

1 PLACE: High Point Courthouse, High Point,
2 North Carolina
3 DATE: Monday, June 23, 2014
4 DOCKET NO.: P-100, Sub 137C
5 TIME IN SESSION: 7:03 P.M. TO 7:23 P.M.
6 BEFORE: Presiding Commissioner ToNola D. Brown-Bland
7 Commissioner Bryan E. Beatty
8 Commissioner Susan W. Rabon
9 Commissioner Don M. Bailey
10 Commissioner Jerry C. Dockham
11 Commissioner James G. Patterson
12

13 IN THE MATTER OF:
14 Area Code Relief for North Carolina's
15 336 Numbering Plan Area
16

17 VOLUME 1
18

19 A P P E A R A N C E S:
20 USING AND CONSUMING PUBLIC
21 Lucy E. Edmondson, Esq.
22 Public Staff - North Carolina Utilities Commission
23 4326 Mail Service Center
24 Raleigh, NC 27699-4326

1	T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S	
2	E X A M I N A T I O N S	
3		PAGE
4	CHESTER AYERES	
5	Examination by Ms. Edmondson.....	11

6

7

8

9

E X H I B I T S

10 (No exhibits.)

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Good evening. Let
3 us come to order and go on the record. I am Commissioner
4 ToNola D. Brown-Bland, the Presiding Commissioner for
5 this hearing. With me this evening are Commissioners
6 Bryan E. Beatty, Susan W. Rabon, Don M. Bailey, Jerry C.
7 Dockham, and James G. Patterson.

8 I now call for Hearing Docket Number P-100,
9 Sub 137C, In the Matter of Area Code Relief for North
10 Carolina's 336 Numbering Plan Area, or NPA.

11 On September 7, 2000, Neustar, Incorporated, in
12 its role as North American Numbering Plan Administrator
13 and acting on behalf of the North Carolina
14 telecommunications industry, filed a petition with the
15 Commission seeking approval of the consensus industry
16 recommendation that an all-services distributed overlay
17 be implemented as the relief plan for the 336 NPA. In
18 its petition Neustar alleged that in the absence of
19 relief, central office or NXX codes for the 336 NPA would
20 exhaust during the fourth quarter of 2002. In addition,
21 Neustar described the various relief options which were
22 considered at an industry meeting held on July 27, 2000,
23 including three different geographic split alternatives
24 and an all-services distributed overlay. According to

1 Neustar's petition, the consensus at the industry meeting
2 favored an all-services distributed overlay.

3 On January 5, 2001, the Commission entered an
4 Order Requesting Comments and Scheduling Public Hearing.
5 The Commission made all local exchange companies, all
6 telephone membership corporations, all competitive local
7 providers, all interexchange carriers, any wireless
8 provider that elected to file comments, the Attorney
9 General, and the Public Staff formal parties to the
10 proceeding. No other party petitioned for leave to
11 intervene as a formal party in 2001. A hearing before
12 the Commission was held in March of 2001. Since that
13 time numerous filings, meetings, and updates have been
14 filed or noticed with the Commission in this docket and
15 the most recent series of updates began in the summer of
16 2013.

17 On July 22, 2013, Neustar notified the
18 Commission that the projected exhaust date for the 336
19 numbering plan area code had been revised to the second
20 quarter of 2016. Neustar provided an update of four
21 service alternatives to provide numbering resource relief
22 to the 336 area code and the respective geographical maps
23 associated with each alternative and projected exhaust
24 date for each alternative. Neustar stated that it had

1 recently released the April 2013 numbering resource
2 utilization and forecast and the numbering plan area
3 exhaust analysis which reflected actual data through
4 December 31, 2012 and the projected demand for numbering
5 resources submitted to the North American Numbering Plan
6 Administrator by the industry.

7 Neustar commented that under its federal
8 contract, the North American Numbering Plan Administrator
9 is required to begin relief planning for area codes 36
10 months prior to the projected exhaust, therefore, the
11 2013 filing was made to update the record in this docket
12 and to renew Neustar's request that the Commission
13 approve the industry recommendation of an all-services
14 distributed overlay relief plan for the 336 NPA.

