

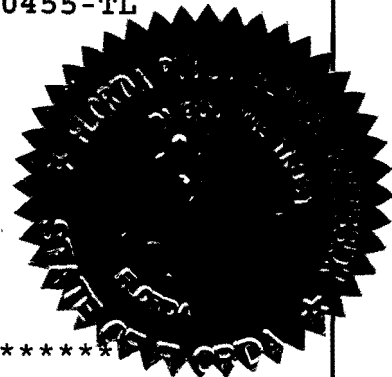
BEFORE THE
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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In the Matter of

REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF PROPOSED
NUMBERING PLAN RELIEF FOR THE
305/786 AREA CODE - DADE
COUNTY AND MONROE COUNTY/KEYS
REGION.

: DOCKET NO. 990455-TL
:
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PROCEEDINGS: KEY WEST SERVICE HEARING

BEFORE: CHAIRMAN JOE GARCIA
COMMISSIONER J. TERRY DEASON
COMMISSIONER E. LEON JACOBS, JR.

DATE: Tuesday, March 14, 2000

TIME: Commenced at 2:00 p.m.
Concluded at 2:50 p.m.

PLACE: Old City Hall
510 Greene Street
Key West, Florida

REPORTED BY: KORETTA E. STANFORD, RPR
Official FPSC Commission Reporter

1 APPEARANCES:

2 TIM VACCARO, FPSC Division of Legal
3 Services, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee,
4 Florida 32399-0850, appearing on behalf of the
5 Commission Staff.

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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2 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Good afternoon. We'll
3 convene this hearing. If counsel will read the Notice,
4 please.

5 MR. VACCARO: Pursuant to Notice, this time and
6 place have been designated for a public service hearing in
7 docket number 990455-TL, request for review of proposed
8 numbering plan relief for the 305/786 area code, Dade
9 county and Monroe county/Keys region.

10 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Okay.

11 Here's what we're going to do. We have Neustar,
12 Mr. Foley from Neustar. He's going to walk through over
13 the options that we're looking at for this particular area
14 code exhaust.

15 And he will present those so that we can be
16 educated on that. If you're intending to speak -- there's
17 Mr. Foley, I was looking for him. There's Mr. Foley. He
18 will walk through all the plans that you have in the
19 yellow handout, okay?

20 So, as he goes through that, it'll give you a
21 good idea of what's out there. Then, when he is finished,
22 we will swear in those of you who wish to speak or those
23 of you who are thinking about speaking or those of you who
24 want to hurl insults at us; any of those things, we'd like
25 to swear you in, so we can get it into the record.

1 It's important, though, to pay attention to some
2 of the things he's going to talk about. And if you have
3 questions about that, hold them until he's finished.

4 I want to introduce who is here. To my right is
5 Commissioner Terry Deason. And to my left is Commissioner
6 Leon Jacobs. My name is Joe Garcia. And we're here to
7 hear from you.

8 We're not going to give you a decision today,
9 but we want to know how you feel about it. We clearly get
10 a lot from these hearings. We generally get even more
11 when we come to the Florida Keys. So, whatever you want
12 to say to us, this is your opportunity to do that.

13 And with that, Mr. Foley.

14 MR. FOLEY: Thank you, Chairman Garcia. My name
15 is Tom Foley. I'm an NPA relief planner with the North
16 American Numbering Plan Administration.

17 In July 1995, the FCC took an important step in
18 promoting competition across the telecommunication
19 industry by adopting a new model by which we administer
20 the North American Numbering Plan. The North American
21 Numbering Plan is the numbering scheme used in north
22 America, including Canada and the Caribbean.

23 FCC formed the North American Numbering Council
24 in order to develop guidelines for number administration.
25 Lockheed Martin IMS was named as the North American Plan

1 Administrator, NAPA, by the FCC in its third report on
2 November 21, 1997.

3 On November 17th, '99, the FCC approved transfer
4 of Lockheed Martin IMS, because of some conflicts of
5 interest to a new group called Neustar. Neustar is
6 currently my employer.

7 What NAPA does in its responsibilities, it
8 performs numbering plan area relief coordination, which is
9 what I do for my position, to determine the need for,
10 identify the timing of NPA relief. An NPA is an area
11 code. The relief planner takes the lead in preparing
12 options for each NPA projected to exhaust and convenes in
13 industry meeting to discuss various relief alternatives.

14 The industry reaches a consensus usually on a
15 single alternative to recommend, in this case, to the
16 Florida Public Service Commission. NAPA also compiles and
17 files documents for the Florida Public Service Commission,
18 detailing the status of the industry's efforts to provide
19 area code relief, and it coordinates industry activities
20 initially for the implementation.

21 Currently, there are three basic types of NPA
22 relief or area code relief that the guidelines allow. The
23 first is a geographic split. That's the most common where
24 the existing NPA is divided into two or more geographic
25 areas; one area retains existing area code, and the other

1 area or areas gets a new area code.

2 Another method is called the overlay. That's
3 where one or more NPAs or area codes are laid over the top
4 of the same geographic area.

5 The third major type is a boundary realignment,
6 in which a portion of another NPA adjacent to the existing
7 NPA that is in need of relief is brought into the
8 exhausting NPA. And then, of course, there's various
9 combinations of those three major areas.

10 The industry has agreed on certain attributes of
11 each of the NPA split options, for the most part. And
12 we'll go over those real quickly, if you'd like.

13 Splits provide a single area code for each
14 geographic area. This may minimize confusion for
15 customers outside the area. Future splits will reduce
16 further the geographic size of the area code. Each time
17 you split it, it gets smaller and smaller.

