

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-01-0456-PAA-TP  
ISSUED: February 26, 2001

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

E. LEON JACOBS, JR., Chairman  
J. TERRY DEASON  
LILA A. JABER  
BRAULIO L. BAEZ  
MICHAEL A. PALECKI

PROPOSED AGENCY ACTION ORDER REGULATING  
VERIZON'S TAMPA RATE CENTER

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.

On August 15, 2000, Verizon Florida, Inc. (Verizon) sent a letter to Tampa area codeholders informing them of forthcoming updates to Telcordia's<sup>1</sup> 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)<sup>2</sup> and Vertical and Horizontal Terminating Point Master

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<sup>1</sup> Telcordia Technologies is the industry routing and database administrator.

<sup>2</sup> The LERG is a Bellcore document which lists all North American central offices and describes their relationship to tandem offices.

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COMMUNICATIONS REPORTING

(V+H/TPM)<sup>3</sup> in sync with Verizon's current Florida tariff language. The letter notified the Tampa codeholders that this would likely impact their entries in the RDBS and the BRIDS. Verizon stated that its current tariff language reflects five specific rate centers in Tampa: Tampa-North, Tampa-Central, Tampa-West, Tampa-East, and Tampa-South. However, the RDBS reflects only the rate center named Tampa. Verizon also stated that Tampa codeholders should submit Part 1 forms (new NXX, change NXX, or delete NXX form) to the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA) designating the proper rate center for each of its codes.

On October 25, 2000, our staff received a letter from an attorney on behalf of many Florida Alternate Local Exchange Companies (ALECs). He expressed concerns over the impact Verizon's updates would have on ALECs in the Tampa area. Among the concerns expressed were the following:

- 1) The proposed change will require the ALECs to obtain additional NXX codes in the 813 NPA in order to be able to serve customers within the appropriate rate centers identified by the LERG change.
- 2) The need for additional NXX codes means that customers may have to change to a completely different telephone number.
- 3) There are potential impacts on competition, whether the carrier reconfigures its network, obtains new NXX codes, and changes customer telephone numbers or whether the ALEC does not change.
- 4) Verizon's proposal raises the question of rate center consolidation or, alternatively, if Verizon's plan is completed, whether a number pooling trial should be undertaken as part of the process.

The ALECs stated additional time was needed to conduct investigations into the ramifications, if any, of Verizon's

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<sup>3</sup> V&Hs were developed by the telecommunications industry to simplify the calculations needed to determine the straight-line airline distance between two sets of geographical points.

actions. They requested that we temporarily delay Verizon's action for 90 days, until May 1, 2001.

On November 13, 2000 our staff conducted an informal meeting to discuss Verizon's Tampa Rate Center updates to the RDBS and BRIDS. All interested persons were invited to attend the meeting either in person, or via telephone. After the discussion of the proposed updates, it was determined that the carriers still needed time to ascertain how the Verizon updates would affect them. Also, on November 13, 2000, we received a letter from Time Warner Telecom of Florida, L.P., requesting that we take action to delay Verizon's proposed Tampa rate center changes for 90 days, until May 1, 2001.

After the November 13, 2000 meeting, it became apparent that Verizon had already taken action to direct modifications to the LERG for the Tampa Rate Centers. On November 17, 2000, our Division of Competitive Services (CMP) sent a letter to Verizon requesting that "Verizon delay any further updates to the RDBS and BRIDS indefinitely." The letter also suggested that "Verizon file the proposed updates to the Tampa RDBS and BRIDS in the form of a petition which could be docketed."

In answer to that letter, the ALECs stated "On the basis of your letter, and other conversations, it was the ALEC community's understanding that Verizon would maintain the status quo pending such a petition to the Commission. Since your November 17th letter, many of the ALECs that are potentially affected by Verizon's proposed changes to the RDBS and BRIDS have continued to meet in an attempt to identify and clarify issues associated with Verizon's proposed changes to these two systems. However, the ALECs had also decided that formal action on their part was unnecessary since the clear directive in your letter was that Verizon should initiate formal Commission action before proceeding with the updates."

On January 23, 2001, we received a letter from the attorney representing ALECs seeking immediate assistance on behalf of various ALECs, including ALLTEL, Intermedia, Sprint, Time-Warner, and WorldCom, as 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 our November 17, 2000 request.

Our staff immediately contacted Verizon for an explanation and received its response in a January 24, 2001 letter. Verizon's interpretation of the November 17th letter was that Verizon would implement the changes to the LERG for the Verizon NXXs and the ALECs would continue to use the non-identified Tampa designation for their rate centers. Verizon assumed that this process would continue until May 1, 2001, the date requested by the ALECs, when the ALECs would then designate a rate center for their existing NXX codes and any future codes would be properly established in accordance with Verizon's tariffs until such time as the tariffs are changed.

Verizon stated that its changes to the RDBS and BRIDS effective February 1, 2001 would have no effect on the ALECs, and the ALECs would have an option when requesting an NXX to designate one of the five rate centers developed by Verizon, or just have their NXX assigned to "Tampa" rate center. We contacted Telcordia and the NANPA and verified that this option is temporarily available to ALECs requesting codes, pending a Commission resolution.