15 The updated initial planning document enclosed
16 in the July 22, 2013 filing set forth four proposals of
17 relief for the 336 NPA: One, an all-services distributed
18 overlay referred to as alternative number one; two, a
19 geographic split which encompasses the Winston-Salem,
20 Greensboro, and High Point rate centers creating a
21 circular geographic area, referred to as alternative two;
22 three, a geographic split with the boundary line
23 following rate center boundaries in a northeastern to
24 southwestern direction placing the High Point rate center

1 to the west of the line and the Summerfield, Monticello,
2 Reidsville, Gatewood, and Ruffin rate centers to the
3 east, referred to as alternative three; and four, a
4 geographic split with the boundary line following the
5 rate center boundaries in a northeastern to southwestern
6 direction placing High Point rate center on the eastern
7 side of the line and the Summerfield, Monticello,
8 Reidsville, Gatewood, and Ruffin rate centers on the
9 western side, referred to as alternative four.

10 As stated in the initial planning document,
11 with the all-services distributed overlay a new area code
12 would be assigned to the same geographic area as the
13 existing 336 NPA. Customers would retain their current
14 telephone numbers, however, ten digit local dialing by
15 all customers between and within area codes in the area
16 covered by the new code would be required. The remaining
17 three alternatives all involve the use of geographic
18 splits which would require one geographic area to be
19 assigned to a new NPA while the other would retain the
20 current 336 NPA. All split plans would require ten digit
21 local dialing between NPAs in the same extended local
22 calling area but would permit continued seven digit local
23 calling within a single NPA. The service life for the
24 overlay is projected to be 43.9 years and the service

1 lives for the splits range from 40.1 to 47.8 years.

2 None of the current commissioners were serving
3 on the Commission in 2001 when the initial hearing was
4 held and so none of the current commissioners have heard
5 or considered the evidence in this docket. After
6 carefully considering this fact, the Chairman of the
7 Commission concluded that it would be reasonable and
8 prudent to refresh the record in this proceeding due to
9 the changed circumstances since this docket was initially
10 opened. Thus, the Commission sought comments from the
11 public on the updated initial planning document,
12 including the outstanding industry recommended all-
13 services distributed overlay as well as the three
14 additional alternatives and directed that public notices
15 should be sent to all affected subscribers and should be
16 printed in newspapers with circulation throughout the
17 geographic territory covered by the 336 area code. The
18 Commission further concluded that additional public
19 hearings should be held to allow the public and the
20 formal parties to this proceeding to again present their
21 views on the matter of area code relief for the 336 area
22 code.

23 On January 21, 2014 the Commission issued an
24 Order Requesting Comments and Scheduling Public Hearings

1 to address area code relief for the geographic area
2 covered by the 336 NPA. In the Order the Commission
3 permitted the general public to file comments by
4 February 28, 2014, required the formal parties to the
5 proceeding to file comments regarding the industry
6 recommendation or any alternative proposal by
7 February 28, 2014, and reply comments by March 14, 2014.
8 The Commission further ordered local exchange companies
9 and competing local providers to send public notice as
10 bill inserts via US Mail or electronically to their
11 respective subscribers within the 336 area code once
12 during the period beginning on the date of the Order and
13 ending on February 28, 2014, and the Commission ordered
14 BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC, doing business as AT&T
15 North Carolina and North State Telephone Company, to
16 assume primary responsibility for assuring the
17 publication of public notice in newspapers of general
18 circulation throughout the affected area. Finally, in
19 the Order the Commission encouraged the telephone
20 membership corporations to also notify their customers.

21 After a motion was filed by AT&T for an
22 extension of time to comply with the notice requirements
23 and after filing of supportive comments by Time Warner
24 Cable Information Services, on January 31, 2014, the

1 Commission issued an Order Holding the Docket in
2 Abeyance. In that Order the Presiding Commissioner found
3 good cause to extend the time for notice, reschedule the
4 hearing dates, and hold all matters in abeyance pending
5 further orders of the Commission.

6 On March 11, 2014 the Commission issued an
7 Order Establishing Procedures, Scheduling Hearing, and
8 Requesting Comments to reinstitute these proceedings, to
9 reschedule the hearings, to reestablish comment periods,
10 and to restate procedures to be followed in this docket.
11 The Order scheduled a public hearing for this date and
12 time, Monday, June 23, 2014, and continuing on Tuesday,
13 June 24, 2014 at 10:30 a.m. at this same location.

