

RE: WA Rate Center Consolidations  
Informal staff response to Future of Numbering Workgroup Survey  
Rebecca Beaton  
5/24/06

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission has had an extensive program to consolidate rate centers in Washington with a specific focus on the 360 NPA in recent years. Rate center consolidations have a demonstrated record of improving number utilization and allowing successful conservation of resources.

Between 1999 and 2006 there have been numerous rate center consolidations in Verizon, Qwest, and Century Tel territories in Washington in several NPA's. The most recent were completed by Verizon in March, 2006 in the northwest portion of Washington's 360 NPA by order in UT-040788. Additionally, Century Tel completed a rate center consolidation in western Washington in the 253 NPA in January, 2006.

In 1998 there were 304 rate centers in Washington state with 128 in the 360 NPA. In May, 2006 there are 246 rate centers state wide with 79 in the 360 NPA.

Commission staff members are currently reviewing potential rate center consolidations in the southwest region of WA and in eastern WA in the 360 NPA and 509 NPA. The areas under investigation for potential rate center consolidations include the following ILECs as well as several Washington Independent Telecom Companies (WITA): TDS, Qwest, Century Tel, Verizon. Rate center consolidations have assisted in conserving the life of the 360 and 509 NPA's. Information and orders pertaining to rate center consolidations may be found in the following commission dockets: UT-991627, UT-021323, UT-002030, UT-040788, UT-042183, UT-051807, UT-060012 ([www.wutc.wa.gov](http://www.wutc.wa.gov))

Please note Verizon, Qwest, and Century Tel completed some rate center consolidations without direct Commission order between 1999 and 2006. Telcordia and NeuStar records reflect all rate center consolidations completed in Washington state through both commission order and through industry accord. See below in bold my responses to the survey.

Thank you,  
Rebecca Beaton/WUTC/360.664.1287/rbeaton@wutc.wa.gov

**SURVEY by: Future of Numbering Workgroup**  
**Responder: Rebecca Beaton, WUTC**  
**Date: 05/24/06**

The North American Numbering Council's Future of Numbering Working Group (FoN WG) is evaluating how changes in technologies and/or the use of numbering resources may be impacting the life of the North American Numbering Plan.

One of the topics under discussion is Rate Center Consolidation (RCC). It is the FoN's understanding that RCCs can be proposed and implemented by different entities, for different reasons. To better determine the magnitude and impact of RCC on numbering resource optimization, the FoN would appreciate input from states where RCC have taken place.

Please provide the following information for each RCC considered in your state from

1996 to the present.

**Informal staff response on WA Rate Center Consolidations (RCC's) to FoN working group:**  
Area Code rate centers located in:

***Washington State NPA's: 360, 509, 425, 253, 206***

Rate Centers considered for consolidation:

***Reference for specific rate centers: Telcordia records, NeuStar records, information and orders in WUTC dockets: UT-991627, UT-021323, UT-042183. UT-002030, UT-040788, UT-051807, UT-060012 (www.wutc.wa.gov)***

Carriers involved:

***Verizon, Qwest, Century Tel***

Was RCC approved (accepted) / denied (rejected)?

***Rate Center Consolidations were completed via Commission order and via industry accord between 1999-2006. Reference noted docket numbers and memo's related to activities.***

Dates of approval / denial

***1998, 2000, 2002, 2005, 2006***

Primary Reason for approval / denial

***Conservation of numbering resources and efficient use of existing resources to prevent exhaust of NPAs.***

Secondary Reasons for approval / denial

***N/A***

Number of Rate Centers prior to consolidation

***Washington State Rate Centers***

***1998-statewide: 304***

***1998-360 NPA: 128***

Number of Rate Centers after consolidation

***2006: statewide: 246***

***2006: 360 NPA: 79***

Known impact on NPA life

**Reference: UT-021323, UT-040788, UT-051103**

***Since 1999 the WUTC and the telecom industry have engaged in multi-pronged efforts to improve the efficiency with which numbers are utilized. Rate center consolidation allows more customers to be served and requires fewer prefixes to cover the same geographic area. Rate center consolidation is particularly useful in areas where expansion of the local calling area has made smaller geographic designations redundant. Rate Center consolidation has helped the WUTC postpone exhaust of the 509 and 360 NPAs.***