

Public Utility Commission of Texas

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346 area code coming to Houston region **Overlay will join existing 713, 281 and 832 area codes**

The Public Utility Commission (PUC) on Thursday announced the addition of area code 346 to accommodate continued growth in and around Houston.

The 346 area code will overlay existing area codes 713, 281 and 832 in Harris, Fort Bend, Waller, Austin, Montgomery, San Jacinto, Liberty, Chambers, Galveston and Brazoria counties. A map of the affected region is at:

<http://www.puc.texas.gov/industry/maps/areacodes/Houston.aspx>

The North American Number Planning Administrator (NANPA) assigned the 346 area code after projecting that the three existing area codes will run out of numbers by Sept. 30, 2014.

The new area code will not require any reprogramming changes to existing equipment because an area code overlay requiring 10-digit dialing for local calls already exists in the affected region.

The PUC decision allows for industry preparation and customer education from Aug. 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014. Beginning July 1, 2014, new phone numbers can be assigned with a 346 area code.

All PUC News Releases are available at

http://www.puc.texas.gov/agency/resources/newsfeeds/Puc_News_Rss.aspx