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December 6, 2000

Mr. Dale Hardy Roberts  
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge  
Missouri Public Service Commission  
P. O. Box 360  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

**FILED<sup>3</sup>**  
DEC 06 2000  
Missouri Public  
Service Commission

**Re: Case No. TO-2000-374**

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed for filing in the above-referenced case, please find the original and 8 copies of the **Office of the Public Counsel's Comments Regarding Industry 314 NPA Relief Implementation Plan and Schedule**. I have on this date mailed, faxed, and/or hand-delivered the appropriate number of copies to all counsel of record. Please "file" stamp the extra-enclosed copy and return it to this office.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

Michael F. Dandino  
Senior Public Counsel

MFD:kh

cc: Counsel of Record

Enclosure

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

FILED<sup>3</sup>

DEC 06 2000

Missouri Public  
Service Commission

In the Matter of the North American )  
Numbering Plan Administrator's Petition )  
for Approval of NPA Relief Plan for the )  
314 and 816 Area Codes )

Case No. TO-2000-374

**OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL'S COMMENTS  
REGARDING INDUSTRY 314 NPA RELIEF  
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND SCHEDULE**

COMES NOW the Office of the Public Counsel and submits the following comments to the Industry's 314 NPA relief implementation plan and schedule:

1. Public Counsel states that although counsel for Neustar, Inc. filed the plan and schedule via overnight courier on November 22, 2000, Public Counsel did not receive its service copy until November 27, 2000.

2. Public Counsel concurs with Staff's comment that the Public Service Commission should reject the industry proposal that local calls within and between 314 and the new NPA (552), at the option of the company, can be 1 + 10-digit dialing. Also, Public Counsel concurs that 10-digit dialing within and between the 314 and the new NPA (552) should not require 1 + 10-digit dialing.

These proposals will only confuse customers about what is or is not a toll call. The use of optional 1 + 10-digit dialing creates variances in local dialing patterns based upon local carriers. This does not serve the public interest; a single local dialing pattern should prevail throughout the two NPAs. The use of 1 + 10 for local (non toll calls) also blurs the 1 + 10 pattern as a toll indicator. This confuses the consumer and no longer alerts the consumer that 1 + 10 is a toll call while a 10-digit call is a local, non toll call.

Public Counsel also sees no reason to require toll calls "within and between the 314 and the new NPA" to be dialed 1 + 10 digits. Under the MCA in St. Louis, calls within the present 314 footprint and the new 552 should not be toll calls. Again, this mix of dialing patterns for local calls does not serve the public interest and works to confuse telephone consumers.

3. Public Counsel does not oppose the proposed schedule based upon the directions given the industry by the PSC in its Report and Order. However, Public Counsel would once again encourage the PSC to make it clear that if the co code assignments slow significantly or if recovery efforts increase the available co code inventory, the schedule could be modified to postpone the new NPA's effective date.

The rate of NXX usage has not proceeded as predicted by Neustar. As of July 26, 2000, 160 codes were available for assignment. In the three months from that time, only 12 codes have been assigned so that 148 codes are available as Of December 5, 2000. As suggested by Public Counsel, the usage is considerably under the cap of 14 codes per month. This leaves the door open for the PSC to consider a postponement of implementation if this trend continues.

Respectfully submitted,

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL

BY: 

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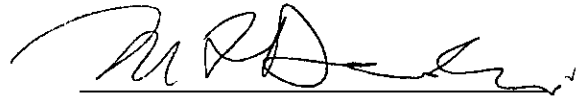
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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing was mailed or faxed this 6<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2000 to the attached list:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "M. R. D. [unclear]", is written over a horizontal line.

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