

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Request that Pooling Administrator (PA) be directed to provide uncontaminated 1,000-number blocks in Tampa, by Verizon Florida Inc.

DOCKET NO. 040926-TL
ORDER NO. PSC-04-0843-PAA-TL
ISSUED: August 30, 2004

NOTICE OF PROPOSED AGENCY ACTION
ORDER DIRECTING NEUSTAR TO PROVIDE VERIZON FLORIDA, INC.
WITH ADDITIONAL NUMBERING RESOURCES

BY THE COMMISSION:

NOTICE is hereby given by the Florida Public Service Commission that the action discussed herein is preliminary in nature and will become final unless a person whose interests are substantially affected files a petition for a formal proceeding, pursuant to Rule 25-22.029, Florida Administrative Code.

BACKGROUND

On August 16, 2004, Verizon Florida, Inc. (Verizon) submitted an application to NeuStar requesting additional numbering resources, specifically two (2) 1,000 consecutive number blocks in the format of 813-XXX-1XXX, 813-XXX-2XXX, 813-XXX-4XXX, 813-XXX-5XXX, or 813-XXX-8XXX for the Tampa Central switch (UNVRFLXA97H) in the Tampa Central rate center.

On August 18, 2004, NeuStar denied the request for additional numbering resources in the Tampa Central switch (UNVRFLXA97H) because the company had not met the rate center months-to-exhaust (MTE) criteria currently required to obtain such additional numbering resources. On August 23, 2004, Verizon filed a petition for expedited review of NeuStar's denial of its application.

We are vested with jurisdiction pursuant to Sections 364.01 and 364.16(4), Florida Statutes, and 47 U.S.C. §151, and 47 C.F.R. §52.15(g)(3)(iv).

ANALYSIS

Prior to March 31, 2000, carriers submitting an application for additional numbering resources had to certify that existing codes associated with that switch, Point of Interface (POI), or rate center would exhaust within 12 months. In jeopardy Numbering Plan Areas (NPAs),

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applicants seeking additional numbering resources had to certify that existing NXX codes would exhaust within six months.

Pursuant to Order No. FCC 00-104¹ applicants must now show the MTE criteria by rate center instead of by switch, and have no more than a six-month inventory of telephone numbers. Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 52.15(g)(3)(iii):

All service providers shall maintain no more than a six-month inventory of telephone numbers in each rate center or service area in which it provides telecommunications service.

We believe that the new MTE criteria creates a disadvantage for carriers with multiple switch rate centers because it is now based on rate centers, rather than switches. One switch in a multiple-switch rate center may be near exhaust while the average MTE for the rate center is above six months, thus preventing a carrier from obtaining additional numbering resources for the switch near exhaust.

We conclude that the denial of additional numbering resources also poses a possible barrier to competition. A customer desiring service from one company may have to turn to another carrier simply because Verizon cannot meet the MTE rate center requirement. Another carrier who may have just one switch in the rate center, would have an advantage and may be able to obtain the additional numbering resources to provide the service. In Order No. DA 01-386², the FCC stated:

Under no circumstances should consumers be precluded from receiving telecommunications services of their choice from providers of their choice for want of numbering resources.

FCC No. DA 01-386 at ¶11.

A procedure is available to carriers who are denied additional numbering resources because of the rate center MTE requirement. Addressing additional numbering resources denials, 47 C.F.R. § 52.15(g)(3)(iv), states, in part:

¹Report and Order, CC Docket No. 99-200, In the Matter of Number Resource Optimization, Order No. FCC 00-104 (March 31, 2000)

²DA 01-386, CC Docket No. 99-200, CC Docket No. 96-98, In the Matter of Numbering Resource Optimization, Implementation of the Local Competition Provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (February 14, 2001)

The carrier may challenge NeuStar's decision to the appropriate state regulatory commission. The state regulatory commission may affirm or overturn the NeuStar decision to withhold numbering resources from the carrier based on its determination of compliance with the reporting and numbering resource application requirements herein.

Upon consideration of the information provided, it has been determined that the company has met the following criteria:

1. The carrier has demonstrated that it has customers in need of immediate numbering resources;
2. The carrier has shown that it is unable to provide services to a potential customer because of NeuStar's denial of the numbering resources; and
3. A potential customer cannot obtain service from the provider of his/her choice because the carrier does not have the numbers available.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, we find it appropriate to overturn NeuStar's decision to deny additional numbering resources, and direct NeuStar to provide Verizon with additional numbering resources consisting of two (2) 1,000 consecutive number blocks in the format of 813-XXX-1XXX, 813-XXX-2XXX, 813-XXX-4XXX, 813-XXX-5XXX, or 813-XXX-8XXX for the Tampa Central switch (UNVRFLXA97H) as soon as possible.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that NeuStar shall provide Verizon Florida, Inc. with additional numbering resources for the Tampa Central switch (UNVRFLXA97H) in the Tampa Central rate center as soon as possible, as reflected in the body of this Order. It is further

ORDERED that the provisions of this Order, issued as proposed agency action, shall become final and effective upon the issuance of a Consummating Order unless an appropriate petition, in the form provided by Rule 28-106.201, Florida Administrative Code, is received by the Director, Division of the Commission Clerk and Administrative Services, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, by the close of business on the date set forth in the "Notice of Further Proceedings" attached hereto. It is further

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ORDERED that in the event this Order becomes final, this Docket shall be closed.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission this 30th day of August, 2004.

BLANCA S. BAYÓ, Director
Division of the Commission Clerk
and Administrative Services

By: Kay Flynn
Kay Flynn, Chief
Bureau of Records

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NOTICE OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS OR JUDICIAL REVIEW

The Florida Public Service Commission is required by Section 120.569(1), Florida Statutes, to notify parties of any administrative hearing that is available under Section 120.57, Florida Statutes, as well as the procedures and time limits that apply. This notice should not be construed to mean all requests for an administrative hearing will be granted or result in the relief sought.

Mediation may be available on a case-by-case basis. If mediation is conducted, it does not affect a substantially interested person's right to a hearing.

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The action proposed herein is preliminary in nature. Any person whose substantial interests are affected by the action proposed by this order may file a petition for a formal proceeding, in the form provided by Rule 28-106.201, Florida Administrative Code. This petition must be received by the Director, Division of the Commission Clerk and Administrative Services, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, by the close of business on September 20, 2004.

In the absence of such a petition, this order shall become final and effective upon the issuance of a Consummating Order.

Any objection or protest filed in this/these docket(s) before the issuance date of this order is considered abandoned unless it satisfies the foregoing conditions and is renewed within the specified protest period.