

DECISION MEMORANDUM

**TO: COMMISSIONER KJELLANDER
COMMISSIONER RAPER
COMMISSIONER ANDERSON
COMMISSION SECRETARY
COMMISSION STAFF
LEGAL**

**FROM: BRANDON KARPEN
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL**

DATE: JULY 13, 2016

SUBJECT: 208 AREA CODE RELIEF PLAN, CASE NO. GNR-T-15-06

On July 21, 2015, Neustar, Inc.¹ filed an Application seeking Commission approval to implement a “Relief Plan” for the 208 area code, which has been projected to run out of available numbers in mid-2018. Neustar proposes the addition of a new area code overlaying the geographic area currently served by the 208 area code, with a 16-month implementation period. The plan calls for a new area code designation on *new* numbers assigned in Idaho, and will require 10-digit dialing for all local telephone calls. The new area code will not require any changes to current numbers and will not impact rates.

On November 2, 2015, the Commission issued a final Order adopting the proposed plan of adding a new area code over the current 208 area. Order No. 33414. Specifically, the Commission considered the alternatives and after due consideration approved implementation of the proposed overlay relief plan and 16-month implementation schedule. *Id.* The Commission further ordered that Staff “participate with the Industry and Neustar in the generation of media releases, customer education, community involvement, and public workshops to ensure the rapid and equitable implementation of the plan with adequate customer education.” *Id.* at 7. Soon after, Neustar issued Idaho the new area code: 986.

Consistent with direction from the Commission, Staff now seeks to convene five area code public workshops. The purpose of the workshops are to provide information to the public

¹ Neustar appears before the Commission in its capacity as administrator of the North American Numbering Plan, and on behalf of the Idaho telecommunications industry.

as to why a second area code has become necessary, to inform customers of the deadlines to implement the second area code, and to ease the transition for residential and business customers to 10-digit dialing. Because the Commission has already made its final determination regarding the relief plan and implementation timeline, these sessions will be informational in nature, and not an opportunity to discuss alternatives.

Staff has proposed the following schedule and location for the informational workshops:

Lewiston, Idaho – Wednesday, August 10, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.

Nez Perce County Commission Building, 1424 Main Street

Coeur d’Alene, Idaho – Thursday, August 11, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.

Driftwood Bay Room, Student Union Building, North Idaho College,
100 W. Garden Avenue

Pocatello, Idaho – Tuesday, September 27, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.

The Newberry Building, 160 North Main Street

Twin Falls, Idaho – Wednesday, September 28, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers, 305 3rd Avenue East

Boise, Idaho – Tuesday October 4, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.

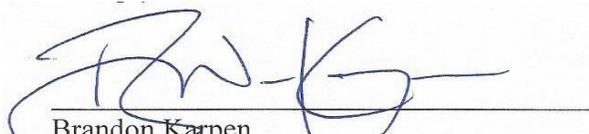
Idaho Public Utilities Commission Hearing Room, 472 West Washington

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission issue a Notice of Workshops consistent with the foregoing schedule.

COMMISSION DECISION

Does the Commission wish to issue a Notice of Workshops consistent with the foregoing schedule?



Brandon Karpen
Deputy Attorney General

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