18 Splits require an area code change for
19 approximately half the customers in a two-way split, about
20 two-thirds, if you perform a three-way split. Stationery,
21 business cards, and advertising need to be revised by
22 customers who receive the new area code or codes.

23 Geographic splits, however, permit 7-digit local
24 dialing within the smaller home NPAs. However, local
25 dialing across any NPA boundary that is created needs to

1 be 10 digits.

2 An overlay, which is where, as I said before,
3 you put multiple area codes in one geographic area. With
4 the overlay, there will be multiple area codes in each
5 geographic area, but it will end further shrinkage of the
6 geographic size of the area code.

7 Overlays avoid the need for public and political
8 involvement concerning how to split -- where to place the
9 split line, and which side of the split line gets to keep
10 the old area code.

11 Subsequent relief, however, will be normally
12 another overlay. An overlay will not require existing
13 customers to change their telephone numbers or their area
14 code. There's no need to revise stationery, et cetera,
15 unless they contain only a 7-digit number.

16 An overlay will, however, require the customers
17 to dial 10 digits or, in some cases, one plus 10 digits on
18 all local calls within the geographic area.

19 As part of a special part of an overlay is
20 called a concentrated growth overlay where the overlay is
21 placed only over a small portion of the area code. And
22 there are special and unique monitoring methods not
23 currently available to determine the exhaust and how to
24 handle the area code at the exhaust. I don't believe
25 there are any overlays, concentrated overlays, proposed.

1 Customer confusion pertaining to dialing in a
2 concentrated overlay will exist. It's difficult to
3 predict the exhaust, as I said before. And in order to
4 preserve codes and effectively implement the concentrated
5 growth overlay, the NPA must be identified earlier and
6 relief provided sooner.

7 Concentrated growth overlays minimize the
8 implementation of 10-digit dialing for customers until the
9 last possible moment. And normally, no existing customers
10 will be required to change their telephone number.

11 What we're here to talk about, basically, is the
12 Miami-Dade, and part of Monroe county's portion of
13 southeast Florida in the 305 and the 786 NPA. It's the
14 area shown on the map.

15 What's happened so far today is jeopardy was
16 declared in March of '99, and that is the point and time
17 in which NAPA determines there is insufficient number of
18 central office codes.

19 Those are the first three digits of the
20 telephone number, 7-digit telephone number, to last for a
21 period necessary to achieve relief. Normally, we look at
22 about a 30-month period for that time frame.

23 The industry held a planning meeting on June
24 23rd to reach consensus on an option of relief to
25 recommend to the Commission. The Commission received that

1 filing on August 3rd, '99, and opened the docket that is
2 with us today.

3 The projected exhaust date for the Florida Keys
4 portion of the 305 area code is third quarter 2001. And
5 that's based on rationing of assigning one NXX code, or
6 central office code, per month in this area.

7 The industry considered five relief plans at
8 their meeting in June. The first one was the extension of
9 the overlay of the 786 area code, which is in the
10 Miami-Dade area.

11 And as more relief is required in the Keys, the
12 overlay would extend down into the Keys. The projected
13 life of that for the 786 area code, in that case, would be
14 3.4 years.

15 The second alternative considered was an
16 expanded overlay, just like I just discussed where the 786
17 overlay is brought down into the Keys. And an additional
18 code is added over the entire area. That being the case,
19 that would have a life of about 7.8 years.

20 The third alternative would be at the exhaust of
21 the 305 and the Keys, the Big Pine, Islamorada and
22 Marathon, Key Largo, all the rate centers. The split
23 boundary would run near the county between Monroe and
24 Miami-Dade counties, okay? The exhaust would occur in the
25 786 overlay in approximately four years.

1 The exchanges, then, with the new area code
2 north would have an exhaust of about 7.8 years and the
3 area south, including Monroe county, would have an exhaust
4 period of about eight years.

5 In the fourth alternative considered by the
6 industry is very similar to the first, except an
7 additional area at 297 codes would be reserved specifically
8 for the Keys to provide at an estimated 12-year life.
9 That estimate, of course, being dependent upon growth.

10 And, basically, plans four and three are the
11 same with the exception of the number of codes reserved or
12 held out for the Keys area.

13 Alternative five, considered by the industry,
14 was raised at the industry meeting, and would basically
15 give the Florida Keys their own separate area code. At
16 that point, the Miami-Dade county area north of the Monroe
17 county would have 4.3 years of life with the 305 and the
18 786 area code. And the new area code, area "B" in Monroe
19 county, the Keys portion, would have a life of 38 years.

20 After discussion, the industry eliminated
21 several alternatives and reached consensus on one. The
22 industry decided to -- that the geographic split,
23 alternative five, would not be viable, because it was an
24 insufficient use of codes, because the Florida Keys area
25 does not have sufficient growth to warrant its own

1 individual area code.

2 One of the criteria that area code planners have
3 to look at by the guidelines is that the relief plans on
4 either side of the split exhaust nearly the same period of
5 time, so that you don't have a completely unbalanced life.

6 Alternative four, again, by consensus, was
7 eliminated from consideration, because it would
8 necessitate number changes for existing customers in the
9 297 central office codes that would be reserved was only
10 an estimate and may not substantiate any growth.

11 Industry participants reach consensus then to
12 eliminate alternative two, because it required two
13 separate forms of relief to be implemented in the same
14 time period, within a three-year time period.

15 Alternative three was also eliminated. This was
16 eliminated, because it required existing customers to
17 undergo number changes and only preserve 7-digit dialing
18 in adjacent Keys.

