

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Request of

ELECTRIC LIGHTWAVE, LLC d/b/a
ALLSTREAM

For Assignment of Telephone Numbering
Resources

DOCKET UT-181024

ORDER 01

ORDER ASSIGNING
NUMBERING RESOURCES

BACKGROUND

- 1 On December 13, 2018, Electric Lightwave, LLC d/b/a Allstream (Allstream or company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a request to overturn the Number Pooling Administrator’s decision to withhold numbering resources and direct the Number Pooling Administrator to provide 1,400 sequential numbers from an unused code in the 206 Numbering Plan Area (NPA) for the Seattle Rate Center. The request is being made to meet a customer’s network expansion and compliance with requirements for 911 access. All of the numbers requested 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 a 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 114 unassigned codes in the 206 NPA. The North American Numbering Plan Administrator’s (NANPA’s) website reports the 206 NPA is forecasted to exhaust in 2028.
- 4 The Federal Communications Commission (FCC), in its Third Report and Order, FCC 01-362, CC Docket 96-911 and 99-200, delegated authority to the Commission to direct NANPA to release numbers for extenuating circumstances that do not meet NANPA’s existing criteria. The FCC’s order established 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.¹ Specifically, the FCC granted to state commissions the authority to direct the Number Pooling Administrator to release numbers to a company to satisfy a specific customer request that cannot be met by that company's current inventory, provided the company documents the customer request and submits current proof of utilization.

5 Allstream provided the Commission with a detailed inventory of number resources and proof of utilization in the rate center. The Company will adhere to the requirement of reviewing number resources and will comply with the requirements of the NANPA and the Pooling Administrator regarding the return of unused numbers.

6 Commission staff (Staff) reviewed the Company's request and concluded that it is in the public interest because it will support public safety and economic development. Accordingly, Staff recommends the Commission grant the company's request.

DISCUSSION

7 We agree with Staff's recommendation and grant the Company's request. We find that the request is in the public interest. The number blocks will be used by Allstream to meet a customer's network expansion. The numbers will all be used within six months and the Company will adhere to the requirements of reviewing number resources and the requirements of the NANPA and the Pooling Administrator regarding the return of unused numbers. Granting the Company's request will also promote compliance with requirements for 911 access. And, finally, the Company provided documentation of its customer's request and current proof of utilization to the Commission. Accordingly, we find that the Company has demonstrated a legitimate need for numbers to meet a customer's request and granting the Company's request is in the public interest.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

8 (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.

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, ¶¶ 57-66 (Rel. December 21, 2001).

- 9 (2) Allstream is a telecommunications company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 10 (3) The Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the Act) allows the FCC to establish rules to implement the Act and delegate authority to state Commissions.
- 11 (4) The FCC has created a “safety valve” mechanism within the framework of number resource management and delegated to the Commission authority to grant requests by companies that receive a specific customer request for numbering resources that exceeds their available inventory. The FCC has also given states the flexibility to direct the Number Pooling Administrator to assign additional numbering resources to companies that have demonstrated a verifiable need for additional numbering resources.
- 12 (5) 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.
- 13 (6) Normally, additional numbering resources are granted only when existing resources are forecasted to exhaust within six months.²
- 14 (7) The Number Pooling Administrator’s website reports an inventory of 114 codes in the 206 NPA, and the NANPA’s website reports that the 206 NPA is forecasted to exhaust in 2028.
- 15 (8) The request is being made to meet the requirements for a telecommunications company. All of the requested numbers will be used within six months.
- 16 (9) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on January 10, 2019.
- 17 (10) The Commission has reviewed the request and concludes that the Company has demonstrated a legitimate need for numbers to meet a customer’s request and granting the Company’s request is in the public interest. Accordingly, the Commission will order the Number Pooling Administrator to release 1,400

² 47 CFR 52.15(g)(3)(iii).

sequential numbers in the 206 NPA from an unused code, Seattle Rate Center, to Allstream.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 18* (1) The Number Pooling Administrator must release 1,400 sequential numbers from an unused code, specifically in the 206 Numbering Plan Area, Seattle Rate Center, to Electric Lightwave, LLC d/b/a Allstream.
- 19* (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 10, 2019.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARK L. JOHNSON, Executive Director and Secretary