

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Investigation of proposed updates to the Routing Data Base System (RDBS) and Business Rating Input Database System (BRIDS) affecting the Tampa telecommunications carriers.

DOCKET NO. 010102-TP
ORDER NO. PSC-01-1577-FOF-TP
ISSUED: July 31, 2001

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

J. TERRY DEASON
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MICHAEL A. PALECKI

APPEARANCES:

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FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK

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On behalf of the Commission Staff.

ORDER ON TAMPA RATE CENTER INVESTIGATION

BY THE COMMISSION:

BACKGROUND

On August 15, 2000, Verizon Florida, Inc. (Verizon) sent a letter to Tampa area code holders informing them of forthcoming updates to Telcordia's Routing Database System (RDBS) and Business Rating Input Database System (BRIDS). The updates, to be effective February 1, 2001, were intended to bring the Local Exchange Routing Guide (LERG) and Vertical and Horizontal Terminating Point Master (V+H/TPM) in sync with Verizon's current Florida tariff language. The letter notified the Tampa code holders that this would likely impact their entries in the RDBS and the BRIDS.

On October 25, 2000, we received a letter from an attorney on behalf of several Florida Alternate Local Exchange Companies (ALECs). The letter expressed concerns over the impact Verizon's updates would have on ALECs in the Tampa area. On November 17, 2000, we asked Verizon to delay the changes pending a study to determine the impact on ALECs and numbering resources.

On January 23, 2001, we received a letter from the attorney seeking immediate assistance on behalf of various ALECs, including ALLTEL, Intermedia, Sprint, Time-Warner, and WorldCom. They had been advised by Telcordia that the proposed changes to the RDBS and

BRIDS were going to be effective February 1, 2001, contrary to the Commission staff's November 17, 2000 request.

This Docket was opened, and on February 26, 2001, we issued Order No. PSC-01-0456-PAA-TP, ordering that Verizon immediately cease any further actions to modify the RDBS and BRIDS as it relates to the Tampa Rate Center designation. On Tuesday, March 27, 2001, an administrative hearing was conducted regarding this matter.

JURISDICTION

We have been authorized to address numbering issues pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §151 et. Seq., 47 C.F.R. §§ 52.3 and 52.19, FCC Order 99-249, FCC Order 00-104, and FCC Order 00-429. In accordance with 47 C.F.R. §§ 52.3:

The Commission (FCC) shall have exclusive authority over those portions of the North American Numbering Plan (NANP) that pertain to the United States. The Commission may delegate to the States or other entities any portion of such jurisdiction.

Furthermore, 47 C.F.R. §§ 52.19 provides, in part, that:

(a) State commissions may resolve matters involving the introduction of new area codes within their states. Such matters may include, but are not limited to: Directing whether area code relief will take the form of a geographic split, an overlay area code, or a boundary realignment; establishing new area code boundaries; establishing necessary dates for the implementation of area code relief plans; and directing public education efforts regarding area code changes.

The FCC issued Order 99-249 on September 15, 1999, granting this Commission's Petition for Delegation of Additional Authority to Implement Number Conservation Measures. Therein, the FCC granted the Commission interim authority to:

- (1) Institute thousand-block number pooling by all LNP-capable carriers in Florida;
- (2) Reclaim unused and reserved NXX codes;
- (3) Maintain rationing procedures for six months following area code relief;

- (4) Set numbering allocation standards;
- (5) Request number utilization data from all carriers;
- (6) Implement NXX code sharing; and
- (7) Implement rate center consolidations.

Furthermore, our jurisdiction, as set forth in Section 364.01, Florida Statutes, is broad. Specifically, Section 364.01(2), Florida Statutes, gives the Commission ". . . exclusive jurisdiction in all matters set forth in this chapter to the Florida Public Service Commission in regulating telecommunications companies . . ." Subsection (4)(a) provides that the Commission shall "Protect the public health, safety, and welfare by ensuring that basic telecommunications services are available to all consumers in the state at reasonable and affordable prices." Subsection (4)(i) states that the Commission shall also "Continue its historical role as a surrogate for competition for monopoly services provided by local exchange telecommunications companies." Furthermore, Section 364.15, Florida Statutes, authorizes us to compel repairs, improvements, changes, additions, or extensions to any telecommunications facility in order to promote the security or convenience of the public, or secure adequate service or facilities for telecommunications services.

