

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Request of)	DOCKET UT-072006
)	
QWEST CORPORATION,)	ORDER 01
)	
For Assignment of Telephone Number)	ORDER ASSIGNING NUMBERING
Resources)	RESOURCES
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 Qwest Corporation (Qwest or Company) requested on October 5, 2007, that the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) overturn the numbering North American Number Plan Administrator's (Administrator) decision to withhold numbering resources and direct the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Pooling Administrator, Neustar, Inc., to provide two sequential one thousand number-blocks (2,000 numbers) in the 360 area code, Whatcom County rate center. Qwest's inventory of telephone numbers for assignment in the rate center does not satisfy the City of Bellingham's needs to have numbers in the range "7000-8999" in a single prefix or a number range where the last four digits must not begin with "0", "1", or "9", for the internal dialing plan. The city, a Qwest customer, is implementing a complex transition to a new system and numbering plan. The City of Bellingham will return existing number resources after the four-month implementation period. Qwest submitted a request to the Pooling Administrator for additional numbering resources in the rate center, however, the request was denied as the serving central office does not meet the utilization level established by the FCC.

- 2 The Pooling Administrator, NeuStar, Inc., will only accept an exception request with a waiver from the Commission. The FCC granted state commissions the authority to direct the Pooling Administrator to release numbers to a carrier to satisfy a specific customer request that can not be met with the carrier's current inventory. The Commission investigated the Company's request in order to address number conservation measures in the area code and found no reason to disapprove it. Qwest will adhere to the requirement to review numbering resources and the Company will comply with the requirements of the FCC's North American Number Plan Administrator and Pooling Administrator regarding the return of unused numbers. Qwest provided the Commission with the

customer's request, detailed data, and provided detailed inventory for number resources and proof of utilization in the rate center.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 3 (1) On December 28, 2001, the FCC issued an order establishing a "safety valve" allowing carriers that do not meet the utilization threshold in a given rate center to obtain additional numbering resources apart from the general waiver process.¹ Specifically, the FCC granted to state commissions the authority to direct the Pooling Administrator (Neustar) to release numbers to a carrier to satisfy a specific customer request that can not be met with the carrier's current inventory.²
- 4 (2) The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to RCW 80.36.610, which gives the Commission authority to take actions necessary to implement the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996.
- 5 (3) Normally, additional numbering resources are granted only when existing resources are forecasted to exhaust within six months.
- 6 (4) The 360 area code is projected to exhaust in the third quarter of 2011.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 7 (1) Neustar, Inc., acting as the Pooling Administrator, may release two consecutive one thousand number-blocks, in a single prefix, in the range 7000-8999 or not beginning with 0, 1, or 9, in the Whatcom County rate center, area code 360, to Qwest Corporation.

¹ . *In the Matter of Numbering Resource Optimization, Third Report and Order and Second Order on Reconsideration*, CC Docket 99-200, FCC No.#01-362 (2000), ¶¶57-66).

² *Id.* at 64.

- 8 (2) The Commission retains jurisdiction over this matter to take such future actions as may be appropriate.

The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Executive Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective November 7, 2007.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Executive Secretary