PAID T.R.A.

Chk # 0013965858

Amount 25.00

Embarg Corporation
Mailstop: NCWKFR0313
14111 Capital Boulevard
Wake Forest, NC 27587-5900
EMBARQ.com

September 13, 2006

Chairman Sara Kyle Tennessee Regulatory Authority 460 James Robertson Parkway Nashville, Tennessee 37243 06-00733 g

Re: United Telephone-Southeast, Inc. d/b/a Embarq's Petition for Expedited Review of Central Office Code Denial

Dear Chairman Kyle:

Please find enclosed an original and thirteen (13) copies of United Telephone-Southeast, Inc.'s ("Embarq's") Petition for Expedited Review of Central Office Code Denial. Also enclosed is a check in the amount of \$25.00 to cover the filing fee.

An extra copy of this letter is enclosed. Please date stamp it and return to me in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope. Finally, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions concerning this petition.

Sincerely yours,

Edward Phillips

HEP:sm

Enclosures

cc: Laura Sykora Dara Sodano

Edward Phillips

ATTORNEY

Voice: (919) 554-7870 Fax: (919) 554-7913 edward.phillips@EMBARQ.com

BEFORE THE

TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

In Re:)									
Petition for Expedited Review of Growth Code Denial by the Number Pooling Administrator Relating to Edwards & Associates, Inc.)))	Docket No.								
Petition for Expedited Review of Central Office Code Denial										

United Telephone-Southeast, Inc. d/b/a Embarq ("Embarq"), pursuant to rules adopted by the FCC for challenging determinations of the Number Pooling Administrator ("NeuStar"), petitions the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (the "Authority") for an expedited review of NeuStar's denial of Embarq's application for use of central office code numbering resources in the 423 area code.

Embarg respectfully shows the Authority as follows:

- 1. Embarq is a telecommunications public utility regulated by the Authority providing intraLATA, local exchange telecommunications services in the Bluff City Rate Center.
- 2. NeuStar is an independent non-governmental entity that is responsible for administering and managing the North American Numbering Plan ("NANP"). See 47 C.F.R. § 52.13(a), (b).
- 3. On March 31, 2000, the Federal Communications Commission issued a Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making relating to numbering resource optimization ("FCC 00-104" or the "March Order"). On December 29, 2000, the FCC issued its

Second Report and Order, Order on Reconsideration in CC Docket No. 96-98 and CC Docket No. 99-200, and Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in CC Docket No. 99-200 ("FCC 00-429" or the "December Order"). These FCC orders addressed issues and strategies relating to the efficient use of numbering resources.

- 4. In FCC 00-104 and FCC 00-429, the FCC announced rules and sought comments in an effort to implement uniform standards governing requests for telephone numbering resources in order to increase efficiency in the use of existing telephone numbers and to slow further exhaustion of existing numbers under the NANP.
- 5. Among other things, FCC 00-104 adopted a revised standard for assessing a carrier's need for numbering resources by requiring carriers to report rate center based utilization data to NeuStar. The FCC further required that to qualify for access to new numbering resources, applicants must establish that existing inventory within the applicant's rate center will be exhausted within six months of the application. Prior to this ruling, the Central Office Code Assignment Guidelines, used by the industry and NeuStar to make code assignments, required the applicant's existing number inventory within the applicant's serving switch to exhaust within six months of the code application in order for a code to be assigned.
- 6. This shift to a "rate center" basis for determining the need for new numbering resources was intended to "more accurately reflect how numbering resources are assigned" and to allow "carriers to obtain numbering resources in response to specific customer demands." FCC Order ¶105. Various interested parties sought reconsideration of the above-described MTE rule before the FCC on several different occasions. On December 28, 2001, the FCC entered an order retaining the rules requiring carriers to calculate MTE on a rate center basis rather than on a per-switch basis. In the Matter of Numbering Resource Optimization; Implementation of the

Local Competition Provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996; Telephone Number Portability, CC Docket Nos. 99-200, 96-98 and 95-116, Third Report and Order and Second Order on Reconsideration in CC Docket No. 99-200, FCC 01-362, Paragraph 48 (rel. Dec. 28, 2001).

