

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

In the Matter of the Request of)	DOCKET NO. UT-051728
)	
QWEST CORPORATION,)	ORDER NO. 01
)	
For Assignment of Telephone)	ORDER ASSIGNING
Number Resources)	NUMBERING RESOURCES
.....)	

BACKGROUND

1 Qwest Corporation, (Qwest or Company) requested on November 10, 2005, that the Commission overturn the numbering administrator's decision to withhold numbering resources and direct the Pooling Administrator to provide one full number code in the 253 area code, excluding NX0 and NX3. Qwest's inventory of telephone numbers for assignment in the Kent rate center does not meet the special needs of this large customer operating in the area. Qwest submitted a request to the Pooling Administrator for additional numbering resources in the rate center, however, the request was denied as Qwest did not meet the months to exhaust threshold. Qwest provided the Commission with the customer request and proof of utilization in the rate center.

The customer is a large school district with forty schools. The district requested a full number code (NXX) to address a telecommunications standard that requires an increase in telephone numbers, a transition to a new system, including a platform to accommodate Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) services. The project plans anticipate completion over three years with the first phase beginning in the first quarter of 2006. The customer has committed to return existing number blocks to Qwest over the course of the project. Qwest will return those blocks to the NeuStar Number Pooling Administrator's inventory for the 253 area code. Qwest donated four number blocks in the 253 area code in 2005 and has none available for donation at this time.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 2 (1) On December 28, 2001, the Federal Communications Commission (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. (*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.) Specifically, the FCC granted to state commissions the authority to direct the Pooling Administrator (Neustar) to release numbers to a carrier to satisfy a specific customer request that can not be met with the carrier’s current inventory. (*Id.* ¶ 64).
- 3 (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.
- 4 (3) Normally, additional numbering resources are granted only when existing resources are forecasted to exhaust within six months. [*47 CFR 52.15(g)(3)(iii)*].
- 5 (4) The Pooling Administrator website reports an inventory of seventy four number blocks available in the Kent rate center, and indicates that the exhaust of area code 253 is scheduled for the fourth quarter of 2021.
- 6 (5) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on November 30, 2005.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 7 (1) Neustar, Inc., acting as Pooling Administrator, to release one number code (NXX) in the Kent rate center, area code 253, to Qwest Corporation.
- 8 (2) The Commission retains jurisdiction over this matter to take such future actions as may be appropriate.

The Commissioners, having been fully advised in the matter, and having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter the Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 30th day of November, 2005.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary