

**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)	ORDER ESTABLISHING
336 Numbering Plan Area)	PROCEDURES, SCHEDULING
)	HEARING AND REQUESTING
)	COMMENTS

BY THE PRESIDING COMMISSIONER: On January 21, 2014, the Commission issued an Order Requesting Comments and Scheduling Public Hearings (Order) to address area code relief for the geographic area covered by the 336 NPA. In the Order, the Commission permitted the general public to file comments by February 28, 2014, required the formal parties to the proceeding to file comments regarding the industry recommendation, or any alternative proposal by February 28, 2014 and reply comments by March 14, 2014. The Commission further ordered local exchange companies (LECs) and competing local providers (CLPs) to send public notice as a bill insert, via US mail or electronically to their respective subscribers within the 336 area code once during the period beginning on the date of the Order and ending on February 28, 2014 and ordered BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC d/b/a AT&T North Carolina (AT&T) and North State Telephone Company to assume primary responsibility for assuring the publication of public notice in newspapers of general circulation throughout the affected area. Finally, in the Order, the Commission encouraged the telephone membership corporations (TMCs) to also notify their customers.

On January 28, 2014, AT&T filed a Motion requesting that the Commission enter an order extending the time to comply with the customer notice requirements, public notice and hearing date established in the January 21, 2014 Order by no less than sixty days. In support of the Motion, AT&T explained that it could not issue the customer notifications required by the Order quickly enough for the notices to reach the customers in time to provide the customers with a meaningful opportunity to participate in the public comment cycle established by the Order. AT&T further noted that although the Commission ordered that AT&T and North State to assume primary responsibility for assuring publication of public notice throughout the entire affected geographical area, AT&T has no legal authority to require other carriers to comply with the Commission's Order. AT&T therefore suggested that the Commission order all affected carriers to work with the North American Numbering Plan Administrator and the Commission staff to create and implement a plan to address these issues. Finally, AT&T requested that an order be entered extending the current notice requirements, public notice, and hearing date by 60 or more days.

On January 29, 2014, Time Warner Cable Information Services (North Carolina) (TWCIS (NC)) filed comments in support of AT&T's Motion.

On January 31, 2014, the Commission issued an Order Holding Docket in Abeyance. In said Order, the Presiding Commissioner found that good cause existed to extend the time for notice, reschedule the hearing dates and to hold all matters in abeyance pending further orders of the Commission.

After careful consideration, the Presiding Commissioner finds that good cause exists to reinstitute these proceedings, to reschedule the hearings, to re-establish comment periods and to re-state procedures to be followed in this docket.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

1. That members of the general public shall have the opportunity to file comments in accordance with the public notice attached hereto. Such comments shall be submitted not later than June 10, 2014. As the local exchange companies with the largest service areas, AT&T and North State Telephone Company shall assume primary responsibility for assuring, with the cooperation of the other LECs, CLPs, and TMCs, the publication of the public notice in order to solicit comments from the general public concerning area code relief for area code 336 in North Carolina. Such notice shall be published in newspapers of general circulation throughout the geographic territory covered by the 336 area code and shall not be less than $\frac{1}{4}$ of a page. Such notice, which is attached hereto as Appendix A, shall be published once a week for two successive weeks concluding by no later than June 3, 2014. Each LEC/CLP/TMC which publishes the attached public notice, shall not later than June 10, 2014, file affidavits regarding such newspaper publication and a list of papers used for publication and the dates the notice was published in each newspaper. All affected carriers are required to cooperate with AT&T, North State Telephone Company and the Public Staff to ensure that the public notice is published throughout the geographic territory covered by the 336 area code.

2. That the LECs and CLPs shall send the public notice as a bill insert, via US Mail or electronically, to each of their respective subscribers located within the 336 area code once during the period beginning on the date of this Order and ending on June 10, 2014.

3. That TMCs who serve subscribers in the area affected by the proposed plan are hereby encouraged to send bill inserts reflecting any seven-digit dialing routes into the 336 area, as appropriate, to their respective subscribers during the period beginning on the date of this Order and ending on June 10, 2014.

4. That the formal parties to this proceeding shall file comments regarding the industry recommendation, or any alternative proposal, not later than June 10, 2014, with reply comments due no later than June 17, 2014. At a minimum, each formal party to this proceeding shall:

- a) Provide an executive summary of their comments and reply comments setting out in a concise manner all material issues upon which they comment. The executive summary shall apply to any comments exceeding three pages double-spaced.
- b) Set out with specificity any amendments they suggest to the industry recommendation. If any commenters recommend a geographic split for the 336 area code, they shall indicate which counties and exchanges comprise their proposed area codes and, to the extent practicable, the number of access lines therein. Such commenters shall also provide a map of North Carolina by county and, if possible, by exchange, showing boundaries of any area code they propose. Those commenters supporting the industry recommendation of an overlay shall indicate if they have any changes to the industry's proposal, and discuss the merits of the overlay as compared to a geographic split. The industry participants shall fully discuss each of the alternatives for which they considered, pros and cons of each alternative, and the reasons which caused them to choose their recommended alternative and to reject the other alternatives.
- c) File comments and reply comments together with an MS-DOC formatted computer diskette containing noncompressed files saved in Word format.
- d) Be encouraged to file jointly.

5. That a public-hearing shall be convened in High Point, North Carolina, 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 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 morning hearing. The formal parties shall present a summary of their written comments and be prepared to respond to questions from the Commission.

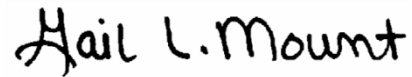
6. That the following are hereby made formal parties to this docket: Public Staff, Attorney General, all local exchange companies, all telephone membership corporations, all competitive local providers, and any cellular, PCS, or other wireless

company which files comments. Any other person desiring to become a formal party to this docket must be granted intervention according to Commission Rules R1-3, R1-5, and R1-19.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 11th day of March, 2014.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gail L. Mount". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gail L. Mount, Chief Clerk

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)	NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
336 Numbering Plan Area)	

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 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

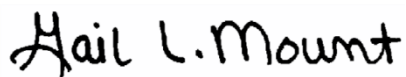
The Attorney General is also authorized by statute to represent the using and consuming public in proceedings before the Commission. Statements to the Attorney General should be addressed to:

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gail L. Mount". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gail L. Mount, Chief Clerk

NOTE TO PRINTER: Advertising cost shall be paid by the Applicant. It is required that the Affidavit of Publication be filed with the Commission by the Applicant.