19 The alternative would take longer to implement
20 than alternative one and the permissive dialing period
21 required to implement the split in alternative three would
22 exceed the forecasted seal code expansion or exhaust
23 period, excuse me. There would be additional costs to
24 business customers, including perceived loss of business,
25 especially tourism-based business due to number changes.

1 The industry reached consensus to recommend
2 alternative one, which is the extension of the overlay
3 from the Miami-Dade area of 786 into the Keys portion of
4 Monroe county. As I said before, the recommendation was
5 filed by NAPA with the Florida Public Service Commission
6 on August 3rd.

7 NAPA is the neutral third-party administrator,
8 has no independent view regarding any relief option
9 selected by the industry of those five.

10 Subsequent to the NAPA filing, the Public
11 Service Commission staff developed additional alternatives
12 to be considered. The first one is called alternative
13 six. It's in your yellow handout, alternative six. It is
14 an overlay combination plan which is similar to
15 alternative five, but deploys a new NPA in each region,
16 okay?

17 The new NPA in the Miami-Dade region would be an
18 overlay and would be implemented upon the exhaust of the
19 786, and the Keys region would get a new NPA to last for
20 38 years. This plan would not involve any number changes
21 for existing subscribers in the Miami-Dade region, but
22 would require an NPA change in the Keys. The projected
23 life for this one is 9.3 years in the Miami-Dade region.

24 Alternative seven, is a combination split and
25 overlay relief plan. The Miami-Dade exchanges are split

1 from the Miami-Dade area, but overlaid with a new area
2 code. The Homestead and Perrine exchanges are split to
3 form a Miami-Dade area and, again, overlaid with a second
4 area code. This new area code would be used in the Keys
5 but, again, all calls in the Keys could be 7 digits.

6 The second NPA would be used as an overlay in
7 the Homestead and Perrine region but as a split from the
8 Keys region.

9 This plan would not involve any number changes
10 for existing subscribers in Miami, north Dade, Homestead
11 or Perrine, but would require new NPA for the Keys region.
12 The projected exhaust for this is 9.4 years in the Miami
13 north Dade region, 23 years in the Homestead and Perrine
14 region, and 22 years in the Keys region.

15 The eighth alternative prepared by the Florida
16 Public Service Commission staff is a split plan, which
17 divides the Miami-Dade region and the Keys region. This
18 plan does not deploy a new NPA, but rather changes the NPA
19 for the Keys region to 941, which is a mainland region in
20 the rest of Monroe county and up the west coast of
21 Florida.

22 This plan would not involve any number changes
23 for existing subscribers in Dade region, but would require
24 NPA change in the Keys region. The projected exhaust for
25 this plan is 4.3 years for Miami and 2 1/2 years for the

1 Keys area. However, there would be some of the Keys areas
2 that would have to require us full 10-digit telephone
3 number changes.

4 Alternative nine, which is similar to eight,
5 employs using the 863 area code, instead of the 941. The
6 863 area code is what was just recently split off from the
7 941 in southwest Florida. The projected exhaust for this
8 plan again is 4.3 years for the Miami-Dade region and 6.1
9 years for the 863 region and the Keys.

10 Alternative 10, which is similar to eight and
11 nine, but using the 786 NPA as a split. This plan will
12 not involve any number changes for existing subscribers in
13 Miami-Dade region, but would require NPA changes in the
14 Keys region. The projected exhaust for this plan is three
15 years for the Miami-Dade portion and for the Keys portion.

16 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Mr. Foley, let me ask you
17 a quick question on this plan --

18 MR. FOLEY: Yes, sir.

19 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: -- as the best of a whole
20 series of bad alternatives. This one, what it does is it
21 takes those unassigned 786 numbers for the Miami-Dade and
22 swaps them out for the existing 305s in the Keys, but has
23 enough growth left under present conditions to keep us
24 three years in both areas.

25 MR. FOLEY: Yes.

1 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Okay. I just wanted to
2 understand that. All right. Thank you.

3 MR. FOLEY: The next alternative, number 11, is
4 a combination split and overlay plan, which is similar to
5 alternative four, but uses number conservation measures,
6 which are currently under consideration by the Commission,
7 such as number block -- thousands number block pooling and
8 recommendations of unused NXXs and rate center
9 consolidation.

10 Technical hearings are currently scheduled to
11 take place May 18th and 19th on this subject. 297 codes
12 for the Keys would be reserved and the remainder of the
13 Miami-Dade region. This plan would not involve number
14 changes for existing subscribers. And the projected life
15 for this is 14.7 years for Miami and 24 for the Keys.

16 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Is this two new NPAs or
17 one new NPA that would be split?

18 MR. FOLEY: That's one new NPA that's going
19 across both.

20 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Got you.

21 MR. FOLEY: Okay? And then it would use the
22 number conservation to extend the life.

23 Alternative 12, which is the last alternative,
24 this is an overlay plan which is identical to alternative
25 two, but uses number conservation measures, such as

1 thousands block pooling, et cetera, as I mentioned before.
2 This plan would not involve any number changes and has a
3 projected life of about 15.6 years.

4 And that's basically extending all of the three
5 area codes over the whole --

6 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: And we go to 10-digit
7 dialing on this one all the way.

8 MR. FOLEY: Yes, sir.

9 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Okay. Thank you,
10 Mr. Foley.

11 MR. FOLEY: Thank you, Commissioner.

12 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: We are now going to have
13 Mr. Beck call up those people who signed up to testify.
14 Mr. Beck is here representing Jack Shreve, who is the
15 public counsel and the attorney of the citizens of the
16 state of Florida.

