

[Service Date May 29, 2007]

May 29, 2007

**NOTICE OF DEADLINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE 509 AREA CODE MANDATORY POOLING
(By June 29, 2007)**

RE: *In the Matter of the Conservation of Numbering Resources,*
Docket UT-060012

TO INTERESTED PERSONS:

On April 25, 2007, the NeuStar Number Pooling Administrator (Administrator), an entity designated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to manage numbering resources and implement mandatory number pooling, conducted a telecommunications industry meeting. The meeting addressed pooling requirements, deadlines, and mandatory pooling implementation criteria. All telecommunications companies holding resources in the 509 area code rate centers were invited to the meeting by the Administrator.

Area codes are also called “Numbering Plan Areas” or “NPAs”. Telecommunications companies using numbers in the 509 area code rate centers, and who may be interested in this proceeding, are listed in Appendix A to this notice.

At the April 25, 2007, meeting, the Administrator identified **June 29, 2007, as the deadline for completing mandatory rate center number pooling in the 509 area code**. The specific tasks that must be completed by carriers by this deadline are listed in the Administrator’s meeting minutes attached as Appendix B to this notice.¹ On May 17, 2007, the Pooling Administrator sent an electronic e-mail with the meeting minutes attached directly to those service providers that hold numbering resources in the affected rate centers.

¹ The April 25, 2007, Pooling Administrator meeting minutes may be found at www.nationalpooling.com.

On March 28, 2007, the Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) ordered mandatory number pooling by telecommunications companies or carriers in all rate centers in the 509 area code in Order 01 entered in this docket.² The Commission's order may be found on the Commission's website at www.wutc.wa.gov/060012.

What is thousands–block number pooling?

When a telecommunications company offers service to a new customer, it usually needs to offer that customer a telephone number. Historically, telecommunications companies received from the Administrator a block of 10,000 telephone numbers at a time, which is the maximum number of telephone numbers available under a specific “prefix,” such as “644”-XXXX.³

Within an area code or NPA (such as 360 or 509 in Washington) there are a finite number of prefixes. Therefore, while there is a very large number of telephone numbers available within an area code, that number is finite.

Eventually, the emergence of competition, the development of new technologies and population growth will cause the available telephone numbers within an area code to

² Historically, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has had exclusive jurisdiction for allocating telephone numbers for telecommunications companies in this state. *E.g.*, 47 U.S.C. § 251(e) (FCC is granted authority to administer the portions of the “North American Numbering Plan” that apply to the United States). However, on December 6, 2005 the Commission petitioned the FCC to grant it authority to implement mandatory thousands-block number pooling within the 360 and 509 NPAs. The FCC granted the Commission's petition on November 9, 2006. Commission of Ohio, Petition of the New York State Department of Public Service for Mandatory Pooling, Petition of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission for Mandatory Number Pooling, the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission's Petition for Delegated Authority to Implement Additional Number Conservation Measures, CC Docket No. 99-200, DA 06-2299 (November 9, 2006).

³ The Pooling Administrator is the entity charged with overseeing the assignment of area codes, three-digit central office codes, and other “numbering resources” throughout the North American Numbering Plan Area (NANPA), which includes Washington. The Pooling Administrator also works with the telecommunications industry in developing area code relief plans. Neustar, Inc. is currently the Pooling Administrator for the NANPA. Neustar, Inc. was selected by the FCC for this role.

be used up, and one or more new area codes will need to be created. However, conservation measures are available to forestall the need for creating new area codes.

One such conservation measure is the implementation of “thousands-block number pooling.” Thousands-block number pooling means each block of 10,000 telephone numbers is broken down into 10 blocks of 1,000 numbers each. These 10 blocks of 1,000 numbers are “pooled,” which means each block of 1,000 telephone numbers is available to different telecommunications companies.⁴ This measure more efficiently uses available telephone numbers, and significantly delays the need for new area codes. The Commission’s Order 02 in this docket orders all telecommunications companies or carriers in all rate centers in the 509 area code to implement mandatory number pooling. This notice advises carriers that **the deadline for implementing mandatory number pooling is June 29, 2007.**

Questions regarding this proceeding may be addressed to Rebecca Beaton at the above address, by telephone at (360) 664-1287, or e-mail at rbeaton@utc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

CAROLE J. WASHBURN
Executive Secretary

⁴ For example, assume a particular telecommunications company needed only 500 new telephone numbers. Without thousands-block number pooling, that company would receive 10,000 numbers, thus “stranding” some 9,500 numbers until the company acquired thousands of new customers, which could take years. By contrast, under thousands-block number pooling, that company would receive a block of 1,000 numbers, and the remaining 9,000 numbers in the original 10,000 number block would be available immediately to customers of other companies.