Therefore, we have jurisdiction to address this matter.

AUTHORITY TO ORDER RATE CENTER CONSOLIDATION

On March 27, 2001, during the evidentiary hearing in this Docket, we specifically ordered the parties to brief the following question: Under current Florida and Federal Law, what is the extent of the Commission's authority to order rate center consolidation?

On April 13, 2001, BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. (BellSouth) filed its Motion for Leave to File Amicus Brief on the Limited Issue of Whether FPSC Has Authority to Order Rate Center Consolidation. In that Motion, BellSouth asserted that it had no prior notice that the issue would be addressed, as it was not referenced in the Prehearing Order. BellSouth further pleads that the issue is of great industry-wide importance, and any decision by this Commission will impact all ILECS.

We agree that the issue is of great importance to all carriers, and BellSouth has a substantial interest in any rulings

on this subject by the Commission. Also, the additional legal argument which may be provided by BellSouth will be beneficial in analyzing the issue. Accordingly, BellSouth's Motion for Leave to File Amicus Brief on Limited Issue of Whether FPSC Has Authority to Order Rate Center Consolidation is granted.

As for the issue itself, we recognize that this is an important issue which may impact our future number conservation efforts. Accordingly, it needs to be addressed. However, upon further reflection, a better course of action would be for us to defer consideration of this issue at this time.

This Docket specifically addresses Tampa Rate Center issues. Only the few carriers providing service in the Tampa Bay area were made aware at the hearing that a generic decision determining whether we have the authority to order rate center consolidation in Florida would be addressed in this docket. Therefore, the ALEC parties to this proceeding indicated in their post-hearing briefs that the rate center consolidation issues related to this docket should be examined in Docket No. 981444-TP, rather than in this Docket. BellSouth, in its Amicus Brief referenced above, also stated that "The question of whether the Commission has the authority to order rate center consolidation is an industry-wide issue not limited to the parties in this proceeding."

While notice is not an explicit legal impediment to us rendering a decision on this issue at this time, due to the broad nature of the issue and its potential impact on carriers that were not parties to this proceeding, this matter will be deferred and more fully addressed in a separate proceeding. The technical issues in this docket do not hinge on our rendering a decision on this legal issue. Therefore, deferring consideration of this matter will not impair our consideration of the remaining issues.

In order to achieve a finding which will endure and withstand both the legal and policy challenges which may follow, our staff is directed to expeditiously open a separate generic docket in which we can conduct a more in-depth analysis of the legal and technical aspects of rate center consolidation, in isolation of other distractions.

TAMPA MARKET AREA/TAMPA RATE CENTER(S)

The threshold question in the present Docket is whether the Tampa Market Area should be considered one rate center and, if not, what rate centers should be associated with the Tampa Market Area.

The Tampa Rate Center problems began when the Tampa central office code assignment duties were switched from Verizon (then known as GTE) to NeuStar in 1998. When Verizon handled the code assignment responsibilities, each code assignment was done manually and assigned to one of the five Tampa rate centers. When NeuStar assumed the code assignment responsibilities, it declined to manually process the code assignment requests. Instead, each new code assignment in the Tampa area was assigned as just Tampa, instead of to a specific rate center in Tampa. As a result, Verizon recognizes five rate centers in the Tampa area while ALECs recognize one rate center for the Tampa area. Since the time NeuStar assumed the code assignment responsibilities, carriers have been able to obtain a single NXX and use it throughout Verizon's five rate centers. Verizon believes that the carriers should recognize the five rate centers, and be required to obtain NXXs in each rate center in which they choose to do business.

