

ORIGINAL

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BROWARD GOVERNMENTAL CENTER, ROOM 422  
115 S. ANDREWS AVENUE  
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA  
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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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## TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
BROWARD GOVERNMENTAL CENTER, ROOM 422  
115 S. ANDREWS AVENUE  
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA

## A P P E A R A N C E S

Joe Garcia, Chairman  
Commissioner, J. Terry Deason  
Commissioner E. Leon Jacobs, Jr.  
Levent Ileri, PSC  
Charlie Beck, Public Counsel's Office  
C. Lee Fordham, PSC Counsel

E X H I B I T S

NONE

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

(10:15 a.m.)

1  
2  
3 MR. GARCIA: Counsel, will you read the  
4 notice.

5 MR. FORDHAM: Pursuit to notice, this  
6 time and place have been set for hearing in  
7 docket number 990457, request for review of  
8 the proposed numbering relief plan for the  
9 954 area code.

10 MR. GARCIA: We are here to hear from  
11 the people of this part of the state, because  
12 we are contemplating the fact that the  
13 administrator of area codes is telling us  
14 that this area code is running out.

15 This is after a few years back they told  
16 us that this area code would last a very,  
17 very long time.

18 We want to make sure that we do the  
19 right thing when we do this, and want to let  
20 you know what we're contemplating, and we  
21 have two problems. One is that Commissioner  
22 Jacobs' plane was diverted, so he has not  
23 made it. The other is that the North  
24 American Numbering Counsel contractor  
25 Lockheed, but it has another name now, was

1 driving from Orlando, and apparently his car  
2 got diverted.

3 So, we don't have either of those, but  
4 what we're going to have is, Mr. Levant Ileri  
5 walk us through what the alternatives we're  
6 looking at, or the staff is looking at in  
7 this case, and some of the things that we're  
8 discussing, so you can get an idea. And then  
9 we'd like to hear from you.

10 If you have seen the blue handout we  
11 gave out, you'll notice that there are  
12 several plans in there.

13 One of the things that will be helpful  
14 is as Mr. Ileri goes through his  
15 presentation, you give some serious thought  
16 to these options, or as we have found many  
17 times, you the citizens are much smarter than  
18 our engineers, economists, and lawyers.

19 You may have better ideas yourselves at  
20 what we should be doing, and clearly, we'd  
21 love to hear that.

22 But if you have a preference in one of  
23 these plans, it will make it easier when we  
24 look at the record later on, certainly when  
25 Commissioner Jacobs looks at the record later

1 on, if you say, I like A, I like B, or I like  
2 the first one, I like the one on Page 5,  
3 whatever, so that we get an idea of where you  
4 stand with some of this.

5 Also, if you have any questions, we have  
6 people here, Mr. Ileri, we can answer those  
7 questions, if you have any questions about  
8 what the Commission does in terms of your  
9 service.

10 As you may or may not know, we regulate  
11 all the electric investor-owned utilities in  
12 our state, we regulate all the phones in our  
13 state, and we regulate all the private water  
14 companies, as well as gas companies to some  
15 degree.

16 So, if you have any questions on any of  
17 those things, we'd love to hear from you, but  
18 let's try to stick to the issue at hand which  
19 is the area code issue. With that I'll  
20 introduce Mr. Ileri, and he'll walk you  
21 through it.

22 MR. ILERI: Good morning everyone, my  
23 name is Levent Ileri, I am the PSC staff, and  
24 I'd just like to just go over the different  
25 alternatives that we have.

1           The first alternative that we have is  
2           the distributive overlay, which is the plan  
3           that was recommended by industry members.

4           And this plan would involve two  
5           different - one additional area code on top  
6           of what we have right now, which is 954.  
7           This would mean that everybody would have to  
8           dial ten digits in the current area.

9           We're trying to get in touch with Tom  
10          Foley, so they may be paging me right now.

11          Okay, this area -- This alternative  
12          number one, as I told you before, is a  
13          distributive overlay in which you dial ten  
14          digits. And it involves all the exchanges in  
15          the current 954 area.

16          The second alternative is a geographic  
17          split. It takes into - it takes one area  
18          code to last 9.9 years which is indicated as  
19          area A that has Deerfield Beach exchange,  
20          Coral Springs, Pompano Beach, and some of the  
21          annexes which are the prefixes within Fort  
22          Lauderdale exchange, and the rest will get a  
23          new area code possibly.

24          And at this stage of course, we don't  
25          know which area will get 954 or which one

1 will be changed to new area codes.

2 If you're going to the next page which  
3 is an alternative number three, it divides  
4 the entire 954 in half. Deerfield Beach,  
5 Coral Springs, Pompano Beach, will get one  
6 area code that will last 14.6 years.

7 And the remainder of Brevard County will  
8 get an additional area code that will last  
9 4.6 years. And in either of these scenarios,  
10 alternative number two or three, people who  
11 are in either region will dial seven digits,  
12 but across the board will be based on ten  
13 digits.

14 And the last alternative that we have is  
15 alternative number four which is, again, a  
16 geographic split.

17 In this one, the area is divided into  
18 two different segments in a non-contiguous  
19 manner, in which Deerfield Beach, Coral  
20 Springs, Pompano Beach, and Hollywood will  
21 retain one area code, and then Fort  
22 Lauderdale exchange will get one area code.

23 And the life expectancies are indicated  
24 as 7.4 or 11.5 years. And if you have any  
25 questions about these alternatives, I can go

1 over it in detail, or after our meeting if  
2 you have any questions, you're welcome to ask  
3 me.

4 MR. GARCIA: All right. I think what  
5 we'll do is Levent, you can come up here and  
6 take a mike, so when people have questions  
7 that we don't know, you can be helpful, and  
8 when I mis-state something, you can correct  
9 me, too.

10 What we're -- I wanted -- Let me just  
11 give you a little bit of perspective what  
12 we've done since you began this problem with  
13 exhausting area codes in the state.

14 The Florida Commission asked the FCC for  
15 a special grant of authority to try and set  
16 up a system whereby we can get consolidation  
17 of numbers.

18 Let me tell you what's happened and why  
19 we're running out of area codes. And Levent,  
20 if I overstate it, correct me, because  
21 sometimes I get a little bit emotional on  
22 this.

23 Everyone of these, if you look at --  
24 Let's with the map on Page 4, okay? Levent,  
25 these are exchanges, if I'm not mistaken.



1 Every one of the lines delineates an  
2 exchange.

3 MR. ILERI: That's correct.

4 MR. GARCIA: I don't think you're on.  
5 There's a button somewhere.

6 MR. ILERI: That's correct.

7 MR. GARCIA: So, here's what happens.  
8 Joe Garcia Telecom comes to Broward to do  
9 business, and before he does, or gets  
10 customer one, it gets - if it wants to do all  
11 of Broward, it will get 10,000 numbers per  
12 exchange.

13 And that is because they work out of  
14 those exchange in those manners. Correct,  
15 Levent?

16 MR. ILERI: That's correct.

17 MR. GARCIA: So, before I have customer  
18 one in this area of the state, I would have  
19 five exchanges, I would have 50,000 numbers,  
20 and I don't even have a customer signed up  
21 yet.

22 Now, today in Florida we have upwards of  
23 300, I know not all of them are doing  
24 business --

25 MR. ILERI: It's close to 300.

1 MR. GARCIA: Close to 300 competitive  
2 providers in our state of phone service. As  
3 you can imagine those guys come to areas like  
4 Broward because they are very profitable  
5 centers. There's a lot of business here.

