

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

May 10, 2022

IN RE:

PETITION OF MCIMETRO ACCESS
TRANSMISSION SERVICES, LLC D/B/A VERIZON
ACCESS TRANSMISSION SERVICES FOR REVIEW
OF GROWTH CODE DENIAL

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DOCKET NO.
22-00044

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 MCIMetro Access Transmission Services, LLC d/b/a Verizon Access Transmission Services for Expedited Review of Somos, Inc.’s Denial of Application for Numbering Resources* (“*Petition*”) filed by MCIAccess Transmission Services, LLC d/b/a Verizon Access Transmission Services (“Verizon Access” or the “Company”) on May 9, 2022.

Verizon Access 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 Access asserts that on or about May 3, 2022, it submitted an application to SomosGov, Inc. (“Somos”), the Number Pooling Administrator¹ for the assignment

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).

of one (1) 1,000 block of consecutive numbers in the 865 area code for the Knoxville Rate Center. Verizon Access requested these numbers in order to fulfill an order for a customer, Encompass Health, who requested 400 consecutive numbers in the Knoxville Rate Center in which the first digit of the last four (4) digits is not a 9 or 0.² Verizon Access indicates in its *Petition* that it does not have 400 consecutive numbers in its inventory. As a result, Verizon Access applied for a Thousand Block in the Knoxville Rate Center.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 Knoxville Rate Center had a utilization rate of approximately 76.12% and a months-to-exhaust ratio of approximately 111.4 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 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

² *Petition*, p. 1 & Exh. 1 (May 9, 2022).

³ *Id.* at 2.

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. 2 & Exhs. 2, 3 (May 9, 2022).

⁶ *Id.* at 2 & Exh. 3.

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).

record, the public interest, and the Commission's charge to foster competition in the 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 MCIAccess Transmission Services, LLC d/b/a Verizon Access Transmission Services' application for additional numbering resources, as set forth in its *Petition of MCIMetro Access Transmission Services, LLC d/b/a Verizon Access Transmission Services for Expedited Review of Somos, Inc.'s Denial of Application for Numbering Resources* and discussed herein, is reversed.

2. The Number Pooling Administrator is directed to one (1) 1,000 block of consecutive numbers to MCIAccess Transmission Services, LLC d/b/a Verizon Access Transmission Services to meet the specific requirements of its customer within the 865 area code in the Knoxville Rate Center for Switch Identification No. KNVLTNIIDS0.



Aaron J. Conklin, Hearing Officer

⁹ See Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-123.