

# No ruling yet in BlackBerry case

February 27 2006

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No word Monday from a courtroom in Virginia where a federal judge is mulling a patent dispute that could shut down BlackBerry e-mail service.

U.S. District Judge James Spencer heard arguments in the case last Friday and adjourned the hearing without setting a deadline for his decision.

A Virginia company, NPT, alleges that Canada's Research in Motion infringed on its patents when it developed the handheld BlackBerry, which allows users to maintain e-mail contact when out of the office.

NPT is urging Judge Spencer to issue an injunction effectively pulling the plug on BlackBerry service.

Past attempts to settle the matter have been unsuccessful; however, the parties could still strike a mutually acceptable deal before a formal ruling is issued.

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Citation: No ruling yet in BlackBerry case (2006, February 27) retrieved 27 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2006-02-blackberry-case.html>

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