6 Bell South has some really good  
7 customers that they can try to take away, and  
8 so they come to do business here, and some of  
9 you represent cities, and those cities were  
10 the larger customers.

11 And what happens is, before they've got  
12 customer one, they've got 50,000 numbers.  
13 So, if you have ten competitive providers  
14 that want to provide service in this area  
15 before they've got customer one, they've  
16 already got 500,000 numbers allocated to  
17 them.

18 If you could imagine, there are many  
19 more than ten competitive providers in this  
20 business. Add to that the natural effect of  
21 other services that are being offered.

22 The fact that today, most of us have  
23 some alternative form of communication in  
24 terms of a beep or cellular. Add the fax  
25 lines or internet lines, add to that the

1 additional second phone line.

2 It puts us in an exhaust situation like  
3 we've never been before. Florida, as of  
4 1988, had three area codes. When was the  
5 last time we had three area codes? I think  
6 it was --

7 MR. ILERI: I think sometime in the  
8 1980's, but I'm not sure of the years.

9 MR. GARCIA: Okay, so we had three area  
10 codes. We're now at 13 and growing. Let me  
11 also walk through what Levent talked about  
12 here, what an overlay is and what isn't.

13 Obviously, you all live close enough to  
14 Miami to experience 17-digit dialing, which  
15 is you dial seven and nothing happens. So,  
16 then you dial ten. But the whole issue of  
17 ten-digit dialing is a big issue.

18 It's an issue that's happened in every  
19 major metropolitan area I think in the  
20 country already. In other words, New York  
21 already has it, L.A. has some of it, Atlanta  
22 already has it, the Atlanta metropolitan, am  
23 I correct? And Washington, D.C. has it.

24 And we've got it in Florida in two  
25 places. Orlando began at the end of this

1 year, last year, and we in Dade County have  
2 had it for a while now.

3 Clearly, the goal there is to try to  
4 keep a community together if no divisions are  
5 easily understood by the public. Generally,  
6 the company's favorite and it causes a little  
7 bit less confusion on the front end, but it  
8 does - it is an encumbrance.

9 With that, we'll start. Mr. Beck is  
10 here representing the Public Counsel's  
11 Office, he has all your names, he will start  
12 calling up.

13 Let me introduce - I'm chairman Garcia.  
14 To my right is Commissioner Deason, and to my  
15 left, always with great and impeccable timing  
16 is Commissioner Jacobs, and we're going to be  
17 listening from you.

18 When we hear from you, we also have our  
19 technical staff, which is in intense  
20 negotiations with the companies to try to  
21 figure out some way where we can avoid even  
22 deploying an area code here based on the  
23 special authority that the FCC gave us.

24 So, I mean obviously encourage us to  
25 continue that work, but if we can avoid

1 giving you an area code - a new area code,  
2 we're going to try, but if that is not the  
3 case, that's why we want to hear from you and  
4 which way to do it.

5 Clearly, we know it's not popular, we're  
6 not here because we expect to get roses  
7 thrown on us for doing this. Unfortunately,  
8 this job falls on us, it's our responsibility  
9 to do it.

10 So, we'd like to know from those who  
11 live here and are affected by our decisions  
12 which way they'd like to see us go. And I  
13 think with that, Mr. Beck.

14 MR. BECK: Thank you, Chairman Garcia.  
15 Our first witness is Margaret Bates.

16 MS. BATES: Good morning. I bring you  
17 greetings from the City of Lauderhill, and I  
18 am a Commissioner with the City of  
19 Lauderhill.

20 We have passed a resolution, and I'd  
21 like to --

22 MR. GARCIA: May I ask you one -- Since,  
23 and this is my fault, not yours. We have a  
24 court reporter so this is - we're taking a  
25 record here, which is going to be viewed by a

1 lot of people.

2 For our help, we need you to give us  
3 your name and your address. If you don't  
4 want to give us your address, that's fine.  
5 But give us your name and your address for  
6 the record, and then begin your presentation,  
7 and just be aware that you're on with the  
8 court reporter, okay?

9 MS. BATES: Okay. Again, good morning,  
10 my name is Margaret Bates. I'm a  
11 Commissioner with the City of Lauderhill. My  
12 residential address is 4211 Northwest 24th  
13 Street in Lauderhill. My Commission passed a  
14 resolution and I'd like to read that  
15 resolution to you now.

16 "The resolution of the City Commission  
17 of the City of Lauderhill expresses its  
18 preference that the Florida Public Service  
19 Commission split Broward County and create a  
20 new area code, rather than issue a ten-digit  
21 phone number to the residence of Broward  
22 County.

23 Supporting the FPSC's conservation  
24 measures to have under-utilized numbers  
25 repooled and redistributed to smaller blocks

1 providing for an effective date, whereas the  
2 North American Numbering Plan Administration  
3 regulates the distribution of phone numbers  
4 in the United States; and

5           Whereas, the NANPA has informed the  
6 Florida Public Service Commission that the  
7 numbers available for distribution to  
8 telephone companies in the 954 area code,  
9 soon will be exhausted, and whereas once all  
10 available phone numbers within an area code  
11 have been distributed to companies NANPA is  
12 required to create a new area code; and

13           Whereas, as a result of this shortage of  
14 numbers, Broward County will need to be split  
15 and a new area code will need to be created  
16 or a ten-digit phone number will have to be  
17 assigned to the residents of Broward County;  
18 and

19           Whereas, the FPSC is in the process of  
20 implementing conservation measures to have  
21 under-utilized numbers redistributed in  
22 smaller blocks in an effort to reduce the  
23 amount of numbers which are unused.

24           Now, therefore, be it resolved by the  
25 Commission of the City of Lauderhill,

1 Florida, Section 1, the Commission of the  
2 City of Lauderhill hereby express the City of  
3 Lauderhill's preference that the Florida  
4 Public Service Commission split Broward  
5 County and create a new area code rather than  
6 issue a ten-digit phone number to the  
7 residents of Broward County."

8 "Section 2. The City Commission of the  
9 City of Lauderhill hereby declares its  
10 support to the PFSC's conservation measures  
11 to have under-utilized numbers repooled and  
12 redistributed in smaller blocks in an effort  
13 to reduce the amount of numbers which are  
14 unused."

15 "Section 3. That copies of this  
16 resolution be provided to the Public Service  
17 Commission and the local media and other  
18 interested parties. This resolution shall  
19 take effect immediately upon its passage.  
20 Dated the 10th day of January, 2000."

21 Thank you.

22 MR. GARCIA: Thank you, Commissioner.  
23 If we could ask you a quick question. I know  
24 you probably haven't seen this, but if you  
25 could give me your feeling on which one of



1 these plans you think would work for you a  
2 little bit better?

3 MS. BATES: I agree with our resolution,  
4 in that we should, if this has to happen and  
5 it does, that we would have different area  
6 codes in Broward County.

7 MR. GARCIA: Okay.

8 MS. BATES: If you look at some of the  
9 examples -- I've spoken with people in Dade  
10 County who have the ten digit, and most of  
11 them hate it --

12 MR. GARCIA: Right.

13 MS. BATES: So, we would prefer the  
14 additional area code.

15 MR. GARCIA: They used to say I had a  
16 promising career in politics until I gave  
17 them ten digits in Dade County, so, I can  
18 understand your -- But, looking at the plans,  
19 did you get a chance to look at the blue  
20 sheet?

