

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services
Fargo Rate Center
Numbering Resources**

Case No. PU-20-199

ORDER

August 26, 2020

Preliminary Statement

On January 20, 2020, Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services, Inc. (CCES) submitted a request to the North American Pooling Administration System (NANPA) for additional numbering resources consisting of a block of 1,000 numbers out of the Fargo, North Dakota rate center pool of numbers.

On January 20, 2020, NANPA denied the request for additional numbering resources.

On April 8, 2020, CCES filed with the North Dakota Public Service Commission (Commission) a request that the Commission direct NANPA to provide CCES with an additional 1000 number block in its Fargo, North Dakota Rate Center.

On August 7, 2020, the City of West Fargo filed with the Commission a description of the need for a new block of 1,000 numbers.

Discussion

Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services, Inc. is a foreign corporation with principal address of 121 S 17th Street, Mattoon, Illinois, 61938. Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services, Inc. is registered with the Commission to provide telecommunications local and long distance telecommunications services in North Dakota.

CCES submitted a request to NANPA for one consecutive 1000 number block, specifically 701-NXX-5000 through 5999, for use with a customer service request from the City of West Fargo. This request was made because CCES does not have the blocks of sequential numbers available within the Fargo Rate Center in West Fargo, ND and is unable to use numbers from another switch to satisfy the customer's request.

NANPA denied CCES's request for numbers because the Fargo switch did not meet the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) months-to-exhaust requirements. The FCC requires that applicants for additional numbering resources 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.

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.

In support of its request with the Commission, CCES provided a copy of the City of West Fargo's request for phone numbers. In addition, CCES provided a copy the City of West Fargo's On August 7, 2020 description of the need for a new block of 1,000 numbers

The City of West Fargo states that, if the request is approved, they will return 600 phone numbers to the rate center.

Based on the specific need demonstrated, the Commission finds it appropriate to grant CCES's request and issues its:

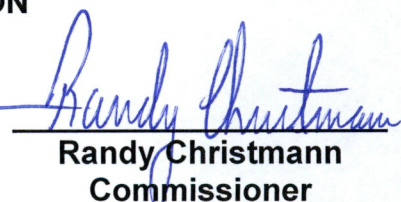
Order

The Commission orders that Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services, Inc.'s request for a waiver of the Months to Exhaust/Utilization Threshold requirement to obtain a block of one thousand numbers from the number pool at the Fargo, North Dakota rate center, specifically 701-NXX-5000 through 5999, for use with the City of West Fargo's request for phone numbers, is granted.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


Julie Fedorchak
Commissioner


Brian Kroshus
Chairman


Randy Christmann
Commissioner