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## Georgia Public Service Commission

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### News Release

#### **PSC Approves Stipulation Between BellSouth and Commission Staff on Filing of Rates and Tariffs**

Atlanta, October 19, 2005 -- The Georgia Public Service Commission (Commission) has unanimously approved a stipulation between its Staff and BellSouth Telecommunications, Incorporated (BellSouth) that provides for the “detariffing” of certain products and services, subject to a number of terms and conditions that ensure continued consumer protection. No party to the proceeding opposed the stipulation. The decision means BellSouth is no longer required to file and maintain tariffs or promotions for new and most existing retail services, bundles, contracts, and contract service arrangements with the Commission. Previously, BellSouth had been required to file a tariff with the PSC detailing its pricing and promotion changes as well as product launches and terms and conditions 30 days before they went into effect. Detariffing will remove this requirement from BellSouth. Presently, the tariffs contain the rates, terms and conditions of services provided by the Company.

BellSouth says the company will continue to notify customers of any changes and post them on their website at [www.bellsouth.com](http://www.bellsouth.com). BellSouth will notify the Commission Staff and the Consumers’ Utility Counsel of any changes to the prices, terms or conditions of its detariffed services. In addition, the Commission will maintain its authority to resolve customers’ complaints related to the detariffed services.

Commissioner David Burgess noted, “The Commission recognizes the changes in the telecommunications industry. I hope this decision will allow BellSouth to better respond to competition and will allow consumers to benefit from better services and reductions in prices.”

The Commission has the authority to detariff these services under state law found at O.C.G.A. §46-2-23. The Commission decision follows a hearing held on this issue on August 11, 2005.

More information on this issue is found on the Commission website, [www.psc.state.ga.us](http://www.psc.state.ga.us) under Docket Number 20729.

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