Based on the evidence in the record, there appear to be six factors which need to be examined when determining whether Tampa should be considered one rate center or five rate centers:

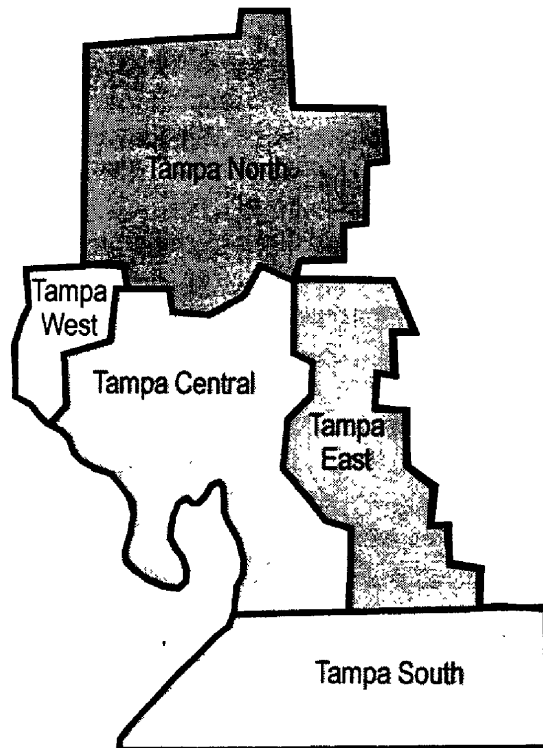
- 1) Tampa Market Area vs Tampa Rate Center;
- 2) Tampa Rate Center History;
- 3) Grand fathering of Existing Customers;
- 4) Number Portability;
- 5) Calling Scopes; and
- 6) Customer Rates.

TAMPA MARKET AREA vs TAMPA RATE CENTER - Based on the testimonies filed by the parties in this docket, there appears to be a misunderstanding as to what defines the Tampa Market Area. According to the Florida Telecommunications Industry Association, the State of Florida was divided by pre-defined Local Access and Transport Areas (LATAs). The Tampa Market Area LATA consists of the 727, 813, and portions of the 863 and 941 area codes.

In its post hearing statements, Verizon makes the distinction between the Tampa Rate Center and Tampa Market Area. We note that

the Tampa Market Area rate centers consist of Tampa, Plant City, Zephyrhills, Hudson, New Port Richey, Clearwater, St. Petersburg, Palmetto, Bradenton, Myakka, Sarasota, Venice, North Port, Englewood, Lakeland, Polk City, Haines City, Winter Haven, Bartow, Mulberry, Lake Wales, Frostproof, and Indian Lake. Verizon witness Menard stated that the Tampa Rate Center consists of Tampa Central, Tampa North, Tampa South, Tampa East, and Tampa West Rate Centers, as illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Schematic representation of Tampa rate centers in the 813 area code.



TAMPA RATE CENTER HISTORY - Verizon witness Menard testified that Verizon believes that the five rate centers in Tampa have existed for over 30 years. Further, she stated that the Commission's report on Extended Area Service (EAS) routes indicates that an EAS was created between Tampa South and Palmetto in 1969, and Tampa North and Zephyrhills in 1970.

When Verizon was the central office code (NXX) administrator responsible for assigning NXX codes, the 813 area code encompassed Verizon's territory and Sprint's territory. The code administrator was Verizon, who determined the calling scope of any new NXX through a manual process. Witness Menard stated that after Verizon transferred the code administration function, the new code administrator, NeuStar, stated that it would not continue the manual process to assign NXX codes. Verizon claims that there was no designation of the proper Tampa rate center in the LERG, as a result of NeuStar's refusal to continue the manual process.

Verizon witness Menard has demonstrated that section A.18 of the tariff shows the five Tampa rate centers, along with the required information for rating toll calls. Witness Menard also stated that all of Verizon's systems are programmed to recognize these five Tampa rate centers. AT&T witness Henderson agreed that Verizon's tariffs reflect five rate centers in Tampa. We note that GTE Florida's General Services Tariff, issued June 8, 1998, March 11, 1996, June 9, 1993, and January 26, 1988, included all five Tampa rate centers. WorldCom witness Thomas believes that Verizon's tariff does not match the information provided in the LERG.

In Verizon's post-hearing comments, witness Menard stated that Verizon's tariffs, not the LERG, are the definitive reference for determining how many rate centers Verizon has. Although the LERG is widely used by the industry as a reference, it is not approved by or otherwise officially sanctioned by us. It is not publicly available, but rather privately published by Telcordia and offered only by subscription. Verizon's tariffs and accompanying area code maps, on the other hand, are Commission-approved, publicly filed, and have the force of law. While the tariffs and underlying rate centers have existed for over 30 years, the LERG was first published only about 17 years ago.

Verizon witness Menard stated that the existing Tampa rate center issues were discussed at an industry forum known as the Common Interest Group on Routing and Rating (CIGGR). In these meetings, discussions were held regarding how to route and rate the calls in the network using the LERG/RDBS. Witness Menard provided a list of industry participants showing that every ILEC and ALEC in the Tampa region was invited to these meetings.

GRANDFATHERING EXISTING CUSTOMERS - In the CIGGR meetings, witness Menard stated that it was Verizon's intention that grandfathering of all NXXs currently assigned in the 813 area code would be allowed. In addition, if the carrier did not direct its NXXs to be located in a particular Tampa rate center, Verizon would assign these NXXs to the Tampa Central rate center. She also concluded that on a prospective basis, new NXXs in the 813 area code could be assigned to the proper Tampa rate center.

In his direct testimony, Intermedia witness Faul stated that if grandfathering were allowed in the 813 area code, the rating and routing problems would continue. He stated that Verizon witness Menard claimed that Verizon could not properly rate calls from its end users unless the ALECs use the five rate center designations. Based on the evidence in the record, it appears that rating and routing problems would continue if existing customers were grandfathered. In addition, witness Menard stated that the grandfathered customers would be allowed to add more lines in the ALECs' NXXs. However, on a prospective basis, new customers initiating service would not experience any routing or rating problems since they would be assigned to the rate center in which they reside. Based on our Comparative Rate Statistics, Verizon witness Menard's testimony, and other industry members' testimony, the majority of customers in the 813 area code are located in the Tampa Central area.

During the hearing, Intermedia witness Faul stated that if customers were grandfathered, they would not have to change telephone numbers under Verizon's proposal to grandfather all existing 813 NXX codes. He stated that "...we would have probably some network changes to make, and I'm not sure what would happen with that." Based on the evidence provided in this proceeding, there is insufficient evidence in the record to identify any potential network problem.

We find that all existing customers in the 813 area code shall be grandfathered as described in Verizon's proposal, but with a modification. The grandfathered customers shall be allowed to maintain their phone number regardless if they change carriers, as long as they are at the same location. Also, for rating purposes, the V+H/TPM coordinates in the existing Tampa region shall be maintained.

CALLING SCOPES - Verizon witness Menard stated that Verizon is not converting, expanding, or changing currently tariffed Tampa rate centers. She stated that Verizon is only correcting the RDBS, and its output product, the LERG, to correspond to its switches and its tariff. These corrections will not change the ALECs' calling scopes. However, witness Menard stated that if we require rate center consolidation in the Tampa area, it would require additional facilities because customers' calling scopes would change and, therefore, Verizon would need to change the facilities that it has in place.

NUMBER PORTABILITY - The Telecommunications Act of 1996 defines "number portability" as:

the ability of users of telecommunications services to retain, at the same location, existing telecommunications numbers without impairment of quality, reliability, or convenience when switching from one telecommunications carrier to another.

Customers within the Tampa rate center are paying \$0.38 per month for number portability. This fee is being collected every month for a five-year period. Verizon has been collecting the local number portability charge for approximately two years.

Although Verizon witness Menard stated that the acknowledgment of five rate centers would allow its billing systems to work properly, the number portability issues for ALECs could be a potential problem. For example, Intermedia witness Faul stated that customers would be assigned new telephone numbers if new rate centers are established. In fact, all of the ALECs claim that unless one Tampa rate center is maintained, the ALECs would need to change some of their customers' phone numbers because some customers' NXX would be served from a different Tampa rate center. However, if the grandfathering of existing customers is implemented and existing customers are allowed to maintain their phone number as long as they are at the same location regardless of whether they change carriers, this would not be an issue.

The ALECs claim, and Verizon agrees in part, that ALECs may need to obtain additional NXX codes to serve their customers in other Tampa rate centers in the Tampa region. WorldCom witness Thomas stated that if the Tampa rate center were kept at status quo

(one universal rate center), customers would be able to port their numbers "no matter where they were located."

