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Mrs. Geneva S. Thigpen, Chief Clerk
North Carolina Utilities Commission
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FILED

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Clerk's Office
N.C. Utilities Commission

Ref: Docket P-100, Sub 137c

Dear Mrs. Thigpen:

OFFICIAL COPY

I am writing this letter in hope that you will forward it onto those committee members that attended the public hearing on Wednesday March 14, 2001 at the Guilford Technical Community College, Jamestown NC.

After hearing Mr. Thomas Foley, the NPA Relief Planner-Eastern Region NANPA, an employee of Neu Star give his testimony on the reasons that an overlay would be better than a split it caused me to start wondering if the citizens are being mislead as to the effect that a split would have on them. Mr. Foley stated that an overlay would be the best course of action for the citizens and all the phone companies' of record support this course of action. In response to a question from the chair Mr. Foley stated that even if a split would be enacted that (reference page #22 of his handout) he stated that 50% of Winston Salem customers, 78% of Greensboro customers and 60% of Highpoint customers would still have to dial 10 digits in the normal course of their activities. In review of these percentages I found that the only way that this could be possible is if all the calls that we make were evenly split between the 593 NXXs within the current 336 area code. That is not how we make our calls, the vast majority of the citizens and businesses make their calls within a reasonably small geographic area. An example that I would utilize to illustrate this concept is as follows: I live in Winston Salem, my church, school, friends, florist, hair dresser, auto repair shop, library, barber, grocer and family will all be within this small geographic area. In the 3 different proposals for an area code split, none of the Major cities within the existing 336 area code would be split. The vast majority of all calls made would still be 7 digits, not the 10 digits Mr. Foley stated. The same concept would also apply within the Greensboro and Highpoint areas. In all fairness I must state that those individuals living on the border of the split would experience a higher level of inconvenience from the norm stated above.

Clerk
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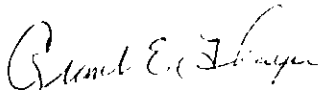
After discussion of this matter with the general manager of my local telephone company (which had taken a neutral stand when asked by Nue Star) he felt that what I am saying is correct and after seeking approval of his board of directors would come forward and support the area code split.

At this point I would encourage that the commission vote for an area code split and not take the recommendations of Nue Star for an overlay for the following reasons.

1. Only (1/2) one half of the public would be effected at all
2. Every citizen would benefit from not having to dial 10 digits for all local calls.
3. Children and the elderly would not have to worry about remembering 10 digits and many of the rest of us would benefit also.
4. Both plans have an equal time frame before exhaustion in the future.
5. The statement made that with an overlay we could just add another in the future if we needed additional numbers does not hold water, as we all know the current North American Numbering Plan will run out of 3 digit area codes to assign long before the (7) seven million new numbers would be utilized in our area.
6. The future confusion caused by "what area code is the new number" would be limited to geography. The public can relate much quicker to geography than to having to guess which of the two.
7. No major population area will be split, we are not an Atlanta or Charlotte and in our lifetimes never will be.
8. With a split my company can absorb the cost of reprogramming those affected accounts without having to pass the expense to the public. With an overlay there is no way that I could do it as a public service, with (2400) two thousand four hundred accounts to be addressed, even at a nominal \$25.00 per service call the cost would be more than this small business could afford. It would purchase a lot of business cards and letterhead, should I be in the 1/2 that had to make a change.
9. The cost of replacing literature, letterhead, business cards etc. would be minimal if there was an ample time period of permissive dialing allowed. Individuals and companies would use up existing and order into the new period. Most businesses are aware of a change coming and are not ordering into the future until such time as they know the direction you commission will take them. Common sense goes along way in keeping this cost down.

I pray that you will take these thoughts into consideration as you move forward in making a decision on this matter. As a seed of the mustard plant can move a mountain I feel in all good faith that I must move forward and stand against the recommendations of the industry giants who all must answer to their stockholders.

Sincerely Written:



Grant E. Thayer
VP/GM Radar Security Alarm Inc.
Concerned Citizen