- 7. On or about August 25, 2006, Embarq submitted a Central Office Code (NXX) Assignment Request Part 1, and the CO Code Assignment Months to Exhaust Certification Worksheet, to NeuStar to be assigned a one thousand block necessary to meet the demands of its customer, Edwards & Associates, Inc. The request and worksheet are attached hereto as Exhibits A and B respectively.
- 8. The code assignment request was for Bluff City in the 423 NPA area code, in response to Edwards & Associates, Inc. request for 300 consecutive numbers. Edwards & Associates, Inc. cited growth as its basis for this request. However, Embarq did not have sufficient number resources available within its inventory in the Bluff City Rate Center, and, accordingly, Embarq was unable to provide Edwards & Associates, Inc. with sufficient numbers to meet its needs. For this reason, Embarq sought the numbering resources as noted above.
- 9. Embarq completed the applications in accordance with NeuStar's Central Office Code (NXX) Assignment Guidelines and completed the necessary Months to Exhaust Certification Worksheet required by NeuStar.
- 10. At the time of the code request, the Bluff City rate center had an MTE of approximately 24724 months.
- 11. Despite the fact that Embarq's Bluff City rate center may not exhaust for 24724 months, Embarq is unable to provide the requested service through its switch that serves Edwards & Associates, Inc. within the Bluff City rate center. This is because the individual

switch that serves this customer within the Bluff City rate center does not have sufficient number resources to meet the customer's request. As a result, Embarq needs a 1,000 numbering block to provide numbers to its customers.

- 12. On or about August 29, 2006, NeuStar's Central Office Code Administration denied the code assignment request on the grounds that Embarq had not met the rate center based months-to-exhaust criteria now set forth in the Central Office Code (NXX) Guidelines, notwithstanding the fact that Embarq does not have the numbering resources needed to satisfy its customers' demands in the switch at issue. That decision is attached hereto as Exhibit C.
- 13. Embarq's inability to provide this large business customer with the requested numbers prevents Embarq from providing the quality of service this customer desires and expects. A copy of a letter from Edwards & Associates, Inc. seeking numbering resources is attached as Exhibit D.
- 14. Relief for the 423 NPA was implemented with the start of mandatory dialing on February 26, 1996. The Authority also ordered thousands-block pooling for the 423 NPA with a Pool Start Date of September 16, 2002. According to NeuStar, based on the 2006 and NPA Exhaust Analysis April 30, 2006, the projected exhaust date of the 423 NPA is the third quarter of 2015. Therefore, granting Embarq's request for numbering resources would not materially impact exhaustion of available numbers in the 423 NPA.
- 15. Both FCC 00-104 and NeuStar's Central Office Code (NXX) Guidelines provide that state regulatory authorities have the power and authority to review NeuStar's decision to deny a request for numbering resources. See FCC 00-104, Appendix A, Final Rules, § 52.15(g) (3) (iv) ("The carrier may challenge the NeuStar's decision to the appropriate state regulatory commission"); NeuStar Central Office Code (NXX) Guidelines § 13.0 ("Appeals may include

but are not limited to one or more of the following options: . . . C. The CO Code Administrator(s) and code holders/applicants may pursue the disagreement with the appropriate governmental/regulatory body").