14 Tonight's hearing is for the sole purpose of
15 receiving testimony and comments from members of the
16 public. Members of the public who are unable to attend
17 this public hearing will be allowed to testify tomorrow
18 morning. On tomorrow morning, June 24, 2014, the
19 Commission will receive testimony from all formal parties
20 who wish to testify, including the industry participants,
21 the Public Staff, Attorney General, and any other
22 intervenors.

23 Affidavits indicating that the required public
24 notices were made were filed by a number of local

1 exchange companies and competing local providers. The
2 Commission received written comments from a number of the
3 formal parties and from many interested citizens, all of
4 which are contained in the Commission's official record
5 concerning this proceeding.

6 Pursuant to G.S. 138A-15E, I remind members of
7 the Commission of our duty to avoid conflicts of interest
8 and inquire at this time as to whether any Commissioner
9 has any known conflict of interest with respect to this
10 docket?

11 (No response.)

12 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Let the record
13 reflect that no such conflicts were identified.

14 I now call upon the counsel for the parties to
15 announce their appearance for the record.

16 MS. EDMONDSON: Good evening, Presiding
17 Commissioner and Commissioners. My name is Lucy
18 Edmondson. I'm an attorney with the Public Staff, and
19 I'm here on behalf of the Using and Consuming Public.

20 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Thank you, Ms.
21 Edmondson. Are there any other parties who would like to
22 announce their appearance for the record?

23 (No response.)

24 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: All right. There

1 being none, Ms. Edmondson, have you identified any
2 witnesses from the public who would like to testify in
3 this proceeding?

4 MS. EDMONDSON: I have one so far.

5 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: All right, sir, if
6 you would come forward.

7 MS. EDMONDSON: Where do you want them, at the
8 table or -- sit right there. And this is Mr. Chester
9 Ayeres, and it's spelled A-Y-E-R-E-S. And I have
10 established he's no relation to the Executive Director of
11 the Public Staff.

12 CHESTER AYERES; Being first duly sworn,
13 testified as follows:

14 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: All right. You may
15 take a seat there, and then Ms. Edmondson will get you
16 started with a few questions and then you're free to tell
17 us what you've come to tell us tonight.

18 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. EDMONSTON:

19 Q And your name again is Chester Ayeres?

20 A Yes.

21 Q And your address, please?

22 Q 3498 Circle Court, Trinity.

23 A And are you affiliated with any organization or
24 are you here just as a private citizen?

1 A I'm here as a private citizen.

2 Q Okay. And please go ahead with your statement.

3 A Well, I always wish there was more people
4 testifying, but I guess Everybody Loves Raymond reruns
5 are on tonight. But I want to thank North State, first,
6 for sending me the invitation that I got to come here,
7 and I want to -- excuse me, but I want to welcome all you
8 Commissioners here. I want to commend whoever is
9 responsible for trying different methods to make it easy
10 for the subscriber. I can see the effort is there and I
11 want to commend you on that. I've been around long
12 enough to know that my first phone only had three digits.
13 When that ran out, they started putting letters on the
14 end, you know. 1-2-3 became 1-2-3-J, 1-2-3-R. Then
15 after that we had 2-ALPHA, then we had two, two, two
16 alphabets in the front so it would be like U-N-6. Well,
17 in that era I found out that was 6-8, so then it became
18 numbers. Then we roll along in the future and we got
19 digital. Hey, we got tones. Well, pulse is on its way
20 out, and I'm not an authority on this. Maybe somebody
21 from North State could say how long it will be before
22 pulse will be completely done away with and we're going
23 to be relying strictly on tones. It is that way on the
24 phone company's end, but some people may have rotary dial

1 phones maybe, I don't know.