This Commission has authority to address area code relief pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §§ 52.3 and 52.19. In addition, as part of our ongoing effort to conserve area codes, on April 2, 1999, we filed a petition with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) seeking authority to implement number conservation measures, which could help minimize consumer confusion and expenses associated with imposing new area codes too frequently. On September 15, 1999, the FCC issued Order FCC 99-249, granting our Petition for Delegation of Additional Authority to Implement Number Conservation Measures. Among other things, FCC 99-249 granted us interim authority to set numbering allocation standards, request number utilization data from all carriers, implement NXX code sharing, and implement rate center consolidation. By Order No. PSC-00-543-PAA-TP, issued March 16, 2000, we approved the exercise of the federal authority given us to conserve telephone numbers and delay the early exhaustion of area codes in Florida.

As discussed in the case background, Verizon took actions to direct Telcordia to modify the RDBS and the BRIDS to reflect five rate centers in the Tampa area. Because of Verizon's letter of August 15, 2000 notifying Tampa area codeholders of Verizon's

changes to the RDBS and BRIDS, some carriers have already requested Telcordia make changes to their data to reflect five Tampa rate centers.

Our primary concern with Verizon's proposed changes relates to number conservation. If ALECs will be required to designate one of the five Tampa rate centers developed by Verizon when it receives an NXX code, ALECs may have to request a code in each of the five rate centers (50,000 numbers) to now establish a presence in the Tampa area. Presently, an ALEC can have one code (10,000 numbers) assigned as "Tampa" which would cover the same geographic area as the five rate centers developed and proposed by Verizon.

There are approximately 32 ALECs holding codes in the Tampa area. Assuming each ALEC presently has its NXX codes assigned as "Tampa" and not to one of the five Verizon developed rate centers, and each ALEC wants to maintain a presence in the same geographic area after the proposed changes, they would each have to request four additional codes, or 40,000 additional numbers. This could result in the unnecessary assignment of one hundred twenty eight codes (over 1.2 million numbers.) Currently, NANPA projects that 53 codes per year will be assigned in the Tampa area. Based on this assignment, NPA 813 is forecasted to exhaust in the fourth quarter of 2006. If, however, Verizon's proposed modifications to the RDBS and the BRIDS are allowed, the NPA 813 could exhaust as early as the third quarter 2004. As area code planning should be started three years prior to exhaustion, NPA 813 relief planning would have to be initiated this year.

In Order No. PSC-00-1046-PAA-TP, issued May 30, 2000, we stated "we have established by numerous orders that area code conservation is necessary in this state." The order also stated "we agree with the FCC that any measure that increases the efficiency with which numbers are utilized will result in significant consumer benefits by helping to alleviate the disruption and expense associated with frequent area code exhaust."

We find that the Verizon proposal will result in numerous requests for additional NXXs in the Tampa area, resulting in a premature exhaust of NPA 813. Although Verizon has stated it is only updating the RDBS and the BRIDS to get in sync with the Verizon tariff, in some respects, it is creating four new rate

centers for ALECs in the Tampa area. Instead of rate center consolidation, it appears Verizon is creating rate center expansion which goes against number conservation goals promoted by this Commission.

Therefore, as an immediate stop-gap measure, we will require Tampa area codeholders to designate "Tampa," rather than one of the five rate centers developed by Verizon, when requesting NXX codes. However, if prior to August 15, 2000, a codeholder had requested the NXX code be assigned to one of the five Verizon developed rate centers, it can continue to do so with its new NXX codes if it desires.

Verizon's modifications to the RDBS and the BRIDS did go into effect February 1, 2001. As indicated in its January 24, 2001 letter to us, Verizon requested both NANPA and Telcordia to allow the capability for ALECs to order new NXXs using the non-designated Tampa designation. However, Verizon also indicated that this process would continue only until May 1, 2001, at which time, the ALECs would then designate a rate center for their existing NXX codes.

We are greatly concerned that the rate center designation will lead to the premature exhaustion of NPA 813. As previously mentioned, implementation of the proposed modifications to the RDBS and the BRIDS could result in the exhaustion of NPA 813 as early as third quarter 2004. If we do not take immediate action to cease further updates to the RDBS and the BRIDS, all ALECs in the Tampa area will be required to obtain NXX codes in all five Tampa rate centers, effective May 1, 2001. Therefore, we order Verizon to immediately cease any further actions to modify the RDBS and the BRIDS as it relates to the Tampa rate center designation.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that the Tampa area codeholders designate "Tampa" rather than one of the five rate centers developed by Verizon Florida, Inc. However, if prior to August 15, 2000, a codeholder had requested the NXX code be assigned to one of the five Verizon developed rate centers, it may continue to do so with its new NXX codes if desired. It is further

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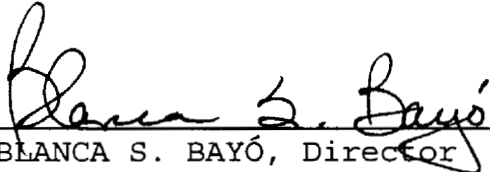
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ORDERED that Verizon Florida, Inc. immediately cease any further actions to modify the RDBS and the BRIDS as it relates to the Tampa rate center designation.

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 Records and Reporting, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, by the close of business on the date set forth in the "Notice of Further Proceedings or Judicial Review" attached hereto. It is further

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

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission this 26th Day of February, 2001.

  
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BLANCA S. BAYÓ, Director  
Division of Records and Reporting

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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.

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 Records and Reporting, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, by the close of business on March 19, 2001.

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 docket before the issuance date of this order is considered abandoned unless it satisfies the foregoing conditions and is renewed within the specified protest period.