

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Request of)	DOCKET UT-071650
)	
VERIZON NORTHWEST INC.,)	ORDER 01
)	
For Assignment of Telephone Number)	ORDER ASSIGNING NUMBERING
Resources)	RESOURCES
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 Verizon Northwest Inc. (Verizon or Company), requested on August 6, 2007, that the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) overturn the numbering administrator's decision to withhold numbering resources and direct the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Pooling Administrator to provide three one thousand number blocks in the 360 area code, Mount Vernon rate center. The customer, Skagit Valley Hospital, has expanded the hospital campus and facilities with a significant increase in employees and lines. This hospital serves Skagit County and portions of Island, North Snohomish and San Juan Counties.

- 2 In Docket UT-070588 on March 23, 2007, the Commission granted Verizon number resources for this customer. Further evaluation determined the customer requires an additional two (2) one-thousand number blocks in the 360-814-6000 and 7000 blocks. The Mount Vernon rate center does not have available the consecutive numbers the customer requests. Verizon submitted a request to the Pooling Administrator, NeuStar, Inc., for additional numbering resources in the rate center, however, the request was denied as the serving central office does not meet the utilization level established by the FCC.

- 3 The Pooling Administrator will only accept an exception request with a waiver from the Commission. The Commission investigated the Company's request in order to address number conservation measures in the area code and found no reason to disapprove it. Verizon will adhere to the requirement to review numbering resources and the Company will comply with the requirements of the FCC's North American Number Plan Administrator and Pooling Administrator regarding the return of numbers. Verizon provided the Commission with the customer's request, detailed data, and provided detailed inventory for number resources and proof of utilization in the rate center. The FCC granted state commissions the authority to direct the Pooling Administrator to

release numbers to a carrier to satisfy a specific customer request that can not be met with the carrier's current inventory. The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter and authority to take action.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4 (1) On December 28, 2001, the FCC issued an order establishing a "safety valve" allowing carriers 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 Pooling Administrator to release numbers to a carrier to satisfy a specific customer request that can not be met with the carrier's current inventory.²
- 5 (2) 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.
- 6 (3) Normally, additional numbering resources are granted only when existing resources are forecasted to exhaust within six months.
- 7 (4) The 360 area code is projected to exhaust in the fourth quarter of 2010.
- 8 (5) Additional numbering resources are normally granted only when existing resources are forecasted to exhaust within six months.
- 9 (6) The allocation of the requested number resources is necessary to sustain and expand hospital resources for a three county area. A consecutive number plan for growth will facilitate communications, hospital resource identity, and streamline costs associated with programs and education. It is therefore consistent with the public interest.

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 (2000), ¶¶ #57-66).

² *Id.* at 64.

- 10 (6) The requested allocation will not unduly and adversely affect the present availability of numbers in the state.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 11 (1) Neustar, Inc., acting as the Pooling Administrator, may release two (2) one thousand number blocks in the Mount Vernon rate center, area code 360, to Verizon Northwest Inc.
- 12 (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 Executive Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective August 29, 2007.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Executive Secretary