

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Request of	DOCKET UT-170838
ELECTRIC LIGHTWAVE, LLC d/b/a ALLSTREAM	ORDER 01
For Assignment of Telephone Numbering Resources	ORDER ASSIGNING NUMBERING RESOURCES

BACKGROUND

- 1 On July 26, 2017, Electric Lightwave, LLC d/b/a Allstream (Electric Lightwave 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 to direct the Number Pooling Administrator to provide eight blocks of 1,000 sequential numbers in the 564 Numbering Plan Area (NPA), Vancouver rate center. The request is being made to meet the requirements for a large government entity. All of the numbers requested will be used within six months.
- 2 Telephone companies commonly hold and manage a reasonable inventory of telephone numbers in the areas where they provide service. When a company needs more numbers, 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 web site reports an inventory of 777 codes in the 564 NPA and two blocks of 1,000 numbers in the Vancouver rate center. The North American Numbering Plan Administrator's (NANPA's) web site reports that the 564 NPA is forecasted to exhaust in 2047.
- 4 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 numbers for extenuating circumstances that do not meet NANPA's existing criteria. Electric Lightwave 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.

5 The FCC 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.¹ Specifically, the FCC granted to state
Commissions the authority to direct the Number Pooling Administrator to release eight
blocks of 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.

6 Commission staff (Staff) reviewed the Company’s request and concluded that it in the
public interest to support community and economic development. Accordingly, Staff
recommends the Commission grant the Company’s request.

DISCUSSION

7 We agree with Staff’s recommendation and grant the Company’s request. We find that
the request is in the public interest because the number blocks will be used to meet the
requirements for a large government entity, the numbers will be used within six months,
and the Company provided documentation of the customer’s request and current proof of
utilization.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

8 (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.

9 (2) Electric Lightwave is a telecommunications company and a public service
company subject to Commission jurisdiction.

10 (3) The Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the Act) allows the FCC to establish rules
to implement the Act and delegate authority to state commissions.

11 (4) The FCC has created a “safety valve” mechanism within the framework of
number resource management and delegated to the Commission authority to grant

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).

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

- 12 (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.
- 13 (6) Normally, additional numbering resources are granted only when existing resources are forecasted to exhaust within six months.²
- 14 (7) The Number Pooling Administrator's Web site reports an inventory of two blocks of 1,000 numbers in the Vancouver rate center, and the NANPA's web site reports that the 564 NPA is forecasted to exhaust in 2047.
- 15 (8) The request is being made to meet the requirements for a large government entity. Of the numbers requested, all will be used within six months. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that the request is in the public interest.
- 16 (9) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on August 10, 2017.
- 17 (10) The Commission has reviewed the request and concludes that the Company has demonstrated a legitimate need for numbers to meet a customer requirement. The Number Pooling Administrator should be required to release 8,000 sequential numbers in the Vancouver rate center to Electric Lightwave.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 18 (1) The Number Pooling Administrator to release eight blocks of 1,000 numbers, specifically in the 564 NPA, Vancouver rate center, for Electric Lightwave, LLC d/b/a Allstream.
- 19 (2) The Commission retains jurisdiction over this matter to take such future actions as may be appropriate.

² 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 August 10, 2017.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

STEVEN V. KING, Executive Director and Secretary