



**For information, contact:**

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**For Immediate Release**

***Columbia, S.C., March 4, 2016 –***

**ORS Promotes National Consumer Protection Week**

The SC Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) will partner with community organizations around the Midlands to host events in recognition of **National Consumer Protection Week**. This year's theme for National Consumer Protection Week is *Power Up! Know Your Rights*. The ORS will be participating in the following events to educate consumers about their basic rights related to investor-owned utility companies:

- **Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 a.m.** -- The ORS and the SC Department of Consumer Affairs will have a phone bank open to answer consumers' questions on utility rights and other consumer issues. WLTX will host the agencies.
- **Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** -- The ORS and the SC Department of Consumer Affairs will host a consumer education event at the Harvest Hope Food Bank at 2220 Shop Road in Columbia. The agencies will provide consumers with information about basic consumer rights, winter weather heating, utility safety net provisions, protection from identity theft, and mortgage fraud issues.
- **Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.** -- The ORS will visit Harvest Hope's Lexington County Emergency Food Pantry and will host a Consumer Education event at the facility.
- **Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon** -- The ORS will be presenting information to the Public Service Commission of S.C. at the Commission's office at 101 Executive Drive, #100 in Columbia. *The presentation will directly follow the Commission's meeting which starts at 2:00 p.m. that day.*
- **Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.** -- The ORS and Consumer Affairs will host a Shred Day at Shred 360's Irmo facility, located at 413 Western

Lane in Irmo. The event will give consumers a chance to securely dispose of documents.

Outside of Consumer Protection Week, the ORS Consumer Services staff is available to assist consumers Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 800-922-1531 or at [www.regulatorystaff.sc.gov](http://www.regulatorystaff.sc.gov).

National Consumer Protection Week, March 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>h</sup>, is coordinated by the Federal Trade Commission to encourage consumers to take full advantage of their consumer rights and make better-informed decisions.

*The Office of Regulatory Staff is an agency of the State of South Carolina. Its mission is to represent the public interest in utility regulation by balancing the concerns of the using and consuming public, the financial integrity of public utilities, and the economic development of South Carolina. For more information, please visit the ORS web site at <http://www.regulatorystaff.sc.gov/>.*

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