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For immediate release

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### **News Release**

#### **PSC Approves Call for New Area Code in 706**

Atlanta, June 23, 2005 -- The Georgia Public Service Commission (Commission) today approved an order calling for area code relief in the 706 service area using the all services overlay. The all services overlay remains as the preferred method of relief for 706, as previously recommended by the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA) NeuStar, Incorporated on behalf of the Georgia telecommunications industry. This means current phone numbers will not change area codes but all telephone users in the 706 area code will have to dial ten digits to complete a telephone call, whether local or long distance. All new telephone numbers will be assigned the new area code once the new code is placed into service.

Commissioner David Burgess noted that the Commission's number conservation efforts had extended the life of the 706 area code by six years. "I believe this recommendation provides the best option for the least disruption to everyone involved. This decision puts Georgia in step with what is coming down the pike, a national ten-digit dialing plan."

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.

The North American Numbering Plan Administrator, NeuStar, Incorporated, of Washington, D.C. will issue the actual area code number within a week of the Commission's final order in this docket.

For more information on this Docket, go to the Commission website, [www.psc.state.ga.us](http://www.psc.state.ga.us) and enter Docket Number 12736-U in the Docket Search section.

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