The Public Service Commission State of South Carolina

*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

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The Public Service Commission of South Carolina Schedules a Hearing Regarding the North American Numbering Plan Administrator's Petition on Behalf of the South Carolina Telecommunications Industry for Relief of the 843 Area Code

The North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA) has filed a Petition with the Public Service Commission (PSC) of South Carolina on behalf of the South Carolina telecommunications industry for relief of the 843 numbering plan area ("NPA" or "area code"). The Petition states that the telecommunications industry submits its recommendations to the PSC based upon NANPA's projections that absent NPA relief, the supply of central office codes for the 843 NPA will exhaust during the fourth quarter of 2015.

NANPA's Petition recommends a 13-month implementation schedule for an all-services distributed overlay that would superimpose a new NPA over the same geographic area covered by the existing 843 area code. All existing customers would retain the 843 area code and would not have to change their telephone numbers. Additionally, consistent with Federal Communications Commission regulations, customers will dial 10 digits for all local calls. The projected life of the new NPA is 28 years.

The PSC has scheduled a hearing in the matter set for **December 3, 2013 at 10:00 AM.** Additional information related to the Petition (Docket No. 2013-207-C) can be found on the Commission's website at psc.sc.gov.

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