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CORPORATION COMMISSION

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THE 918 AREA CODE AND "NUMBER EXHAUST"

The Corporation Commission has worked long and successfully to delay the day when the 918 area code would run out of numbers. Without the Commission's nationally-acclaimed "number conservation" plan, the 918 area code was originally predicted to run out of phone numbers ten years ago.

Unfortunately, there is still no changing the fact that the number of telephone numbers in any given area code is finite. While the "number conservation plan" has worked very well, The North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA) has notified the Corporation Commission that the 918 area code will finally experience what is called "number exhaust" in the fourth quarter of 2011.

There are two possible ways of dealing with this matter: 1) An area code "Split", and 2) An area code "Overlay"

AREA CODE "SPLIT" ALTERNATIVE

An Area Code "Split" would take the present geographic region served by the 918 area code and split it into two parts. One would keep the 918 area code, the other would get a new area code. This has already occurred in Oklahoma, when the 405 area code was split into two sections, one keeping the 405 area code, while the other was given the area code of 580.

WHO WOULD GET THE NEW AREA CODE, AND WHAT WOULD IT BE?

That's not known at this time. There are various factors that must be taken into account if a "split" is selected as the plan to follow. The North American Numbering Plan Administrator is responsible for selecting the new area code.

It is important to note that this would not in any way change the current local calling areas. Calls that are currently local (no long distance charges) would remain local calls.

AREA CODE “OVERLAY” ALTERNATIVE

An Area Code “Overlay” would take the present geographic region served by the 918 area code and simply add another, new area code to the region.

WHO WOULD GET THE NEW AREA CODE, AND WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Existing 918 area code customers would keep their current area code. New customers and those who want new or additional telephone numbers would be given the new area code. The North American Number Plan Administrator is responsible for choosing the new area code.

WHAT CHANGES ARE INVOLVED IN AN OVERLAY?

The biggest change is that all local calls will be dialed using 10 digits.(The area code, the prefix, and the remaining four digits).

It is important to note, however, that this would not change the boundaries for local calls. So long as the number you call is within your local calling area as it existed before the overlay, it would remain a local call, and you would not incur a long distance charge, even if the number you’re calling has the new area code.

HOW CAN I MAKE MY COMMENTS AND OPINIONS ABOUT THE 918 AREA CODE CHANGE KNOWN TO THE COMMISSION?

The easiest way is to go the Commission’s web site, www.occeweb.com. There you will find a link to information on the 918 area code issue, as well as a survey and comment form that you can email to the Commission.

You can also phone in your opinion, by calling us at 1-800-522-8154. Please note that number is only for those who wish to given their opinion on whether there should be an overlay or split. Or you can simply write to us:

Oklahoma Corporation Commission
P.O. Box 52000
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If you still have questions, please call us at 405-521-2211, or email us at: m.skinner@occemail.com or j.palmer@occemail.com .

