

Paul Suskie
Chairman
(501) 682-1451

Colette D. Honorable
Commissioner
(501) 682-1455

Olan W. Reeves
Commissioner
(501) 682-1453

**ARKANSAS
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**
1000 Center
P.O. Box 400
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-0400
<http://www.Arkansas.gov/psc>



John P. Bethel
Director
(501) 682-1794

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
January 14, 2010

Arkansas Public Service Commission Announces 327 as the Second Area Code Number within the 870 Area

New area code allows existing customers to keep existing 870 Area Code numbers by creating a 2nd area code within the existing 870 area; change will require 10-digit dialing for local calls.

Little Rock- The Arkansas Public Service Commission (Commission) has announced that 327 will be the new area code associated with the overlay plan approved by the Commission for the 870 Area Code which is projected to exhaust the 870 number supply in late 2013. Neustar, the federally designated numbering plan administrator, assigned 327 as the number for the Commission approved overlay plan.

By approving the overlay plan, existing customers will be able to keep their 870 numbers when a second area code is implemented within the existing 870 Area. Once this plan is implemented, local calls will require 10-digit dialing. Such local calls will remain local for billing purposes. Thus, customers' bills will not reflect these calls as long distance calls.

The exact implementation date for the new area code has not yet been determined but is currently estimated to be in 2012. The exact date will depend upon how fast the available supply of unassigned 870 Area Code numbers is exhausted. In its order approving the overlay plan, the Commission directed NeuStar and the telecommunications industry to develop a schedule for the deployment of the new area code based on a proposed 13 month implementation timeline. The implementation plan and the implementation schedule will be filed with the Commission by January 21, 2010.

Contact: Paul Suskie at 501-682-5809
E-mail: psuskie@psc.state.ar.us

###