

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

NEWS RELEASE

For Release: FEB. 14, 1992

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METROCONNECTION TO CONTINUE

The North Carolina Utilities Commission (NCUC) ruled today that the main elements of the MetroConnection Plan offered by Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company to its Triangle customers would continue to be available as an option to all Southern Bell customers in the area who wish to subscribe to it.

The NCUC had previously ruled that the experimental MetroConnection Plan would end once the experimental Triangle J Regional Calling Plan (TJRCP) goes into effect on March 8, 1992. Amid the controversy and confusion following this decision, the NCUC decided that, as a policy matter, it would be useful to have two plans to consider. This will expand customer options for all area subscribers and allow current MetroConnection customers to stay with MetroConnection if they so desire.

Under the terms of the Order, Southern Bell customers in the Triangle will be able to choose one of four options: TJRCP Community Caller Plus, TJRCP Thrifty Caller (measured rate), MetroConnection MetroDiscount Option 2 (message rate), or MetroConnection MetroPlus (flat rate). Since the TJRCP and MetroConnection are experiments, these options are not permanent service offerings but may terminate when the TJRCP and MetroConnection terminate.

In order to lessen customer confusion, the NCUC will require Southern Bell to send out a new notice advising all customers of the options available to them.