

STATE OF NEW YORK

Public Service Commission

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FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATELY

07107

PSC Proceeding to Investigate and Evaluate Options In the 315 Area Code

New York, NY—12/12/07—The New York State Public Service Commission (Commission) today instituted a proceeding to investigate and evaluate options for making additional central office codes available in the 315 area code. The Commission seeks to develop a workable plan to provide additional central office and area codes in the 315 region while minimizing disruption and inconvenience to customers.

“I want to emphasize the importance of hearing from residential and business customers during our evaluation process,” said Commission Chairwoman Patricia L. Acampora. “Any time there is a potential change to existing area codes, customers’ needs must be addressed. Staff will conduct an extensive consumer education and public involvement program in the region to ensure every opportunity for customers’ views to be heard.”

The North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA) advised the Commission and Staff of the Department of Public Service (Staff) in September 2007 that the 315 area code, serving all or part of eighteen northern and central New York counties is running out of assignable telephone numbers. NANPA’s projected date for 315 areas code exhaust is the third quarter of 2010. As a result, a Numbering Plan Area Code Relief Plan needs to be developed and implemented prior to that date in order to ensure code continued availability of telephone numbers in the 315 area code region beyond 2010.

The Commission determined today that it is essential that it weigh the concerns and comments from users of telecommunications services in the affected 315 region before reaching any decision regarding the best method of providing area code relief in that region. Due to this concern, a Department of Public Service (DPS) Staff White Paper will put forth potential options for putting forth area code relief and will be issued for public comment.

Staff of the DPS will also conduct an extensive consumer education and public involvement program in the 315 region, including educational forums and public statement hearings to provide an opportunity for comments from the public in the affected areas. Additionally, an Administrative Law Judge will be assigned to preside over the Commission's proceeding. Announcements of opportunities for public comments regarding the area code relief proceeding will be issued regularly.

NANPA is designated by the Federal Communications Commission to administer area codes throughout the United States.

A copy of the Commission's written decision, when issued, will be available on the Commission's www.dps.state.ny.us Web site by accessing the File Room section of the homepage. Many libraries offer free Internet access. Commission orders can also be obtained from the Files Office, 14th floor, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223 (518-474-2500).