



Telecom Decision CRTC 2009-453

Ottawa, 28 July 2009

Bell Canada – Application to review and vary portions of Telecom Decision 2009-255 regarding code relief for Quebec area code 450

File number: 8662-B2-200909715

In this decision, the Commission varies its determinations in Telecom Decision 2009-255 regarding the relief measure for area code 450. The Commission directs that relief for area code 450 be provided through a distributed overlay of a new area code 579 starting 21 August 2010.

Introduction

1. On 26 June 2009, Bell Canada filed an application requesting that the Commission review and vary *Code relief for Quebec area code 450*, Telecom Decision CRTC 2009-255, 7 May 2009 (Telecom Decision 2009-255) by providing relief in area code 450 through a distributed overlay using a new area code 579 by 21 August 2010.
2. The Commission received comments from l'Association des Compagnies de Téléphone du Québec inc., Distributel Communications Limited, ISP Telecom Inc., Maskatel inc., MTS Allstream Inc., Quebecor Media Inc., Rogers Communications Inc., and TELUS Communications Company. The public record of this proceeding, which closed on 13 July 2009, is available on the Commission's website at www.crtc.gc.ca under “Public Proceedings” or by using the file number provided above.

Background

3. The Commission notes that, in the 11 February 2009 planning document prepared by the CRTC Interconnection Steering Committee ad hoc Relief Planning Committee for area code 450, Bell Canada supported relief in area code 450 through the extension of area code 438, which is currently overlaying area code 514.
4. In Telecom Decision 2009-255, the Commission determined that relief for area code 450 was to be provided through an overlay using existing area code 438, starting 23 October 2010.

Is there substantial doubt as to the correctness of the Commission's determination in Telecom Decision 2009-255 due to a fundamental change in facts since the decision?

5. In its application, Bell Canada submitted that since the release of Telecom Decision 2009-255, it had examined its costs to implement relief for area code 450 and determined that significant cost savings would result if a new area code were distributed over the existing geographic area served by area code 450. Bell Canada added that a new distributed overlay area code could be implemented two months earlier than the relief date for a boundary extension of area code 438.
6. All parties to this proceeding supported Bell Canada's application and encouraged the Commission to review and vary Telecom Decision 2009-255.

Commission's analysis and determinations

7. The Commission notes that since the issuance of Telecom Decision 2009-255, Bell Canada has determined that using a new distributed overlay area code could be implemented sooner than the extension of area code 438 and would result in significant cost savings. Given the jeopardy condition¹ of area code 450, the speed with which area code relief can be implemented is a key consideration.
8. The Commission further notes that using a new area code would retain the existing boundaries of area code 450 and would provide a longer time frame before relief would be required again in that region.
9. In light of the above, the Commission finds that there is substantial doubt as to the correctness of its decision due to a fundamental change in facts. Accordingly, the Commission determines that relief for area code 450 is to be achieved through a distributed overlay using new area code 579 starting 21 August 2010.

Secretary General

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¹ According to the Numbering Plan Area Relief Planning Guidelines, a jeopardy condition is declared when the forecast and/or actual demand for central office codes exceeds the available supply of codes before relief is implemented or the implementation time frame is shorter than 36 months and no relief plan is yet in place.