21 MS. BATES: Yes, I reviewed --

22 MR. GARCIA: Is there any one of those  
23 plans that strikes you as making more sense  
24 for someone who lives here? Is there any one  
25 of these plans that you say, look, this one

1 at least can be understood best or it's  
2 easiest to comprehend?

3 MS. BATES: Thank you. Looking -- I'm  
4 not very good at graphics, okay? If I'm just  
5 picking this up and looking, I truly don't  
6 understand --

7 MR. GARCIA: That's fine, that's fine.

8 MS. BATES: But again, the area codes,  
9 say for example, number four, the split,  
10 geographical split.

11 MR. GARCIA: Yes.

12 MS. BATES: Why would some areas, the  
13 numbers would last eleven-and-a-half years as  
14 opposed to an area that would last 7.4 years?

15 MR. GARCIA: Why? That's based on  
16 growth. That's simply based -- They expect  
17 that the -- This looks like an Oreo cookie of  
18 some sort.

19 The center area is going to grow much  
20 faster than the other outside areas, and so  
21 what happens is - what you have is the center  
22 area would experience exhaust quicker.

23 I'm trying to -- If you look at the one  
24 right on the other side of that page, that  
25 flips, plan three, you'll notice the same

1 thing happens, and that's because, I have to  
2 assume, that the downtown Fort Lauderdale  
3 area, the City of Fort Lauderdale's business  
4 area, it's going to grow much more quickly  
5 than the others, and that's why it exhausts  
6 much faster.

7 MS. BATES: Okay, now on example - on  
8 Page 6, your alternate three, the one that  
9 you're referring to, the darkened area, Area  
10 A, you're saying that the darkened area, the  
11 numbers will last 14.6 years, correct?

12 MR. GARCIA: Let me say it this way.  
13 Because, I know now not to trust Lockheed or  
14 Neu Star. They say that that's what they'll  
15 last based on their projections.

16 So, yes, based on growth patterns, they  
17 figure that it will last 14 years, and the  
18 other one will last four years.

19 Typically, when we do something like  
20 this, we'll probably, and Levent, correct me  
21 if I'm wrong, we'll probably give the new  
22 area code to the dark area, because those  
23 people are going to get relief for a longer  
24 period, because the people in the 4.6 years  
25 are going to be seeing an area code change in

1 4.6 years.

2 So, because they've experience one  
3 recently, we want to keep it as long as  
4 possible because they're going to experience  
5 - they're not going experience any change  
6 until 4.6 years.

7 So, in this, the logic and following the  
8 regulations or the guidelines that NANPA  
9 releases on this, we would probably split it  
10 that way.

11 But, here's the question to you, and I'm  
12 sorry I've taken so long. That splitting  
13 line, does that make sense to people? And  
14 maybe the question is to Staff, what is that  
15 line? Is that a street?

16 MS. BATES: That's what I would want to  
17 know, what that line is. Number one, you  
18 have Hollywood. Hollywood, does that  
19 encompass Pembroke Pines?

20 If it encompasses Pembroke Pines, anyone  
21 that lives in South Florida knows that  
22 Pembroke Pines is one of the fastest growing  
23 communities in South Florida.

24 The same thing is happening to  
25 Hollywood. So, in that area, if you're doing

1 that, someone's not keeping up with their  
2 compilation as far as growth, because you're  
3 only giving them four-and-a-half years of 4.6  
4 years, as opposed to 14 years. That time  
5 frame, to me, is not sufficient.

6 MR. GARCIA: Right. But, that's  
7 precisely why. It's based on the fact that  
8 the areas are growing quickly, that you run  
9 out. It's not based on what time we're  
10 giving them, it's what we think that the area  
11 code will last with an area that's growing  
12 too fast.

13 It's not like we're giving them a fuse.  
14 It's sort of - we know that that area is  
15 going to grow faster, therefore, that's -  
16 that's where it ends up.

17 But, I guess this question goes to you,  
18 Levent, or the Bell company that's here.  
19 What line is that? Is that an exchange that  
20 splits Broward County right in the middle?  
21 Is that a street? Is that Broward County?

22 It's not a street. So, this should go  
23 back and forth across some unknown boundary.  
24 It's only straight because it's on a page.

25 MR. ILERI: Chairman Garcia, I'd like to

1 first make a correction. Alternative number  
2 one and two are the ones that were presented  
3 to the Commission by the industry.

4 Alternatives number three and four are  
5 PSC Staff's alternatives. And the lines  
6 shown in here are the exchange boundaries.

7 MR. GARCIA: Right. I know. I  
8 understand there will be boundary exchange,  
9 but there's not a straight boundary exchange.

10 I mean, I know that exchanges rarely, if  
11 ever, unless it's a river or some force of  
12 nature, they rarely run in a straight line  
13 that way. So, that goes back and forth.

14 Give me an idea of where that is.  
15 You're here, do you have a clue of where that  
16 line is? Is that Broward Boulevard? Is  
17 that -- Thank you.

18 Come up here so you can be on the  
19 record, and introduce yourself for us.

20 MR. BENATI: Mr. Chairman, I'm Vic  
21 Benati, a regional director at Bell South in  
22 Broward County. That's in the approximate  
23 area of Broward Boulevard, which is a road to  
24 the north.

25 MR. GARCIA: The County, okay.

1 MR. JACOBS: It's been my impression  
2 that the growth here has been occurring  
3 vertically more so than horizontally.

4 I either - in West Broward, the area is  
5 going parallel to Interstate 75, so I'm  
6 wondering, if we make a split that looks -  
7 goes vertically across - I'm sorry,  
8 horizontally across the county, we may be  
9 dividing up this growth area in a way that's  
10 maybe non-sensical.

11 Does anybody have any feedback or data  
12 on that?

13 MR. GARCIA: Well, I will tell you this  
14 Commissioner, that - and for those of you in  
15 the audience, if your city is split, let's  
16 look at plan three.

17 If your city is split by Broward  
18 Boulevard, in essence, you're going to have  
19 ten-digit dialing, because that exchange will  
20 probably somehow cut through that city in  
21 some way, so it creates the same effect.

22 Let me ask Mr. - Tom Foley is here from  
23 Neu Star, and he's going to make a quick  
24 presentation that our staff tried to do.

25 Neu Star is the person - the company

1 that holds the contract to administer numbers  
2 for the country.

3 And so, he's going to do a quick  
4 presentation for us so that we get a better  
5 understanding of what they're looking at, and  
6 hopefully --

7 MR. FOLEY: Mr. Chairman and  
8 Commissioners, please excuse my tardiness.  
9 The airplane didn't want to take off when it  
10 wanted to.

11 MR. GARCIA: Okay.

12 MR. FOLEY: Or when I wanted it to.  
13 While Levent's getting set up, I am Tom  
14 Foley. I am a NPA relief planner with Neu  
15 Star.

16 Neu Star is the independent third party  
17 administrator of the North American Numbering  
18 Plan.

19 MR. GARCIA: You need to get - Tom you  
20 need to get closer to the mike, because we're  
21 not picking you up over here. I think it is  
22 on.

23 MR. FOLEY: Is that a little better?

24 MR. GARCIA: Yes.

25 MR. FOLEY: All right, I'm sorry. First



1 of all, I'd like to tell the people here, and  
2 just what NANPA is.

