

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

April 7, 2022

IN RE:)	
)	
PETITION OF BELL SOUTH COMMUNICATIONS,)	DOCKET NO.
D/B/A AT&T TENNESSEE FOR REVIEW OF)	22-00027
CENTRAL OFFICE CODE DENIAL)	

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 Telecommunications, LLC d/b/a AT&T Tennessee for Review of Central Office Code Denial* (“*Petition*”) filed by BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC d/b/a AT&T Tennessee (“AT&T” or the “Company”) on April 5, 2022.

AT&T 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*, AT&T asserts that on or about March 16, 2022, it submitted an application to SomosGov, Inc. (“Somos”), the Number Pooling Administrator¹ for the assignment of two (2) consecutive 1,000 block of consecutive numbers in the 615 area code for the Springfield Rate Center. AT&T requested these numbers in order to fulfill an order for a customer, HCA TriStar NorthCrest

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).

Medical Center, who requested 2,000 consecutive numbers in the Springfield Rate Center.² AT&T indicates in its *Petition* that while it has adequate telephone numbers to satisfy incremental requests for numbers without receiving a new block of numbers, it does not have existing resources in its inventory to satisfy the customer's request for two thousand (2,000) consecutive numbers.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 AT&T's code request, the Springfield Rate Center had a utilization rate of approximately 25% and a months-to-exhaust ratio of approximately 1845 months.⁵ Therefore, because the rate center's current utilization rate and months-to-exhaust ratio do not both meet the criteria in the NXX Guidelines, Somos denied AT&T's 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*, pp. 1, 3 & Exh. 1 (April 5, 2022).

³ *Id.* at 3.

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

⁵ *Petition*, p. 3 & Exhs. 2, 3 (April 5, 2022).

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 AT&T's request should be approved.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. The Number Pooling Administrator's decision to deny BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC d/b/a AT&T Tennessee's application for additional numbering resources, as set forth in its *Petition of BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC d/b/a AT&T Tennessee for Review of Central Office Code Denial* and discussed herein, is reversed.

2. The Number Pooling Administrator is directed to provide two (2) consecutive 1,000 blocks of consecutive numbers to BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC d/b/a AT&T Tennessee to meet the specific requirements of its customer within the 615 area code in the Springfield Rate Center for Switch Identification No. SPFDTNMADS0.



Aaron J. Conklin, Hearing Officer

⁹ See Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-123.