AT&T witness Henderson stated that porting is allowed only within a rate center, and there are no exceptions. However, witness Henderson stated that if porting were allowed between rate centers, customers would not have to change their telephone numbers. WorldCom witness Thomas indicated that if the Tampa rate center had remained as it was prior to the February 1, 2001 changes by Verizon, customers would be able to port their numbers in the entire Tampa rate center, regardless of the switch to which their number was homed.

Verizon witness Menard stated that consistent rate centers are needed for porting purposes between the ALECs and Verizon. Witness Menard stated that Verizon cannot port a customer from Tampa West to Tampa Central because its systems are not designed to function that way. She also stated that Verizon proposed that all existing customers in the 813 area code, regardless of where they are located, would be grandfathered so that customers would not be required to change telephone numbers unless the customers change carriers. Based on the evidence in the record, this statement counters the intent of number portability. Number portability is intended to allow customers to maintain their telephone numbers when changing carriers.

In this proceeding, most of the parties, including Verizon, state that porting is allowed within a rate center. Since porting was allowed in the existing Tampa rate center, porting should still be allowed for grandfathered customers, even if new rate center structures are established per Verizon's tariff. Grandfathered customers residing at the same location should be allowed permanent number portability no matter where they were originally assigned within the five rate center structure. This is what the customers have been paying for on their monthly bills as local number portability charges.

It is crucial that grandfathered customers receive permanent local number portability capability. Customers should be allowed to maintain their phone number regardless if they change carriers, as long as they are at the same location. As stated in FCC Order 96-286 (¶2), "Number Portability is one of the obligations that Congress imposed on all local exchange carriers, both incumbents and new entrants, in order to promote the pro-competitive,

deregulatory markets it envisioned. Congress has recognized that number portability will lower barriers to entry and promote competition in the local exchange marketplace." In Order 96-286 (¶30-31), the FCC stated that number portability promotes competition between telecommunications service providers by, among other things, allowing customers to respond to price and service changes without changing their phone numbers. Conversely, the lack of number portability likely would deter entry by competitive providers of local service because of the value customers place on retaining their telephone numbers. To the extent that customers are reluctant to change service providers due to the absence of number portability, demand for services provided by the new entrants will be depressed. This could well discourage entry by new service providers and thereby frustrate the pro-competitive goals of the 1996 Act. In Order 97-289 (¶4), the FCC stated that, in practical terms, the benefits of competition will not be realized if new facilities-based entrants are unable to win customers from incumbent providers as a result of economic or operational barriers. We agree with the FCC's analysis, and believe it is applicable here.

Therefore, we find that all existing customers being grandfathered in Verizon's proposal, shall be allowed permanent number portability, and be allowed to maintain their phone number regardless if they change carriers, as long as they are at the same location.

CUSTOMER RATES - In the Joint Posthearing Brief of AT&T Communications of the Southern States, Inc, AT&T Wireless Services, Inc., Intermedia Communications, Inc., Time Warner Telecom, WorldCom, Inc., and XO Florida, Inc., the parties stated "...the grandfathering proposal would create situations where a Verizon customer would be charged two different rates to call the same location."

Verizon witness Menard acknowledged that, under the grandfathering proposal, there would be instances where a customer would be charged two different rates for calling the same location. If a Sprint customer in Dade City calls two different friends who are ALEC customers who live on the same street in the Tampa East rate center, the Sprint customer could pay an Extended Calling Service rate to one friend, but a toll call to another friend on the same street.

Verizon witness Menard stated that if Verizon were granted the assignment of NXXs based on the five Tampa rate center structure, customers' rates would not increase because Verizon would convert them to reflect how they were assigned in the LERG. She also stated that there would not be any intercarrier compensation issue because all the systems would be converted to treat them the same.

Based on the above, we find that the Tampa Market Area should not be considered one rate center. The Tampa Rate Center, located within the Tampa Market Area, shall consist of the Tampa Central, Tampa North, Tampa East, Tampa South, and Tampa West rate centers. All existing customers in the 813 area code shall be grandfathered as described in Verizon's proposal, but with one modification. The grandfathered customers will be allowed to maintain their telephone numbers regardless of whether they change carriers, as long as they are at the same location. In addition, all existing calling scopes shall be maintained exactly in place for billing and number portability purposes, and the V+H/TPM coordinates in the existing Tampa region shall be preserved. Further, the ALECs shall provide our staff with a list of all grandfathered NXXs by October 2, 2001, to enable our staff to review the effect of the modified grandfathering proposal on ALECs and customers within five years.

