

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition for expedited review of NXX-X code denial by North American Numbering Plan Administration for Orlando exchange, by Embarq Communications, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink.

DOCKET NO. 100382-TX
ORDER NO. PSC-10-0550-PAA-TX
ISSUED: September 2, 2010

NOTICE OF PROPOSED AGENCY ACTION ORDER DIRECTING NEUSTAR TO PROVIDE EMBARQ COMMUNICATIONS, INC. D/B/A CENTURYLINK 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 23, 2010, Embarq Communications, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink (CenturyLink) filed a request for additional numbering resources from the Number Pooling Administrator (NeuStar) for the Orlando exchange (ORLDFLERDS0) wire center. CenturyLink requested a 407-NXX to meet the request of a specific customer for 8,000 consecutive numbers. On August 23, 2010, CenturyLink's request for additional numbering resources was denied because NeuStar determined that it did not meet the utilization criteria.

On August 24, 2010, CenturyLink filed a petition requesting that we overturn NeuStar's decision. CenturyLink asserts that we have jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to the Industry Numbering Committee's Number Pooling Guidelines Sections 3.7 and 12(c). CenturyLink further asserts that: (A) it cannot currently meet its telephone number needs given the inventory of numbers presently available in the switch, as the required numbers must be in the 407 NPA to fit the customer's dialing plan; and (B) at the time of the code request, the Orlando exchange had a Months-to-Exhaust (MTE) of fifteen (15) months and a utilization of 62% with no available numbers in this exchange in the 407 NPA. CenturyLink states that NeuStar's existing procedure is arbitrary and results in decisions contrary to the public interest, as the decisions do not promote the efficient use of telephone numbers. Therefore, CenturyLink requests that we reverse NeuStar's denial.

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).

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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 (NPA's), 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 create 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 AT&T Florida 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.

In processing the company's petition as contemplated by 47 C.F.R. § 52.15(g)(3)(iv), we have required the company to provide this Commission with the following:

- 1) The customer's name, address, and telephone number.
- 2) The utilization thresholds for every switch in that particular rate center where additional numbering resources are sought.
- 3) The MTEs for every switch in that particular rate center where additional numbering resources are sought.

Upon consideration of the information provided and in accordance with Commission Order No. PSC-01-1973-PCO-TL, we find 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.
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 CenturyLink with additional numbering resources to meet its customer's needs in the Orlando exchange (ORLDFLERDS0) wire center as soon as possible.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that NeuStar shall provide Embarq Communications, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink with additional numbering resources for the Orlando exchange (ORLDFLERDS0) wire 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 Office of Commission Clerk, 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

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

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission this 2nd day of September, 2010.



ANN COLE
Commission Clerk

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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

ORDER NO. PSC-10-0550-PAA-TX
DOCKET NO. 100382-TX
PAGE 5

petition must be received by the Office of Commission Clerk, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, by the close of business on September 23, 2010.

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.