


MEMO

TO: Chairman Gary Hanson
Vice-Chairman Bob Sahr
Commissioner Dustin Johnson

FROM: Sara B. Greff 

DATE: July 20, 2005

RE: Review of Implementation of FCC Requirements for 811

CC: Pamela Bonrud, Executive Director
John Smith, General Counsel
Rolayne Wiest, General Counsel
Greg Rislov, Commission Advisor

Commission Staff (Staff) requests that the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) open a docket or conduct some other type of proceeding regarding the Implementation of 811. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has issued a report and order regarding the designation and implementation of 811 as a National Abbreviated Dialing Code for One Call Notification. *See In the Matter of The Use of N11 Codes and Other Abbreviated Dialing Arrangements, CC Docket No. 92-105, Sixth Report and Order (rel March 14, 2005).* Based on this report and order Staff believes it would be beneficial for the Commission to get comments from industry as to the implementation process.

Currently the South Dakota One Call Notification System has a toll free number that a person can call to notify the operators of underground facilities of plans to excavate and to request the marking of facilities. SDCL 49-7A-2. In its Order, the FCC assigned 811 as the national abbreviated dialing code for One Call Centers to enhance public safety and to strengthen homeland security by streamlining the notification process.

In its Order the FCC addresses implementation issues. Specifically the FCC requires One Call Notification Centers to notify people of the existence of the toll-free number. It also specifies that carriers can use either the Numbering Plan Area or the originating switch to determine which One Call Center a call should be routed to. Also the FCC is requiring 811 abbreviated dialing code to be in place within two years after publication of the Order. Finally the FCC has left it to the States to address any technical and operational issues that may arise with the implementation of the 811 code.

The FCC also found that use of 811 as an abbreviated dialing code for providing advanced notice of excavation activities to underground facilities operators will provide a more cohesive network for One Call notification systems. The use of 811 will remove the need for each state to have its own number and it will decrease confusion and increase public knowledge of One Call services.

Staff believes that it would be beneficial for the Commission to solicit comments and concerns from the companies and industry as to the implementation of 811 as the abbreviated dialing code for providing advanced notice of excavation activities. Staff feels that getting comments from interested parties will help facilitate the implementation of 811.