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News Release

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION TO CONSIDER THE ISSUANCE OF ANOTHER NEW AREA CODE FOR GEORGIA IN 706 AREA CODE

Atlanta, May 26, 2005 – The Georgia Public Service Commission (Commission) will discuss the issuance of a new area code in the 706 service area at its Telecommunications Committee meeting on June 16, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will take place in Room 110 at the Commission's offices located at 244 Washington Street, S.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30334.

The public is invited to comment. Interested parties may submit written comments to the Commission prior to the above-scheduled meeting or they may provide oral comments at the meeting. Written comments may be sent to the attention of the Executive Secretary at the above address.

The Commission is scheduled to issue a decision on the 706 area code relief plan at its June 21, 2005 Administrative Session. The all services overlay remains as the preferred method of relief for 706, as previously recommended by NANPA on behalf of the Georgia telecommunications industry. To introduce the new overlay area code under the current proposed implementation schedule, a "permissive" dialing period will begin on September 1, 2005, allowing customers to dial either the seven or 10-digit telephone number. During this period customers are encouraged to begin dialing 10 digits on all calls to become accustomed to the new dialing plan. Mandatory 10-digit dialing will begin on April 3, 2006. Customers must then use the new 10-digit dialing pattern to complete all local calls.

In 2000, the Commission established a docket to review the North American Numbering Plan Administrator's (NANPA) petition for relief of the 706 Area Code. NANPA, on behalf of the industry, recommended that the PSC approve a relief plan in which a new area code would be overlaid on the areas presently served by 706. At that time, however, the Commission implemented conservation measures and delayed the exhaust of the 706 area code and disapproved the issuance of a new area code for the 706 service area. NANPA later released new exhaust projections, which estimate that without the institution of a new area code, the 706 area code will be exhausted during the second quarter of 2006.

In an overlay relief plan, all existing numbers will retain the current area code, but new telephone customers for local phone, cellular and paging services and alarm/security systems may be assigned a telephone number in the new overlay area code. In addition, the new overlay plan will require that all telephone calls originating in an overlay area use 10-digit dialing (area code + seven digit phone

number). This includes calls currently dialed with seven digits within the same area code and those made between phones in the new overlay area codes.

More information is available on the Commission website, www.psc.state.ga.us.

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