17 Mr. Beck?

18 MR. BECK: Mr. Chairman, would you like to swear
19 the witnesses in first?

20 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: I'm sorry, I did forget
21 that.

22 If you wish to speak or are thinking about
23 speaking, could you please rise and raise your right hand,
24 your right hand.

25 Do you swear or affirm to tell the truth, the

1 whole truth and nothing but the truth?

2 WITNESSES: Yes.

3 (Witnesses sworn collectively)

4 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Great. Thank you.

5 MR. BECK: Thank you.

6 Our first witness is Mary K. Reich.

7 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Ms. Reich, if I can ask
8 you before you speak to tell us your name and your
9 address, if you don't mind, so we can keep it for the
10 record.

11 MS. REICH: Okay. You want my home address or
12 my business?

13 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Whichever one you'd like
14 to give us is fine by us.

15 MS. REICH: Okay. My name is Mary K. Reich. I'm
16 Monroe County Commissioner for district five, which is the
17 Key Largo area; basically speaking on my own, but I have
18 petitions from over 300 people, constituents of mine, who
19 would sort of like to keep our normal dialing situation
20 rather than go into a 10-digit dialing situation.

21 We're still trying to get our county to be one
22 situation rather than having to call long distance to
23 reach one end of our county from the other.

24 We'd sort of like that cleared up now that ya'll
25 are doing all this, redoing and redistricting and

1 re-whatever it is you'd be doing. It would be nice if you
2 set it up so that the Keys could call each other on a
3 local call, which we've been trying for several years.
4 That wasn't part of my speech, but it works for me at this
5 point and time.

6 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Okay.

7 MS. REICH: Like I said, we would love to have
8 our own area code and be totally separated from Dade
9 county.

10 If that necessitates changing the number, that's
11 also okay, as long as we know it's going to last for a
12 while and we aren't going to have to go through this again
13 in three or four years so that we could plan our business.

14 As far as growth is concerned, I'm sure you're
15 well aware, we are almost build out in Monroe county.
16 There's not going to be a lot of growth in this area in
17 the foreseeable future.

18 And at sometime, I'm sure telephones are going
19 to be obsolete, but for right now it's the only
20 communication we have, and we'd sort of like to keep it
21 the way it is; which, if that necessitates changing the
22 area code, that's not a problem, but we need to know that
23 as soon as possible so that people can begin doing that.
24 But I certainly would like to be assured that it's going
25 to be for a considerable period of time so that we don't

1 have to go through this again.

2 We have problems in Monroe county that are a
3 little more important than our area code, but this one
4 just happens to be what most people are upset with at this
5 point and time.

6 They don't want the way they dial changed,
7 except that everyone that calls my office would like to
8 have the county be one instead of being so totally
9 diversified to the point where I can't call my best friend
10 without making a long-distance call.

11 And even though the charge is only 25 cents,
12 that isn't the point. The point is you can't dial them
13 directly, like you can someone that lives next door. And
14 we'd sort of like to have that changed. And I feel that
15 this particular time is the best time in the world to do
16 that since you have to change the numbers anyway.

17 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Okay.

18 MS. REICH: And I will submit these petitions.
19 This was done -- there's over 300 signatures on these
20 petitions, all people from the Marathon area. I'll leave
21 them with you. We did this in under a week's time which,
22 in this area, is remarkable.

23 Usually it takes you a week, sometimes, to find
24 people in this area, but I would appreciate anything that
25 you can do to help my constituents to have the same type

1 of telephone set-up they have right now.

2 I was on the way down here going to beg to keep
3 our 305 area code, but if that's only going to be for a
4 couple of years and it's going to require a change
5 eventually anyway and it's possible to get us to the point
6 where all of our neighbors from Key Largo to Key West are
7 -- can simply dial each other like we are what we are,
8 neighbors, instead of having to --

9 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Okay. Can I ask -- off
10 your question, I want to ask staff something.

11 MS. REICH: Sure.

12 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Are we considering rate
13 center consolidation as part of this docket, ordering rate
14 center consolidation?

15 MR. VACCARO: Yes, I believe we are.

16 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Okay. Rate center
17 consolidation is where we take -- there's seven?

18 MR. VACCARO: Seven.

19 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: I was almost certain of
20 that, but Mr. Beck knows the number by heart, so I didn't
21 want to get it wrong, seven rate centers. And taking them
22 all and combining them, that should free up some numbers.
23 And we're hoping that the company is going to be
24 cooperative on that.

25 Secondly, we, in another docket which, again,

1 we're looking at in this docket, it's another question,
2 are we looking about ordering number conservation?

3 MR. VACCARO: Yes, that's part of this.

4 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Okay.

5 Number conservation, is precisely -- I think you
6 touched on it, taking instead of giving 10,000 number
7 blocks we go down to thousand number blocks, and then we
8 take back those numbers that haven't been used up. That
9 should free up some more numbers.

10 I don't know, there's a question whether legally
11 we can do it in this particular area or not. That said,
12 we're going to try to do that. Let me tell you something,
13 we have tried in the Florida Keys before.

14 As you know --

15 MS. REICH: I know.

16 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: -- we were here about 2
17 1/2 years ago. And this area was very upset about the
18 possibility of 10-digit dialing or changing the area
19 codes.

20 And believe it or not, the 786 number, which
21 spells sun, was thought up by one of the residents from
22 the Keys who came in and said, he said, "Well, if I can't
23 have my area code, I'd like 786, which spells s-u-n," and
24 I think he had the letters that spelled sex. Those were
25 the -- that's what he wanted. I guess he thought it would

1 be helpful to the tourism.

