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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
CAMBRIDGE MA.

July 3, 1996

D.P.U. 96-61

Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion to adopt a plan for addressing the limited number of exchange codes remaining in Eastern Massachusetts' 617 and 508 area codes.

ORDER OF NOTICE

Given the growth in the demand for telephone numbers in Eastern Massachusetts, the North American Numbering Plan Administrator projects that there will no longer be sufficient exchange codes within the 617 and 508 area codes by 1998 and 1999, respectively. To determine an appropriate relief plan for addressing the limited number of exchange codes remaining in this area, on May 24, 1996, the Department of Public Utilities ("Department") opened an investigation and directed that all interested persons file proposals to address the matter by June 7, 1996.

The Department has received two alternative proposals from industry members. The first solution would be an overlay approach, where a new area code would be added to each of the 617 and 508 regions for use by new customers. Existing customers would not be required to change their present 10-digit telephone number. However, many new telephone numbers would be assigned in the new area code. The second approach would provide for a "geographic split," where area codes 617 and 508 would each be split into a north and south geographic area. Boston-proper and the South Shore area would retain the current 617 area

code and the rest of the 617 area would receive a new area code (781). In addition, Worcester, and the southern half of the state would retain the 508 area code, while the northern half of the 508 area would receive a new area code (978). There would be no change in any of NYNEX's rates as a result of the implementation of either an overlay or area code split relief plan. The Department will hold public hearings in the above-captioned investigation on Wednesday, August 14, 1996 at 7:00 p.m. in the Plymouth North High School Auditorium, 41 Obery Street, Plymouth, Massachusetts; Monday, August 19, 1996, at 7:00 p.m. at the Peabody Institute Library of Danvers, George B. Gordon Room, 15 Sylvan Street, Danvers, Massachusetts; and Monday, August 26, 1996, at 7:00 p.m. in The Forum, 2nd Floor, D. Justice McCarthy College Center, Framingham State College, State Street, Framingham, Massachusetts. Notice of said hearings must be published once at least seven (7) days prior to July 19, 1996, the deadline for intervention.

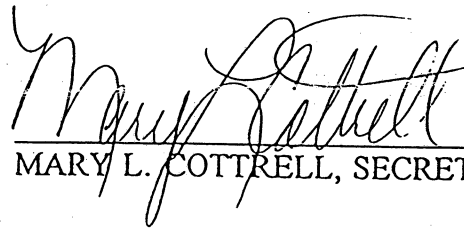
Any person who desires to comment on the proposals may do so at the times and places noted above. However, any person who desires to participate in any subsequent formal evidentiary proceeding concerning the above application must file a written petition for leave to intervene or to participate in the proceeding with Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary, Department of Public Utilities, Leverett Saltonstall Building, 100 Cambridge Street, Room 1210, Boston, Massachusetts 02202, not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on July 19, 1996. A petition for leave to intervene must satisfy the time 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 for a waiver of the intervention deadline under 220 C.M.R. §

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1.04(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

Consent Communication #32 5-400

Communication was received from Department of Public Utilities, transmitting its motion to adopt a plan for addressing the limited number of exchange codes remaining in eastern Massachusetts' 617 and 508 area codes.

In City Council July 29, 1996

Referred to
City Manager