today approved a hearing to consider evidence of alleged violations of Georgia law and Commission rules by natural gas marketer ACN Energy. A Commission hearing officer will hear evidence on the allegations on a yet to be determined date. Specifically, the allegations include: that ACN Energy failed to send customers disconnection notices providing them the required 15 days notice before their service would be turned off on or after a date certain for non-payment; failed to offer reasonable payment arrangements in the disconnection notices; failed to provide notice of payment centers in its disconnection notices; and failed to provide notice that qualified low-income residents could transfer to the Regulated Provider without termination of service.

The Commission also set a hearing on a proposed stipulation with Atmos Energy to resolve issues involving the December 17, 2002 explosion in Gainesville, Georgia which resulted in one fatality. The hearing is set for Tuesday, April 8, 2003 at 10 a.m.

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