2 Nonetheless, he -- so, we took the 786, we gave
3 it to Dade county, moved as many numbers as we possibly
4 could down here, as many as we -- then Neustar, Lockheed
5 at the time, and I won't hold Mr. Foley responsible,
6 because he wasn't with them at the time, but Lockheed
7 Neustar told us with that change and subsequent change we
8 made about a year back, that we would have enough numbers
9 here until the year, I think it was 2012. Low and behold,
10 2 1/2 years later, here we are again knocking on your door
11 asking for your help. We're going to -- I can't speak for
12 the other commissioners, but I think we want to try to
13 avoid change, if we don't have to do it. And we
14 understand the unique character of the Keys and the
15 situation you find yourselves in.

16 That said, let me ask you about one particular
17 plan that you heard me ask Mr. Foley questions about,
18 which would be the 786, the plan which took -- 786 from
19 the Dade county county area that's not used up and threw
20 it into the Keys and gave you an extension of three years
21 at 7-digit dialing. It's 10.

22 MS. REICH: I have it. But what happens after
23 the three years?

24 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Well, my hope is that even
25 under this plan we would also, I expect it in this docket

1 at one point or another, we can institute rate center
2 consolidation as well as number conservation.

3 That would mean that this is a conservative
4 number, if I'm not correct, right, Levent?

5 MR. ILERI: Yes.

6 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Our staffer on this
7 particular case, Mr. Levent Ileri, an engineer who works
8 on this, tells us that if we instituted number
9 conservation with this, it would give it a much longer
10 time.

11 Levent, could you give me an idea of how much
12 more? Just grab Charlie Beck's mike. Oh, there you go,
13 you got one there.

14 MR. ILERI: Commissioner, I don't have that kind
15 of information available right now. It has to be
16 examined.

17 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Okay.

18 MS. REICH: Excuse me, sir. So, but what you're
19 telling me then is with perhaps a little bit more study
20 that we're looking at a little bit more time on this; is
21 that correct?

22 MR. ILERI: That's correct.

23 MS. REICH: Okay.

24 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Maybe BellSouth can answer
25 that question.

1 Mr. Greer, would you have --

2 MR. GREER: Stan Greer with BellSouth.

3 Commissioner, I don't have a specific time as,
4 of course, how long that would extend it, but there are --
5 granted it would extend it past what you should see here
6 on this page, if rate center consolidation was implemented
7 and the Commission was able to implement number pooling in
8 the Keys.

9 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Okay. Thank you,
10 Mr. Greer.

11 So, it would give you some extension of that.
12 Again, we want to try to keep 7-digit dialing.

13 MS. REICH: Right.

14 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: I mean, that is very
15 important. And we're going to try to do that. I think we
16 always try to do that wherever possible.

17 MS. REICH: Right.

18 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: But this one seemed to be
19 the most workable, if we can't get as much as we want in
20 terms of number consolidation -- I'm sorry, rate center
21 consolidation and pooling.

22 We are going to take the names you gave us, and
23 we're going to put it into the file on this docket. I
24 appreciate that.

25 Commissioners, do you have any questions? Okay.

1 MS. REICH: One more question.

2 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Sure.

3 MS. REICH: On your time frame, this is, I'm
4 assuming, the last meeting that you're having, the last
5 public meeting that you're having on this?

6 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: This is the last public
7 meeting in an area, but we will have a -- when do we have
8 the technical hearing, counsel?

9 MR. VACCARO: The technical hearing is set for
10 May 18th and May 19th.

11 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: May 18th and May 19th
12 there will be a techno hearing in Tallahassee where all
13 the companies' attorneys, and the representatives of the
14 different interests that have filed in this docket will
15 present a case to this panel. And we will hear the case
16 then. And from then, staff will make a recommendation, I
17 believe, August --

18 MR. VACCARO: August 3rd is the recommendation
19 date.

20 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: August 3rd, and the
21 Commission will vote it out August 15th.

22 MS. REICH: Of this year.

23 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Of this year. And that
24 will give you a lead time, I believe, if I'm not mistaken,
25 somewhere in the neighborhood of six to eight months,

1 depending on the plan we adopt. We give an interim period
2 to put it into effect so that you can notify people on
3 that whole issue.

4 MS. REICH: Okay. And at that time, if this
5 passes, if this particular, this number 10 passes, will
6 then --

7 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Just so -- to caution you,
8 Commissioner, I'm just telling you my personal preference
9 without having heard the evidence in this docket and
10 looking at trying to keep some semblance of what we have
11 in place now.

12 That doesn't mean that -- I need one other
13 people that are sitting up here to agree with that, and I
14 need the facts in this case and the evidence that will be
15 presented to be able to support that case.

16 MS. REICH: Right, right, okay. Saying all
17 that, if this manages to get through or something very
18 similar to this manages to go through where Monroe county
19 can keep -- can keep their 7-digit dialing, what we would
20 really, really appreciate is for that to be throughout
21 Monroe county.

22 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Right.

23 MS. REICH: Because right now that's not the
24 case.

25 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Right.

1 MS. REICH: And we --

2 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: When you say throughout
3 Monroe county, you're talking about rate center
4 consolidation; in other words --

5 MS. REICH: I'm talking about 10-digit dialing
6 that we have to do.

7 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Right, correct.

