

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

October 30, 2020

IN RE:

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

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**DOCKET NO.
20-00123**

**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 Verizon Access for Expedited Review of Denial of Application for Numbering Resources* (“*Petition*”) filed by MCImetro Access Transmission Services Corp. d/b/a Verizon Access Transmission Services (“Verizon Access” or the “Company”) on October 29, 2020.

Verizon Access 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*, Verizon Access asserts that on or about October 19, 2020, it submitted an application to Somos, the Number Pooling Administrator,¹ for the assignment of one (1) 1,000 block of numbers in the 901 area code for the Memphis Rate Center. Verizon Access requested

¹ Somos is an independent non-governmental entity that is responsible for administering and managing the North American Numbering Plan (“NANP”) upon the expiration of the contract on December 31, 2018 with NeuStar to provide these services. *See* 47 C.F.R. § 52.13(a), (b). Effective January 1, 2019, the FCC selected Somos to serve as the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (“NANP”) and the Pooling Administrator (“PA”) under separate one-year bridge contracts while the FCC works to consolidate these functions into a single entity under a long term contract through a competitive bidding process. *FCC Press Release*, [https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/ DOC-354567A1.pdf](https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-354567A1.pdf) (October 16, 2018).

these numbers in order to fulfill an order for a customer, Raymond James & Associates, who requested a block of 1,000 contiguous numbers where the range does not start with 9 or 0.² Verizon Access indicates in its *Petition* that while it does have 1,000 consecutive numbers in its inventory, it does not have adequate numbers in its inventory to satisfy the customer's request.³

Somos' 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 Verizon Access' code request, the Memphis Rate Center had a utilization rate of approximately 84.1% and a months-to-exhaust ratio of approximately 41.7months.⁵ Therefore, because the rate center's current utilization rate and months-to-exhaust ratio do not meet the criteria in the NXX Guidelines, Somos denied Verizon Access' application.⁶

The Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") has authorized the Commission to review Somos' 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

² *Petition*, p. 1 & Exh. 1 (October 29, 2020).

³ *Id.* at 2.

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

⁵ *Petition*, Exh. 3 (October 29, 2020).

⁶ *Id.*

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).

telecommunications industry,⁹ the Hearing Officer agrees that Verizon Access' request should be approved.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. The Number Pooling Administrator's decision to deny MCImetro Access Transmission Services Corp. d/b/a Verizon Access Transmission Services' application for additional numbering resources, as set forth in its *Petition of Verizon Access for Expedited Review of Denial of Application for Numbering Resources* and discussed herein, is reversed.

2. The Number Pooling Administrator is directed to provide one (1) 1,000 blocks of consecutive numbers to MCImetro Access Transmission Services Corp. d/b/a Verizon Access Transmission Services to meet the specific requirements of its customer within the 901 area code in the Memphis Rate Center for Switch Identification No. MMPHTN32DS0.



Aaron J. Conklin, Hearing Officer

⁹ See Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-123.