

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

NEWS RELEASE

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**NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
AUTHORIZES EXTENDED AREA SERVICE BETWEEN
TOPSAIL ISLAND AND WILMINGTON AND BETWEEN
TOPSAIL ISLAND AND 270 PREFIX OF THE SCOTTS HILL EXCHANGE**

The North Carolina Utilities Commission recently approved extended area service (EAS) between the Topsail Island exchange served by Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company (Carolina) and the Wilmington exchange served by Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company (Southern Bell). The Commission further approved EAS between the Topsail Island exchange and the 270 prefix of Southern Bell's Scotts Hill exchange. EAS was not approved between the 686 prefix of the Scotts Hill exchange and Topsail Island.

The Commission stated in its Order that in this particular EAS proposal two-way calling between Topsail Island and the 270 prefix of the Scotts Hill exchange would be in the public interest, allowing local calling between Topsail Island and Hampstead.

While the polling results for the entire Scotts Hill exchange (270 and 686 prefixes) to Topsail Island were negative, the polling results for the 270 prefix of the Scotts Hill exchange to Topsail Island were positive.

The Order further stated that because the Scotts Hill exchange is uniquely situated, splitting the prefixes in the exchange would not cause the problems usually associated with splitting exchanges.

Both Southern Bell and Carolina were directed to submit a time schedule for implementing the EAS and file the necessary tariffs with the Commission effective upon the in-service date of the EAS reflecting the EAS matrix rates then in effect.