

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

NEWS RELEASE

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**NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION REAFFIRMS
CALLER ID WITH PER-LINE AND PER-CALL BLOCKING**

Denying a Motion for Reconsideration from Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company, the North Carolina Utilities Commission (NCUC) today reaffirmed the major points of its May 31, 1991, Order authorizing Caller ID with free per-line and per-call blocking on an experimental basis for two years. The NCUC's Order today also allowed Central Telephone Company to proceed with its Caller ID tariff, which includes per-line and per-call blocking, subject to certain conditions.

Caller ID is a service whereby a subscriber to that service who is equipped with a special electronic display device can receive the phone number of a calling party before answering the phone. There has been extensive controversy over the proposed service, especially relating to privacy issues.

Under the NCUC's Order, telephone companies wishing to offer Caller ID must automatically provide per-call blocking to R-1 and B-1 subscribers free of charge and offer to provide free per-line blocking to those subscribers upon request. The Order also provides for certain subscriber education and reporting requirements to the NCUC. Responding to telephone company filings regarding the technological problems in the provision of blocking to other venues, such as coin stations and PBX stations, the NCUC instructed the companies to provide such blocking as they are technologically capable of providing upon subscriber request.