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Division of Public Utilities

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MEMORANDUM

To: Public Service Commission

From: Division of Public Utilities

Constance B. White, Director
Laura Scholl, Telecommunications Manager
Chris Luras, Technical Consultant

Date: January 30, 2007

Re: Docket No. 99-999-05/New Docket

In the Matter of the Request of the North American Numbering Plan Administrator for a New Area Code within the (801) NPA

BACKGROUND

On April 26, 2000, the Commission issued an order in Docket No. 99-999-05 that detailed a proposed area code split for the 801 NPA. In its Order, the Commission determined that the least disruptive manner of performing the split was to establish the boundary of the existing 801 area code primarily around Salt Lake County; all other rate centers in the 801 NPA would be served by the new area code, 385. As a result of industry conservation methods, the forecasted 801 NPA exhaust date was extended which indefinitely postponed the Commission's plans. On June 21, 2004, the Commission vacated its proposed permissive and mandatory dialing dates.

However, given the current utilization of the 801 NPA and the diminishing effect of conservation methods, the threat of 801 NPA exhaust is now imminent. As of October 2006, the Numbering Resource Utilization Forecast (NRUF) estimated that the 801 NPA would exhaust in second

quarter of 2009. Moreover, there are only 48 available codes in the 801 NPA. The North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA) recommends that state utility commissions begin planning approximately two years prior to forecasted exhaust. It is therefore critical for the Commission to issue an order by May 2007.

RECOMMENDATION

Over the past several years, because of conservation methods, the forecasted exhaust date for the 801 NPA has been extended minimally each year. Even though it is possible that the forecasted date will be extended this year (April 2007 NRUF release), the Division recommends that the Commission proceed with the 801 exhaust planning. The Division's recommendations are as follows:

- In accord with the Commission's previous Order in Docket No. 99-999-05, the Division recommends an area code split for the Wasatch Front area of Utah. Specifically, the 801 NPA will be assigned primarily to Salt Lake County, and the new 385 NPA will be assigned to the remaining areas in the current 801 NPA¹.

- The Division proposes a six month permissive dialing period, during which callers may place calls to areas in the new area code territory by dialing either the 801 or 385 NPA². Upon conclusion, the Division proposes a three month recorded announcement period where customers will receive a message that provides notification that they must dial again when using the wrong area code. At the end of this period, relief will be in place and the NXX's that are changed to the 385 NPA will be returned to the 801 NPA. According to NANPA, it is common industry practice for NANPA and industry representatives to choose the commencement dates of the abovementioned periods at the implementation meeting.

¹ According to the 2000 PSC Order, the following Qwest rate centers will be included in the 801 NPA: Salt Lake City, Magna, Kearns, Murray, Holladay, Alta, and Midvale. All other existing 801 rate centers will be included in the NPA which include: Ogden, Morgan, Clearfield, Kaysville, Farmington, Bountiful, Lehi, American Fork, Pleasant Grove, Provo, Goshen, Payson, Spanish Fork, Springville, and Spanish Fork Canyon.

² New Mexico recently conducted an area code split; it used a twelve month permissive dialing period (six months is standard industry practice).

- The Division recommends that the Commission issue an 801 relief plan by May 2007. Once the Commission orders an action plan, NANPA will conduct an industry planning meeting wherein NANPA and industry representatives will set interval dates and coordinate customer education plans. The Division proposes that it coordinate the implementation planning with NANPA and industry representatives.