COMMISSIONERS:
JASON SHAW, Chairman
LAUREN "BUBBA" McDONALD, Vice-Chairman
PETER HUBBARD
DR. ALICIA M. JOHNSON
TRICIA PRIDEMORE

FILED
JAN 2 1 2026
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
GPSC

REECE McALISTER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SALLIE TANNER
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Georgia Public Service Commission

(404) 656-4501
(800) 282-5813

244 WASHINGTON STREET, SW
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334-5701

FAX: (404) 656-2341
psc.ga.gov

BEFORE THE GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN THE MATTER OF:

GUFPA CASE NO. PSC 25-28419

DOCKET NO. 56675

Benchmark Excavating, LLC,
Respondent

DOCKET# 56675
DOCUMENT# 225159

MAILED
1·22·2026

FINAL ORDER

The Georgia Public Service Commission ("Commission") issues this Order to accept the Consent Agreement agreed to by Benchmark Excavating, LLC, ("Respondent"), on December 29, 2025. A copy of the Consent Agreement is attached hereto as Attachment A.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

1.

All Findings and Conclusions contained within the attached Consent Agreement are incorporated herein by reference.

2.

The Commission has reviewed the terms of the Consent Agreement and finds that it is a reasonable and appropriate resolution of the allegations against Respondent.

ORDERING PARAGRAPHS

WHEREFORE IT IS ORDERED, that all findings of fact and conclusions of law contained within the preceding sections of this Order and/or as incorporated therein by reference, are hereby adopted as the findings and conclusions of this Commission;

ORDERED FURTHER, that the Commission hereby accepts and adopts the Consent Agreement attached as "Attachment 'A'" and executed by Benchmark Excavating, LLC on

December 29, 2025. Nothing in this order shall resolve or prejudge any complaint or complaints against any other person involved in the matters from which this action arises;

ORDERED FURTHER, that Respondent shall abide by the terms of the Consent Agreement.

ORDERED FURTHER, that Respondent shall pay to the Commission, ***in certified funds***, a civil penalty of $15,000.00 within thirty (30) days from the date of this Order. Respondent may mitigate $12,000.00 of the above assessed civil penalty by attending Commission approved training, and shall pay remaining civil penalty of $3,000.00, ***in certified funds***, within thirty (30) days from the date of this Order. Proof that such training has been accomplished shall be furnished to the Commission within forty-five (45) days from the date of this Order.

ORDERED FURTHER, that failure to comply with the terms of this Order or the Consent Agreement could subject Respondent to further penalties under O.C.G.A. § 46-2-91.

ORDERED FURTHER, that a motion for reconsideration, rehearing, oral argument, or any other motion shall not stay the effective date of this Order, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission; and

ORDERED FURTHER, that jurisdiction over this matter is expressly retained for the purpose of entering such further Order or Orders as this Commission may deem just and proper.

The above action of the Commission in Administrative Session on January 21, 2026.

Sallie Tanner
Executive Secretary

1-21-26
Date

Jason Shaw
Chairman

1-21-26
Date

COMMISSIONERS:

JASON SHAW, Chairman
LAUREN "BUBBA" McDONALD, Vice-Chairman
PETER HUBBARD
DR. ALICIA M. JOHNSON
TRICIA PRIDEMORE

REECE McALISTER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SALLIE TANNER
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ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334-5701

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BEFORE THE GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF:	)	
	)	
Benchmark Excavating, LLC,	)	DOCKET NO. 56675
RESPONDENTS	)	(PSC Case No. 25-28419)
	)	

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that this Commission Order was filed with the Commission's Executive Secretary and a copy of same was served upon all parties and persons listed below via hand delivery as indicated by an asterisk, or by depositing same in the United States mail.

*Sallie Tanner, Executive Secretary
Georgia Public Service Commission
244 Washington Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Benchmark Excavating, LLC
Attn: Robert Matthew Rutledge
540 Oak Ridge Drive
Oxford, GA 30054

Richard S. Abram, registered agent c/o
1200 Ashwood Parkway, Suite 560
Atlanta, Georgia 30338

Respectfully Submitted this 23rd day of January, 2026:

Maritza Rivera, Admin. Assistant
Facilities Protection Unit
Georgia Public Service Commission
244 Washington St. Ste. 112
Atlanta, GA 30334

3.

Respondent(s) agree to pay to the Commission a penalty of $15,000.00 within thirty (30) days after the date of an Order issued by the Commission approving of this Consent Agreement. Payment must be forwarded to:

Georgia Public Service Commission
Facilities Protection Unit
244 Washington Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-5701

All payment of penalties must be remitted in certified funds, money order, cashier's check, or official check.

Personal/Company checks will not be accepted.

4.

If Respondent(s) choose training in lieu of paying $12,000.00 of the penalty described above, Respondent(s) agree to promptly complete a training program acceptable to the Commission, ***minimum of five (5) employees required to attend training***. **The respondent will be responsible for completing the training class and submitting the remaining $3,000.00 penalty in certified funds or cashier's check to the Georgia Public Service Commission.**

5.

Respondent(s) understands that all payments will be processed upon receipt. However, this does not release the Respondent of the terms of this agreement.

6.

Respondent(s) understands that failure to comply with the terms of this Consent Agreement could subject each to additional penalties.

7.

This Consent Agreement shall not become effective until and unless approved by the Commission. Respondent(s) enter into this Consent Agreement without admission of fault or liability.

8.

The undersigned authorized representative of the Respondent(s) acknowledges that he/she has read this Consent Agreement and understands its contents. The undersigned representative acknowledges that the undersigned party freely, knowingly and voluntarily enters into this agreement. The undersigned representative hereby consents to the resolution of this proceeding as provided herein.

RECEIVED
JAN 05 2026
GUFPA UNIT
GPSC

This 29 day of December, 2025

Consented to:
Sign, date, and mail, email, or fax

Robert M Tudor

On behalf of: Benchmark Excavating, LLC

PSC 25-28419

SYNOVUS
Synovus Bank, Member FDIC

OFFICIAL CHECK

Before Synovus will replace or reimburse any party for the amount of an Official Check, Synovus may require such additional information, documentation (including a surety bond), and time as is reasonably required by Synovus to evaluate the claim.

1001198444

December 29, 2025
DATE

64-60
611

PAY THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS

$ *******3,000.00

TO THE ORDER OF GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

REMITTER ***BENCHMARK EXCAVATING, INC.

FOR ***PSC 25-28419

PAYABLE THROUGH SYNOVUS BANK COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

MP

⑈1001198444⑈ ⑆061100606⑆ 30135745⑈

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