This finding shall not be implemented until thirty days after the effective date of the beginning of mandatory pooling. Our staff is directed to take measures to expedite mandatory pooling and, also, encourage participation by all affected ALECs.

IMPACT ON NUMBERING RESOURCES

Regarding the impact of multiple rate centers on numbering resources, NANPA witness Foley stated that two scenarios may occur based on his specific assumptions. The first assumption is that the carriers identified in the LERG as having operations in the 813 area code are accurate and each carrier uses only one Operating Company Number (OCN). Second, any new carriers entering the market in the Tampa area beyond those listed in the LERG are not taken into account. Third, the wireless carriers with CO codes in the Tampa rate center would not require any additional codes. Finally, Verizon has sufficient CO codes in the proposed rate centers. These assumptions are included in the following scenarios:

First Scenario: Witness Foley stated that there are 32 wireline carriers that have 65 NXXs in the Tampa rate center. He further

stated that the forecasted growth of the 813 NPA is approximately four NXX codes per month. Witness Foley also stated that he considered the worst case scenario in which each wireline carrier would need an NXX code in each of the new rate centers. If each of the 65 NXX codes needs to be replicated in the four additional proposed rate centers, an additional 260 NXX codes will be required.

Second Scenario: Witness Foley stated that the existing NXX codes would be redistributed and new NXX codes would be assigned so that each carrier would hold a minimum of one code in each of the new rate centers. He also stated that some carriers would need additional NXXs, while some would not. Witness Foley concluded that an additional 91 NXXs would be required in this scenario.

We note that if the assumptions provided by NANPA witness Foley are accurate, either scenario would cause the premature exhaust of the 813 NPA, or even place the 813 NPA in jeopardy of exhaust before NPA relief could be accomplished.

As discussed earlier in this Order, Verizon witness Menard stated that 98% of customers are located and served from the Tampa Central rate center. She also stated that if ALECs choose to serve customers who are located in other Tampa rate centers, ALECs will require additional NXX codes. Witness Menard asserted that Verizon is also concerned about the premature exhaust of the 813 area code. As a result, Verizon worked with NeuStar to make sure that the proper recognition of the Tampa rate center could be accommodated in the 813 area code.

NUMBER POOLING

There are 331 NXX codes available for assignment in the 813 area code. The current estimated exhaust date for the 813 area code is in the fourth quarter of 2006. This estimate does not incorporate the need for assigning additional NXX codes. Witness Menard stated that because of the FCC's March 31, 2000, Report and Order in CC Docket No. 99-200, the Tampa Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which includes the 813 area code, would eventually be included in the number pooling implementation schedule. However, the FCC has not issued the implementation schedule yet. Verizon believes that the implementation of a number pooling trial in the Tampa MSA would conserve numbering resources in the 813 area code.

We agree with Intermedia witness Faul that for a number pooling trial to take place, the pooling should occur at the rate center level. All five rate centers will need to be pooled. Whether there is one Tampa rate center or five Tampa rate centers, all of these rate centers are within the Tampa MSA. Therefore, there would be one number pooling trial with all rate centers located in the Tampa MSA participating. All Local Number Portability (LNP)-capable carriers in the Tampa MSA should participate in the number pooling trials.

An examination of the evidence in the record reflects that establishment of five Tampa rate centers could cause the 813 area code to prematurely exhaust. However, if we approve grandfathering of all NXXs, implement permanent local number portability for grandfathered customers, retain the same local calling areas for all NXXs in the 813 area code and implement a number pooling trial for the Tampa MSA, multiple rate centers should have minimal impact on the numbering resources for the Tampa area.

AT&T witness Henderson stated that number pooling would help to slow down the exhaust of the 813 area code. We agree. Most ALECs point out that number pooling is an essential tool which will conserve numbering resources, and eventually slow down the exhaust of the 813 area code.

