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PRE-FILED DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF
WAYNE P. SALLADE
BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
ON BEHALF OF
CHARLOTTE COUNTY, a political subdivision of the
STATE OF FLORIDA
DOCKET NO. 990223-TL

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Q. Please state your name and your business address.

A. Wayne Sallade, Charlotte County Government, 18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, Florida.

Q. What is your position with Charlotte County Government?

A. Director of Emergency Management.

Q. How long have you held that position and what are your responsibilities?

A. Since June 1987. As Director of Emergency Management, it is my responsibility to develop, coordinate, and maintain the County's Emergency Management plan.

Q. Docket No. 990223-TL is before the Florida Public Service Commission to review the proposed numbering plan relief for area code 941. The 941 NPA Exhaust Recommended Relief Plan recommends splitting the existing 941 area code into two sectors, with the South Sector acquiring a new area code. The North Sector (which would retain the 941 area code) would include Polk, Manatee, and Sarasota Counties, including the communities of Bartow, Bradenton, Haines City, Lake Wales, Lakeland, Palmetto, Venice and Winter Haven. The South Sector (which would receive a new area code) would include Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, and Okeechobee counties, including the communities of Arcadia, Avon Park, Bonita Springs, Cape Coral, Fort Myers, Naples, North Naples, North Fort Myers, Okeechobee, Port Charlotte and Sebring. According to the Relief Plan, the revised 941 area code service area is forecast to exhaust in about 5.2 years. The new area code service area (including Charlotte County) would exhaust in about 5.9 years. As Director of Emergency Management for Charlotte County, do you have any concerns about this proposed split and the predicted exhaust period?

A. Yes. My primary concern regarding the proposed boundary line split is the impact that two different area codes in Charlotte County would have on the County's Emergency Management plan in the case of an emergency. There will be delays in calling Special Needs Registrants

1 to notify them of an impending evacuation. (These people are transportation-dependent and
2 are evacuated by Charlotte County resources.) But that issue is the subject of Docket No.
3 990184 and I reserve my comments on that issue for the Englewood docket. Any change of
4 area code within Charlotte County will cause a loss of Emergency Management manpower
5 due to the time required to reprogram fax machines (over 100 numbers) and the automatic
6 notifier (over 400 numbers). All of these changes cause government expense, which can be
7 avoided with longer exhaust periods for area codes. Although I recognize that the sheer
8 number of new telephone numbers necessitates a split in the 941 area code, a relief alternative
9 should be selected that allows for a longer exhaust period than the projected 5.9 years. This
10 is particularly true in light of the fact that Charlotte County just had its area code changed
11 three years ago, in 1996. It would be much more cost efficient if the 941 area code were now
12 split into more than just two sectors.

13 **Q. If the Commission were to consider alternatives to the proposed North/South split,**
14 **would you have any recommendation?**

15 A. Yes. As I mentioned, my principal concerns are the frequency of area code changes and the
16 bifurcation of the Englewood community, which lies in both Charlotte and Sarasota counties.
17 The extra costs and lost productivity experienced by government in adjusting to area code
18 changes, and also the Emergency Management problems associated with having two or more
19 area codes, would be lessened with one area code throughout Charlotte County and longer
20 exhaust periods for any required area code changes.

21 **Q. As Director of Emergency Management for Charlotte County, would you be in favor**
22 **of an overlay method of relief in Charlotte County as a means of achieving an extended**
23 **exhaust period?**

24 A. Although multiple area codes within one county have the potential of undermining the
25 effectiveness of emergency services, if more frequent area code changes are inevitable, I think
26 it would be better to go to an overlay system now.

1 **Q. Does this conclude your direct testimony?**

2 **A. Yes, it does.**

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