



# Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

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**For Immediate Release – March 18, 2004**

Contact: Stephanie Marquis  
(608) 266-9600

## Feedback Wanted in Number Portability Case

MADISON – The Public Service Commission (PSC) is asking for public comment on the application of Black Earth Telephone Company to waive the timing of its obligation to provide local number portability from a landline to a wireless carrier as issued in the November 2003 Federal Communications Commission (FCC) order.

The FCC order required wireline carriers in major service areas, such as Milwaukee, to provide number portability by November 24, 2003. All other telephone service providers in Wisconsin need to provide local number portability from a landline to a wireless carrier by May 24, 2004. Black Earth Telephone Company has applied to the PSC to waive its number portability obligation until November 24, 2004.

Local number portability allows a customer to take their current telephone number and move it to their wireless phone, while keeping the same telephone number. Please note that if a customer moves from a landline to a wireless carrier, their number may not be portable back to a landline again. Local number portability also allows landline and wireless customers to change telephone service providers while keeping the same telephone number. While a service provider cannot charge for porting a telephone number, other fees may apply, including service contract obligations.

Black Earth Telephone Company is seeking a six month waiver in providing local number portability (1) to avoid raising rates for its telecommunications customers, (2) to avoid an unduly economic burden on the telephone company, or (3) to avoid imposing a requirement that is technically impossible.

Public comments should address issues such as:

- Would it create a hardship for you if you could not port your telephone number?

- Would you be willing to pay more for your telephone service if your provider offers local number portability?
- Will it create an inconvenience for you not to have local number portability by May 24, 2004?
- What kind of impact will local number portability have on your business?
- Any other additional comments

Public comments will be included in the record that is developed for the Commission to review as it considers all the different aspects of the proposed waiver. Comments can be filed electronically through the Electronic Regulatory Filing System (ERF) on the PSC website at <http://psc.wi.gov>.

Comments Due	Noon April 1, 2004
All Comments Should Include	Case Number 05-TN-103
All Comments Should be Sent To	Chela O'Connor Telecommunications Division Public Service Commission P.O. Box 7854 Madison, WI 53707-7854

The petition that was filed with the PSC requesting that Black Earth Telephone Company waive its local number portability obligation can be found at:

[http://psc.wi.gov/a\\_erf\\_share/view/viewdoc.aspx?docid=13922](http://psc.wi.gov/a_erf_share/view/viewdoc.aspx?docid=13922)

Questions regarding this case may be directed to Chela O'Connor, PSC docket coordinator, at 608-267-9766 or by email at [chela.oconnor@psc.state.wi.us](mailto:chela.oconnor@psc.state.wi.us).

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