The parties have recommended different number pooling trial implementation dates. For example, Time Warner witness Tystad stated that the number pooling trial for the Tampa MSA should begin on July 1, 2001, while others say six months after the Commission makes its decision. FCC Order No. 99-249 (¶19) stated:

After having implemented a thousands-block number pooling trial in one MSA, the Florida Commission may wish to expand to another MSA. Should it wish to do so, we direct the Florida Commission to allow sufficient transition time for carriers to undertake any necessary steps, such as modifying databases and upgrading switch software, to prepare for an expansion of thousands-block pooling to another MSA. In other words, start dates for thousands-block pooling trials in different MSAs should be appropriately staggered to permit the industry to undertake all necessary steps. The purpose of a staggered roll-out is to provide carriers time to upgrade or replace their Service Control Points and other

components of their network, as necessary, if the increased volume of ported numbers as a result of the pooling trial requires them to do so.

Pursuant to this FCC Order, pooling trials should be staggered. However, the FCC did not address how long the staggered implementation should be. In Commission Order No. PSC-00-1046-PAA-TP, issued May 30, 2000, the pooling trials for the 561 and 954 area codes began within 15 days from each other.

On March 31, 2000, the FCC issued its First Report and Order setting three criteria necessary to initiate a number pooling trial. The FCC directed state commissions seeking thousands-block number pooling authority to demonstrate that: (1) an NPA in its state is in jeopardy; (2) the NPA in question has a remaining life span of at least a year; and (3) that the NPA is in one of the largest 100 MSAs, or alternatively, the majority of wireline carriers in the NPA are LNP-capable. Although the 813 area code meets the last two criteria for a number pooling trial, the area code is not in jeopardy at this time. However, carriers are not impeded from voluntarily initiating a pooling trial. Nevertheless, the FCC is expected to announce the roll-out schedule for number pooling in the top 100 MSAs later this year.

Based on the evidence presented in this proceeding by all parties, a number pooling trial shall be implemented in the Tampa MSA beginning on October 1, 2001. The pooling trial shall include all uncontaminated thousands-blocks, and all contaminated blocks with less than 10% contamination, pursuant to the FCC's rules and orders. All non-wireless LNP-capable carriers shall participate in the pooling trial.

OTHER CONSERVATION MEASURES

Due to insufficient evidence in this record regarding other conservation measures, we will address any further number conservation measures in Docket No. 981444-TP (Investigation into Number Conservation Measures: Number Utilization Study).

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that all changes in the structure and function of rate centers in the Tampa

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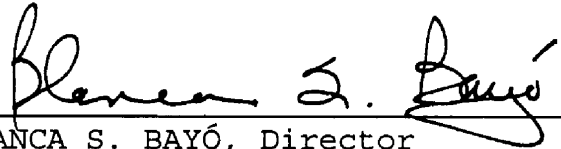
Market Area shall be in accordance with the guidelines contained in the body of this Order. It is further

ORDERED that a number pooling trial shall be implemented in the Tampa MSA beginning October 1, 2001, and consistent with the guidelines contained in the body of this Order. It is further

ORDERED that a docket be established to consider the authority of this Commission to order rate center consolidation, and whether and under what circumstances rate center consolidation should be ordered. It is further

ORDERED that this Docket shall be closed upon issuance of this Order.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission this 31st Day of July, 2001.



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

(S E A L)

CLF

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 or judicial review of Commission orders that is available under Sections 120.57 or 120.68, 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 or judicial review will be granted or result in the relief sought.

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Any party adversely affected by the Commission's final action in this matter may request: 1) reconsideration of the decision by filing a motion for reconsideration with the Director, Division of the Commission Clerk and Administrative Services, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, within fifteen (15) days of the issuance of this order in the form prescribed by Rule 25-22.060, Florida Administrative Code; or 2) judicial review by the Florida Supreme Court in the case of an electric, gas or telephone utility or the First District Court of Appeal in the case of a water and/or wastewater utility by filing a notice of appeal with the Director, Division of the Commission Clerk and Administrative Services and filing a copy of the notice of appeal and the filing fee with the appropriate court. This filing must be completed within thirty (30) days after the issuance of this order, pursuant to Rule 9.110, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure. The notice of appeal must be in the form specified in Rule 9.900(a), Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure.