

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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

DOCKET NO. 20170250-TL
ORDER NO. PSC-2018-0044-PAA-TL
ISSUED: January 17, 2018

NOTICE OF PROPOSED AGENCY ACTION ORDER
DIRECTING NEUSTAR TO PROVIDE
EMBARQ FLORIDA, 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 November 16, 2017, Embarq Florida, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink (CenturyLink) filed a request for additional numbering resources from the Number Pooling Administrator (NeuStar) for the Fort Myers exchange, Fort Myers (FTMYFLXADS0) switch. CenturyLink requested a full NXX to meet the request of a specific customer for 10,000 consecutive numbers in the format of 239-XX8-XXXX. On November 16, 2017, NeuStar denied CenturyLink's request for additional numbering resources because NeuStar determined that CenturyLink did not meet the utilization criteria.

On November 21, 2017, CenturyLink filed a petition requesting that we reverse NeuStar's decision. On December 11, 2017, we issued Order No. PSC-2017-0463-PAA-TL, a Proposed Agency Action which reversed NeuStar's decision to deny additional numbering resources to Embarq Florida, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink (CenturyLink), and directed NeuStar to provide CenturyLink with additional numbering resources to meet its customer's needs in the Fort Myers exchange (FTMYFLXADS0). On January 5, 2018, Consummating Order No. PSC-2018-0017-CO-TL was issued, which made the Proposed Agency Action effective and final.

On January 12, 2018, CenturyLink contacted this Commission to advise of an error in their November 21, 2017 petition.¹ The petition should have been for the Bonita Springs

¹ See Attachment A, Document No. 00308-2018, filed in Docket No. 20170250-TL, In re: Petition for expedited review of NXX-X code denial by North American Numbering Plan Administration for Fort Myers exchange, by Embarq Florida, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink.

exchange, which consists of one switching entity that utilizes numbering resources, namely, Bonita Springs (BNSPFLXADS0). Accordingly, on January 16, 2018, we issued Order No. PSC-2018-0041-FOF-TL, which vacated Order Nos. PSC-2017-0463-PAA-TL and PSC-2018-0017-CO-TL, and asserted that a new Order will be issued that addresses the appropriate exchange. CenturyLink has also asserted that at the time of the code request, the Bonita Springs exchange had a Months-to-Exhaust of 14.19 months, and a utilization of 62.09%.

We are vested with jurisdiction pursuant to Sections 364.16(7), F.S., 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 00-104² applicants must now show the Months-to-Exhaust 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 Months-to-Exhaust 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 Months-to-Exhaust 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 obtain services from another carrier simply because CenturyLink cannot meet the Months-to-Exhaust 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 01-386³, the FCC stated:

²Report and Order, CC Docket No. 99-200, In the Matter of Number Resource Optimization, Order No. FCC 00-104 (March 31, 2000)

³DA 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 Months-to-Exhaust 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 Months-to-Exhaust 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:

The carrier has demonstrated that it has customers in need of immediate numbering resources.

The carrier has shown that it is unable to provide services to a potential customer because of NeuStar's denial of the numbering resources.

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 CenturyLink with additional numbering resources to meet its customer's needs in the Bonita Springs exchange (BNSPFLXADS0) switch as soon as possible.


Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that the Number Pooling Administrator (NeuStar) shall provide Embarq Florida, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink with additional numbering resources for the Bonita Springs exchange (BNSPFLXADS0) 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 17th day of January, 2018.



CARLOTTA S. STAUFFER

Commission Clerk

Florida Public Service Commission

2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard

Tallahassee, Florida 32399

(850) 413-6770

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Copies furnished: A copy of this document is provided to the parties of record at the time of issuance and, if applicable, interested persons.

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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 February 7, 2018.

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.