



TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

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TRA SELECTS “OVERLAY” OPTION, (629) TO BE STATE’S NEWEST AREA CODE

Nashville, Tennessee – The Tennessee Regulatory Authority (TRA) voted recently to implement the “Overlay” option as the best course of action to address the shortage of phone numbers in the Middle Tennessee region served by the (615) area code. The decision was unanimous.

Today, the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA) notified the TRA that the new area code will be (629) and consumers can expect to see the new area code issued to Middle Tennessee residents in the spring of 2015.

The TRA was advised by NANPA earlier this year that the (615) area code was projected to run out of numbers by the second quarter of the year 2015 – unless steps were taken to address the number shortage. To gauge public sentiment of those in the affected areas, the TRA launched a campaign in the months leading up to today’s decision to survey consumers on which option to implement to address the region’s number shortage. The two options under consideration included the “Split” option and “Overlay” option. Of the approximately 3,000 consumers surveyed, the “Overlay” option was chosen by 83% of the respondents who took part in the survey.

Under the Overlay option, all current (615) numbers would remain but require 10-digit dialing for local calls within the (615) area as well as into the new (629) area code. Phone calls that are currently treated as local calls will remain as local calls and calls that are treated as long distance calls will remain as long distance calls.

“The dialing habits of many consumers are accustomed to dialing 10-digits to complete a call. And because of this, we believed the best course of action was to pursue the Overlay option,” said TRA Chairman Jim Allison. “This will be the least disruptive of the two options and serve the Middle Tennessee area best in view of the growth the area is experiencing.”

The mission of the TRA is to promote the public interest by balancing the interests of utility consumers and providers. For more information on the TRA, visit online at www.tn.gov/tra.