



NEWS RELEASE
GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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PSC Accepts \$4.5 Million Fine From BellSouth

ATLANTA— BellSouth today paid a \$4,537,029 fine to the Public Service Commission for failing to meet Commission mandated performance standards for three consecutive months. BellSouth failed to meet Performance Standards in providing service to Competitive Local Exchange Carriers during March, April and May as provided for in the Commission's January 16, 2001 order.

Commissioner David Burgess said, "These fines show this Commission's commitment to a truly competitive local telephone market in Georgia." Georgia is the first state to have penalties for Performance Standards prior to a Bell Operating Company's certification for interstate long distance service. BellSouth's long distance certification petition is still pending before the Commission.

The fine will be paid into the General Treasury of the State of Georgia.

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