

SOUTHEAST ADVISORY

To: BENS Southeast Members
Subject: BENS Southeast Members Lead Review of Georgia's Fuel Emergency Plan

The Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) recently turned to the BENS Georgia Business Force to bring a private sector perspective to the State's Fuel Emergency Plan. The critical gasoline shortages of Fall 2008 highlighted the need for better contingency planning.

The Georgia Business Force, a BENS Southeast program, has been named by Governor Perdue to lead the *private-public partnership* in Georgia. The Business Force assembled 14 leading companies and association with vital interest in the fuel supply. These private sector leaders represented transportation, fuel distribution, logistics and supply chain, convenience store operators, major retailers, utilities, pipeline operations, financial services, and national shippers.

On January 22nd, the draft plan was reviewed in a meeting with GEMA and other state agencies. It was a lively and candid discussion. Of particular interest were the communications messages and channels by which the private sector can receive timely information, incongruities between the plan and current price gouging legislation, and the impact on commerce of the actions within the plan's different emergency levels.

A follow-up meeting is anticipated in late February to review the final draft plan.

If you are interested in participating or want more information, contact Harry Ferris, BENS SE Region Deputy Director, hferris@bens.org; 404-468-0262