

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

INV 2023-003

Investigative Proceeding Relative to Telephone Number Conservation

ORDER OF NOTICE

On October 31, 2023, the Governor signed Executive Order 2023-07; An Order Establishing the “Don’t Overload the Code” Initiative to Extend the 603 Area Code and to Prepare New Hampshire Businesses for the Eventuality of an Additional Area Code.” Executive Order 2023-07 (Exec. Order No. 2023-07) required the Department of Energy (DOE) to “open a proceeding within 90 days of [its effective date] to investigate durable strategies, inclusive of reclaim assigned by unused telephone numbers, for lengthening the useful life of the 603 Area Code and extending its exhaustion date, making all telecommunications providers over which the DOE has jurisdiction parties to that investigation.” The DOE is commencing this investigative proceeding in accordance with the requirements of Exec. Order No. 2023-07 and to provide an opportunity for public comment on these issues.

Pursuant to the DOE’s investigative powers established in RSA 12-P:2, IV and RSA 12-P:10, the Department opens this proceeding and directs the participation of all telecommunications providers over which the DOE has jurisdiction. (See 47 U.S.C. section 251(e); 47 CFR Part 52; RSA 362:2; RSA 362:7; RSA 374:59). This investigation is intended to develop possible actions that may be taken to prevent or forestall the opening of an additional

area code. In addition to gathering information and developing strategies, specific actions to conserve numbers may be noticed and taken during the course of this investigation, such as requiring all telecommunications carriers to undertake an inventory of their assigned blocks of numbers and to return those blocks that are less than 10 percent contaminated to the numbering pool by March 31, 2024 (See 47 U.S.C. section 251(e); 47 CFR Part 52), as noticed herein and ordered below.

Petitions to intervene are not required to submit comments. Persons wishing to be on the service list for this proceeding should request that an email address be added to the service list by emailing Proceedings@energy.nh.gov. Inquiries regarding this proceeding may also be directed to Proceedings@energy.nh.gov.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that all telecommunications providers over which the DOE has jurisdiction shall be mandatory participants to this investigation (See RSA 362:2; RSA 362:7; RSA 374:59); and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that all telecommunications providers over which the DOE has jurisdiction shall undertake an inventory of their assigned blocks of numbers and to return those blocks that are less than 10 percent contaminated to the numbering pool by March 31, 2024 (See 47 U.S.C. section 251(e); 47 CFR Part 52); and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, a copy of this order of notice shall be posted on the Department's website no later than December 29, 2023; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, Inquiries regarding this proceeding may be directed to
Proceedings@energy.nh.gov.

So ordered, this 27th day of December, 2023.



Jared S. Chicoine
Commissioner

Individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication aids due to sensory impairment or other disability should contact the Department of Energy, 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429; 603-271-3670; TDD Access: Relay N.H. 1-800-735-2964. Notification of the need for assistance should be made no later than one week prior to the scheduled event.