

IURC News Release

Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission

101 W. Washington St.

Suite 1500 E.

Indianapolis, IN 46204

For Immediate Release

April 19, 2013

Contact Information:

Danielle McGrath | (317) 232-2297

IURC Requests "IND" Area Code for Indiana

Public input inspires the agency to take action

INDIANAPOLIS – For Hoosiers, area code 463 is more than just a number. It is also symbolic in that it spells "IND." Turning a simple suggestion into a formal recommendation, the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) submitted a request today to the North American Numbering Plan Administration (NANPA) for the number based upon feedback it received during a recent field hearing.

Due to continued high demand for additional telephone numbers in the 812 area code, which serves south central and southern Indiana, current projections show that by March 2015, no further numbers will be available. Therefore, the IURC is traveling throughout the state to gather public input as it considers options for area code relief.

During the March 7th field hearing in Bloomington, Mr. Steve Volan, District VI Representative of the Bloomington Common Council, testified he had researched whether the 463 area code is currently available and found that it has yet to be assigned. On a telephone dial pad, the digits 463 spell "IND," which is Indiana's former post office abbreviation. Mr. Volan then inquired whether a request could be made to the NANPA, which is the entity responsible for area code assignments.

"Although Mr. Volan's suggestion is not germane to the ultimate decision by the IURC in the 812 area code case, we are glad to accommodate the request," said presiding Commissioner Larry Landis. "Since we must add another area code, it makes sense to use one that Hoosiers across the state can recognize and connect with. It certainly could help ease the transition process."

Common area code relief methods include a geographic split or an overlay. A geographic split divides the existing area code into two or more areas. One area retains the existing area code and the other area(s) are assigned a new area code. An overlay, on the other hand, allows a new area code to be assigned over the same geographic area as the existing area code, allowing current users to keep their current phone numbers. However, this also means users will need to use 10-digit dialing, regardless of whether the call is local or long distance.

- more -

Although the IURC submitted its request, the NANPA has final authority over which number is actually selected. The IURC anticipates number selection will occur after it renders a decision in this case, which is expected to take place by the end of the year.

Before rendering a decision on the matter, the IURC will conclude traveling to the 10 different field hearing locations, representing small, medium, and large communities throughout the area. The last two field hearings are as follows (all times are local):

St. Leon - Thursday, May 2, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. EDT

East Central High School, Auditorium, 1 Trojan Place, Suite A, St. Leon, IN 47012

Bedford - Monday, May 6, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. EDT

Bedford North Lawrence High School, Cafeteria, 595 Stars Boulevard, Bedford, IN 47421

The OUCC will participate at each hearing and brief the public on the process that will be followed in this case. At each hearing, the briefing will start at 5:30 p.m., local time. For more information about area code relief and the proposed options, please visit us online at www.in.gov/iurc/2703.htm.

###

The Commission is a fact-finding body that hears evidence in cases filed before it and makes decisions based on the evidence presented in those cases. An advocate of neither the public nor the utilities, the IURC is required by state statute to make decisions that balance the interests of all parties to ensure the utilities provide adequate and reliable service at reasonable prices.

For more information, please visit: www.in.gov/iurc.