- 16. The Authority has recognized its jurisdiction and authority to review NeuStar denials and to order the release of numbering resources to meet specific customer needs. The Authority has ordered NeuStar to provide numbering resources to meet customer service requirements.¹
- 17. In reviewing previous petitions, the Authority Staff has requested that petitioning carriers provide additional information concerning number utilization for the specific central office involved in the request. This information for the Bluff City rate center, including the Bluff City Central Office is attached hereto as Exhibit E.
- 18. The Authority, and not the FCC, is the most appropriate body to address this appeal. As noted above, the Authority has been granted jurisdiction to hear appeals from NeuStar's decisions regarding numbering resources. Any jurisdiction of the FCC to do the same is merely concurrent with the jurisdiction of the Authority. Embarq believes that the Authority can more quickly address the numbering problem facing Edwards & Associates, Inc. and Embarq, and, because time is of the essence to the customer, Embarq believes it is appropriate to pursue this matter in the forum that can most quickly address the issue.
- 19. Under earlier months-to-exhaust procedures used by NeuStar, waivers or exceptions were granted where customer hardships could be demonstrated or where the service provider's inventory did not have a block of sequential numbers large enough to meet the

As a matter of fact, the Authority just approved three such numbering requests for BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. at its September 11, 2006 Authority Conference. See Docket Nos. 06-00199, 06-0200 and 06-00201.

customer's specific request. Under existing procedures, NeuStar looks at the number of months-to-exhaust for the entire rate center without any exceptions. The current process for review is arbitrary and results in decisions contrary to the public interest and decisions that do not necessarily preserve the efficient use of telephone numbers or postpone dates of exhaust. Moreover, the denial of sufficient numbering resources to Embarq to meet Edwards & Associates, Inc.'s request is inconsistent with the FCC's position that "[u]nder no circumstances should consumers be precluded from receiving telecommunications services of their choice from providers of their choice for want of numbering resources." FCC 00-429 at ¶ 61. By refusing to grant numbering resources sufficient to meet Edwards & Associates, Inc.'s needs, the NeuStar is preventing Edwards & Associates, Inc. from obtaining the service of its choice from its carrier of choice, Embarq.

20. Notwithstanding customer need for a specific numbering arrangement, Embarq's analysis indicates that Embarq will be unable to meet the six-months-to-exhaust threshold at the rate center level in time to obtain adequate numbering resources to serve this customer absent relief from the Authority. This situation will result in Embarq's inability to respond to its customer's needs for specific numbering resources.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons articulated above, Embarq respectfully urges the Authority to direct the NeuStar to provide the requested numbers to Embarq to enable Embarq to meet the specific requirements of Edwards & Associates, Inc. in order that Edwards & Associates, Inc. may receive the service of its choice from the provider of its choice to meet its telecommunications needs.

WHEREFORE, Embarq requests:

- 1. The Authority review the decision of the NeuStar to deny Embarq's request for additional numbering resources; and
- 2. The Authority direct the NeuStar to provide a 1,000 block of numbers to Embarq to meet the specific requirements of Edwards & Associates, Inc. in the Bluff City rate center within the 423 NPA.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward Phillips

United Telephone-Southeast, Inc. d/b/a Embarq

Mailstop: NCWKFR0313 14111 Capital Boulevard

Wake Forest, North Carolina 27587-5900

Telephone: 919-554-7870

Fax: 919-554-7913

edward.phillips@embarq.com

TN B.P.R. No. 016850

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

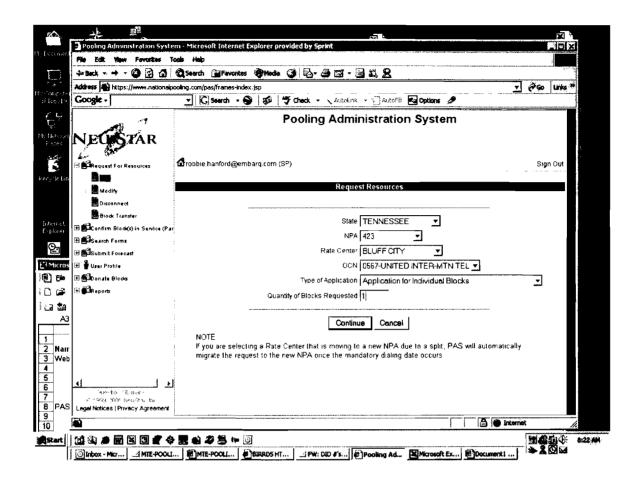
I hereby certify that I have served a copy of the foregoing Petition for Expedited Review of Central Office Code Denial of United Telephone-Southeast, Inc. d/b/a Embarq upon all parties of record by depositing a copy addressed to each in the United States Mail, first-class postage prepaid.