3 In 1995, the Federal Communication  
4 Commission took an important step in  
5 fostering some competition, and they  
6 determined that the North American Numbering  
7 Plan had been administering numbers with the  
8 help of the regional Bell companies. And  
9 they effectively established NANPA as an  
10 independent organization.

11 FCC formed the North American Numbering  
12 Council, and ordered it to develop  
13 guidelines. These guidelines are the  
14 framework under which we operate.

15 Lockheed Martin was named the new North  
16 American Numbering Plan administrator in  
17 1997, and effective in November of this year,  
18 we changed to Neu Star, because of some  
19 conflicts of interest with Lockheed Martin.

20 What we have as our roles and  
21 responsibilities with relief planning is, we  
22 perform a coordination with the industry to  
23 make a recommendation on when relief is  
24 needed, and all possible alternatives of  
25 relief that are possible.

1           The relief planner prepares several  
2 options to present to the industry. In a  
3 meeting, and through consensus, the industry  
4 recommends a single plan, if at all possible,  
5 to the Commission.

6           Basically, there are three types of NPA  
7 relief. The geographic split, which has been  
8 talked about here already. An overlay, which  
9 has been talked about. And another one  
10 called boundary realignment.

11           The last one is not used very much,  
12 simply because it's extremely difficult to  
13 administer with telephone number changes.  
14 And there are combinations of all those - the  
15 above methods used together.

16           The industry has come up with several  
17 attributes of a split that are important.  
18 Splits provide a single area code for each  
19 geographic area.

20           They may minimize confusion for  
21 customers outside the area, and future splits  
22 reduce the geographic size of the area. They  
23 keep getting smaller and smaller.

24           Splits require an area code change for  
25 approximately one-half of the customers in a

1 two-way split, and two-thirds of the  
2 customers in a three-way split.

3 Geographic splits permit seven digit  
4 local dialing within the smaller home area;  
5 however, local dialing across the boundaries  
6 are ten digits.

7 With an overlay, there will be multiple  
8 area codes in each geographic area, and will  
9 end further shrinking of the area code.

10 Overlays avoid the need for public and  
11 political involvement concerning split  
12 boundaries and which side should retain the  
13 old code and which side should get the new  
14 code.

15 The overlay will not require existing  
16 customers to change their area code. There  
17 is no need to revise stationery, business  
18 cards, etc., only unless they only contain  
19 the seven-digit number.

20 An overlay, however, will require  
21 ten-digit dialing for all calls within the  
22 geographic area, and I'm going to skip over  
23 the concentrated growth overlay attributes.

24 The 954 NPA, which is the one we're  
25 discussing today, includes Broward County and

1 the rate centers of Fort Lauderdale, Pompano  
2 Beach, Hollywood, Deerfield Beach, and Coral  
3 Springs.

4 A history of where we are today is,  
5 jeopardy was declared in this area code,  
6 which means that the projected life of the  
7 area code will exceed - is shorter than that  
8 which is a standard relief period. That was  
9 declared March of 1999.

10 We sent out an invitation to the  
11 industry for a planning meeting in April.  
12 They began rationing of area codes or NXX  
13 codes in May. The industry meeting was held  
14 in May, and the filing with the PSC was  
15 July 6th.

16 The initial projected exhaust date from  
17 NANPA and the industry was the fourth quarter  
18 of 2001. The current exhaust date with  
19 ration codes is the second quarter of 2002.

20 At the industry meeting, the industry  
21 considered two relief plans. The first one  
22 was an overlay. And that has an expected  
23 life of nine-and-a-half years, approximately.

24 And Alternative 2, which they call the  
25 Fort Lauderdale East Plan, was to create a

1 split alternative that would provide  
2 approximately equal lives on either side of  
3 the boundary with 9.0 and 9.2 years of life,  
4 and that's Alternative 2 shown in the  
5 handout.

6 However, industry guidelines have  
7 changed since this was done, and industry  
8 guidelines no longer allow splitting of rate  
9 centers.

10 No other plans were presented or  
11 considered at this time - at that time. The  
12 industry consensus and recommendation was  
13 made at the May meeting to recommend to the  
14 Florida Public Service Commission Alternative  
15 1, the distributed or all-services overlay.  
16 And that was filed, like I said before, in  
17 July with the Commission.

18 Subsequent to that, the Florida Public  
19 Service Commission staff has generated two  
20 additional relief plans, Alternative 3 and  
21 Alternative 4, which are seen in your  
22 handout, and they have estimated lives from  
23 the Commission staff of 14.6 and 4.6 years,  
24 respectively, for Alternative 3, and  
25 eleven-and-a-half and 7.4 years respectively

1 for Alternative 4.

2 These plans, as I indicated before, have  
3 not been reviewed by NANPA or the industry.

4 I'll take your questions.

5 MR. DEASON: I have a quick question.  
6 You're indicating that Alternative 2 is no  
7 longer a viable option.

8 MR. FOLEY: The industry no longer will  
9 recommend a split-rate center. The  
10 Commission can order what the Commission  
11 wishes to order.

12 MR. DEASON: But, that would be contrary  
13 to the guidelines?

14 MR. FOLEY: Correct.

15 MR. JACOBS: What are the issues? Are  
16 there technical issues, or is it simply a  
17 matter of standardized practice in the  
18 industry?

19 MR. FOLEY: There are some technical  
20 issues. Are you referring to the splitting  
21 of a rate center?

22 MR. JACOBS: Yes.

23 MR. FOLEY: Usually the central office  
24 boundaries don't even come close to even  
25 following rate center boundaries. They

1 usually run around people's back yards, and  
2 things like that, and they get frequently  
3 moved as times change, and they're a much  
4 harder line to define.

5 Also, there are dialing issues as to  
6 dialing within a rate center for identifying  
7 the area code. You don't have - the only way  
8 the industry nationally has is the LURG, and  
9 the LURG does not break it down to anything  
10 less than a rate center, that's for routing  
11 and billing.

12 MR. GARCIA: Let me do this, I neglected  
13 to do it. If you're going to testify, I  
14 forgot to swear us all in. If you're going  
15 to testify, I need you to stand and raise  
16 your right hand.

17 Is there anyone out there that's going  
18 to testify - is going to speak to us at some  
19 point?

20 (No response.)

21 MR. GARCIA: The Commissioner was the  
22 only one that was going to speak?

23 (No response.)

24 MR. GARCIA: Thank you, Commissioner.  
25 Anybody else? I'm going to swear you in

1 after.

2 Whereupon,

3 all speakers,

4 having been first duly sworn, testified as

5 follows:

6 MR. GARCIA: Great, thank you. All  
7 right Mr. Foley. I'm going to walk this  
8 through you, because I guess you can answer  
9 these questions real quick in looking at  
10 these plans, okay?

11 MR. FOLEY: Yes, sir.

12 MR. GARCIA: Obviously, the industry is  
13 recommending Plan 1, which is basically  
14 ten-digit dialing all the way around, which  
15 basically means, nobody's - nothing changes,  
16 except you have to dial three extra digits.

17 Looking at Alternative 2, which you  
18 believe the guidelines do not favor in this  
19 instance, if I'm in -- Are you looking at --  
20 You've got these, right?

