

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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In Re: Request for Review of Proposed

Docket 99-0223-TL

Numbering Plan Relief for the 941
Area Code

PRE-FILED TESTIMONY

OF JAMES R. EWING, ESQ.

**Q Please state your name and the name and address of the group
that you represent.**

A. James R. Ewing, Esq, Southwest County Alliance of Homeowners
Associations, P.O. Box 263, Englewood, FL 34295-0263.

**Q. What is your position with the Southwest County Alliance of
Homeowners?**

A. I am the Chairman.

**Q. This Docket No. 99-0223-TL is before the Public Service
Commission to consider which portions of the current 941
Area Code service area should retain the 941 designation in
light of the imminent area code split. The 941 NPA Exhaust
Recommended Relief Plan recommends that the Northwest
split combine Sarasota County with Bartow, Bradenton,
Haines City, Lake Wales, Lakeland, Palmetto, Venice and
Winter Haven, and that the 941 Area Code be retained for that
portion of the split. The balance of the current 941 Area Code**

1 service area, consisting of Arcadia, Avon Park, Bonita Springs,
2 Cape Coral, Fort Myers, Naples, North Naples, North Fort
3 Myers, Okeechobee, Port Charlotte and Sebring, the Southeast
4 split, would be given a new area code. According to the Relief
5 Plan, the exhaust period for the revised 941 Area Code service
6 area is predicted to be 5.2 years. A formal complaint has been
7 filed by Cellular One in Ft. Myers, contesting the decision to
8 retain the 941 Area Code in the Northwest split rather than in
9 the Southeast split. Does the Southwest County Alliance of
10 Homeowners Associations have any concerns about this
11 proposed split and the predicted exhaust period?

12 A. Yes. There is no question that the present area will be split some
13 time later in 1999. The Association has been informed that it is
14 probable that further split(s) will be needed within approximately
15 three (3) years. Newly assigned area codes require that business
16 and professional establishments place the new code on letterheads,
17 business cards, brochures and other business forms. Therefore,
18 such a change can be expensive to these organizations, as well as
19 being burdensome to all persons affected. The fewer changes, the
20 better. Let us plan ahead and try to forestall a second split.

21 Q. If the Commission were to consider alternatives to the
22 proposed Northwest/Southeast split, would you have any
23 recommendation?

1 A. Yes. The Association recommends a split of the current 941 Area
2 Code into three or even four areas. The split, which I will discuss
3 in more detail, would solve the problem that has arisen about
4 dividing Englewood into two area codes and lengthen the exhaust
5 period. It is realized that the first, and current, suggested split is on
6 the basis of the service areas of GTE and Sprint. By using their
7 service areas as the basis for the split, the Englewood community
8 and Charlotte County are split. Therefore, the Association
9 suggests the following split: (1) Manatee, Hardee and Polk
10 Counties; (2) Sarasota, Charlotte and DeSoto Counties; (3) Lee,
11 Collier and mainland Monroe Counties. This leaves Glades,
12 Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee counties unassigned. They
13 could be left with area (3) as they now are, or be divided as eastern
14 extensions of each area (1), (2) and (3),
15 It is recognized that each of our proposed areas will encompass
16 part of GTE and part of Sprint territory. However, it will solve the
17 proposed split of Englewood and of Charlotte County and will also
18 solve the problem of the objection by south-central Polk County
19 that it is to be separated from the major part of its county.

20 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

21 A. Yes, it does.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
DOCKET NO. 99-0223-TL

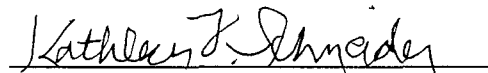
I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served by Federal Express or facsimile the 22 day of March, 1999 to the following:

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