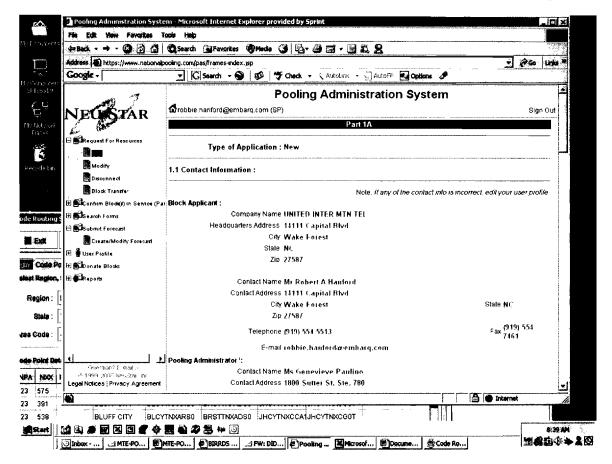
Ms. Dara Sodano Acting Senior Pooling Administrator Number Pooling Administrator 1800 Sutter Street, Suite 570 Concord, CA 94520

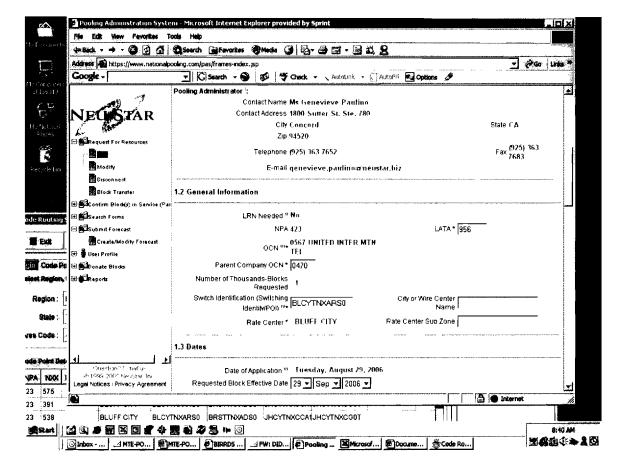
This 13th day of September, 2006.

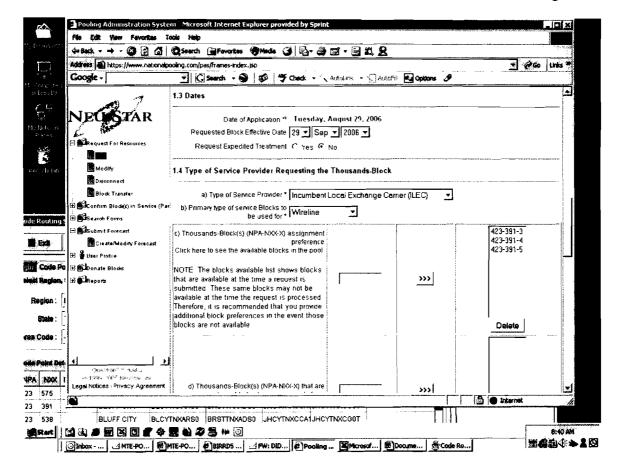
Edward Phillips

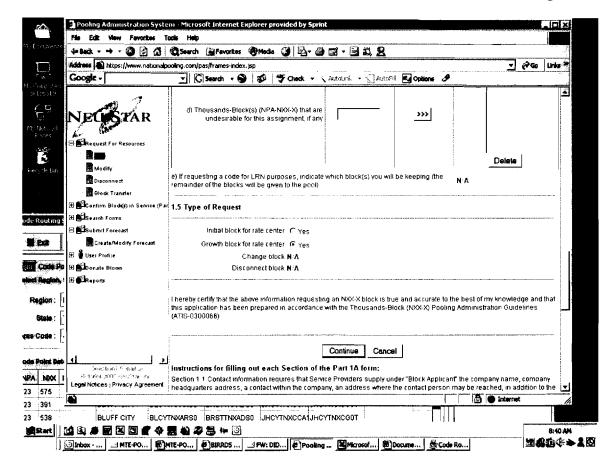
United Telephone-Southeast, Inc. d/b/a Embarq

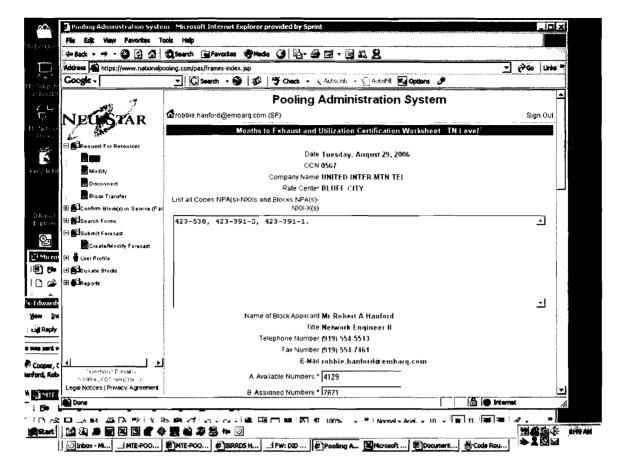


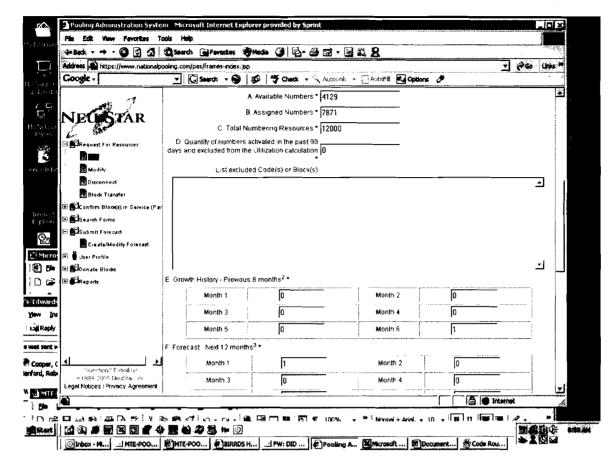


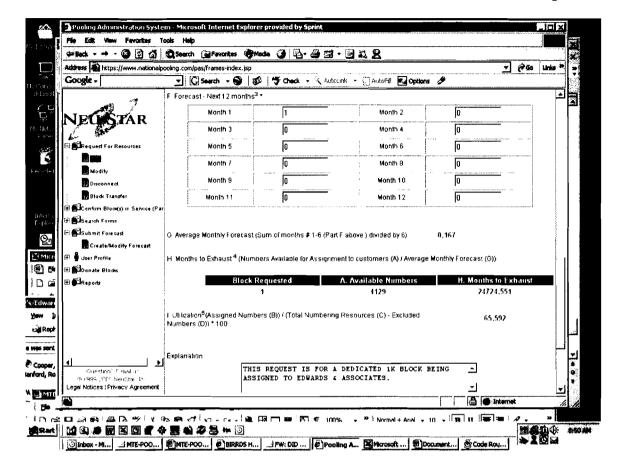


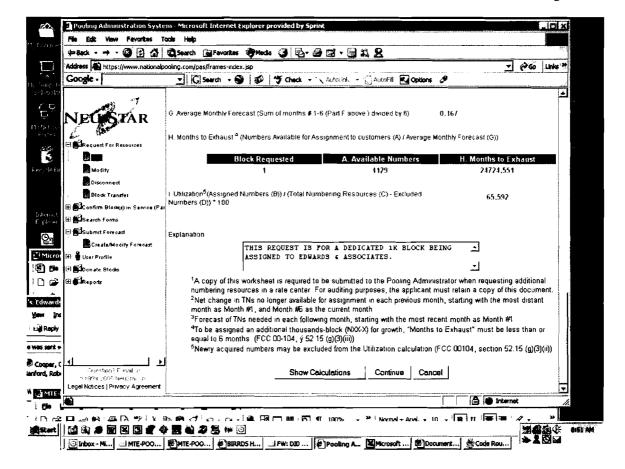


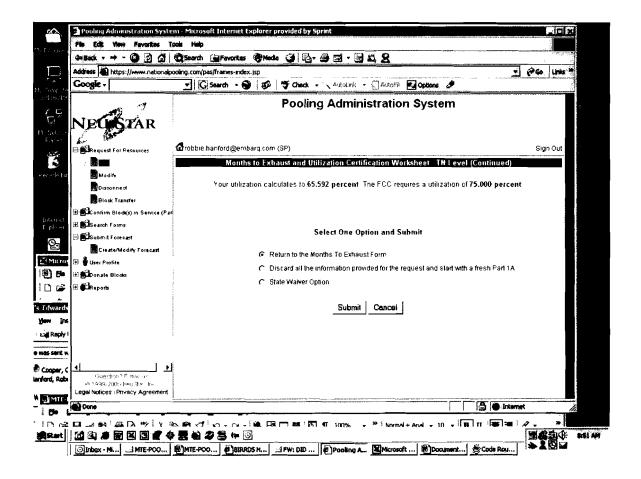












Melissa K. Hubbard IT Manager Edwards & Associates, Inc. PO Box 3689 Bristol, TN 37625

September 6, 2006

Carren Cooper Account Manager Embarq

Dear Carren:

Due to our companies growth and expansion, we are in need of a block of 300 DID #s for our company. Please obtain a block of numbers with the following leading digits:

- 3XXX
- 4XXX
- 6XXX
- 7XXX

I appreciate your assistance with this matter. Thank you.

Jelissa K. Hubband

Sincerely,

Melissa K. Hubbard

IT Manager

Bluff City, Tennessee

Dian City, Telliessee											
NPA-NXX	x	Rate Center Abbreviation	Assigned	Inter- mediate	Reserved	Aging	Admin	Donated to Pool?	Notes/ Assignee	Available	Utilization