21 MR. FOLEY: Right.

22 MR. GARCIA: Good. This technology.  
23 Anyway, if you're in Pompano Beach, and  
24 you're calling across Broward County, I mean  
25 Broward Boulevard into the Fort Lauderdale



1 exchange, you would have to dial ten digits.

2 MR. FOLEY: Yes, sir.

3 MR. GARCIA: So, that means anybody  
4 along Broward would be the divider there, to  
5 some degree, but anybody across those lines,  
6 you have to dial ten digits.

7 If you look at Plan Number 3, same  
8 issue. Anybody to the north part of the  
9 county calling the south part of the county  
10 has to dial ten digits, and the same from the  
11 south to the north.

12 MR. FOLEY: Correct.

13 MR. GARCIA: Then we've got this one, it  
14 certainly wins for artwork, but, if - in this  
15 case, if you're in Fort Lauderdale dialing  
16 Broward, you have to dial ten digits, or if  
17 you're in Lauderdale calling Hollywood you  
18 have to dial ten digits.

19 MR. FOLEY: Correct.

20 MR. GARCIA: But, if you're in  
21 Hollywood, you can call Pompano calling seven  
22 digits.

23 MR. FOLEY: Correct.

24 MR. GARCIA: Okay, but you can't call  
25 Fort Lauderdale, right?

1 MR. FOLEY: Okay.

2 MR. GARCIA: All right, thank you. Can  
3 I ask you a favor, Mr. Foley, since you are  
4 the technical expert to some degree, could  
5 you join us up here if someone has a question  
6 for you, or you can do it from right there  
7 and just answer it.

8 MR. FOLEY: I'll be right here.

9 MR. GARCIA: Great. Mr. Beck.

10 MR. BECK: Thank you. Our next witness  
11 is Jack Shifrel.

12 MR. GARCIA: Mr. Shifrel, I didn't see  
13 you swear - stand up and take the oath, did  
14 you?

15 MR. SHIFREL: I did.

16 MR. GARCIA: You did. Okay, great.

17 MR. SHIFREL: My name is Jack Shifrel, I  
18 live in the City of Coconut Creek, and I'm  
19 here as a private citizen.

20 I have been involved in this community  
21 for many, many years, and held positions in a  
22 number of organizations, but I'm here solely  
23 on my own as a user of telephones, and  
24 concern for the future of this community.

25 And that's an important point, this

1 community. This community, with all due  
2 respect Chairman Garcia, to the comment you  
3 made before about splitting a city and the  
4 concern within the city.

5 This community is Broward County.  
6 Broward County happens to be made up of 29  
7 municipalities, most of which were put  
8 together by developers who bought some land  
9 and wanted to build some houses and therefore  
10 incorporated a municipality for reasons that  
11 were - that made it simpler for them to be  
12 able to take advantage of the circumstances  
13 of the time.

14 But Broward County is a community, and I  
15 hope that you will start thinking of Broward  
16 County as one large community which just  
17 happens to have 29 municipalities, and I  
18 think that that's important in your  
19 considerations.

20 And I also see that you seem to be  
21 focused primarily, if not exclusively, on two  
22 scenarios. One would be to divide the county  
23 geographically, and the other is the overlay.

24 But I believe that you are not, or at  
25 least is doesn't seem as though you are

1           considering, another alternative that I  
2           understand was considered several years ago,  
3           but because the industry decided that it  
4           wasn't something they wanted, or would  
5           support, that you have kind of gone away from  
6           it totally.

7                     And what I'm getting to is the fact that  
8           the reason for this problem is not because of  
9           the great influx of people into Broward  
10          County, or into the State of Florida.

11                    Because the reports we've seen recently  
12          show that the population explosion of new  
13          residence coming into Broward County and into  
14          the State of Florida has actually declined  
15          somewhat.

16                    The reason we have the problem is  
17          because of the proliferation, the  
18          extraordinary explosion of wireless phones,  
19          cellular phones, beeper, and computers.  
20          That's the reason we have the problem.

21                    I don't believe that anybody would argue  
22          that point. That is why I believe, rather  
23          than disrupting this entire community, and I  
24          think the same thing would be said of  
25          communities around the country, because it's

1 not strictly a South Florida or Broward  
2 County problem.

3 Rather than having one household have  
4 two area codes, and I know you like the term  
5 or the industry likes the term ten-digit  
6 dialing. But we all know that ten-digit  
7 dialing means another area code. That's  
8 really all it is. It's a nicer way of saying  
9 the same thing.

10 Rather than having one household having  
11 two area codes within that household, and  
12 that's what you will have if you go ahead  
13 with the overlay, because if I don't have a  
14 computer today, or a fax machine today in my  
15 home or in my office, and I buy one after  
16 this goes into effect, I will be assigned a  
17 second line to my phone that I add and that  
18 line will be assigned a different area code.

19 MR. GARCIA: There's a good chance of  
20 that yet.

21 MR. SHIFREL: Not just a good chance,  
22 with all due respect Mr. Chairman, I don't  
23 believe that there's any question that that  
24 will happen. It may not happen to everybody,  
25 but it probably will.

1           And at the very least, it will be a very  
2 common scenario, and I don't think that's  
3 fair. I don't think it's fair to the people  
4 of the State of Florida or particularly to  
5 Broward County.

6           And again, I understand that you have a  
7 certain responsibility and a relationship  
8 that is important to you to the industry, and  
9 I respect that.

10          But I believe that your primary  
11 responsibility is to the people to whom you  
12 are appointed to serve. And that's the  
13 people of Broward County and the people  
14 throughout the State of Florida.

15          The real problem Mr. Chairman, is what  
16 you put your finger on earlier to a point,  
17 and that is those huge blocks of numbers.  
18 But it goes beyond just phone companies that  
19 have those blocks of numbers.

20          Every beeper company, especially the  
21 ones that have a tower, have tens of  
22 thousands of numbers that will never be used.

23          They're just there because they're given  
24 the 1-2-3 exchange, or the 3-4-5 exchange,  
25 and nobody else can ever have a number in

1 those exchanges other than the company that  
2 is assigned that exchange.

3 That ties up tens of thousands of  
4 telephone numbers that would otherwise be  
5 able to be assigned to the people of Broward  
6 County.

7 If you created an area code that was for  
8 wireless communication, which would be  
9 wireless phones, cell phones, and beepers, I  
10 believe, and obviously you have the ability  
11 to do the research far greater than I do.

12 I'm just a consumer, I'm just an average  
13 person whose done a little bit of research,  
14 but I believe if you did the research, you  
15 would find that that would free up more,  
16 substantially more than enough numbers to be  
17 able to avoid creating an additional area  
18 code for Broward County.

19 In any way you look at it, whether you  
20 call it ten-digit dialing or geographic  
21 split, what you are considering at this point  
22 is strictly adding an area code - an  
23 additional area code to Broward County --

24 MR. GARCIA: If I may interrupt you  
25 there for a second. That's -- We're not.

1 Staff is working very diligently with the FCC  
2 and the companies to use a series of limited  
3 powers that have been given to us by the FCC  
4 to try to take back some of those numbers  
5 that are out there.

6 Not only from beeper companies and cell  
7 companies, but from alternative providers  
8 from Bell South.

9 For example, last year, we had MCI  
10 voluntarily give us a huge chunk of numbers  
11 back to the State of Florida because they're  
12 trying to be efficient. Hopefully local  
13 people from this area and national companies  
14 will be cooperative in that process.

