

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE)	DOCKET NO. UT-991627	SERVICE DATE
INVESTIGATION INTO THE ISSUE)		
OF NUMBERING RESOURCES)	ORDER REQUIRING A	SEP 17 2001
.....)	NUMBER POOLING TRIAL	
)	IN AREA CODE 360	

FINDINGS OF FACT

1 On July 20, 2000, the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) delegated to the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) authority to implement thousand-number block pooling in Washington. *In re Numbering Resource Optimization Implementation of Local Competition Provisions of Telecommunications Act of 1996*, 2000 WL 991629 (F.C.C., July 20, 2000) (No. DA 00-1616, NSD L-99-100, NSD L-99-82, CC 99-200, NSD L-00-16, NSD L-99-96, CC 99-9698, NSD L-99-98, NSD L-00-08).

2 Thousand-number block number pooling involves the sharing of telephone prefixes by more than one telecommunications company offering service in a particular area. The FCC has concluded that pooling is “an important numbering resource optimization strategy, essential to extending the life of the [North American Numbering Plan].” Moreover, the FCC has found that “[d]elaying thousands-block number pooling in the state of Washington has the potential to perpetuate the current numbering crisis in the state of Washington.” *Id.* at 24.

3 The Commission’s authority is limited in several ways, including the pace at which it can require companies to implement pooling, the type of companies that can be required to participate, the need to conform to industry-developed pooling guidelines, and the allocation and recovery of costs incurred in such a pooling trial.

4 The FCC’s delegation of authority was in response to a petition filed by the Commission on December 10, 1999, which was supplemented on April 27, 2000, in response to the FCC’s March 31, 2000, Number Resource Optimization order. *See In the Matter of Numbering Resource Optimization*, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 15 FCC Rcd 7574, CC Docket No. 99-200, FCC 00-104 (March 20, 2000).

5 In anticipation of the FCC delegation of authority, the Commission on February 23, 2000, directed the telecommunications industry to develop an implementation plan for a number pooling trial. In response to this directive, the Technical Subcommittee of the Washington Exchange Carrier Association (WECA) submitted its *Generic Pooling Plan for Washington* on September 26, 2000.

6 Staff recommended that number pooling be required only in those rate centers where local number portability is implemented, which is one of the requirements of the FCC's delegated authority.

7 The Commission ordered further delay in the implementation in the overlay of area code 564 over western Washington, until at least October 2002 in its Open Meeting of August 22, 2001. In its deliberations, the Commission recommended that industry implement number pooling in area code 360, and other conservation measures, to allow additional delay in the overlay.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

8 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.

9 Based on the Commission's findings of fact in this matter, the Commission concludes that a number pooling trial should be implemented in area code 360.

ORDER

- 10 (1) The Commission directs the state's interim number pooling administrator, Neustar, Inc., to initiate a number pooling trial in all rate centers in area code 360 that have switches capable of local number portability and to conduct the first implementation meeting for the trial by September 27, 2001.
- 11 (2) The Commission directs each service provider with prefixes assigned in area code 360 to cooperate with the interim number pooling administrator in implementing the requirements of this order and to fulfill all service provider responsibilities as set out in the WECA number pooling plan.
- 12 (3) The Commission retains jurisdiction over this matter to issue such future orders and take such future actions as may be appropriate.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this ^{14~~th~~} day of September, 2001.


WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION



MARILYN SHOWALTER, Chairwoman



RICHARD HEMSTAD, Commissioner



PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner