

NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS

DISTRICT 3 BEN R. LUJAN, CHAIRMAN
DISTRICT 1 JASON A. MARKS, VICE-CHAIRMAN
DISTRICT 2 DAVID W. KING
DISTRICT 4 LYNDA M. LOVEJOY
DISTRICT 5 E. SHIRLEY BACA



Chief of Staff: **Dan Mayfield** (505) 827-4433

Public Information Officer **Doris Cherry**

Phone (505) 827-4446

Cell: (505) 660-7761

1120 Paseo de Peralta/P.O. Box 1269
Santa Fe, NM 87504-1269

PRC Press Release

June 19, 2006

“575 is Coming...”

PRC Holds Hearings On New Area Code Options

Santa Fe—The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission has scheduled six days of hearings (two hearings per day) throughout the state to take public comment on two proposed options for area code relief. Hearings are set for:

- 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 6-8 p.m. **Monday, June 19** in Marian Hall at 224 E. Palace Ave. in **Santa Fe** (behind St. Francis Cathedral).
- 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon and 3:30-5:30 p.m. **Friday, June 30** at Octavia Sellin Public Library Meeting Room at 114 W. Hill Ave. in **Gallup**.
- 1:30-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. **Wednesday, July 19** in the County Commission Chambers in the Chaves County Administration Center at #1 St. Mary’s Place in **Roswell**.
- 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 6-8 p.m. **Wednesday, July 26** in John Paul Taylor Town Hall at 2231 Avenida de Mesilla in **Mesilla** (in Dona Ana County).
- 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 6-8 p.m. on **Friday, July 28** in the UNM Continuing Education Bldg at 1634 University Blvd. NE in **Albuquerque**.
- 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 6-8 p.m. **Monday, July 31** at the Rio Rancho City Council Chambers at 3900 Southern Blvd in **Rio Rancho**.

In 1947, the “505” area code was established for all New Mexico telephone numbers. Last October, NeuStar, Inc., the company designated by the Federal Communications Commission to serve as the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA) for area code relief planning within New Mexico, forecasted that the state would exceed its 505 area code by early 2009. Typically, relief planning is initiated 36 months prior to the projected time that telephone numbers will be exhausted for the area code.

NeuStar, Inc. petitioned the NMPRC to approve a plan by October 3, 2006 for implementing the “575”, the number reserved by the FCC for a new area code. NeuStar, Inc. has offered two options for implementing the new area code. Once the NMPRC approves a plan, NeuStar, Inc. estimates implementation could take 19 to 27 months.

The area code relief options are:

- An overlay of the entire state with all new numbers to have the 575 area code, once the 505 is exhausted; or,
- A geographic split into two area codes--505 and 575. Based on concentrations of numbers, Area A would include southern and eastern New Mexico, and Area B would include Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Belen, Gallup, and Shiprock local calling areas. (No decision has been made on which geographic area will get what number.)

New Mexicans also can submit written comments to the NMPRC about the proposed alternatives. Comments must be received by the PRC before June 23, 2006. Comments should be mailed to Ronald Montoya; ATTN: Proposed Relief Plan for Area Code 505; POB 1269, Santa Fe, NM 87504-1269. Copies of NeuStar’s petition are available by calling 505-827-6970.