

ORIGINAL

LAW OFFICES
BRYANT, MILLER AND OLIVE, P A

201 South Monroe Street
Suite 500
Tallahassee, Florida 32301
(850) 222-8611

FAK (850) 724-1544
(850) 724-0544
(850) 222-8688

E-mail address
mllogan@bmoilaw.com

Ernest Pines, Suite 1265
101 East Kennedy Boulevard
Tampa, Florida 33602
(813) 278-8877
FAX (813) 278-2768

430 Margate
Atlanta, Georgia 30328
(770) 388-7700
FAX (770) 388-6482

March 13, 1998

Ms. Blanca S Bayo
Director, Division of Records and Reporting
Florida Public Service Commission
2450 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Re: In Re: Request for review of proposed numbering plan relief for 813 Area Cod
Docket No.: ~~SB000211~~
PK

Dear Ms. Bayo:

Please find enclosed an original and fifteen copies of the Post-Hearing Brief of AT&T Communications of the Southern States, Inc. for filing in the above referenced docket.

I have enclosed a copy of this letter. Please mark it to indicate that the original was filed and return the copy to me.

Please contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for your assistance in the matter.

Sincerely,

MARK K LOGAN

By Shanna Kaye Bemby
Shanna Kaye Bemby

ACK _____

AFB _____

APP _____

CC _____

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EM _____

2 Enclosures

5 cc: All parties of record

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ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In Re: Request for review of)
proposed numbering plan)
relief for 813 Area Code)
_____)

DOCKET NO : 980048-TL
FILED March 13, 1998

**POST-HEARING BRIEF OF AT&T COMMUNICATIONS
OF THE SOUTHERN STATES, INC.**

AT&T Communications of the Southern States, Inc ("AT&T") pursuant to Rule 25-22.056, Fla. Admin. Code and Order No. PSC-98-0304-PHO-TL (February 19, 1998) files this post-hearing brief and states:

SUMMARY

AT&T, in this and other numbering plan relief hearings, has recognized that the Commission is faced with the difficult task of balancing the needs of many aspects of the local community impacted by a change in a numbering plan area ("NPA"). Essentially the Commission must determine what method of relief best serves the public interest for both the short and long term. AT&T recognizes that there are advantages and disadvantages to either a geographic split of area codes or the imposition of an area code overlay on the existing 813 area. In this particular instance, AT&T suggests that the public interest is best served by a geographic split of the existing 813 area code. Based upon the testimony at hearing, it appears that the all parties to this docket with the exception of the incumbent local exchange carrier, GTE Florida Incorporated ("GTE") as well as the vast majority of those persons offering public comment, favor the imposition of a geographic split as the least intrusive means of providing NPA relief.

However, should the Commission find it is in the public interest to impose a overlay as a NPA relief mechanism, then AT&T suggests it is vitally important to do so in the most competitively-

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neutral manner. Specifically there are four items which AT&T asserts are necessary to offset any competitive advantage GTE might enjoy from an overlay

First, all NXXs in the 813 area code should be allocated equally among all carriers so that no carrier enjoys a competitive advantage. Second, as required by the FCC, the Commission should mandate 10-digit dialing for all local calls within the overlay service area. Third, the overlay should apply equally to all carriers so that no competitive advantage is realized. Finally, the Commission should ensure that permanent number portability is fully functional within the 813 area code.

ISSUE-BY-ISSUE ANALYSIS

ISSUE 1: Should the Commission approve the overlay plan for 813 area code relief, and if not, what relief plan should the Commission approve?

AT&T *NPA relief should be administered in a competitively-neutral manner so that no particular service provider is unduly favored or adversely affected. The impact of area code relief on customers should be minimized while promoting local competition. The plan that best accomplishes these goals is a geographic split.*

AT&T witness Smith testified that there are advantages and disadvantages to both the geographic split and overlay NPA relief alternatives under consideration in this docket. The advantages of a geographic split are: 1) it is the most familiar to new customers, 2) there are no dialing changes within the home NPA, thus customers can continue to dial seven digits for local calls within the home area code (10 digits for local calls outside the home code), 3) it does not discriminate against new entrant local service providers; and 4) the new area code is instantly populated so desirability issues are minimized. (Smith, T 335-336) The disadvantages of a geographic split are 1) the one-time inconvenience of non-home area code customers converting to a new code, 2) certain

areas may not be geographically distinguishable; and 3) cellular and wireless customers must have their numbers re-programmed unless the customers are grandfathered into the home area code (Smith, T 336)

