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NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION

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**THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION APPROVES
AN ALL-SERVICES DISTRIBUTED OVERLAY FOR AREA CODE
RELIEF IN THE 336 NPA**

RALEIGH, N.C. – The North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission), by Order dated August 13, 2014, approved implementation of an all-services distributed overlay to provide area code relief for the 336 Numbering Plan Area (NPA or area code) that serves the Piedmont Area of North Carolina – including the cities of Winston-Salem, Greensboro, High Point, North Wilkesboro, and Asheboro. Neustar, serving as the North American Numbering Plan Administrator, forecasted that without area code relief, numbering resources for new accounts in the 336 area will be exhausted by the third quarter of 2016.

The telecommunications industry unanimously recommended the overlay, and the option was also supported by the Public Staff of the North Carolina Utilities Commission. The Commission selected the recommended overlay method of relief because it is the most efficient, most effective, and least disruptive of the four alternatives presented. The Commission has previously approved similar overlay relief in the Charlotte and Raleigh areas.

Because an overlay means that the 336 dialing area will have two different area codes, the Federal Communications Commission requires use of 10-digit dialing (area code + 7 digits) for all local calls into, out of, and within the area. However, there will be no change in the cost to consumers for local calls. Further, existing customers will be able to keep their 336 telephone numbers without change. Neustar has informed the Commission that the new overlay area code will be 743.

Customers will receive more detailed information, including a time schedule for implementation of 10-digit dialing, in future notices from their local telecommunications provider.

About the North Carolina Utilities Commission

The North Carolina Utilities Commission is an agency created in 1891 by the North Carolina General Assembly to regulate the rates and services of public utilities. It is the oldest regulatory body in state government. Today, the Commission regulates providers of energy, telephony services, water, transportation, household goods and more. For additional information on the North Carolina Utilities Commission, visit www.ncuc.net.

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