

TELECOMS

NBTC won't budge over DTAC row

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The board of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC) decided yesterday not to allow any leeway for mobile phone subscribers who use the soon-to-expire 850-megahertz spectrum concession of Total Access Communication Plc (DTAC).

About 346,000 mobile phone customers use DTAC's 850MHz spectrum network. Without any relief from the NBTC, their phones will be disconnected from the nationwide phone service on Saturday.

In addition, DTAC said earlier that about one million other customers would also be affected because the roaming system on their phones depended on the 850MHz spectrum.

Six of the seven members of the NBTC board attended yesterday's meeting. Four voted against offering any redress. The two others, Prawit Leesathapornwongsa and Thawatchai Jittrapanun, were in favour of allowing DTAC extra time.

To protect customers, the country's third-largest mobile operator on Tuesday filed a complaint with the Administrative Court accusing the NBTC of failing to protect its mobile phone customers. The regulator plans to end all services using the 850MHz spectrum, mostly 2G phones.

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