

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
UTILITIES COMMISSION  
RALEIGH

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News Release

FOR RELEASE: December 13, 2002

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

The North Carolina Utilities Commission announced today that it will 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 will be held in Durham on Thursday, December 19, 2002, at 6:00 p.m., in the Durham City Hall, City Council Chamber, Durham, North Carolina. *The Durham meeting will be held to hear from affected utility customers in the Durham-Chapel Hill area.*

Additional public meetings will be scheduled at times and locations to be announced in Raleigh, Charlotte, the Triad area, and the Vance County area.

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.