



# Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Daniel R. Ebert, Chairperson  
Mark Meyer, Commissioner  
Lauren Azar, Commissioner

610 North Whitney Way  
P.O. Box 7854  
Madison, WI 53707-7854

---

**For Immediate Release – October 8, 2007**

Contact: Amanda Wollin, (608) 266-9600

## **PSC Schedules Public Hearings on 920 Area Code Relief Plans**

MADISON – The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) will hold public hearings next week in various Wisconsin communities to answer questions and to gather public comments on relief plans for the 920 area code.

In recent years, the prevalence of technology in everyday life has increased tremendously, causing an elevated demand for telecommunications services. This rapid growth of the telecommunications industry has resulted in nearly all telephone number prefixes in the 920 area code to be assigned, causing area code exhaustion for 920 to occur in 2010.

The PSC is not exploring whether to undertake area code relief, as a relief plan is necessary to continue service for all providers and customers. However, the PSC will determine how a new area code will be implemented. There are two methods used to provide area code relief – a geographic split or an overlay. With both methods, there is no change to the prices to make phone calls.

With a geographic split, the area served by the existing area code would be split into two smaller areas. One of the sections would retain the existing area code while the other section would receive a new area code. Local calls within each area code would be dialed using 7 digits.

With an overlay, a new area code would be introduced within the same geographic region now served by the 920 area code. All current customers would keep their current area code and telephone number, while new customers could receive a new area code. With an overlay, the Federal Communications Commission requires that all calls be dialed using the area code.

Citizens are encouraged to attend one of the public hearings listed below and provide comments on the area code relief efforts. Public comments on the 920 area code relief plan will be included in the record the Commission will review in preparing to make a decision. The hearings are scheduled for:

(MORE)

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIMES</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
Monday, October 15	3:30 p.m.	Mead Public Library Josephine A. Rocca Meeting Room 710 N. 8 <sup>th</sup> Street Sheboygan, WI 53081
Tuesday, October 16	1:00 p.m.	Sturgeon Bay City Hall Council Chambers 421 Michigan Street Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235
Tuesday, October 16	7:00 p.m.	Green Bay City Hall Room 207 100 N. Jefferson Street Green Bay, WI 54301
Wednesday, October 17	1:00 p.m.	Appleton Public Library Lower Level Meeting Room 225 N. Oneida Street Appleton, WI 54911
Wednesday, October 17	7:00 p.m.	Oshkosh City Hall Room 404 215 Church Avenue Oshkosh, WI 54901
Thursday, October 18	1:00 p.m.	Rolling Meadows Golf Course Meeting Room 560 W. Rolling Meadows Drive Fond du Lac, WI 54937
Thursday, October 18	6:30 p.m.	Watertown City Hall Room 41-Lower Level 106 Jones Street Watertown, WI 53094

If you cannot attend the public hearings, but would like to provide comments, you can do so on the PSC's website at <http://psc.wi.gov> through November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Click on the Public Comments button on the PSC's homepage and click on the case title. You can also mail comments to the

PSC. Any person who needs additional accommodations to participate in the hearings should contact Docket Coordinator, Kathleen Bakke, at 608-267-9254.

For more information about area code relief plans in Wisconsin, please visit the PSC's website at <http://psc.wi.gov/utilityinfo/tele/areaCodes/home-AreaCodeRelief.htm>. To view case documents, including maps of the area code, please use the Electronic Regulatory Filing System by typing case number 5-TN-106 into the boxes on the PSC's homepage at: <http://psc.wi.gov/>.

**NOTE:** The 715 area code is also nearing exhaustion. Public hearings were held in various communities in that part of the state last month. Information about these hearings and the 715 area code can also be found on the PSC's website at the links provided above.

(END)