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# New York State Public Service Commission



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## 718/347 Area Code Relief

### New Numbers Needed

The 718 and 347 area codes, covering the boroughs of Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island, are running out of assignable telephone numbers, according to the Federal Communications Commission's North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANP). The NANPA, the neutral area code relief planner, has advised the New York State Public Service Commission (Commission) that, based on its projections and absent area code relief, the supply of numbers for the 718/347 area codes will exhaust during the fourth quarter of 2011.

On May 8, 2009, the Commission issued a Notice Inviting Comments on the Department of Public Service Staff's 718/347 Area Code Relief Plan. The Plan, also referred to as Staff's Options Paper, includes two proposed relief options involving "overlays" which would superimpose a new area code on the present 718/347 region. The options being considered are described below:

#### Option # 1 - Overlay over the 718/347 Area Codes

- A new area code would be superimposed over the same geographic area covered by the existing 718/347 area codes.
- Existing customers would retain their 718 or 347 area code and current telephone number.
- New customers would be assigned the new area code.
- This option has a projected life of ten years.

#### Option # 2 - Overlay over the 212/646/917/718/347 Area Codes

- A new area code would be superimposed over the same geographic area covered by the existing 718/347 area codes, as well as the area covered by the 212, 646 and 917 area codes.
- Existing customers would retain their area code and current telephone number.
- New customers would be assigned the new area code.
- This option has a projected life of six years.

For both overlay alternatives, all existing customers would retain their current telephone numbers. All local calls within and between the affected area codes would continue to be dialed using 1+10 digits and there would be no increase in local rates. The advantages of Option #1 is that it has a longer life than Option #2 (ten years versus six years), and it poses less customer confusion than Option #2. However, Staff notes that while numbers in the 718/347 area codes will be exhausted more quickly, Option #2 will serve to extend the life of the 212/646 area code by an estimated three years.

## PSC Seeks Public Input

As part of the 718/347 Area Code case, the Commission emphasized the importance of obtaining input from business and residential customers regarding the case. It is essential to consider the concerns and comments from residents and businesses in the affected area before reaching any decision. The Commission's goal is to minimize the disruption and inconvenience to the public when a new area code is implemented.

As part of its outreach program concerning the case, the Commission will seek comments from residents, businesses and organizations throughout the spring and summer regarding their preferred option (Option #1 overlay or Option #2 overlay.) The Commission is seeking public comments concerning Staff's Option Paper, which is available on the Commission's [www.dps.state.ny.us](http://www.dps.state.ny.us) and on [www.AskPSC.com](http://www.AskPSC.com) Web sites. Active, formal parties to the case have until May 29, 2009, to submit their comments and reply comments from formal parties are due by June 12, 2009. Comments from the public will be accepted until the case is sent to the Commission for a final decision (that date has not been determined as yet).

Interested members of the public may comment by using any of the means below. Your comments should refer to "Case 09-C-0058":

1. **Write to:** Honorable Jaclyn A. Brillling, Secretary, NYS Public Service Commission, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223-1350.
2. **Submit comments electronically** by: accessing <http://www.AskPSC.com> – and filling in the electronic "Comment Form." Many libraries offer free internet access.
3. **Call the Department's Toll-Free Opinion Line** at: 1-800-335-2120. This number is designed to take comments about pending cases from in-state callers, 24 hours a day. Callers should select English or Spanish and press "1" to leave comments.

If you would like your name placed on a list to receive more information regarding case updates, please send your mailing address and/or e-mail address to: [dianne\\_cooper@dps.state.ny.us](mailto:dianne_cooper@dps.state.ny.us). All correspondence should include the case number (09-C-0058). Please note, in accordance with our privacy policy, the Department does not collect any information for commercial marketing purposes, and does not sell or otherwise market your e-mail address or other personal information.

## Next Steps

Staff will analyze the comments received from the public and develop a final report recommending a decision to the Commission. Following the Commission's decision, an order will be issued which will direct all telephone providers in the area to submit a customer education and network preparation/implementation plan. Also, the second phase of the Commission's outreach program will be conducted to inform the public of the final decision.