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News Release

PSC Will Consider Adopting A Consent Agreement With Columbus Local Communications For Not Providing Pre-paid Telephone Service

ATLANTA, April 25, 2007 – On Thursday, April 26, the Georgia Public Service Commission (Commission) will discuss a Consent Agreement between the Commission's Staff and Columbus Local Communications (Columbus Local), a local exchange carrier authorized to provide telephone service in Georgia.

In January 2007, the Commission received numerous complaints regarding Columbus Catalog Sales dba Columbus Local Communications from consumers who alleged that they paid for phone service that was not received. Citing these complaints, and other alleged violations of Commission rules and orders, the Commission issued a Rule Nisi against Columbus Local on February 13, 2007.

On March 22, 2007, the Commission Staff entered into a Consent Agreement with Columbus Local to resolve this matter. The Consent Agreement requires Columbus Local to: 1) reimburse the consumers who filed complaints with the Commission, 2) pay \$10,000 in penalties to the State Treasury; and, 3) surrender its certificate of authority to provide local exchange service.

Next Tuesday, May 1, Commissioners are scheduled to vote on whether to adopt this Consent Agreement. You can find more information on this case on the PSC website www.psc.state.ga.us by doing a search for Docket No. 15318.

Any consumer who paid Columbus Local for telephone service, but was disconnected prior to receiving that service, should file a complaint with the Commission. The Consumer Affairs Staff of the Commission will help customers get a refund for the amount paid for phone service not received. Consumers can contact the Georgia Public Service Commission by e-mail, fax, telephone or letter, as listed below.

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