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News Release

PSC Announces “762” To Provide Area Code Relief in Area Code 706

Atlanta, June 24, 2005 -- The Georgia Public Service Commission (Commission) today announced the release of “762” as the new overlay area code to provide area code relief in the 706 service area. The Commission yesterday, June 23, 2005, issued its order calling for the all services distributed overlay as the preferred method of relief for 706, as recommended by the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA) NeuStar, Incorporated on behalf of the Georgia telecommunications industry. NANPA today issued 762 as the new area code assignment.

The 706 area code includes the major Georgia cities of Athens, Augusta, Columbus, Cornelia, Dalton, LaGrange, Rome, and Toccoa.

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.

Based on current projections, NANPA estimates this new area code means it will be 13 years before another area code is needed in this service area.

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.

For more information on this Docket, go to the Commission website, www.psc.state.ga.us and enter Docket Number 12736-U in the Docket Search section.

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