

From: "Hal Shearer"
To: <mlivingston@utah.gov>
Date: 7/9/2008 1:23 PM
Subject: area code overlay

Dear mlivingston,
(sorry, but the folks who gave me your contact information did not provide a name)

I have some comments about the 801/385 area code overlay.

I recently received the announcement from my cell phone company. I called to get more information and was told that the decision was made a year ago, 11Jul07. This was very surprising to me since I had no prior knowledge of it nor of a public discussion period.

I would, therefore, like to know how this decision was reached. I was told that this done to make things easier for businesses. The major factors that I see (and please let me know what others you considered) are the following:

- 1- Without the overlay, everyone in the affected area takes a one time hit of getting a new area code for their phone number, with the advantage of being able to continue to dial only 7 digits within their area.
- 2- With the overlay nobody has to change their area code, but everyone, forever more, is forced to dial 10 digit numbers on every single call they make.

I remember years ago when the 435 area code was implemented. As with option 1 above, people outside the Wasatch front area had to change their area code. This did not take long to do, nor to get used to, and for these many years we have all been able to continue with the simple 7 digit dialing within our areas.

My concern is that this was done for the wrong reasons. What about the average citizen?

Please explain why we would ever want to take on the burden of 10 digit dialing for every single call we make?

Hal Shearer