

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

In the Matter of the Request of)	DOCKET UT-072430
)	
QWEST CORPORATION,)	ORDER 01
)	
For Assignment of Telephone)	ORDER ASSIGNING NUMBERING
Numbering Resources)	RESOURCES
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 Qwest Corporation (Qwest or Company), requested on December 27, 2007, that the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) overturn the North American Numbering Plan Administrator’s (NANPA or Numbering Administrator) decision to withhold numbering resources and direct the Number Pooling Administrator (Neustar, Inc.) to provide one block of a thousand numbers in the Bellevue rate center. A Qwest customer has requested one-thousand sequential telephone numbers in the 425 NPA, Bellevue Rate Center. The Number Pooling Administrator’s Web site reports an inventory of 296 blocks of 1,000 numbers available in the 425 area code, and indicates that the exhaust of NPA 425 is scheduled for the first quarter of 2031. The customer requires that the numbers be in a single prefix and that the last four digits begin with four (4) in order to work with their internal dialing plan requirements. The customer needs to transfer service from another provider to Qwest and will return approximately one thousand numbers upon conversion to Qwest. These numbers will be returned to the existing customer’s service provider.

- 2 Telephone companies or carriers commonly hold and manage a reasonable inventory of telephone numbers in the areas where they provide service. When more are needed carriers request them from the Numbering Administrator. The Numbering Administrator withholds telephone numbers if the company’s inventory is sufficient for the next four months and there is a shortage of numbers in the affected area code.

- 3 The Federal Communications Commission (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 Number

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, ¶¶ 57-66 (Rel. December 28, 2001).

Pooling Administrator to release a block of numbers to a carrier to satisfy a specific customer request that cannot be met with the carrier's current inventory.²

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate the rates, rules, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, transfers of property and affiliated interests of public service companies, including telecommunications companies. *RCW 80.01.040, RCW 80.04, RCW 80.08, RCW 80.12, RCW 80.16 and RCW 80.36.*
- 5 (2) Qwest is a telecommunications company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 6 (3) The Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the Act) allows the FCC to establish rules to implement the Act and delegate authority to state commissions.
- 7 (4) The FCC has created a "safety valve" mechanism within the framework of number resource management and delegated to the Commission authority to grant requests by carriers that receive a specific customer request for numbering resources that exceeds their available inventory. The FCC has also given states some flexibility to direct the Number Pooling Administrator to assign additional numbering resources to carriers that have demonstrated a verifiable need for additional numbering resources.³
- 8 (5) The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to RCW 80.36.610, which authorizes the Commission to take actions necessary to implement the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996.

² *Id.* ¶ 64.

³ *In the Matter of Numbering Resource Optimization*, Third Report and Order and Second Order on Reconsideration, CC Docket 99-200, FCC No. 01-362, ¶ 61 (Rel. December 28, 2001).

- 9 (6) Normally, additional numbering resources are granted only when existing resources are forecasted to exhaust within six months.⁴
- (7) The Number Pooling Administrator's Web site reports an inventory of 296 blocks of 1,000 numbers available in the 425 area code, and indicates that the exhaust of NPA 425 is scheduled for the first quarter of 2031.
- 10 (8) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on January 31, 2008.
- 11 (9) The allocation of the requested resources is necessary to sustain competitive development in the area. The customer's stated intent of creating a common numbering plan will facilitate communications and promote industry identity. It is therefore consistent with the public interest.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 12 (1) Neustar, Inc., acting as the Number Pooling Administrator, must release one block of 1,000 numbers in the Bellevue Rate Center, specifically numbers for which the last four digits end in "4", to Qwest Corporation.
- 13 (2) The Commission retains jurisdiction over this matter to take such future actions as may be appropriate.

⁴ 47 CFR 52.15(g)(3)(iii).

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 January 31, 2008.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Executive Secretary