

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

January 25, 2010

IN RE:

**REQUEST OF UNITED TELEPHONE SOUTHEAST LLC
D/B/A CENTURYLINK FOR EXPEDITED REVIEW OF
CENTRAL OFFICE CODE DENIAL**

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**DOCKET NO.
09-00180**

**ORDER APPROVING REQUEST OF UNITED TELEPHONE SOUTHEAST LLC
D/B/A CENTURYLINK FOR EXPEDITED REVIEW OF GROWTH CODE DENIAL
AND REVERSING CENTRAL OFFICE CODE DENIAL**

This matter came before Chairman Sara Kyle, Director Eddie Roberson and Director Kenneth C. Hill of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority ("TRA" or the "Authority"), the voting panel assigned to this docket, at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference held on January 11, 2010, for consideration of the *Petition for Expedited Review of Central Office Code Denial* filed by United Telephone Southeast LLC d/b/a CenturyLink ("CenturyLink") on November 9, 2009 and amended on December 18, 2009.

On October 13, 2009, CenturyLink submitted an application to the Pooling Administrator for the purpose of obtaining additional numbering resources to meet the demands of its customer, Mountain States Health Alliance ("MSHA"). CenturyLink did not have sufficient number resources available in the Johnson City Rate Center ("Rate Center") to fulfill the request of MSHA. NXX assignment guidelines permit the assignment of additional codes only after a carrier demonstrates that a rate center has a 75% utilization rate and that its estimated exhaust date does not exceed six months.¹ Because the Rate Center utilization rate is approximately 68%

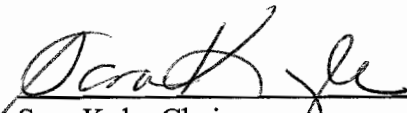
¹ See Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions, *Central Office Code (NXX) Assignment Guidelines (COCAG) Final Document*, ATIS 03-00051, section 4.3.1 (June 15, 2007).


and the estimated exhaust date is approximately 63 months, the Pooling Administrator denied the application by CenturyLink.

The Federal Communications Commission authorized the Authority to review the Pooling Administrator's denial of a numbering application.² Specifically, the Federal Communications Commission stated that state commissions may overturn a decision of the Pooling Administrator when "a carrier demonstrates that it has received a customer request for numbering resources in a given rate center that it cannot meet with its current inventory."³ After consideration of the facts contained in the record, the public interest, and this agency's responsibility to foster competition in the telecommunications industry,⁴ the panel voted unanimously to approve the request of CenturyLink and reverse the Pooling Administrator's denial of CenturyLink's request for additional numbering resources.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. The Pooling Administrator's decision to deny United Telephone Southeast LLC d/b/a CenturyLink's request for additional numbering resources is reversed as stated herein.
2. The Pooling Administrator is ordered to assign six (6) one-thousand blocks of telephone numbers for the Johnson City Rate Center served by Switch Identification No. JHCYTNXCPS0.


Sara Kyle, Chairman


Eddie Roberson, Director


Kenneth C. Hill, Director

² *In re: Numbering Resource Optimization*, CC Docket No. 99-200, *Third Report and Order and Second Order on Reconsideration in CC Docket No. 96-98 and CC Docket No. 99-200*, 17 FCC Rcd. 252, 279-83 ¶¶ 61-66 (2001).

³ *Id.* ¶ 64.

⁴ See Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-123.