



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL HENRY McMASTER
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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Investigators to Monitor Rita Related Gas Price Hikes

Columbia, S.C. – Attorney General Henry McMaster today sent the following letter to representatives of the state's petroleum industry in anticipation of gas pricing issues arising from Hurricane Rita.

September 23, 2005

Ms. Kay Clamp
Executive Director, South Carolina Petroleum
Council
807 Gervais Street, Suite 303
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Mr. E. Sims Floyd, Jr.
Executive Director, South Carolina Petroleum
Marketers Association
PO Box 64
Columbia, SC 29202

Re: Impact of Hurricane on Gasoline Prices and Supplies

Dear Ms. Clamp and Mr. Floyd:

This office is investigating complaints about gasoline marketing in South Carolina. Consumers are calling about the price at the pump. The Department of Energy is forwarding to us additional complaints. Concern has also been expressed about oil jobbers being cut off from some sources of supply, hindering their ability to supply retail outlets. The price of gas at the pump is rising again.

Investigation, monitoring of gasoline prices, and review of allegations relating to pricing and supply will continue as Hurricane Rita moves ashore. We will continue to meet with representatives of the major producers and refiners to discuss the supply and pricing situation and to determine what action by this office, if any, would be appropriate.

We have authority to pursue unfair or deceptive acts or practices prohibited by the South Carolina Unfair Trade Practices Act or otherwise violative of civil or criminal law. This includes unconscionable price increases and supply disruptions which are the result of violations of law rather than the normal dynamics of supply and demand.

Please advise your membership of the contents of this letter. Please inform them that investigators from this office will be monitoring price increases and that their records may be subject to investigative review. We urge restraint and compliance with the law.

Yours very truly,


Henry McMaster