

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

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News Release

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**THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION ANNOUNCES PUBLIC
MEETINGS REGARDING UTILITY OUTAGES**

On December 13, 2002, the North Carolina Utilities Commission announced that it would hold a series of public meetings around the State to allow public comment regarding the utility outages related to the recent ice storm. The first meeting is scheduled to be held in Durham on Thursday, December 19, 2002, at 6:00 p.m., in the Durham City Hall, City Council Chambers, 101 City Hall Plaza, Durham, North Carolina. The Durham meeting will be held to hear from affected utility customers in the Durham-Chapel Hill area.

The Utilities Commission today announced the locations and times for the following additional public meetings in Raleigh, Salisbury, Greensboro, Charlotte, and Henderson:

Thursday, January 2, 2003, at 6:00 p.m., Utilities Commission Hearing Room 2115, Dobbs Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh

Tuesday, January 7, 2003, at 6:00 p.m., Civic Center, 315 South Boundary Street, Salisbury

Wednesday, January 8, 2003, at 6:00 p.m., Greensboro College, Cowen Building, Cowen Lecture Hall, Second Floor, 815 West Market Street, Greensboro

Thursday, January 9, 2003, at 6:00 p.m., Mecklenburg Criminal Court Building, Room 1101, 700 East Fourth Street, Charlotte

Tuesday, January 14, 2003, at 6:00 p.m., Vance County Courthouse, District Courtroom No. 1, Main Floor, 156 Church Street, Henderson

In conjunction with Governor Easley's Natural Disaster Preparedness Task Force, these public meetings are being held as part of the independent review which has been undertaken by the Utilities Commission and the Public Staff to assess the process of how well utilities responded to the ice storm, from the pre-planning stage through restoration of service to customers, including utility communications efforts. Lack of access to essential utility services, particularly during cold weather, is a serious health and public safety issue and the Commission encourages public comment.