

PRESS RELEASE**GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

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Commission Votes to Implement 912 Area Code Exhaust Plan

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ATLANTA-In an effort to allow for continued economic growth and prosperity in South Georgia, the Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC) voted 4-1 today to implement two new area codes in the current 912 area code geographic region.

The approved exhaust plan, known as a three way split, will allow residents of the new areas to be quickly and uniquely identified with the major cities in their area. For example, residents of the northern portion of the current 912 area code, who are identified with the Macon area, will have the new area code of 478. Those in the Southwest portion of the current 912 area code, identified with the Albany area, will have the new area code of 229. Finally, residents in the Southeast portion of the current 912 area code, identified with the Savannah area, will remain with 912 as their area code.

Further, while traditional area code exhaust implementation plans have only added one new area code to a region, the Commission was able to successfully lobby the Federal Communications Commission-who oversees the implementation of area codes in the United States-for two new area codes. This important decision by the FCC will enable South Georgia residents to remain with the new area codes for generations. Specifically, the new 478 area code in the Macon area is not expected to exhaust for another 30 years, the new 229 area code in the Albany area is not expected to exhaust for 24 years, while Savannah's 912 area code exhaust date is not expected for another 19 years.

During this morning's proceedings the Commission also announced the time frame for the new area codes to be implemented. Beginning on October 01, 1999 the public will be notified of the new change, which will be followed by a transitional calling period to begin on August 01, 2000. After the transitional calling period-which will allow consumers to continue to use the current 912 area code and the new area codes-mandatory use of the new codes will begin on August 01, 2001.

"While visiting South Georgia over the past several months to obtain feedback on how to implement an exhaust plan, it became apparent from consumers comments that this is the decision that they would feel most comfortable with," Commented Commission Chairman Stan Wise. "Yes, those in the Macon and Albany area will have to change their numbers, but it is our belief that the two year time frame allotted to adjust to the change will assist in ensuring the least disruptive transition possible," added Wise.

This past summer the Commission held public meetings in Savannah, Macon, Valdosta, Albany and Brunswick regarding 912 area code exhaust plans. During these meetings the Commission fielded questions on the options and informed the public that no matter what plan was implemented it will in no way effect toll-free calling areas.

912 AREA CODE CHANGE
COUNTY BY COUNTY BREAKDOWN

MACON--478

Mondroe, Crawford, Bibb, Baldwin, Dooly (pt), Pulaski (pt), Dodge (pt), Macon, Twiggs, Laurens (pt), Jefferson (pt), Peach, Taylor, Putnum (pt), Wilkinson, Bleckley, Houston, Burke (pt), Jenkins, Johnson, Emanuel (pt), Washington, Jones

ALBANY--229

Stewart, Quitman, Marion, Schley, Dooly (pt), Pulaski (pt), Dodge (pt), Telfair (pt), Wheeler (pt), Ben Hill, Irwin, Wilcox, Turner, Crisp, Sumter, Lee, Terrell, Randolph, Clay, Calhoun, Dougherty, Worth, Tift, Berrien, Lanier, Cook, Colquitt, Brooks, Lowndes, Echols (pt), Thomas, Grady, Decatur, Seminole, Early, Miller, Baker, Mitchell

SAVANNAH--912

Echols (pt), Clinch (pt), Atkinson, Coffee, Jeff Davis, Telfair (pt), Wheeler (pt), Laurens (pt), Emanuel (pt), Candler, Bulloch, Screven, Montgomery, Toombs, Evans, Effingham, Chatham, Tattnall, Long, Liberty, Bryan, Appling, Bacon, Ware, Pierce, Wayne, McIntosh, Glynn, Camden, Brantley, Charlton

"pt" denotes a county divided by an area code.