

NEWS RELEASE GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 23, 2001 CONTACT: Bill Edge, Public Information Officer MEDIA CONTACT ONLY: (404) 656-2316; EMAIL ADDRESS: <u>BillE@psc.state.ga.us</u> CONSUMER CONTACT: (404) 656-4501; 1-800-282-5813;gapsc@psc.state.ga.us

PSC Bans BellSouth "Win Back" Activities; Sets Date For Hearing In Piedmont Road Incident

ATLANTA – The Public Service Commission today approved an interim order prohibiting BellSouth from engaging in so-called "win back" activities for seven days once a customer switches to another local telephone service provider. The Commission acted after receiving complaints from other local telephone service companies. Commission staff will investigate the issue for 90-days and report on its findings. In addition, the Commission's ruling prohibits BellSouth from including any marketing information in the final bill sent to customers who have switched.

The Commission also set an August 22, 2001 hearing date for a complaint against Atlanta Gas Light Company for alleged violations of the Georgia Utility Facility Protection Act. The complaint stems from a July 9, 2000 incident in the 2700 block of Piedmont Road in Atlanta in which an excavator struck and damaged a 16-inch water line and a 4-inch natural gas line, causing severe traffic disruption for days and economic losses for area businesses.

###