

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH



DOCKET NO. P-100 SUB 137C

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of Area Code Relief for

North Carolina's 336 Numbering Plan Area

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on July 22, 2013, Neustar, Inc., in its role as the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA), notified the Commission that the projected exhaust date for the 336 numbering plan area (NPA) code had been revised to second quarter 2016. In an earlier filed petition, in this docket, Neustar requested that the Commission approve the Industry's recommended all-services distributed overlay relief plan for the 336 area code.

TWO AREA CODES AND TEN-DIGIT DIALING

Industry representatives have recommended a "distributed overlay" as the relief plan for the 336 area code. Under the recommended plan, a new area code would be assigned to cover or "overlay" the entire geographic area using the existing 336 area code boundary lines. This would result in two area codes for the same geographic area. The chief advantage of using an overlay relief plan is that existing telephone subscribers would not have to change area codes or telephone numbers. When telephone numbers in the 336 area code run out, new residential and business telephone numbers for the area would be assigned from the new area code. The chief disadvantage of using an overlay relief plan is that all local calls dialed using seven digits today would have to be dialed using ten digits (336 + seven-digit telephone number or new area code + seven-digit telephone number). A Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulation would require ten-digit dialing both between and within the 336 code and the new overlay area code.

OTHER SOLUTIONS WERE CONSIDERED

In Neustar's recent filing, three variations of a "geographic split" relief plan were also updated for consideration. Under these plans, the geographic area covered by the 336 area code would be split into two parts. Roughly half of the affected telephone subscribers would continue to be served through the 336 area code, and half would change to the new area code. Although ten-digit dialing would not be required within the area codes, most seven-digit dialed calling routes that exist today in the 336 area code would become ten-digit dialed calling routes in both directions if they are split by the new area code boundary. The industry rejected all geographic split relief plans because of the necessity of changing the telephone numbers of a large number of subscribers, the difficulty of predicting growth for the two areas, and potential customer confusion as the area is divided into smaller pieces.

PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD IN HIGH POINT

After carefully considering the updated information filed by Neustar, the Commission has determined that all affected subscribers should have an opportunity to express their views on the recommendation. Accordingly, the Commission will conduct a hearing in High Point, North Carolina, beginning on Monday, June 23, 2014 at 7:00 p.m., High Point Courthouse – The Washington Courtroom, 505 East Green Drive, High Point, North Carolina 27261 and continuing on Tuesday, June 24, 2014 at 10:00 a.m., at the same location, for

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the purpose of receiving public comment on the matter of area code relief for the 336 area code. The evening hearing on June 23, 2014 shall be conducted for the sole purpose of receiving testimony and comments from members of the public. Members of the public who are unable to attend the evening public hearing on June 23, 2014, will be allowed to testify on the morning of June 24, 2014. The Commission will receive testimony from all formal parties, including the industry participants, the Public Staff, Attorney General, and any other interveners, during the hearing. The formal parties shall present a summary of their written comments and be prepared to respond to questions from the Commission.

Pursuant to G.S. 14-269.4, absent certain specific exceptions, it is unlawful for any person to possess or carry, whether openly or concealed, any deadly weapon, not used solely for instructional or officially sanctioned ceremonial purposes, in any building housing any court of the General Court of Justice. Therefore, weapons are strictly prohibited at the hearings scheduled in this docket in county courthouses. Everyone entering the county courthouse shall pass through a metal detector, and any weapons found will be seized.

Persons desiring to send written statements to the Commission should submit their statement supporting the industry recommendation, or any alternative proposal, on or before June 27, 2014, and should include any information that those persons wish to be considered by the Commission in this matter. Interventions or statements should be addressed to the Chief Clerk, North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4325 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4325. Statements may be faxed to (919) 733-7300 or emailed to statements@ncuc.net.

The Public Staff of the Utilities Commission, through the Executive Director, is required by statute to represent the using and consuming public in proceedings before the Commission. Statements to the Executive Director should be addressed to:

Christopher J. Ayers
Executive Director - Public Staff
4326 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4326
Fax: (919) 733-9565

The Attorney General is also authorized by statute to represent the using and consuming public in proceedings before the Commission. Statements to the Attorney General should be addressed to:

The Honorable Roy A. Cooper, III
Attorney General – State of North Carolina
9001 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699 – 9001
Fax: (919) 716-6757

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 11th day of March, 2014.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Gail L. Mount
Gail L. Mount, Chief Clerk



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