

PUBLIC STATEMENT HEARINGS REGARDING RELIEF OF
THE "845" NUMBERING PLAN AREA
PSC CASE 21-C-0600

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that public comment is invited regarding a petition filed by the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA) on November 30, 2021, which requests approval to overlay a new area code within the southeastern portion of New York State currently covered by the 845-area code.¹ The petition is based on an initial forecasted projection showing that the current 845-area code will exhaust its supply of available numbers in the third quarter of 2024.

An overlay is proposed as relief for the forecasted exhaustion, which means that an additional area code would be used for new telecommunications services throughout the entire geographic area. According to the petition, all existing customers in the overlay area would retain their current 845-area code and telephone numbers, and the new area code would be assigned to new phone numbers once 845 is fully exhausted. Following a nine-month period for customer education and network preparation, implementation is expected to be completed no later than the first quarter of 2023.²

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that virtual public statement hearings will be held before the assigned Administrative Law Judge (ALJ), as follows:

DATE: Wednesday, March 16, 2022
TIME: 1:00 P.M.

¹ The 845-area code serves all or parts of Columbia, Delaware, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, and Ulster counties.

² Subsequent to submitting its petition, as a result of the most recent exhaust analysis and due to an increase in the demand for numbers, NANPA revised the forecasted exhaust projection to the third quarter of 2023.



Department of Public Service

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Public Service Commission

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Commissioners

March 4, 2022

Dear Community Leader/Elected Official:

On November 30, 2021, North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA) filed a petition with the New York State Public Service Commission requesting approval for an overlay of a new area code in New York State currently covered by the 845-area code. This petition is a result of a projected forecast which showed that the current 845-area code will exhaust its supply of available numbers in the third quarter of 2024. The impacted areas are all or parts of Columbia, Delaware, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, and Ulster counties.

In an overlay, a new area code is superimposed on an existing area code region with the result of multiple areas code in the same region. The overlay will help to alleviate the forecasted exhaustion by adding the new area code which will be used for new telecommunication services throughout the entire geographic region. The petition states that all existing customers in the overlay area would retain their current 845- area code and telephone numbers, and the new area code would be assigned to new phone numbers once 845 is fully exhausted.

To ensure full public participation, the Commission will hold virtual public statement hearings on March 16, 2022, and March 23, 2022, to solicit input and comments from your community regarding the petition. The enclosed announcement details how to participate at the public statement hearings and how to submit comments about the petition. Information about the case, including a copy of the petition can be found at www.dps.ny.gov. From the homepage, click on "Search," and enter the associated case number (21-C-0600) in the "Search by Case Number" field.

I would appreciate your assistance with informing your constituents about the public statement hearings and encouraging them to provide comments. The Commission intends to facilitate and encourage active and meaningful participation throughout all its proceedings. We hope you will consider joining us.

Regards,

Bruce Alch, Director
Office of Consumer Services

Cc: Rory Lancman, Special Counsel

the top right-hand corner of the screen, inputting the event number listed above, and providing all requested information.

When logging in to the hearing on the appropriate date and time, participants will be asked to "select audio system." It is recommended that participants select either "call me" or "call using computer." The "call me" option will require participants to enter their phone numbers.

To register by phone: Any participant who is not able to log in to a hearing electronically may participate by phone. Call-in participants wishing to make a statement at a hearing must pre-register by calling **1-800-342-3330** by the relevant date and time listed above, where they should follow prompts to the appropriate hearing and provide the following information: first and last name, address, and phone number. On the date and time of the hearing, all call-in uses should dial **(518) 549-0500** and enter the appropriate access code listed above.

All participants will be muted upon entry into the hearing. The ALJ will call each person who has requested to provide a statement to speak. The ALJ will continue the hearing until everyone wishing to speak has been heard or other reasonable arrangements to submit comments into the record have been made. Reasonable time limits may be set for each speaker as necessary to afford all attendees an opportunity to be heard. It is recommended that lengthy comments be submitted in writing and summarized for oral presentation. A verbatim transcript of the hearings will be made for inclusion in the record of this case.

To listen to the hearings: Any person who would like to listen to the hearings but would not like to make a statement may access the hearings without pre-registering. The hearings will be livestreamed on the internet and available for viewing on the Department of Public Service's YouTube channel on the dates and times listed above. To access the YouTube channel,

Service website by searching the case number, as described above, and clicking on the "Public Comments" tab.³

Toll-Free Opinion Line: Individuals may choose to submit comments by calling the Commission's Opinion Line at 1-800-335-2120. This number is set up to receive in-state calls 24-hours a day. These calls are not transcribed verbatim, but a summary is provided to the Commission.

³ Filing electronically is strongly encouraged.