

STATE OF MICHIGAN
BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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In the matter, on the Commission's own motion,	)	
to consider implementation of a 248 area code	)	Case No. U-12721
relief plan.	)	
_____	)	

At the March 21, 2002 meeting of the Michigan Public Service Commission in Lansing,
Michigan.

PRESENT: Hon. Laura Chappelle, Chairman
Hon. David A. Svanda, Commissioner
Hon. Robert B. Nelson, Commissioner

AMENDATORY ORDER

On April 17, 2001, the Commission issued an order approving, with certain restrictions and requirements, the 248 area code relief plan recommended by the North American Numbering Plan Administrator, which is currently NeuStar, Inc. That plan, which was necessitated by the impending exhaustion of all available central office codes (frequently referred to as NXX codes), called for the implementation of an all-services distributed overlay covering the same geographic area as the existing 248 area code. Although use of this overlay allows all customers to retain their existing telephone numbers, including their 248 area code designation, it necessitates their dialing ten digits (the area code plus the seven-digit local number) in order to complete a local call.¹

¹ This requirement, established by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in its Second Report and Order on Local Competition, 11 FCC Rcd at 19518, is based on the assumption that dialing parity is necessary to preserve competition between carriers assigned numbers in the underlying area code and those assigned numbers in the overlay area code.

On February 11, 2002, Guardian Alarm Company (Guardian) submitted a request for an amendatory order. As stated in that request, the 248 area code relief plan necessitates Guardian converting all of its customers' equipment to recognize the new area code and to implement the ten-digit dialing pattern. However, Guardian contended, insufficient time exists for it to complete those conversions before the start of mandatory dialing on June 8, 2002. Guardian therefore asked that the Commission amend its April 17, 2001 order in this case, extend the use of permissive dialing in the 248 area code by 180 days, and establish December 5, 2002 as the initiation date for mandatory dialing.

The Commission Staff (Staff) reviewed Guardian's request, discussed it with NeuStar and members of the telecommunications industry, and concluded that permissive dialing could be extended in the 248 area code. However, the Staff went on to note that too few NXX codes exist to allow for the full 180-day extension sought by Guardian. The Staff therefore recommended extending permissive dialing by only 90 days, thus establishing September 7, 2002 as the deadline for the initiation of mandatory dialing. Neither NeuStar nor any members of the industry objected to that proposed 90-day extension.

Due to the projected adequacy of NXX codes, as well as the lack of opposition from NeuStar and members of the industry, the Commission concludes that the 90-day extension recommended by the Staff is warranted. The Commission therefore finds that its April 17, 2001 order should be amended, the time for permissive dialing in the 248 area code should be extended by 90 days, and September 7, 2002 should be established as the revised initiation date for mandatory dialing.

The Commission FINDS that:

- a. Jurisdiction is pursuant to 1991 PA 179, as amended, MCL 484.2101 et seq.; 1969 PA 306, as amended, MCL 24.201 et seq.; and the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, as amended, 1992 AACCS, R 460.17101 et seq.
- b. Guardian's request to amend the April 17, 2001 order should be granted, in part.
- c. The time for permissive dialing in the 248 area code should be extended by 90 days.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that:

A. The April 17, 2001 order is amended, the time provided for permissive dialing in the 248 area code is extended by 90 days, and September 7, 2002 is established as the revised date for the initiation of mandatory dialing.

B. NeuStar, Inc., in its capacity as the North American Numbering Plan Administrator, and the affected members of the telecommunications industry shall take all steps necessary to ensure implementation of the revised schedule arising from this order.

The Commission reserves jurisdiction and may issue further orders as necessary.

Any party desiring to appeal this order must do so in the appropriate court within 30 days after issuance and notice of this order, pursuant to MCL 462.26.

MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

/s/ Laura Chappelle
Chairman

(S E A L)

/s/ David A. Svanda
Commissioner

/s/ Robert B. Nelson
Commissioner

By its action of March 21, 2002.

/s/ Dorothy Wideman
Its Executive Secretary

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Suggested Minute:

“Adopt and issue order dated March 21, 2002 amending the April 17, 2001 order and extending, by 90 days, the period allowed for permissive dialing in the 248 area code, as set forth in the order.”