

ORDER NO. 99-652

ENTERED OCT 21 1999

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**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UM 924

In the Matter of the Investigation of the)
Appropriate Method of Providing Number) ORDER
Relief for the 503 Area Code.)

**DISPOSITION: PERMISSIVE DIALING PERIOD FOR NEW AREA CODE
EXTENDED TO OCTOBER 1, 2000.**

On April 26, 1999, the Commission issued Order No. 99-286 approving a new area code plan for area code 503. The Order adopted an overlay plan under which a new area code was imposed over all of the present area code 503 with the exception of the immediate coastal area. The Order established an initial implementation date of July 11, 1999. It also provided for a permissive dialing period (during which both the old and the new numbers will work) to extend from July 11, 1999 until January 30, 2000.

At the Commission's September 21, 1999, public meeting, the PUC Staff presented a recommendation that the Commission order that the permissive dialing period be extended from January 30, 2000, to October 1, 2000. The Staff report noted that the demand for new prefixes has slowed. It also noted that many alarm companies in the 503 area code cannot meet the January 2000 deadline because the reprogramming of the older alarm systems in place requires expensive and time consuming on-site visits by employees.

The Commission adopted staff's recommendation as set out in its report, which is attached to and made part of this Order as Attachment A. The Commission made it clear, however, that it was not reconsidering the decision to use an overlay method rather than a geographic split. It also stated that it did not intend to extend the final implementation date beyond the October 1, 2000, date set out in the report and in this Order.

The Commission noted that the largest single factor creating a need for more telephone numbers is the 10,000-number block assignment procedure used by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to allocate numbers. The Commission therefore directed its staff to seek authority from the FCC to request a waiver from the 10,000-number block that would allow the Commission to request that companies "turn on" numbers sequentially, in 1,000-number blocks and return unused blocks for reassignment to other locations. Such a waiver may help relieve pressure for a new area code in the 541 area code and in the coastal 503 area code not subject to the 971 area code.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. The permissive dialing period for the 503 area code is extended to October 1, 2000.
2. The Staff of the Public Utility Commission begin the process of seeking a waiver from the Federal Communications Commission of the 10,000-number block assignment procedure used to allocate numbers.

Made, entered, and effective _____.

Ron Eachus
Chairman

Roger Hamilton
Commissioner

Joan H. Smith
Commissioner

A party may request rehearing or reconsideration of this order pursuant to ORS 756.561. A request for rehearing or reconsideration must be filed with the Commission within 60 days of the date of service of this order. The request must comply with the requirements of OAR 860-014-0095. A copy of any such request must also be served on each party to the proceeding as provided by OAR 860-013-0070. A party may appeal this order to a court pursuant to ORS 756.580.