

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**Qwest Corporation  
Bismarck Rate Center  
Numbering Resources**

**Case No. PU-08-941**

**ORDER**

**January 14, 2009**

On November 7, 2008 Qwest Corporation (Qwest) submitted an application to NeuStar, Inc. National Pooling Administrator (NeuStar) for additional numbering resources consisting of a 1,000 number block out of the Bismarck, North Dakota rate center.

NeuStar denied the request for additional numbering resources for the Bismarck switch because the company did not meet the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) criteria. The FCC requires that applicants for additional numbering resources must demonstrate that the rate center for which the numbers are requested has no more than a six-month inventory of numbers and is utilizing 75% or more of the numbers in inventory. Qwest did not qualify for additional numbers at this time.

On December 3, 2008 Qwest filed a request for review of NeuStar's denial of its application and asked that the Commission direct NeuStar to provide the block of 1,000 numbers. Under FCC rules, state commissions may grant a waiver of the FCC rules and grant requests for additional numbering resources when there is a demonstrated verifiable need.

The Commission has authority under North Dakota Century Code section 49-21-01.7 (14) to resolve numbering resource conservation issues.

The Commission must take into consideration the extent to which the carrier has used available numbering resource optimization strategies and the carrier's showing that deviation from the FCC's inventory and utilization requirements is warranted. The carrier must demonstrate the following: 1) that the carrier will exhaust its numbering resources in a market or rate area within three months (in lieu of the 6 months-to-exhaust requirement; and 2) that projected growth is based on the carrier's actual growth in the market of rate area, or on the carrier's actual growth in a reasonably comparable market, but only if that projected growth varies no more than 15 percent from historical growth in the relevant market; or 3) that there is a verifiable need due to the specific customer request for numbering resources in a given rate center that the carrier is unable to satisfy with its current inventory. Regarding a specific customer request, the carrier must provide the Commission with documentation of the customer request and current proof of utilization in the rate center.

The request for numbers is for a specific customer, Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin). Basin has been unable to incorporate available DID (direct inward dial) numbers currently available in the Bismarck area into their dialing plan. This is Basin's second request for a block of numbers. In its first request, granted by the Commission on August 13, 2008, Basin indicated it would be making a second request for a block of numbers. Basin intends to utilize 600 numbers, specifically 701-557-4400 through 4999.

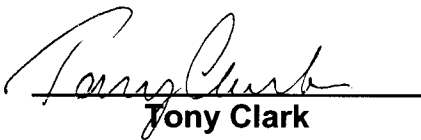
In the first request, Qwest indicated that it has no clean blocks of 1000 numbers available for assignment in the Bismarck rate center. Qwest intends to use a block of 1000 numbers from the number pool and will not be opening an NXX code.

Based on the specific need demonstrated, we find it appropriate to grant Qwest's request.

### ORDER

The Commission orders that NeuStar, Inc. National Pooling Administrator provide Qwest Corporation a one thousands block of numbers from the number pool, specifically a 4 block (701-NXX-4000 thru 4999) for the Bismarck, North Dakota rate center as soon as possible.

### PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



**Tony Clark**  
Commissioner



**Kevin Cramer**  
President



**Brian P. Kalk**  
Commissioner