15 So, we are very diligently trying to  
16 consider that power. Now on the second issue  
17 in your proposal which, if you don't mind,  
18 I'll speak to it, because it's something --

19 MR. SHIFREL: Please.

20 MR. GARCIA: You know, every time we  
21 have these hearings, a great idea - I'd love  
22 to do it. Which is, why don't we give  
23 cellular companies, fax phones, and beepers a  
24 different area code, you know, separate them.

25 It seems to make sense. The problem is,



1 and I think that's what you were alluding to;  
2 is that correct?

3 MR. SHIFREL: Well, yes. But I don't  
4 believe that fax lines would --

5 MR. GARCIA: All right, well look --

6 MR. SHIFREL: -- would either  
7 necessarily or technically be able to,  
8 because they would be a hard line into either  
9 a home or a business. The cellular --

10 MR. GARCIA: All right. Well, I'll  
11 address cell phones and beepers, and I'll ask  
12 Mr. Foley to correct me where I go wrong, or  
13 Mr. Ileri, or our counsel, because there's  
14 several things involved here.

15 This has been tried, and initially, it  
16 was the solution. As you can imagine,  
17 anything we do here in terms of exhaustion,  
18 New York did ten years ago, fifteen years ago  
19 because of their size.

20 And what happened in New York is that  
21 when this issue came up about exhaust, and  
22 we're talking about the 212 area code.

23 What happened was that back then to some  
24 degree there was a sheik issue about having a  
25 cell phone or a beeper.

1           So, people - the industry itself came in  
2           and said, you know what, we'll take the new  
3           area code, and that way when you gave  
4           somebody a number, they knew it was a cell  
5           number. It was a good identifier so you  
6           wouldn't waste someone's money with a  
7           frivolous call, and that was fine in that  
8           scenario.

9           And the reason that was an acceptable  
10          case scenario is because the costs were out  
11          of whack in terms of comparing a cell phone  
12          with a basic service minute. You're talking  
13          about huge disparity.

14          What's happened in the interim in the  
15          last 15 years or 20 years, is that the cell  
16          phone has now become a competitive provider  
17          that competes head-to-head with basic and  
18          with business-line service.

19          That being the case, those cell phone  
20          companies, correct - those cell phone  
21          companies want to be able to provide that  
22          service without an additional burden to the  
23          user, because they are competing  
24          head-to-head.

25          And so in the race to provide that

1 service and the ability for them to market  
2 that service, they have an objection to being  
3 given an extra three numbers.

4 The majority doesn't, they suddenly have  
5 an extra three numbers to call them. It puts  
6 them at (1), at a competitive disadvantage.  
7 The FCC, when this first idea first was  
8 challenged, and it wasn't challenged in the  
9 New York order, but it was challenged  
10 subsequent to that, and I'm trying to  
11 remember where, but it was Chicago, I think,  
12 was the first to try to do it.

13 And the FCC said, no. And they said no,  
14 and they've said no since then, and several  
15 state commissions have, if I'm not mistaken,  
16 issued orders ordering these companies to do  
17 it and the FCC has refused to implement those  
18 plans, and has rejected those plans.

19 I don't argue that from a logical point  
20 of view, it makes sense. But I have to tell  
21 you, and I appreciate that you believe we're  
22 here to represent the citizens, because we  
23 are. But we're also in a balancing.

24 We also have a responsibility to the  
25 companies and to the state as a whole. I

1 mean, the fact that you have your cell phone  
2 on and you have it here is a testament to the  
3 good regulatory climate that brings those  
4 things in our state and makes them available.

5 And so, we are left with the position  
6 that although we'd love to come up with that  
7 solution, I can assume they're probably out  
8 there in the audience, there's a cell company  
9 that would say, uh-uh, and they will object  
10 to that when we take that to the FCC.

11 So, having that precedent there, that is  
12 why last year - early last year, we asked the  
13 FCC for special powers, which we are going to  
14 try to do precisely now.

15 We're going to try and reach back out  
16 and bring those numbers in, and that's a  
17 complex issue because the FCC didn't give us  
18 broad authority. They give us very limited  
19 specific authority while they work on a  
20 docket, I believe, that they're working on a  
21 national basis to solve everyone's problems.

22 But they gave Florida some specific  
23 powers to test whether we could figure a way  
24 through the eye of a needle with -- The hole  
25 they gave us is small, but I think we have

1 ample powers.

2 Nonetheless, while I think it's a good  
3 idea, it's not an option for us. I am pretty  
4 certain with rulings on competitiveness with  
5 the fact that these competitors are going to  
6 appeal this, that all we're going to do is  
7 engage in protracted litigation with the  
8 government and lose.

9 That being the case, we have to look at  
10 alternatives that we are left with. That  
11 said, we are diligently working to avoid  
12 another area code in this area whether split  
13 or geographic. But clearly, we have to look  
14 at all those options just in case we can't  
15 figure out something with the limited powers  
16 that we've been given.

17 MR. SHIFREL: I appreciate your pointing  
18 that out to me. I was aware of the concern  
19 that the cell phone companies had concerning  
20 the fact that they believed, and I understand  
21 this came up about five or so years ago here  
22 in Florida. They believe that it would be a  
23 form of discrimination against cell phone  
24 users and against --

25 MR. GARCIA: That is what they've argued

1 at the FCC.

2 MR. SHIFREL: Sure. I understand that,  
3 and I can certainly appreciate their point of  
4 view, and I'm sure that the pressure that  
5 they are able to bear upon the FCC has great  
6 influence on the Federal Communications  
7 Commission.

8 However, I again reiterate that  
9 regardless of their concern about  
10 discrimination, I don't think it's any more  
11 of a burden on a cell phone user, and I am  
12 one, and I have several cell phone numbers.  
13 As I heard somebody say once just recently  
14 that most of us have six or seven phone  
15 numbers now, when we use to just have one,  
16 between beepers and fax machines, and our  
17 home number and our office number and  
18 everything else.

19 But it is, I believe, more of a burden  
20 and more of an inconvenience on the residents  
21 and business owners in the community on their  
22 normal telephones than would be the  
23 inconvenience upon the wireless and cell  
24 phone and beeper companies.

25 And I've never shied away from a fight

1 because somebody threatened me with  
2 litigation. I think if it's right, you do  
3 it. If you believe it's the right thing to  
4 do, you go ahead with it, and if somebody  
5 challenges you, you explain why you believe  
6 you're right.

7 MR. GARCIA: Right.

8 MR. SHIFREL: And if the reason that  
9 you're right is because it is in the best  
10 interest of the people of a particular area,  
11 and again, it would have national  
12 implications, then I think it's something  
13 that you should reconsider.

14 And again, I understand that you're not  
15 considering it as a viable option now, but I  
16 urge you, if the reason is because the cell  
17 phone companies have said, we think we'd be  
18 discriminated against, I don't believe that  
19 that is a good reason for you to just throw  
20 away a good idea.

21 MR. GARCIA: I accept your argument, and  
22 clearly it's something that's there.

23 MR. SHIFREL: But, I do thank you for  
24 coming to Broward County and for having the  
25 opportunity to be able to say my piece.

1 MR. GARCIA: Oh, thank you, very much.  
2 Thank you for being so informed. Let me ask  
3 you though, before you walk away, since you  
4 have looked at this, looking at these plans,  
5 can I give you some of my impressions and  
6 then you tell me what you thought about this?

