

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Exhaust of the            )     DOCKET NO. UT-000202  
Eastern Washington 509                        )  
Number Plan Area                                )     ORDER DISMISSING PETITION  
  )     FOR APPROVAL OF RELIEF  
  )     PLAN FOR THE 509 AREA CODE  
  )

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**BACKGROUND**

- 1     On June 7, 2000, NeuStar, Inc., the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA), on behalf of the Washington state telecommunications industry, filed a Petition requesting the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) to approve a relief plan for the 509 Number Plan Area (NPA). The proposed relief plan assumed that the 509 NPA would be exhausted of available prefixes in the third quarter of 2001. The Petition recommended that the WUTC approve a second area code as an overlay of the entire 509 NPA, which would require a ten-digit dialing plan.
  
- 2     On December 1, 2000, the WUTC ordered a local number portability thousand-number block pooling trial in the 509 NPA in Docket UT-991627. On December 28, 2001, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), in CC Docket 99-200, issued a national schedule for number pooling. Based on this schedule, number pooling was implemented in the 509 NPA on January 8, 2002.
  
- 3     The purpose of number pooling is to improve the efficiency of the telecommunications industry use of telephone numbering resources. Typically, only about half the telephone numbers in each telephone prefix are being used. Number pooling permits companies providing service in the same geographic area or “rate center” to share a single prefix.
  
- 4     Under pooling, each participating company donates unneeded blocks of 1,000 numbers from its assigned prefixes (which contain 10,000 numbers) in a rate center. Participating companies that need telephone numbers in a rate center receive a thousand-number block rather than a full 10,000-number prefix.
  
- 5     Other factors have contributed to the changes in the projected prefix-exhaustion date for the 509 NPA, in particular, rate center consolidation, the return of unused prefixes, reduced demand for new prefixes, and a new forecasting method

(Numbering Resource Utilization and Forecast “NRUF” FCC Docket CC 99-200, June 2001).

6 In April 2001, NANPA changed the projected exhaustion date for the 509 NPA to the first quarter of 2004. However, this projection does not take into account the efficiencies expected to be gained through number pooling. The next NANPA prefix-exhaustion forecast is due spring of 2002.

7 The above discussion supports the conclusion that the Petition should be dismissed. The information on which the Petition was based is obsolete, and implementation of the relief plan as proposed would conflict with number resource-utilization programs currently in effect at the state and national levels. If a new area code is eventually required in eastern Washington, a new relief plan based on then-current information and customer preferences would be appropriate.

#### **FINDINGS OF FACT**

8 The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington with jurisdiction over the provision of telecommunications services in the state of Washington.

9 Use of the existing supply of telephone numbers must be consistent with the public interest.

10 The Petition does not take into account the efficiencies gained by the implementation of thousand-number block pooling in the 509 NPA. The Petition is based on obsolete projections.

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

11 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.

12 Based on the Commission’s findings of fact in this matter, it is in the public interest to dismiss the petition for 509 NPA area code relief.

#### **ORDER**

13 The Commission dismisses the Petition for the 509 NPA filed by the North American Numbering Plan Administrator on behalf of the Washington telecommunications industry, requesting approval of an area code relief plan for the 509 area code.

Dated at Olympia, Washington and effective this 13<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2002.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARILYN SHOWALTER, Chairwoman

RICHARD HEMSTAD, Commissioner

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner