

**STATEMENT OF  
CHAIRMAN MICHAEL K. POWELL**

*Re: The Use of N11 Codes and Other Abbreviated Dialing Arrangements, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*

Poor coordination among contractors, government officials and utilities can cause severe disruptions to power, water, gas, or phone service. To prevent these network disruptions from happening, Congress directed us to establish a nationwide telephone number to access local One Call Centers. While the function of One Call Centers can vary from state to state, the centers generally allow excavators to make one telephone call to give notice of their plans to dig in a specific area before they begin their project. The state's one-call center then acts as a clearinghouse to inform the owners and operators of underground facilities in the area identified and allows the utility owners to mark their facilities to prevent costly and disruptive damage to underground infrastructure.

Today's notice seeks comment on the best number available to improve the security and safety of our nation's underground infrastructure. At the same time, telephone numbers, particularly N11 codes such as 911, are extremely limited resources and we must be particularly cautious in how to allocate them. Moreover, the technical changes necessary to implement other types of nationwide three-digit numbers may prove costly for certain segments of the telecommunications industry, depending on how certain carriers have implemented dialing plans on their networks. Therefore, this item seeks comment on whether an N11 code, a code using a leading star or number sign, or another three-digit number should be assigned to comply with the Pipeline Safety Act. I look forward to hearing from all interested in parties in how best to implement the simple dialing procedures that Congress wanted us to adopt so that the public can easily reach One Call centers nationwide.

