

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

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) DOCKET NO. UT-991627  
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IN THE MATTER OF THE ) ORDER GRANTING DELAY  
INVESTIGATION INTO THE ISSUE ) IN IMPLEMENTATION OF  
OF NUMBERING RESOURCES ) NUMBER POOLING TRIAL  
..... ) IN AREA CODE 509  
..... )

**BACKGROUND**

- 1       The Commission on November 30, 2000, directed all telecommunication companies with prefixes in rate centers serving the Spokane metropolitan statistical area and with switches capable of local number portability to implement a thousand-number block pooling trial by July 8, 2001. Number pooling involves the sharing of three-digit telephone prefixes among two or more telecommunications carriers; its purpose is to reduce the inefficiency with which telecommunications companies use the limited supply of telephone prefixes.
  
- 2       The telecommunications industry, working with the state's designated interim number pooling administrator, has moved forward with implementation of the pooling trial, primarily by preparing the detailed information required to implement number pooling. Some companies have gone beyond the requirements of the Commission's order by developing plans to implement pooling to some rate centers outside the Spokane area.
  
- 3       On June 26, 2001, the telecommunications industry participants requested a delay in the July 8, 2001, implementation date. The basis for the request was that the software upgrade that was developed to implement number pooling on an efficient basis had produced an unanticipated problem for the delivery systems in handling heavy volumes of use.
  
- 4       The industry members asked that the Commission delay the pooling implementation date for six months. The industry committed to implementation in less than six months if the software problems are corrected soon enough.

5 The industry members also asked the Commission to reiterate the need for all carriers to protect the thousand-number blocks of telephone numbers that would be used in the pooling trial.

**FINDINGS**

6 This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled open Meeting on July 11, 2001. The Commissioners, having been fully advised in the matter, and having determined the following order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter the following order and related provisions.

**ORDER**

7 The Commission grants a delay until January 8, 2002, of the deadline to implement a thousand-number pooling trial in the rate centers within the Spokane metropolitan statistical area.

8 The Commission directs the industry participants to notify the Commission when the software modifications are completed to address the problems with heavy volumes of use and to protect all uncontaminated thousand-number blocks in conformance with industry numbering guidelines.

9 The Commission retains jurisdiction over this matter to issue such future orders and take such future action as may be appropriate.

DATED at Olympia, Washington and effective this 11th day of July, 2001.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary