



State of Utah

JON M. HUNTSMAN, JR.
Governor

GARY HERBERT
Lieutenant Governor

Public Service Commission

TED BOYER
Chairman

RIC CAMPBELL
Commissioner

RON ALLEN
Commissioner

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 11, 2007

CONTACT: Julie Orchard
(801) 530-6713

“Public Service Commission Orders Area Code Overlay”

The Public Service Commission today issued an order prescribing an overlay option to relieve the exhaust of the 801 area code prefix for Utah. In 2000, the Commission implemented telephone number conservation measures that have successfully postponed the need for any change until now. With today's action, the overlay will become effective in 2008. The options before the Commission were the overlay or an area code split. The Commission chose an overlay rather than a split for the following reasons:

- 1) The overlay is much less disruptive for customers and treats all business and residential customers in Weber, Morgan, Davis, and Utah Counties the same by allowing them to retain their telephone numbers. In a split, only customers in Salt Lake County would retain the 801 area code and their current phone numbers. All customers in the four counties would incur the costs and inconvenience of changing their numbers to the new 385 area code if a split were adopted.
- 2) An overlay avoids confusion related to long distance calling since it will uniformly require 11 digit dialing. Even with a split, Salt Lake and Davis County customers would still have to dial ten digits to call one another because the current local calling areas extend beyond the county line where area codes would split.
- 3) In the future, splits will become more difficult and confusing as area code areas become smaller. Local calling within an area code may still only require seven digit dialing with a split, but there would be more and more ten digit dialing between area codes for local calls.
- 4) Several other states have found overlays easy to implement and customers have been very satisfied.
- 5) Technological innovations and telephone device reprogramming have made customers less dependent on dialing numbers to place calls.
- 6) The telecommunications industry and the Division of Public Utilities (DPU) recommended that the Commission adopt the overlay rather than the split to relieve the 801 area code.

Under the Commission's order, the telecommunications carriers and the DPU will provide periodic reports to the Commission on their preparations to implement the overlay. They will inform the Commission of their customer/public education efforts and identify other issues the Commission should address.

####