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For Immediate Release

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From the Office of Commissioner Stan Wise NEWS RELEASE

Commissioner Wise Calls for Commission Action against Buzz Telecom

Atlanta, December 8, 2006 – Commissioner Stan Wise, Chairman of the Georgia Public Service Commission (Commission), says he has “grave concerns” about Buzz Telecom activities in Georgia and is calling for expedited action against the company, an Indiana-based long distance service provider, following numerous complaints of slamming and deceptive marketing practices. At the Commission’s December 14 Telecommunications Committee meeting, Wise will ask for an expedited hearing to seek an emergency suspension of Buzz Telecom’s certificate to operate in Georgia.

“We have what appears to be a company doing bad things to good people,” said Wise. “I urge my colleagues on the Commission to join me in putting a stop to this company’s deceptive and fraudulent activities in Georgia.” Wise noted that Buzz is currently under a cease and desist order in Kentucky, and the Ohio Public Utilities Commission is considering suspending or revoking the company’s certificate.

The Commission has received numerous complaints alleging the company has engaged in slamming or deceptive market practices. Slamming is the unauthorized switching of a consumer’s long distance service provider. Consumers have also complained that Buzz has misrepresented itself as affiliated with the local telephone company.

Wise said both practices are a violation of state law and Commission rules and the Commission can levy penalties including fines up to \$15,000 as well as suspension or revocation of the company’s certificate to provide service in Georgia.

Wise says consumers who believe they have been slammed should take the following steps:

- Contact your local exchange carrier to determine if your long distance service has been switched without your authorization. If it has, ask to be switched back to your preferred long distance service provider.
- Ask your local exchange carrier to place a PIC freeze on your long distance service to assure that your service cannot be switched without your explicit consent.

- Call the Public Service Commission to file a slamming complaint.

If your service has not been switched, but you are receiving bills from this company, call the Public Service Commission to file a complaint. Disputing the charges releases the consumer from any obligation to pay the charges until the dispute has been resolved.

Consumers may contact the Commission by e-mail, fax, letter or telephone as listed below.

E-mail: Gapsc@psc.state.ga.us

Fax: 404-656-2341

Telephone: 404-656-4501 (metro Atlanta) or 1-800-282-5813 (outside metro Atlanta)

Mail: Georgia Public Service Commission

Consumer Affairs

244 Washington St. S.W.

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Commissioner Wise is serving as chairman of the Georgia Public Service Commission for 2006. He is completing his second six-year term on the Commission, having been first elected in 1994. He was re-elected last month to his third term on the Commission. He previously served as Commission Chairman in 1997 and 1999. He is also a past President of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC).

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