The advantages of an overlay are: 1) no number changes for existing telephone numbers, 2) future overlays would have less impact due to customer familiarity, and 3) an overlay works when there is no logical geographic division line. (Smith, T 337) The disadvantages are 1) new entrant local service providers will be primarily assigned NXX codes in an unpopulated, unfamiliar code, while the incumbent provider (here, GTE) retains the vast majority of existing 813 NXX codes, 2) the requirement of more than one area code within existing homes and business, 3) the loss of geographic identity of both the original code and the overlay code, 4) ten-digit dialing for all calls, local and toll; and 5) reprogramming costs for total conversion from 7 to 10-digit dialing (Smith, T 337-338)

Based upon the respective advantages and disadvantages associated with each plan as well as overwhelming public desire, AT&T suggests that the public interest is best served by the Commission's adoption of a geographic split. (Smith, T 341) As previously listed, one of the critical elements of implementing NPA area code relief is the concept of competitive neutrality (Smith, T 333) A geographic split minimizes the advantage an incumbent local exchange carrier such as GTE has by virtue of holding the vast majority of existing 813 NXX codes, as all new local exchange entrants would be able to assign codes in both the home and new area code service areas on an equal footing with GTE. With an overlay, on the other hand, the 813 code will likely exhaust for new entrants while GTE would still control the majority of 813 codes simply by virtue of the number of codes assigned to existing GTE switches.

(Smith, T 348) Accordingly, a geographic split is the more competitively neutral option (Smith, T 341; Faul, T 314)

AT&T also suggests that the geographic split is the least intrusive on consumers. The testimony of those customers who appeared at the hearing as well as the informational workshops echo that sentiment. Senator Latvala, an elected state Senator representing a large number of constituents directly impacted by the NPA relief mechanism ultimately selected by the Commission was unequivocal in his support for a geographic split. Senator Latvala cited the "incalculable inconvenience" of his constituents in adapting to an overlay (Latvala, T 31) The Senator also expressed the fears of older customers over the advent of 10-digit dialing (Latvala, T 34-35) Given the concerns of the vast majority of citizens testifying in this hearing coupled with the anti-competitive and potential consumer confusion associated with the imposition of an overlay AT&T respectfully suggests that a geographic split best serves the collective public interest at this time.

Most of the consumers who addressed the Commission were concerned about the impact of any area code change but believed a split to be less confusing and intrusive. AT&T notes that should the Commission elect to adopt a geographic split, there are certain steps which will further minimize the impact on consumers. The Commission should "grandfather" all wireless and cellular customers within the existing 813 area code in order that those phones need not be reprogrammed; an extreme inconvenience involving physical work by the wireless or cellular carrier (Smith, T 339) The Commission can completely eliminate this burden without any untoward impact on the existing 813 code by allowing all existing cellular and wireless phones to remain within the 813 code, thereby further minimizing customer impact.

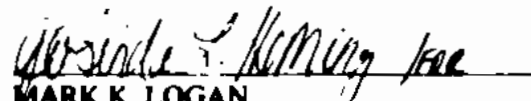
ISSUE 2: What should the dialing pattern be for the following types of calls?

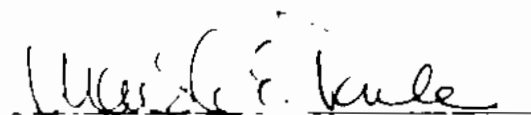
- a. Local
- b. Tolls
- c. EAS
- d. ECS

AT&T *For a geographic split, 10-digit dialing should be required between the new and old area codes for all calls. Local, ECS, and EAS calls should be 7 - digit For an overlay, 10-digit dialing should be required for all calls within and between the two codes. In either case, toll calls should be on a 1 + 10 digit basis.*

As noted at hearing, AT&T has not offered testimony with respect to this issue, but adopts and supports the position of MCI Telecommunication Corporation ("MCI"). (T 180).

Respectfully submitted,


MARK K. LOGAN
Florida Bar No 0494208 (0094300)
Bryant, Miller and Olive, P.A.
201 South Monroe Street, Suite 500
Tallahassee, Florida 32301
(850) 222-8611


MARSHA RULE
Florida Bar No
AT&T Communications of the Southern
States, Inc
101 North Monroe Street, Ste 700
Tallahassee, Florida 32301
(850) 425-6365

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished by

U.S. Mail to the parties listed below, on this 13th day of March 1998


MARK K. LOGAN

Anthony P. Gillman
Kimberly Carwell
GTE Florida Incorporated
P.O. Box 110
Tampa, FL 33601-011

Norman Horton
Messer Law Firm
P.O. Box 1876
Tallahassee, FL 32302

Office of Public Counsel
c/o The Florida Legislature
111 W. Madison St., #812
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1400

Senator Jack Latvala
19th District
3511 US Highway 19N, #105
Palm Harbor, FL 34684

Angela Green
Florida Public Telecommunications
Assoc.
125 S. Gadsden St., #200
Tallahassee, FL 32301-1525

Thomas K. Bond
MCI Telecommunications Corp.
780 Johnson Ferry Road, Suite 700
Atlanta, GA 30342