

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

April 5, 2018

IN RE:

PETITION FOR EXPEDITED REVIEW OF
GROWTH CODE DENIAL BY THE NUMBER
POOLING ADMINISTRATOR –
NASHVILLE RATE CENTER

DOCKET NO.
18-00033

ORDER APPROVING PETITION FOR
REVIEW OF CENTRAL OFFICE CODE DENIAL

This matter is before the Hearing Officer of the Tennessee Public Utility Commission (the “Commission” or “TPUC”), upon the *Petition of Bellsouth Telecomm Inc. - TN for Review of Central Office Code Denial* (“*Petition*”) filed by BellSouth TeleComm Inc dba South Central Bell Tell – TN (“BellSouth TN” or the “Company”) on March 29, 2018.

BellSouth TN is a telecommunications public utility subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission that provides local exchange telecommunications services in the State of Tennessee. In its *Petition*, BellSouth TN asserts that on or about March 26, 2018, it submitted an application to NeuStar, the Number Pooling Administrator,¹ for the assignment of three (3) 1000 blocks of numbers in the 615 area code for the Nashville Rate Center. BellSouth TN requested these numbers in order to fulfill an order for a very large customer who requested a significant block of contiguous DID numbers to support a university.² BellSouth TN indicates in its *Petition* that while it owns adequate numbers to satisfy incremental requests for numbers without receiving a

¹ 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).

² *Petition*, p. 2 (March 29, 2018).

new block of numbers, the Company does not have adequate numbers to satisfy the request for 3000 contiguous numbers.³

NeuStar's Central Office Code (NXX) Assignment Guidelines ("NXX Guidelines") permit the assignment of additional codes only after an applicant demonstrates that its rate center has a 75% utilization rate and exhaustion of existing numbering inventory does not exceed six months.⁴ At the time of BellSouth TN's code request, the Nashville Rate Center had a utilization rate of approximately 52% and a months-to-exhaust ratio of approximately 297 months.⁵ Therefore, because the rate center's current utilization rate and months-to-exhaust ratio do not meet the criteria in the NXX Guidelines, NeuStar denied BellSouth TN's application.⁶

The Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") has authorized the Commission to review NeuStar's decision to deny a numbering application.⁷ The FCC has further stated that a state commission may overturn a decision of the Numbering 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."⁸ Upon consideration of the facts contained in the record, the public interest, and the Commission's charge to foster competition in the telecommunications industry,⁹ the Hearing Officer agrees that BellSouth TN's request should be approved.

³ *Id.* at 3.

⁴ See Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions, *Central Office Code (NXX) Assignment Guidelines (COGAG) Final Document*, ATIS 03-00051, § 4.3.1 (June 15, 2007).

⁵ *Petition*, Exh. B (January 5, 2018).

⁶ *Id.* at 3, Exh. B.

⁷ *In the Matter of 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. 95-116, Third Report and Order and Second Order on Reconsideration*, CC Docket No. 99-200, 17 FCC 01-362, ¶ 48 (2001).

⁸ *In the Matter of Numbering Resource Optimization*, CC Docket No. 99-200, FCC 00-104, Appendix A, Final Rules § 52.15(g)(3)(iv).

⁹ See Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-123.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. The Number Pooling Administrator's decision to deny BellSouth TeleComm Inc dba South Central Bell Tell – TN's application for additional numbering resources, as set forth in its *Petition for Review of Central Office Code Denial* and discussed herein, is reversed.

2. The Number Pooling Administrator is directed to provide three (3) 1000 blocks of numbers to BellSouth TeleComm Inc dba South Central Bell Tell – TN to meet the specific requirements of its customer within the 615 area code in the Nashville Rate Center for Switch Identification No. NSVLTNSTDS0.



Aaron J. Conklin, Hearing Officer