

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition for expedited review of growth code denials by Number Pooling Administrator for the Orange Park exchange (Ridgewood), by BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. d/b/a AT&T Florida.

DOCKET NO. 100421-TL
ORDER NO. PSC-10-0627-PAA-TL
ISSUED: October 20, 2010

NOTICE OF PROPOSED AGENCY ACTION ORDER
DIRECTING NEUSTAR TO PROVIDE AT&T FLORIDA
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 October 1, 2010, AT&T Florida (AT&T) requested additional numbering resources from the Number Pooling Administrator (NeuStar) for AT&T's Orange Park exchange, Ridgewood (ORPKFLRWDS0) switch. AT&T requested three blocks to meet the request of a specific customer for 3,000 consecutive numbers of NPA 693-3XXX, 7XXX, and 8XXX. On October 1, 2010, AT&T's request for additional numbering resources was denied because NeuStar determined that AT&T's request did not meet the utilization based criteria.

On October 8, 2010, AT&T filed a petition requesting that we reverse NeuStar's decision. In its petition, AT&T states that the Orange Park exchange has two switching entities that utilize numbering resources: (1) Main (ORPKFLMADS0); and (2) Ridgewood (ORPKFLRWDS0). AT&T further asserts that at the time of the code request for the Ridgewood (ORPKFLRWDS0) switch, the Orange Park exchange had an MTE of 46.65 and a utilization of 56.75%, while the MTE for the Ridgewood (ORPKFLRWDS0) switch was 100.03. Thus, AT&T concludes, it is unable to provide the numbering resources requested by a specific customer for 3,000 consecutive numbers of NPA 693-3XXX, 7XXX, and 8XXX.

AT&T also argues that in denying its request, NeuStar does not consider the number of MTE and utilization for the entire rate center without exception. Therefore, the current process is arbitrary and results in (1) decisions contrary to the public interest and welfare of consumers in the State of Florida; and (2) decisions that do not necessarily promote the efficient use of telephone numbers. Moreover, AT&T alleges that: (1) NeuStar's denial of numbering resources to AT&T interferes with AT&T's ability to serve its customers in the State of Florida; and (2) the MTE at the rate center level requirement is discriminatory against the incumbent LEC.

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Consequently, AT&T requests that we reverse NeuStar's decision to withhold numbering resources and direct NeuStar to provide the requested numbering resources for the Orange Park exchange, Ridgewood (ORPKFLRWDS0) switch.

JURISDICTION

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), 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 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:

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)

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:

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 reverse NeuStar's decision to deny additional numbering resources and direct NeuStar to provide AT&T with additional numbering resources to meet its customer's needs in the Orange Park exchange, Ridgewood (ORPKFLRWDS0) switch as soon as possible.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that NeuStar shall provide AT&T Florida with additional numbering resources for the Orange Park exchange, Ridgewood (ORPKFLRWDS0) switch 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 20th day of October, 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 petition must be received by the Office of Commission Clerk, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, by the close of business on November 10, 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.