

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
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MEMORANDUM

June 4, 1998

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FPSC - Records/Reporting

TO: DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF RECORDS AND REPORTING (BAYO)

FROM: DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS (SIRIANNI) *MS RTT*
DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES (BROWN) *NCB*

RE: DOCKET NO. 971058-TP - REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF PROPOSED
NUMBERING PLAN RELIEF FOR 305 AREA CODE

AGENDA: JUNE 16, 1998 - REGULAR AGENDA - Parties may participate

CRITICAL DATES: NONE

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: S:\PSC\CMU\WP\971058TP.RCM

CASE BACKGROUND

On July 15, 1997, BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. (BellSouth), the numbering administrator for the 305 area code at that time, notified the Commission that the 305 area code would exhaust its remaining available NXXs sooner than expected. The Commission opened this docket to address what would be the appropriate relief method for the area code. The Commission conducted service hearings in Miami and Key West on October 1 and 3, 1997, and a technical hearing in Tallahassee on October 13, 1997. On January 6, 1998, the Commission issued Order No. PSC-98-0040-FOF-TL approving a concentrated growth overlay to provide numbering plan relief for the 305 area code. The new area code selected to relieve 305 is 786 (SUN). The Commission established a 10-digit permissive dialing period beginning on March 1, 1998 and ending on July 1, 1998.

On May 29, 1998, BellSouth filed a motion for extension of permissive dialing period for the 305 area code. Staff notes that the time period for responding to BellSouth's motion has not run as of the filing of this recommendation. If any responses to the motion are filed, staff will address them at the Agenda Conference.

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DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Issue 1: Should the Commission grant BellSouth's motion to extend the 305 area code permissive dialing period until October 1, 1998?

Staff Recommendation: The Commission should grant BellSouth's motion to extend the 305 area code permissive dialing period until October 1, 1998 for alarm companies only. (SIRIANNI)

Staff Analysis: In Order No. PSC-98-0040-FOF-TL (order), issued January 6, 1998, the Commission approved a concentrated growth overlay to provide numbering plan relief for the 305 area code. In its order, the Commission established a 10-digit permissive dialing period beginning on March 1, 1998 and ending on July 1, 1998.

BellSouth (the company) states that while considerable testimony was provided at the hearing concerning the appropriate relief method for the 305 area code, little if any, testimony was provided regarding the problems the alarm industry incurs when it is required to convert to 10-digit dialing. Thus, BellSouth states that no special considerations were established for the alarm industry at that time. However, after the Commission's vote on the 305 relief mechanism, various alarm companies expressed concern regarding the short permissive dialing period. BellSouth states that alarm companies are required to reprogram a customer's alarm equipment in their home to dial 10 digits rather than 7-digits in order to reach the monitoring location of the alarm company. If the reprogramming is not completed, the company states that the monitoring stations will not be able to receive signals from the customer's premise.

BellSouth states that initially the alarm companies requested to extend the permissive dialing period; however, it was unclear whether there would be sufficient codes available. BellSouth states in an effort to minimize the alarm industries' problems, most of BellSouth's offices were converted by the end of December of 1997. BellSouth states that these efforts provided additional time for the alarm companies to complete the reprogramming necessary to recognize 10-digit dialing. However, BellSouth contends, some alarm companies have notified the company that they will be unable to complete the conversion by the July, 1, 1998 deadline. BellSouth states it is concerned about the potential adverse effect to its customers if the alarm industry has not completed its reprogramming of the customer's security equipment. While BellSouth's original concern with extending the permissive dialing period was due to the projected lack of NXX codes, BellSouth states that the projected code demand has not been as

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high as expected. As a result, BellSouth states that there appear to be approximately 100 NXX codes available to be used to extend the permissive dialing period.

BellSouth states that the industry has currently adopted jeopardy measures that provide for the assignment of 10 codes a month. As BellSouth points out, under this scenario, the permissive dialing period could be extended for 10 months. However, due to the potential increase in code usage for this area and the need to reserve at least one NXX in the existing area code to every telecommunications carrier authorized to provide telephone exchange service, BellSouth requests that the Commission extend the permissive dialing period for three months or until October 1, 1998.

Conclusion

In an effort to minimize the alarm industries' problems, staff worked with BellSouth to develop an implementation schedule that would convert BellSouth's offices by the beginning of the permissive dialing on March 1, 1998. Based on that schedule, BellSouth converted the majority of its offices by the end of December 1997. While these efforts provided the alarm industry additional time to complete the necessary reprogramming to recognize 10-digit dialing, some alarm companies have failed to complete their reprogramming in a timely manner to meet the July 1, 1998 deadline. Staff does not believe that end users should suffer or be harmed in any way due to the alarm companies' inability to complete their reprogramming.

BellSouth's request specifically addresses the alarm industries' problems; however, BellSouth's motion does not specify that the extension only be applied to alarm companies. Based on BellSouth's motion, staff does not believe that there is any potential harm to end users from other types of providers due to reprogramming or conversion problems. Thus, staff recommends that the Commission grant BellSouth's motion to extend the 305 area code permissive dialing period until October 1, 1998 for alarm companies only.

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ISSUE 2: Should this Docket be closed?

RECOMMENDATION: Yes. With the approval of Issue 1 this docket should be closed. (Brown)

STAFF ANALYSIS: Yes. With the approval of Issue 1 this docket should be closed.