7 MR. SHIFREL: Absolutely.

8 MR. GARCIA: When I look at Broward  
9 County and the plans that are before us, the  
10 one that seems to make most sense, on your  
11 philosophical discussion, is one, ten-digit  
12 dialing.

13 Now, I know that's not popular, and  
14 we're working to avoid that. By the way,  
15 Senator Fordham grabbed me and almost  
16 physically assaulted me when I threatened to  
17 change the area code.

18 But, I just want to make sure that  
19 you --

20 MR. SHIFREL: I've looked at all of the  
21 scenarios --

22 MR. GARCIA: Okay, give me yours.

23 MR. SHIFREL: And I have to give you an  
24 answer that may seem a little abstract. But  
25 believe me, it's not.



1 I was recently at a meeting where a  
2 motion came up that somebody made to support  
3 the use of lethal injections for executions  
4 as an alternative to the electric chair.

5 Because I am totally opposed to capital  
6 punishment, period, I could not support that  
7 motion.

8 MR. GARCIA: Right.

9 MR. SHIFREL: In other words, I'm  
10 opposed to changing it. I believe there is  
11 another alternative.

12 MR. GARCIA: Okay.

13 MR. SHIFREL: And until I know that  
14 every option to be able to avoid those  
15 alternatives has been exhausted, then I  
16 couldn't possibly support any of the others.

17 MR. GARCIA: Very good. Well,  
18 Mr. Shifrel, you should be assured that we're  
19 working very hard to avoid distributing a new  
20 area code within the legal confines that we  
21 find ourselves, but thank you very much.

22 MR. BECK: Thank you. Next witness is  
23 J. Mark Dougway. Mr. Dougway? Okay. Next  
24 witness, Charles Back.

25 MR. BACK: I'd like to present my

1 comments in writing at a future moment in  
2 time.

3 MR. GARCIA: Sure, okay, that would be  
4 fine, all right. And you will notice that  
5 the form that we gave out?

6 MR. BACK: Saw that.

7 MR. GARCIA: Okay, great.

8 MR. BECK: The next witness is Leslie  
9 Hillman.

10 MS. HILLMAN: Good morning. I don't  
11 have any comments to make. I just had some  
12 questions that I wanted to pass on that I've  
13 been getting from my readers over the  
14 months --

15 MR. GARCIA: Okay.

16 MS. HILLMAN: -- that I've been covering  
17 this. One of the questions that I've been  
18 getting --

19 MR. GARCIA: You know what? This is one  
20 of the rare opportunities we get to have a  
21 witness before us, and sworn in, and a  
22 journalist. So, we may have a lot of  
23 questions for you, Ms. Hillman.

24 You may have put yourself in a tough  
25 spot. Do me a favor, identify yourself and

1 who you work for, just so that we --

2 MS. HILLMAN: Sure. I'm Leslie Hillman.  
3 I'm the Telecommunication's Reporter at the  
4 Sun Sentinel, which is in Fort Lauderdale.

5 One of the questions that I have gotten  
6 is, why can't we go either to an eight-digit  
7 phone number. Keep the same area code, but  
8 go to an eight-digit phone number.

9 Or, alternately, why can't we go to a  
10 four digit area code so that we wouldn't have  
11 to get new ones as often.

12 MR. GARCIA: Mr. Ileri, do you want to  
13 try that or do you want to let me start into  
14 it?

15 MR. ILERI: With regard to your question  
16 in terms of increasing the number of digits  
17 from three to four or five has been discussed  
18 by industry members, and as of today, of  
19 course, there is no answer on that.

20 And, if the rate of the current - based  
21 on the current growth rate of the NXX's and  
22 the area codes, it looks like the U.S.  
23 Government is going to be running out of area  
24 codes by the year 2007.

25 And we know that the FCC is going to

1 make a decision some time in early April.  
2 Based on those predictions, if - one of the  
3 measures that they are talking about is -- If  
4 this is put in place nationwide, it may  
5 extend the life expectancy of the current  
6 area codes some time to the next century.

7 And, of course, based on the position,  
8 we don't know if there will ever be an  
9 additional digits to the area code or not.  
10 And in terms of eight digits, we have got  
11 some reports from some of the industry  
12 members, I believe from California.

13 And this person was discussing how eight  
14 digit dialing could be implemented and I  
15 believe that the economic council and the  
16 industry members have discussed it, but I  
17 don't think they have finalized any kind of  
18 recommendation to - whether to implement  
19 this, or not.

20 MR. GARCIA: If I can ask though. The  
21 reason we can't individually consider it, is  
22 that we have to have a national plan to do  
23 that, right?

24 You wouldn't be able to do a separate --  
25 Like, Broward wouldn't be able to have eight

1 digits and then not have a new area code.

2 MR. ILERI: Well, according to this  
3 witness, he's saying that it's possible to do  
4 it per area code.

5 MR. GARCIA: Okay.

6 MR. ILERI: And, I don't know what kind  
7 of changes that they have to implement to the  
8 national data base so that other callers can  
9 call those people in that eight-digit --

10 MR. GARCIA: Mr. Foley, do you want to  
11 add anything to that, what Mr. Ileri  
12 discussed?

13 MR. FOLEY: He covered it very well.

14 MR. GARCIA: Okay.

15 MS. HILLMAN: So, it is possible to do  
16 it per area code, but --

17 MR. GARCIA: There's a witness that's  
18 saying it's possible, that has submitted  
19 testimony --

20 MR. ILERI: Right, the industry has not  
21 acknowledged whether it's possible, or not.

22 MR. GARCIA: It's a huge -- If I can  
23 tell you. It's a huge issue that's going on  
24 and other Commissions are exploring what to  
25 do with this, but it's an issue that has to

1 be solved. And what they're trying to do is  
2 solve it on a national basis.

3 It's nothing that we can consider  
4 presently in their current guidelines,  
5 correct?

6 MR. ILERI: I believe so. That's  
7 correct.

8 MS. HILLMAN: So, you're saying you  
9 won't consider it for now.

10 MR. ILERI: Well, it's a possibility to  
11 be considered, of course we have to get the  
12 input from, you know, industry members, and  
13 to see the technical possibilities, and how  
14 it can be implemented.

15 Whether it's a viable solution, or how  
16 it's really going to help. Because no matter  
17 what you're doing you have to implement an  
18 area code, really, if you are running out of  
19 numbers. Even if you go to eight-digit  
20 dialing, you still will have overlays or  
21 different splits.

22 And of course we don't know whether it's  
23 going to cause any kind of confusion or not.  
24 And they're not interested in any kind of  
25 input from the industry nor the public.

1 MS. HILLMAN: Okay, thank you.

2 MR. GARCIA: Let me ask staff. Should  
3 we try and get testimony on that? Should we  
4 ask about an additional digit?

5 MR. ILERI: I believe we can ask to the  
6 industry members who are presently here to  
7 see what they're --

8 MR. GARCIA: I think they'll flip out if  
9 we do that. Do any of you want to make a  
10 comment on this? Enlighten us a little bit?  
11 Mr. Greer's always the brave soul.

12 MR. GREER: Stan Greer with Bell South.  
13 Commissioners, I'm not aware of the testimony  
14 that Levent's talking about, because it's not  
15 testimony in this docket.

16 If we had testimony on that and could  
17 review it, you know, granted if the  
18 Commission was looking on that in this  
19 proceeding, we would want to at least provide  
20 you the input as far as what the problems  
21 would be, if there were any.

