



NEWS RELEASE
GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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PSC Orders BellSouth To Pay \$7 Million Penalty

ATLANTA – The Public Service Commission today affirmed a decision that it made in a January 16, 2001 order that requires BellSouth to pay \$3.5 million in penalties to the state for failing to meet performance standards in providing service to Competitive Local Exchange Carriers during the month of May. The Performance Standard of which BellSouth was requesting reconsideration involves the average disconnect timeliness in instances in which customers switch local telephone providers but keep the same telephone numbers. The Commission's decision also directs BellSouth to pay \$3.5 million directly to the Competitive Local Exchange Carriers for failing to meet this disconnection standard in the prescribed manner.

The penalties paid to the Commission by BellSouth will be paid into the General Treasury of the State of Georgia.

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