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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

TDD Access: Relay NH
1-800-735-2964

Tel. (603) 271-2431

FAX No. 271-3878

Website:
www.puc.nh.gov

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Contact: Amanda Noonan, Director
Consumer Services and External Affairs
Public Utilities Commission
(603) 271-2431

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION ANNOUNCES LONGER LIFE FOR 603 AREA CODE

Concord, N.H. New Hampshire will remain a single area code state for a while longer. Recent projections received from the North American Numbering Plan Administrator, or NANPA, indicate New Hampshire's 603 area code has enough available numbers to allow the state to remain a single area code state until 2032.

In November 1998, the NANPA notified the Commission that the 603 area code would run out of numbers by the fourth quarter of the year 2000. The Commission requested and received additional authority to implement number conservations measures in the 603 area code from the Federal Communication Commission in November 1999. "In 2000, the Commission adopted several number conservation measures which delayed the need to implement a second area code in the state," states Amanda Noonan, Director of the Commission's Consumer services and External Affairs Division. "The number conservation measures, which remain in place today, have been very effective and have allowed New Hampshire to remain a single area code state for the past fifteen and a half years. This recent projection from the NANPA suggests it may be reasonable to expect New Hampshire will remain a single area code state for another fifteen years."

The NANPA updates its projections twice a year. While projections can change within a year and year to year, the most current projection is for the second quarter of the year 2032.

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