

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

18

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

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October 10, 1997
CAMBRIDGE MA.

INVESTIGATION OF DIALING METHODS: REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 97-90

Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities, on its own motion, into extension of the permissive-dialing period established in Area Code Relief, D.P.U. 96-61 (1997).

On January 23, 1997, the Department of Public Utilities ("Department") issued its Order implementing a geographic split of both the 617 and 508 area codes that established two new area codes, 781 and 978. Area Code Relief, D.P.U. 96-61 (1997). In that Order, the Department also directed Bell Atlantic-Massachusetts ("Bell Atlantic") to implement a dialing method whereby local calls between area codes would be dialed using only 10 digits (area code + 7 digits). Currently, callers complete local calls between area codes by dialing 11 digits (1 + area code + 7 digits).

In this docket, on October 2, 1997, the Department issued its Order extending the permissive-dialing period to January 1, 1998. Investigation re: Permissive Dialing, D.P.U. 97-90 (1997). The permissive-dialing period applies to the use of old or new area codes, and to the use of the current 11-digit dialing method to complete local calls between area codes. The Department noted that customer confusion has arisen from the introduction of new area codes and the coincidental introduction of the new 10-digit dialing method for local calls between area codes. *Id.* at 6.

Accordingly, the Department is interested in comments to the following question:

Beginning January 1, 1998, should callers in Massachusetts have the option of dialing either 10 or 11 digits to complete local calls between area codes? Please explain.

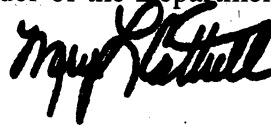
The Department will conduct a public hearing and procedural conference on this matter on THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1997, at 10 a.m. at the Department's offices, 100 Cambridge Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02202.

Any person who desires to state his or her position on this matter may do so at the time and place noted above. In addition, any person who wishes to submit written comments may do so by filing an original and three (3) copies of such comments with: Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary, Department of Public Utilities, 100 Cambridge Street - 12th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02202, no later than the close of business, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1997.

Any person, however, who desires to participate in any subsequent proceeding concerning this investigation must file an original and three (3) copies of a written petition for leave to intervene or to participate in the proceeding no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) October 23, 1997 with: Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary, Department of Public Utilities, at the address noted above.

A petition to intervene must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 220 C.M.R. § 1.03. Receipt by the Department--not mailing-- constitutes filing and determines whether a petition has been timely filed. A late-filed petition may be disallowed as untimely, unless good cause is shown under 220 C.M.R. § 1.01(4). To be allowed, a petition under 220 C.M.R. § 1.03(1) must satisfy the standing requirements of G.L. c. 30A, § 10.

By Order of the Department,



MARY L. COTTRELL, SECRETARY

18-2

Consent Communication #18

S-656

Communication was received from the
Department of Public Utilities,
transmitting notice of a public hearing
on Thursday, October 30, 1997 at
10:00 A.M. at 100 Cambridge Street,
Boston, MA regarding Investigation of
Dialing Methods and a Request For
Comments.

In City Council October 20, 1997

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