22 MR. ILERI: The standard conditions is  
23 available under docket 98.14.4, that's the  
24 number utilization docket. But we're not  
25 establishing any kind of proceeding to

1 examine --

2 MR. GREER: Yes. I guess my concern is,  
3 it's not in this proceeding, and I haven't -  
4 my folks haven't seen it yet to determine  
5 whether -- And if you give me a copy of it,  
6 I'll be more than happy to look at it.

7 MR. GARCIA: Well, great, maybe we can  
8 submit it to them as part of the  
9 interrogatories, and then just provide it, so  
10 that we get an idea of what's there. And  
11 we'll have our counsel do that and coordinate  
12 with staff; is that all right, Mr.  
13 Canterbury?

14 Great. Okay.

15 MR. BECK: Commissioner, if I might just  
16 to expand it. The one thing that I've heard,  
17 Ms. Hillman, on that is that the problem is,  
18 is that Broward County isn't by itself.

19 That if somebody in Tallahassee or  
20 somebody in Nebraska wants to call somebody  
21 here, their switches have to recognize that  
22 and know what to do with the eight numbers,  
23 and I think that's one of the real problems,  
24 is that you just can't do it by yourself here  
25 in Broward.



1           Commissioner, that's the last person who  
2           indicated on the form that they wish to  
3           speak.

4           MR. GARCIA: Okay. Is there anybody  
5           else that would like to add something? Come  
6           on down.

7           MS. BONURA: I'd rather not.

8           MR. GARCIA: You got to, I need you to  
9           be on the record there, all right?.

10          Most of the people who come down would  
11          rather not either. And if you - we need to  
12          swear you in.

13          Whereupon,

14                                 GINNIE BONURA,  
15          having been first duly sworn, was examined and  
16          testified as follows:

17          MR. GARCIA: Give us your name and  
18          address.

19          MS. BONURA: Ginnie Bonura. I work for  
20          Broward County. I work for  
21          telecommunications. I just had a thought  
22          while I was sitting here.

23                         Did anyone think about having a state  
24                         code like the European countries have a  
25                         country code, and then your phone number?

1           Is it possible to have a state code and  
2 I think you would have the possibility of  
3 reusing the phone numbers?

4           MR. GARCIA: Well, we do reuse the phone  
5 numbers. In other words, let me give you an  
6 example, because Mr. Shifrel talked about.

7           Let's say you live in a neighborhood in  
8 Broward and you decide to get a fax. As a  
9 general rule, that fax will not have the new  
10 area code because there's a churning effect  
11 in your neighborhood.

12           A neighbor leaves, a new one comes in,  
13 somebody had two lines gets one, so you will  
14 probably be able to keep your 954 number in  
15 the home, to some degree, unless there's a  
16 huge explosion within that area.

17           But I think the reason we can't get a  
18 country code for the state is because the  
19 state is part of the North American  
20 dialing -- What's it called?

21           MR. FOLEY: The North American Numbering  
22 Plan.

23           MR. GARCIA: North American Numbering  
24 Plan, which you probably have noticed, the  
25 Caribbean is part of that, and Canada.

1           So, we're all on sort of this -- And  
2           although Key West threatened to secede when  
3           we were going to change their number, and  
4           that would have given them a country code, we  
5           probably can't because our system is part of  
6           that integrated whole system on a national  
7           basis, so our phones all work within that.

8           MS. BONURA: Okay. Just a thought.

9           MR. GARCIA: Okay? But thank you.

10          Again, it's like the single-digit addition,  
11          and I think that was one of the reasons that  
12          I believed that Mr. Beck was right.

13          And if you recall, one of the big  
14          problems you have is precisely the computers  
15          and other - not necessarily we within  
16          ourselves understanding the system, but those  
17          from outside understanding the system.

18          And if you don't have it all in play,  
19          for example, when we changed to 954, one of  
20          the great problems here was that at the time,  
21          there was still - was it Centrix equipment,  
22          PBX equipment that didn't recognize numbers  
23          without a zero or a one area code, or a zero  
24          or a one in the second digit.

25          So, it meant that a lot of places

1                   couldn't even call into Broward. Of course,  
2                   most of the technology is gone, and it  
3                   doesn't exist. But we have to be careful in  
4                   how we integrate or inter-relate with  
5                   everyone else.

6                   MS. BONURA: All right, thank you.

7                   MR. GARCIA: All right. Is there anyone  
8                   else?

9                   MR. JACOBS: I have a brief question for  
10                  staff. Is it -- Do we have any kind of a  
11                  schedule as to what numbering conservation  
12                  measures may be possible and when they may be  
13                  possible?

14                 MR. ILERI: Commissioner Jacobs,  
15                 currently, there are five working groups in  
16                 one of our dockets which is 98.14.4 number  
17                 utilization docket. And these five or ten  
18                 sub-committee groups are working on various  
19                 issues, in terms of which one is going to be  
20                 applicable.

21                 One of them is the thousand block  
22                 pulling.

23                 MR. JACOBS: I'm sorry.

24                 MR. ILERI: One of them is the thousand  
25                 block pulling. One of them is the short term

1 efficiency measures sub-group which is  
2 working on ways, on a short term basis, in  
3 terms of whether we are going to start doing  
4 the reclaiming of unused NXX's, you know,  
5 measures of that sort.

6 I believe that some time very soon we  
7 are going to have a report to the Commission  
8 in terms of which one we'll be proceeding  
9 with.

10 MR. JACOBS: Okay.

11 MR. ILERI: It's just something that, of  
12 course, you will deciding, whether the  
13 industry's and staff's recommendation is  
14 going to be --

15 MR. JACOBS: Do you have any idea when  
16 those recommendations are due?

17 MR. ILERI: Some time in February.

18 MR. JACOBS: Okay. Thank you.

19 MR. GARCIA: We're going to have our  
20 counsel read the relevance dates on this  
21 docket, when the decision is scheduled for,  
22 and the like.

23 MR. FORDHAM: The PSC staff is scheduled  
24 to make a recommendation to the Commission on  
25 August 3rd of 2000, and the Commission will

1 vote on their recommendations on August the  
2 15th of 2000.

3 MR. GARCIA: Do we have a technical  
4 hearing date yet, or that hasn't been  
5 assigned yet?

6 MR. ILERI: Yes, we do.

7 MR. GARCIA: What is that?

8 MR. ILERI: I believe they are -- If  
9 you'd just give me a minute, I'll find it.

10 MR. GARCIA: The technical hearing is  
11 where the companies will offer up --

12 MR. ILERI: May 18th and 19th.

13 MR. GARCIA: May 18th and 19th, where  
14 the companies will offer up their technical  
15 testimony on the possibilities that we've  
16 asked them about and what they can do.

17 All right, thank you for being here. If  
18 you have any additional comments, you can  
19 call us at 1-800-342-3552, and you can file  
20 testimony by phone or your opinion by phone,  
21 and clearly, that will be made part of the  
22 record as this was today.

23 Thank you, very much.

24 (Whereupon, at 12:20 p.m., the  
25 proceedings were concluded.)

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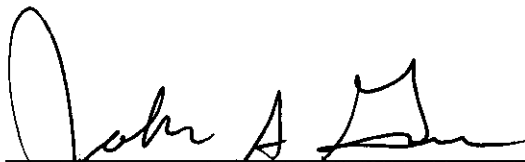
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