8 MS. REICH: If I want to call Key West, and I'm
9 not in my county office, which has a switchboard that goes
10 throughout the county, but if I'm calling from home or my
11 cell phone or wherever, I have to dial 10 digits now in
12 order to get anybody below Islamorada.

13 And what we would, like I said, what we would
14 really, really appreciate the Commission looking into, and
15 I know it's asking a lot, and I know you have a lot of
16 other things to deal with, but I have 85,000 bosses that
17 would like me to, you know, at least try to get us back to
18 that 7-digit dialing.

19 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Absolutely. Let me just
20 get a nod from you, Mr. Greer. If we were to rate-center
21 consolidate the Florida Keys, that would mean that 7-digit
22 dialing, if that were preserved in the Keys that you
23 wouldn't need to dial 305 before dialing these numbers?

24 MR. GREER: Correct.

25 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Correct. So, if rate

1 center consolidation works out, that dream that we all
2 have may come true. Now, --

3 MS. REICH: Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: -- I tell you this, that
5 this is something we really work on, and I know it's not a
6 central issue to everybody.

7 The other issue you asked about is about giving
8 you your own area code. Unfortunately, 80,000 citizens in
9 Key West, while I believe they merit their own area code,
10 we're running out of area codes, as you can see, across
11 the nation.

12 So, that wouldn't be sustainable by the
13 requirements that are issued by the North American
14 Planning Council, I think it's called.

15 MS. REICH: Right.

16 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: North American Numbering
17 Council, NANCI, they wouldn't give us a number under those
18 circumstances. They have some pretty ridged requirements.
19 Among them is that the life of a number not exceed a
20 certain time; and an area code just for the Florida Keys,
21 I don't think, would be viable.

22 MS. REICH: If that's the case, and we still
23 have to continue sharing an area code, then I would like
24 to change my request to keep it at the 305 area code and
25 allow the other numbers to go to Dade county, which is

1 going to have to have two area codes anyway. And this
2 way, none of my constituents would have to change their
3 numbers.

4 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Right.

5 MS. REICH: I'd really appreciate it.

6 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: The only problem is that
7 under those circumstances, those 305 numbers have already
8 been given out in Dade county county.

9 So, the reason that we're able to give out 786
10 is that all those haven't been given out, if I'm not
11 mistaken, correct, Levent?

12 MR. ILERI: Yes.

13 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: So, what you've got is a
14 surplus of those numbers out there, and you wouldn't
15 affect anyone in Dade county and you wouldn't affect
16 anyone in the Keys, except that you'd be changing their
17 area code, okay?

18 MS. REICH: Which means I would effectively
19 affect everyone in the Keys.

20 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Everyone in the Keys.

21 But in the case of Dade county where you already
22 have 10-digit dialing, the area code is, in essence, part
23 of everyone's phone number right now.

24 MS. REICH: Right.

25 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Commissioner, likewise, if

1 you want to send us a resolution or have your attorney
2 participate in any shape --

3 MS. REICH: I'm already thinking of the terms,
4 but that's okay. I do want to thank you for giving me the
5 opportunity to speak, and I would really appreciate
6 anything that you could do for us.

7 Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Thank you for coming,
9 appreciate it.

10 Mr. Beck.

11 MR. BECK: Thank you. Next witness is Virginia
12 A. Panico.

13 MS. PANICO: Good afternoon, Commissioners.
14 It's a pleasure to see you all again. I wish it was under
15 different circumstances, because I remember very well all
16 the promises --

17 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: But you won last time,
18 though.

19 MS. PANICO: Yeah, I'm going to win again this
20 time, too. I'm not a loser.

21 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Good, good.

22 MS. PANICO: And that was Tom Sawyer who was
23 referring to that area code sun. And then, I guess, Miami
24 got it.

25 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Right.

1 MS. PANICO: And we lost it no matter what.

2 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: No, no, you didn't get a
3 new area code. I mean, the whole idea was you wanted 305,
4 and you wanted to keep 7-digit dialing. You got both.
5 Unfortunately, we didn't get the time --

6 Ms. --

7 MS. PANICO: Panico.

8 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: If I can, you've given us
9 all a letter, which I'm going to make sure is part of the
10 record in this case.

11 MS. PANICO: Thank you. So, I don't have to
12 read it into the record.

13 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: I'll place it into the
14 record, and we'll give it to our court reporter.

15 And there are some very important points in
16 here. If you want to read them, that's fine. It'll be
17 part of the record. And I appreciate some of the things
18 you say in here are, I guess, some of the same things I'm
19 saying. So, you've really done your work on this.

20 MS. PANICO: We've done our homework, but I do
21 have a couple of questions. And I think I've already
22 given the clerk there a copy of the letter. I have many
23 more, if you need them.

24 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Good.

25 MS. PANICO: We feel like that we were going to

1 be here 2010. I thought it wouldn't be my problem then,
2 but here I am again back in two years.

3 I'm going to take a little different stance, and
4 I know rules can be changed, let me put it that way. I'll
5 be contacting Congressman Deutsch this afternoon when I go
6 back to my office to see what we can do.

7 With all due respect to Commissioner Mary K.
8 Reich, she was too kind. Mary, I want 7-digit dialing. I
9 want all the districts combined to one. And I want to
10 keep the 305.

11 We discussed 2 1/2 years ago that if we were
12 going to split out area codes, wasn't it possible that you
13 gave Miami the new area code as they were going to receive
14 anyway and revert back their 305s to the Keys and keep
15 them in escrow, so to speak, so that in the future we'd
16 have all those 305 area codes in reserve, and we would be
17 able to keep our 7-digit dialing.

18 One of the biggest reasons for us to be so
19 adamant on this is that we have one interest here only,
20 and that is tourism. We don't have any manufacturing. We
21 don't have any shipping, export, import. It's just
22 tourism. We don't want to confuse our folks.

23 I'm sure you hear everybody say, well, I'll have
24 to change my business cards and letterhead and whatnot.
25 With us it would be confusion of folks having to call

1 from -- with two separate area codes had a call from
2 across the street maybe.

3 With all the new lines that would be coming on,
4 properties would have different area codes; some would be
5 7, some would be 10-digit dialing. We can't take that
6 confusion. Our tourism trade is too fragile to confuse
7 our visitor; how to reach us or how to communicate within
8 the county itself.

9 If we -- and I agree with Commissioner Mary K.
10 Reich that if anything happens, at least let us keep 305.
11 That's the most important. We'd rather have the 7-digit
12 dialing. I remember years ago when we never had a phone
13 number. You only had to dial five digits. You never had
14 to dial the 2-9. And we want to keep life as simple as we
15 can down here.

16 Obviously, though, we want all of the pleasures
17 of everything that goes along with it, but if you can by
18 any chance possibly take that 786 and let Dade have more
19 of that and give us the leftover 305s, pool some of those
20 numbers. You have the allocation of 10,000 numbers for
21 each company. Cut that back down. We have no growth
22 here. We won't be growing at all, that's guaranteed, and
23 see if we can work it out where we keep 305 and 7-digit
24 dialing.

25 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: All right. I think that's

1 -- I don't think I'm speaking out of turn when I tell you
2 that I think that's what we all want to do.

3 We clearly, and we showed our willingness to go
4 that extra mile. In fact, under the agreement, and I'm
5 glad you're saying it so it doesn't sound like someone
6 from the day is trying to be political, they gave us
7 guarantees that it would last until 2010.

8 About a year back, I'm trying to remember, we
9 went and we raided all the 305 numbers that were left in
10 Dade county, because they had given us assurances that in
11 the numbers that we had taken and allocated for the Keys
12 we'd be fine by 2010. So, we went, and there were still
13 some numbers not allocated in Dade county. And we took
14 those and threw them in the pot and said okay, now, we'll
15 be fine.

16 Nonetheless, here we are less than three years
17 from our last visit. I think everything you suggest in
18 your letter, that's precisely what we want to try to do,
19 if we can. There are some questions whether we have the
20 legal authority to do it. I'm sure that the company will
21 dispute it, but I believe in it, as you must, that this is
22 a complete absurdity.

23 The Keys represent less than 80,000 residents.
24 The numbers allocated to the Keys we'd have to have five
25 times the number of people living here, most of them

1 living underwater for us to be able to distribute this
2 kind of numbers that we have.

3 We are going -- we are looking at that, and we
4 are going to try to do our best to try to avoid that.

5 MS. PANICO: Thank you.

6 Commissioner Garcia, is there anything else that
7 you could inform us how we could help you set out and
8 achieve this goal?

9 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Well, I think calling
10 representative Deutsch -- in fact, I was at his office
11 last week with his staff talking about this issue. It is
12 something that is important to all of us. And controlling
13 the number, the way these numbers are distributed, because
14 their distributed in this manner, it's very difficult.
15 The FCC, supposedly, sometime this week, is going to issue
16 an order that will add -- that will give some additional
17 powers to state commissions to try to deal with these
18 issues.

19 And middle of last year, this Commission
20 petitioned the FCC for special authority, which we got it
21 also. That's part of the issue that staff is trying to
22 work into this docket to see if we can make the numbers,
23 but I think outside of that, I mean, we're left with the
24 reality that is at hand; a reality that had we known that
25 numbers were going to exhaust to this degree, we would

1 have been able to react much better three years ago.

2 Unfortunately, that isn't what happened. We
3 were given assurances that we'd have 12 years. Here we
4 are in less than three years.

5 MS. PANICO: Thank you very much for your time.

6 COMMISSIONER JACOBS: One thing, Ms. Panico.
7 Also, you may be aware that last week we voted out
8 measures, some conservation measures, part of which were
9 to require unused numbers to be returned.

10 We're expecting to see some results with that in
11 fairly short order, although the industry is now
12 indicating they may be coming up with some enhancements;
13 some quote, unquote, voluntary enhancements, that may even
14 have that even in a shorter time frame. So, we are
15 working toward some solution, but I'm sure not as quickly
16 as we'd like.

17 MS. PANICO: Thank you, Commissioner.

18 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: I'd also like to ask staff
19 to look at the possibility of ordering number conservation
20 in this docket before the finishing of the docket so we
21 don't run out of numbers. And if there's something we can
22 do about that, staff should try to look at that
23 possibility.

24 I don't know what that is, and I'm sure you're
25 not ready to speak on it, but I know that you all filed an

1 early recommendation in the 954/561/904 area code. And if
2 perhaps this, we're looking at this same exhaust pattern,
3 maybe staff should look at a similar recourse. Okay?

4 Mr. Beck.

5 MR. BECK: Mr. Chairman, those are the only two
6 witnesses who signed up ahead of time, but we may have
7 others.

8 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Okay. I know this -- go
9 right ahead. I believe you stood up and were sworn in.

10 MS. HILL: I was sworn in, yes.

11 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Okay. So, just give us
12 your name for the record.

13 MS. HILL: My name is P. Morgan Hill. I'm from
14 Marathon, Key county beach. And I'm also a Monroe County
15 Planning Commissioner, but I'm speaking as an individual.

