

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Request of

COMCAST PHONE OF  
WASHINGTON d/b/a COMCAST  
DIGITAL PHONE

For Assignment of Telephone  
Numbering Resources

DOCKET UT-161276

ORDER 01

ORDER ASSIGNING  
NUMBERING RESOURCES

**BACKGROUND**

- 1 On December 7, 2016, Comcast Phone of Washington d/b/a Comcast Digital Phone (Comcast or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a request to direct the Number Pooling Administrator to provide five blocks of 1,000 sequential numbers in the 360 Numbering Plan Area (NPA), Ridgefield rate center. The Company is seeking additional number blocks to meet the requirements for a large tribal commercial center. All of the requested numbers 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 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 of 20 codes in the 360 NPA and two blocks of 1,000 numbers in the Ridgefield rate center. The North American Numbering Plan Administrator's (NANPA's) website reports that the 360 NPA is forecasted to exhaust in the first quarter of 2018. Accordingly, Comcast's request does not meet NANPA's criteria.
- 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 codes of numbers for extenuating circumstances that do not meet NANPA's existing criteria.
- 5 The FCC also 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 five 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 Staff reviewed the Company's request and finds that it should be granted. Comcast provided the Commission with a detailed inventory of number resources and proof of utilization in the rate center. The Company also stated in its request that it will adhere to the requirement of reviewing number resources and comply with the requirements of NANPA and the Pooling Administrator regarding the return of unused numbers. Staff finds that the request is in the public interest because it supports community and economic development. Accordingly, Staff recommends the Commission grant Comcast's request.

### FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 7 (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.
- 8 (2) Comcast is a telecommunications company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 9 (3) The Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the Act) allows the FCC to establish rules implementing the Act and delegating authority to state Commissions.
- 10 (4) 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 (5) The Number Pooling Administrator's website reports an inventory of two blocks of 1,000 numbers in the Ridgefield rate center, and the NANPA's website reports that the 360 NPA is forecasted to exhaust in the first quarter of 2018.

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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).

- 12 (6) Comcast is seeking additional number blocks to meet the requirements for a large tribal commercial center. All of the requested numbers will be used within six months.
- 13 (7) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on January 12, 2017.
- 14 (8) The Commission has reviewed the request and concludes that the Company has demonstrated a legitimate need for numbers to meet a customer requirement, and that the request is in the public interest. Accordingly, the Commission should order the Number Pooling Administrator to release 5,000 numbers in the Ridgefield rate center to Comcast.

### ORDER

#### THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 15 (1) The Number Pooling Administrator must release five blocks of 1,000 numbers in the 360 NPA, Ridgefield rate center for Comcast Phone of Washington d/b/a Comcast.
- 16 (2) The Commission retains jurisdiction over this matter to take such future actions as may be appropriate.

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 January 12, 2017.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

STEVEN V. KING, Executive Director and Secretary