

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Request of  
  
QWEST CORPORATION d/b/a  
CENTURLINK  
  
For Assignment of Telephone  
Numbering Resources

DOCKET UT-170285  
  
ORDER 01  
  
ORDER ASSIGNING  
NUMBERING RESOURCES

**BACKGROUND**

- 1 On April 21, 2017, Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink (CenturyLink or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a request to overturn the Number Pooling Administrator's decision to withhold numbering resources and direct it to open a new code to replenish the pool. Once CenturyLink's request for three sequential blocks is approved by the Number Pooling Administration in the 206 Numbering Plan Area (NPA), Des Moines rate center, the Company will donate the remaining seven blocks to the industry pool and those will become available for assignment to other service providers. The request is based on the Company's need to meet the requirements for a large federal government entity.
- 2 Telephone companies commonly hold and manage a reasonable inventory of telephone numbers in the areas where they provide service. When more numbers are needed by a company, it may request them from the Number Pooling Administrator. The Number Pooling Administrator withholds telephone numbers if the company's inventory is sufficient for the next six months and there is a shortage of numbers in the affected area code.
- 3 The Number Pooling Administrator's website reports an inventory 129 codes in the 206 NPA and 2 blocks of 1,000 numbers in multiple prefixes in the Des Moines rate center. The North American Numbering Plan Administrator's (NANPA's) website reports that the 206 NPA is forecasted to exhaust in the first quarter of 2024. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC), in its Third Report and Order, FCC 01-362, CC Docket 96-98 and 99-200, has delegated authority to the Commission to direct NANPA to release codes of numbers for extenuating circumstances that do not meet NANPA's existing criteria. CenturyLink provided the Commission with a detailed inventory of number resources and proof of utilization in the rate center. The Company will adhere to the requirement of reviewing number resources and comply with the requirements of the

NANPA and the Pooling Administrator regarding the return of unused numbers.

- 4 The Federal Communications Commission issued an order establishing a “safety valve” allowing companies that do not meet the utilization threshold in a given rate center to obtain additional numbering resources apart from the general waiver process.<sup>1</sup> Specifically, the FCC granted to state Commissions the authority to direct the Number Pooling Administrator to release numbers to a company to satisfy a specific customer request that cannot be met with the company’s current inventory provided the company documents the customer request and submits current proof of utilization.
- 5 Commission staff (Staff) has reviewed the Company’s filing. Staff finds that the Company’s request contains sufficient detail and current proof of utilization, and that granting the request is in the public interest because releasing additional number blocks will support community and economic development. Accordingly, Staff recommends the Commission order the Number Pooling Administrator to open one code of 10,000 numbers, specifically in the 206 NPA, Des Moines rate center, for CenturyLink.

#### FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6 (1) The 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.
- 7 (2) CenturyLink is a telecommunications company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 8 (3) The Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the Act) allows the FCC to establish rules to implement the Act and delegate authority to state Commissions.
- 9 (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 companies 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

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<sup>1</sup> *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).

numbering resources to companies that have demonstrated a verifiable need for additional numbering resources.

- 10 (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 Act.
- 11 (6) Normally, additional numbering resources are granted only when existing resources are forecasted to exhaust within six months.<sup>2</sup>
- 12 (7) The Number Pooling Administrator's website reports an inventory of 2 blocks of 1,000 numbers in the Des Moines rate center, and the NANPA's Web site reports that the 206 NPA is forecasted to exhaust in the first quarter of 2024.
- 13 (8) The request is being made to meet the requirements for a large federal government entity. Of the numbers requested, all will be used within six months. Staff finds that the request is in the public interest.
- 14 (9) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on May 31, 2017.
- 15 (10) The Commission has reviewed the request and concludes that the Company has demonstrated a legitimate need for numbers to meet a customer requirement. Accordingly, the Commission will order the Number Pooling Administrator to release one code of 10,000 numbers in the Des Moines rate center CenturyLink.

### ORDER

#### THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 16 (1) The Number Pooling Administrator must open one code of 10,000 numbers, specifically in the 206 NPA, Des Moines rate center, for Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink.
- 17 (2) The Commission retains jurisdiction over this matter to take such future actions as may be appropriate.

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<sup>2</sup> 47 CFR 52.15(g)(3)(iii).

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

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective May 31, 2017.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

STEVEN V. KING, Executive Director and Secretary

**NOTICE:** This is an order delegated to the Secretary for decision. In addition to serving you a copy of the decision, the Commission will post on its Internet Web site for at least 14 days a listing of all matters delegated to the Secretary for decision. You may seek Commission review of this decision. You must file a request for Commission review of this order no later than fourteen (14) days after the date the decision is posted on the Commission's Web site. The Commission will schedule your request for review for consideration at a regularly scheduled open meeting. The Commission will notify you of the time and place of the open meeting at which the Commission will review the order.

The Commission will grant a late-filed request for review only on a showing of good cause, including a satisfactory explanation of why the person did not timely file the request. A form for late-filed requests is available on the Commission's Web site.

This notice and review process is pursuant to the provisions of RCW 80.01.030 and WAC 480-07-904(2) and (3).