16 My question is when we talk about the blocks of
17 numbers that are already reserved in Dade, Miami-Dade,
18 have those numbers actually been issued or have they been
19 held in reserve?

20 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: I think in Dade county
21 they've been issued, if I'm not mistaken, Mr. Greer?

22 What we did in Dade county, and correct me if
23 I'm wrong, what we did in Dade county, when we were
24 looking at this problem, we were looking at the same one.
25 The first time what we did is we gave Broward their own

1 area code, which was a few years back. And now they're
2 running out.

3 Then, the next time we looked at this area, what
4 we did was we did one of the first ever distributed
5 overlays, which we said is let's just give -- let's keep
6 the Keys 7-digit dialing 305, let's drop the new area code
7 over Dade county, and let's take enough of the numbers
8 from Dade county that have not been assigned yet and leave
9 them in reserve for the Keys. And what we did at the time
10 was we figured we'd have until 2010. So, we figured there
11 would be no problem.

12 Unfortunately, that didn't work out. And when
13 the 305 numbers run out, that's when you started with the
14 706 being distributed. So, I don't believe there's any
15 undistributed 305 area codes in Dade county, correct?

16 MR. GREER: Correct.

17 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: I'm correct in stating
18 that. Those have been given out. Now, have they been
19 totally used? Very probably not, because under this
20 system that we have in place presently, a carrier gets
21 10,000 numbers per rate center.

22 So, there may be rate centers in Dade county
23 that are not using those numbers. There may be rate
24 centers -- well, there are rate centers in the Keys that
25 are not using anywhere near that 10,000 allocation per

1 rate center.

2 So, there are numbers out there that aren't
3 used. And maybe Mr. Greer could give me an idea.
4 Mr. Greer, do you know how many numbers are distributed in
5 the Florida Keys? Or do you, Levent?

6 MR. ILERI: Currently there 68 NXXs being
7 distributed in the Keys area.

8 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Okay. That's 680,000
9 numbers.

10 MS. HILL: How do we get them back?

11 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Well, that's one of the
12 things staff is contemplating for the return. There's no
13 value in having these numbers, except that this, you know,
14 toward the government, this is how we get when we get them
15 in stacks of 10,000, and that's it.

16 We, under this present regime that we just
17 implemented, and Commissioner Jacobs spoke about, just
18 implemented in other areas. Hopefully, we can do
19 something like that here to ask those carriers that aren't
20 using them to put them back.

21 Secondly, to implement a program that exists
22 within the central office of the local bell company, which
23 allows them to distribute numbers in blocks of 10,000,
24 which makes for much more efficient usage -- I'm sorry,
25 1,000 as opposed to 10,000.

1 MS. HILL: If we maybe had a list of those
2 carriers --

3 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Well, I'm sure those are
4 available, but I don't know if -- to be quite honest, it's
5 not nearly their fault. Even if they wanted to, right now
6 under the present system, if I, Joe Garcia, telephoned and
7 had a beeper number hearing in Key West, and I only had 50
8 customers, but I was my own telecommunications company,
9 the government wouldn't take the numbers back.

10 I mean, I may want to give them back. There's
11 no one to give them back. Neustar doesn't get paid to run
12 those numbers. They can't give them to the Commission.
13 The switches aren't made to distribute blockages in
14 different numbers.

15 That's one of the things we just ordered, which
16 is we ordered them to use the programming system so that
17 we can keep control of those numbers so they won't be
18 contaminated so that other carriers can use them.

19 MS. HILL: I wonder, just from a business
20 standpoint, if there might be a mechanism to lease those
21 numbers.

22 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: No, because there is no
23 value. We are a telecommunications carrier. You have a
24 right to those numbers. Right now in the Keys, we already
25 have number conservation regime in place.

1 In other words, we're only giving out, what is
2 it, one NXX per month, per month. To make sure that we
3 last at the end of every month those are, I'm assuming,
4 they're given out to someone who needs them. There's some
5 kind of lottery system, but it's just the way they're
6 given out.

7 Now, with the programming we've ordered the
8 company to do in these three area codes, we hope -- it may
9 be possible to do it here, again, there's some legal
10 question whether we can do it in this particular area, but
11 we're going to try to do it. Appreciate your efforts.

12 Thank you.

13 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Thank you.

14 Mr. Beck, that was the last -- is there anyone
15 else who wants to speak? We're going to be here for a
16 little while. If you want to speak to us individually,
17 we'll be more than happy to hear from you.

18 On this yellow sheet, there's a phone number on
19 the front in which you can call us and give us your
20 opinion. There is a fax number also, and there is a sheet
21 on the back which you can have your opinion put into the
22 record. We're more than happy to hear from you, and we
23 appreciate the fact that you came out here. Thank you
24 very much.

25 This hearing's adjourned.

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

(Thereupon, the hearing concluded at 2:50 p.m.)

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1 STATE OF FLORIDA

2 : CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

3 COUNTY OF LEON)

4

5 I, KORETTA E. STANFORD, Official FPSC Commission
6 Reporter, do hereby certify that the Key West Service
7 Hearing in Docket No. 990455-TL was heard by the Florida
8 Public Service Commission at the time and place herein
9 stated.

10 It is further certified that I stenographically
11 reported the said proceedings; that the same has been
12 transcribed under my direct supervision; and that this
13 transcript, consisting of 42 pages, constitutes a true
14 transcription of my notes of said proceedings.

15 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative,
16 employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor
17 am I a relative or employee of any of the parties'
18 attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am I
19 financially interested in the action.

20 DATED this 22nd DAY OF MARCH, 2000.

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FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION