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### **News Release**

#### **Mandatory 10-digit dialing in Area Code 706 Begins April 3**

Atlanta, March 28, 2006 -- Mandatory ten-digit dialing begins on Monday April 3, 2006 in the 706 area code. The Georgia Public Service Commission (Commission) reminds consumers that callers must dial ten-digits within the 706 area code to complete all calls whether local or long distance. This change is due to the implementation of "762" as the new overlay area code to provide area code relief in the 706 service area. Current phone numbers will not change area codes but all new telephone numbers will be assigned the new area code once the new code is placed into service.

The Commission on June 23, 2005, issued its order calling for the all services distributed overlay as the preferred method of relief for 706, as recommended by the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA) NeuStar, Incorporated on behalf of the Georgia telecommunications industry. NANPA on June 24, 2005 issued 762 as the new area code assignment.

The 706 area code includes the major Georgia cities of Athens, Augusta, Columbus, Cornelia, Dalton, LaGrange, Rome, and Toccoa.

Based on planning projections, NANPA estimates this new area code will last at least 13 years before another area code is needed in this service area.

For more information on this Docket, go to the Commission website, [www.psc.state.ga.us](http://www.psc.state.ga.us) and enter Docket Number 12736 in the Docket Search section.

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