

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

March 9, 2021

IN RE:	)	
	)	
PETITION OF MCIMETRO ACCESS	)	DOCKET NO.
TRANSMISSION SERVICES CORP. D/B/A VERIZON	)	21-00032
ACCESS TRANSMISSION SERVICE FOR REVIEW	)	
OF GROWTH CODE DENIAL	)	

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ORDER APPROVING PETITION FOR  
EXPEDITED REVIEW OF SOMOS' DENIAL OF APPLICATION FOR  
NUMBERING RESOURCES

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This matter is before the Hearing Officer of the Tennessee Public Utility Commission (the "Commission" or "TPUC"), upon the *Petition of MCIMetro Access Transmission Services Corp. d/b/a Verizon Access Transmission Services for Expedited Review of Somos' Denial of Application for Numbering Resources* ("Petition") filed by MCIMetro Access Transmission Services Corp. d/b/a Verizon Access Transmission Services ("Verizon" or the "Company") on March 8, 2021.

Verizon is a telecommunications public utility subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission that provides local exchange service and exchange access service in the State of Tennessee. In its *Petition*, Verizon asserts that on or about February 24, 2021, it submitted an application to Somos, the Number Pooling Administrator,<sup>1</sup> for the assignment of one (1) 1,000

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<sup>1</sup> 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).

block of numbers in the 615/629 area code for the Gallatin Rate Center. Verizon requested these numbers in order to fulfill an order for a customer, B. Riley Financial, who requested 30 contiguous numbers in the Gallatin Rate Center. The customer's internal dialing plan also requires that the last four digits of the telephone numbers cannot overlap with numbers in its existing dialing plan.<sup>2</sup> Verizon indicates in its *Petition* that while it does have adequate numbers in its inventory for incremental requests, it does not have adequate numbers in its inventory to satisfy the customer's request.<sup>3</sup>

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.<sup>4</sup> At the time of Verizon's code request, the Gallatin Rate Center had a utilization rate of approximately 44.4% and a months-to-exhaust ratio of approximately 2.898 months.<sup>5</sup> 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's application.<sup>6</sup>

The Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") has authorized the Commission to review Somos' decision to deny a numbering application.<sup>7</sup> 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

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<sup>2</sup> *Petition*, pp. 1-2 & Exh. 1 (March 8, 2021).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at 2.

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

<sup>5</sup> *Petition*, p. 2 & Exh. 4 (March 8, 2021).

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

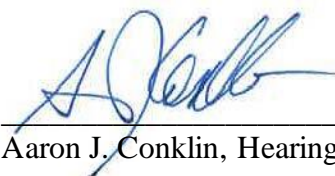
<sup>7</sup> *In the Matter of Numbering Resource Optimization*, CC Docket No. 99-200, *Third Report and Order and Second Order on Reconsideration in CC Docket No. 96-98 and CC Docket No. 95-116, Third Report and Order and Second Order on Reconsideration*, CC Docket No. 99-200, 17 FCC 01-362, ¶ 48 (2001).

center that it cannot meet with its current inventory.”<sup>8</sup> Upon consideration of the facts contained in the record, the public interest, and the Commission’s charge to foster competition in the telecommunications industry,<sup>9</sup> the Hearing Officer agrees that Verizon’s 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 MCIMetro Access Transmission Services Corp. d/b/a Verizon Access Transmission Services for Expedited Review of Somos’ 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 615/629 area code in the Gallatin Rate Center for Switch Identification No. NSVMTN03DS0.

  
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Aaron J. Conklin, Hearing Officer

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

<sup>9</sup> See Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-123.