2 But we've got a touch pad that has twelve tones
3 on it and we're using ten of those tones for numbers and
4 two of those tones for different sign things, which is
5 the pound and the star key. And I want to suggest
6 something. I want to suggest that some research be done
7 to see if the pound and the star key can be used within
8 the prefix -- and what I mean by prefix is the three
9 numbers like, you know, 6-8-7 is the prefix, and then the
10 four numbers after it I call the suffix. If we can start
11 out using it in a prefix -- I, I went on Google, tried to
12 find out how you do the ten to the tenth power kind of
13 thing, you know, and I did the best I can. And if you
14 take twelve digits in seven different places it will give
15 you 479,001,600 combinations. However, I realize that
16 that would be impractical, all of them couldn't be used.
17 But I couldn't figure out how to do it for the three
18 numbers, but somewhere around a hundred-and-something-
19 thousand comes in -- came into figures if you just change
20 and add just star to the first three, the prefix. So 4-
21 7-5, for instance, could be 4-7-*

22 I would think that it would open up more
23 possibilities than just changing the area code because --
24 and I haven't seen the figures so I'm talking out of

1 school, but -- I haven't seen the figures, but eventually
2 they're going to be used out unless people will be
3 dropping off numbers and then picking up. But that was,
4 it's just a suggestion to pursue that. That may, it may
5 give you a whole bunch of more numbers eventually, you
6 know, because like I said, experiment with it on a trial
7 basis on the prefix and then later add it on to the
8 suffix, the numbers.

9 I wish I knew a little bit more about the phone
10 company, how it ran, to give a better suggestion than
11 that, but that's about as best I can do to help with the
12 problem. I don't have a particular problem with dialing
13 ten numbers because if you put it on automatic dial, it
14 doesn't really matter. I don't know how much paperwork
15 would be involved for the subscribers that, you know,
16 who, you know, has to print it out on their paperwork.
17 But anyway, that's my suggestion and I just want to thank
18 you all for at least trying to reach out to subscribers
19 to get their input, even though they're all not here.

20 Any questions that anybody has for me?

21 MS. EDMONDSON: I don't have any questions.

22 THE WITNESS: Okay.

23 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Are there any
24 questions from the Commissioners for Mr. Ayeres?

1 (No response.)

2 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: And I don't have any
3 questions, Mr. Ayeres. But I would like to thank you for
4 taking the time to come down here and express your views
5 and for taking the time to think about this issue
6 seriously and to give us something to think about. There
7 are some representatives from some of the parties sitting
8 behind you and they may be willing to discuss, you know,
9 your ideas that you've raised with us here at the
10 conclusion of this hearing after we adjourn.

11 THE WITNESS: Sure.

12 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: But again, we thank
13 you for coming and you may be excused.

14 THE WITNESS: You're welcome.

15 MS. EDMONDSON: Thank you.

16 THE WITNESS: You're welcome.

17 (Witness excused.)

18 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: All right, Ms.
19 Edmondson, have you identified any others?

20 MS. EDMONDSON: I have not.

21 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: All right. Just for
22 the record, are there any other persons in the audience,
23 in the room who wish to testify as a public witness in
24 this matter this evening?

1 (No response.)

2 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Let the record
3 reflect that no one came forward. Therefore, this matter
4 will be continued and we will stand in recess until
5 tomorrow morning at 10:30. Thank you for coming.

6 (Off-the-record discussion.)

7 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: I am just going back
8 on the record to correct my timing for tomorrow. We will
9 begin tomorrow morning, come back at 10:00.

10 All right. If there are no further questions
11 to come before the Commission, we will stand in recess
12 until tomorrow morning at 10:00.

13 (The hearing was adjourned, to be reconvened
14 at 10:00 a.m. on 6/24/14.)

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

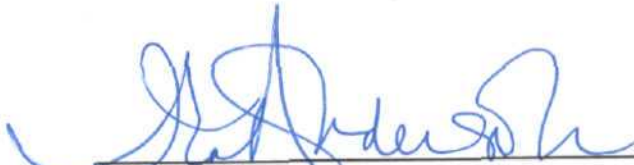
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF CABARRUS

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Ira Anderson, Notary Public/Court Reporter,
do hereby certify that the foregoing hearing before the
North Carolina Utilities Commission in Docket No. P-
100, sub 137C, was taken and transcribed under my
supervision; and that the foregoing pages constitute a
true and accurate transcript of said Hearing.

I do further certify that I am not of counsel for,
or in the employment of either of the parties to this
action, nor am I interested in the results of this
action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my
name this 30th day of June, 2014.



Ira Anderson
Notary Public No. 19973380004