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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

8-1-1 SEES SIGNIFICANT GROWTH

LINCOLN – Use of 8-1-1 dialing has seen significant growth since March, the Nebraska Public Service Commission was informed this week, as they closed the docket implementing the three digit dialing code.

On December 19, 2006 the Commission opened a docket to seek comment on the implementation of 8-1-1 dialing for the Diggers Hotline as required by the Federal Communications Commission's Sixth Report and Order in CC Docket 92-105. After reviewing the work of the 8-1-1 Task Force and other comments submitted, the Commission established April 31, 2007 as the implementation deadline for 8-1-1 in Nebraska.

In 1994 the Nebraska Legislature passed a law called the One Call Notification System Act. The law requires that anyone who excavates (or otherwise disturbs the surface) must first call the state one-call notification center (Diggers Hotline) at least two business days before work will start. Diggers Hotline then notifies utilities of the proposed work and the utilities will locate any underground facility at no cost to the property owner.

Susan Griess, Director of the Nebraska Digger's Hotline, said that they initiated a public awareness campaign at the beginning of this year to inform home owners of their responsibility to notify Diggers Hotline about plans to "dig." The number of calls made to 8-1-1 indicates that this campaign has been successful; 2,689 calls were received in March, 2007, and this number has grown each month through the last reporting month of July during which 5,543 calls were received.

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