423-391	0	BLUFF CITY	343	0	0	221	0		-	436	34.30%
423-391	1	BLUFF CITY	384	0	0	60	0			556	38.40%
423-391	2	BLUFF CITY	0	0	0	0	0	Χ		1000	Donated
423-391	3	BLUFF CITY	0	0	0	0	0	Χ		1000	Donated
423-391	4	BLUFF CITY	28	0	0	0	0	Χ		972	Donated
423-391	5	BLUFF CITY	1	0	0	٥	0	Χ		999	Donated
423-391	6	BLUFF CITY	1	0	0	0	0	X		999	Donated
423-391	8	BLUFF CITY	23	0	0	0	0	Χ		977	Donated
423-391	9	BLUFF CITY	29	0	0	0	0	Χ		971	Donated
423-538	0	BLUFF CITY	718	0	0	104	0			178	71.80%
423-538	1	BLUFF CITY	325	0	0	78	0			597	32.50%
423-538	2	BLUFF CITY	54	0	0	0	0			946	5.40%
423-538	3	BLUFF CITY	628	0	0	137	0			235	62.80%
423-538	4	BLUFF CITY	932	٥	0	19	0			49	93.20%
423-538	5	BLUFF CITY	876	0	0	57	0			67	87.60%
423-538	6	BLUFF CITY	964	0	0	12	1			23	96.40%
423-538	7	BLUFF CITY	921	0	0	35	0			44	92.10%
423-538	8	BLUFF CITY	918	0	0	29	0			53	91.80%
423-538	9	BLUFF CITY	535	0	0	163	0			302	53.50%