

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

In the Matter of the Request of)	DOCKET UT-081818
)	
QWEST CORPORATION,)	ORDER 01
)	
For Assignment of Telephone)	ORDER ASSIGNING NUMBERING
Numbering Resources)	RESOURCES
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 Qwest Corporation (Qwest or Company) requested on October 3, 2008, that the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) overturn the North American Numbering Plan Administrator’s (NANPA’s or Numbering Administrator’s) decision to withhold numbering resources and direct the Number Pooling Administrator (NeuStar, Inc.) to open a code in the Centralia rate center. Qwest requires a waiver to permit the assignment of a number code to meet the requirements of a large health care provider requesting 2,500 sequential numbers in the 360 NPA, Centralia rate center. Furthermore, there are no blocks available in the Pooling Administrators’ pool inventory for the Centralia rate center. This is in the public interest because it meets the needs of a large health care provider serving the community of interest and replenishes the pool in the Centralia rate center.

- 2 Qwest’s customer intends to have the new numbers in use starting the first quarter 2009. The Pooling Administrator will designate Qwest as the code holder and will subsequently assign three, one-thousand number blocks of the new code to Qwest. The other seven blocks will be returned to the administrator to replenish the number pool inventory in the Centralia rate center. The 360 NPA is forecasted to exhaust in the second quarter of 2011 and there are 64 unassigned codes in the 360 NPA. Qwest provided the Commission with a detailed inventory for number resources and “proof of utilization” in the rate center. Qwest will adhere to the requirement to review numbering resources and comply with the requirements of the FCC’s NANPA and the Pooling Administrator regarding the return of unused numbers.

- 3 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 a company's inventory is sufficient for the next four months and there is a shortage of numbers in the affected area code.

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

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5 (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.*
- 6 (2) Qwest Corporation is a telecommunications company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 7 (3) The Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the Act) allows the FCC to establish rules to implement the Act and delegate authority to state commissions.
- 8 (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 require 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

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).

2 *Id.* ¶ 64.

3 *Id.* ¶ 61.

- 9 (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.
- 10 (6) Normally, additional numbering resources are granted only when existing resources are forecasted to exhaust within six months.⁴
- 11 (7) The Number Pooling Administrator's Web site reports an inventory of 64 codes in the 360 NPA, Centralia rate center, and indicates that the exhaust is scheduled for the second quarter of 2011.
- 12 (8) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on October 30, 2008.
- 13 (9) The allocation of the requested number resources is necessary to meet the needs of a large health care provider in the Centralia area serving the community of interest and will replenish the pool. It is therefore consistent with the public interest.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 14 (1) NeuStar, Inc., acting as the Number Pooling Administrator, to release one code in the 360 NPA for Centralia rate center to Qwest Corporation.
- 15 (2) The Commission retains jurisdiction over this matter to take such future actions as may be appropriate.

The Commissioners have delegated authority to the Secretary to enter this Order pursuant to [RCW 80.01.030](#) and [WAC 480-07-904\(1\)\(g\)](#).

⁴ 47 C.F.R. 52.15(g)(3)(iii).

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective October 30, 2008.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DAVID W. DANNER, Executive Director and Secretary