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For IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEWS RELEASE

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APRIL IS DIG SAFELY MONTH; GOVERNOR PERDUE ISSUES PROCLAMATION

ATLANTA, April 1, 2010 – Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue has proclaimed April 2010 as Dig Safely Month in Georgia. During a ceremony at the State Capitol, Governor Perdue presented a proclamation to representatives of the Georgia Public Service Commission, Georgia 811, Georgia Utility Contractors Association, Georgia Power, Atlanta Gas Light, AT&T and other representatives of organizations involved in the prevention of damage to Georgia's underground utility infrastructure.

The Public Service Commission is charged with the enforcement of the state's underground utilities damage prevention programs. The Commission's program is rated one of the top five in the nation and serves as a model for other states to follow in reducing damages to underground utilities. The Commission works to educate excavators and utilities in order to avoid accidents that can cause expensive and often dangerous damage to buried utilities.

Commission Chairman Lauren "Bubba" McDonald, Jr. said, "We are joining the Governor and all interested groups in working collectively toward a common goal to prevent damages and personal injuries from occurring to the state's underground utility facilities. In addition, we work to prevent the interruption of utility service as well. Since the passage of the Georgia Utility Facility Protection Act in 2000, the state has built a damage prevention program second to none in the nation."

Chairman McDonald added, "For those states who do not currently have a damage prevention program, I would issue a challenge to follow Georgia's lead and begin such a program, it is the right thing to do."

The Commission works in close cooperation with Georgia 811 which accepts calls from the national federally mandated "Call before You Dig" Number 8-1-1. This "one call" system is free to contractors and excavators as well as homeowners and helps all excavators comply with the law.

Photographs from the proclamation event are posted on the Commission web site, www.psc.state.ga.us.

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