

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

November 5, 2024

IN RE:	)	
	)	
PETITION OF THE NORTH AMERICAN NUMBERING	)	DOCKET NO.
PLAN ADMINISTRATOR ON BEHALF OF THE	)	22-00128
TENNESSEE TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY	)	
FOR RELIEF OF THE 423 NUMBERING PLAN AREA	)	

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ORDER APPROVING EXTENSION REQUEST OF THE NORTH AMERICAN  
NUMBERING PLAN ADMINISTRATOR

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This matter came before Vice Chairman John Hie, Commissioner Robin L. Morrison, Commissioner Clay R. Good, and Commissioner Kenneth C. Hill, and Commissioner David Crowell (“TPUC” or “Commission”), the voting panel assigned to this docket, during an electronic hearing held via the WebEx videoconferencing platform on October 31, 2024<sup>1</sup>, for consideration of an emergency request by the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (“NANPA”) for an extension of the permissive dialing period for the 423/792 Numbering Plan Area (“NPA”) filed on October 17, 2024.

**BACKGROUND AND EMERGENCY REQUEST**

On November 18, 2022, NANPA filed a *Petition of the North American Numbering Plan Administrator on Behalf of the Tennessee Telecommunications Industry for Relief of the 423 NPA* (“*Petition*”). The *Petition* sought approval of an all-services distributed overlay, where existing customers would retain the 423 NPA and their current seven-digit telephone number but would

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<sup>1</sup> The Commission received an emergency request that is urgent and requires expedient consideration. Therefore, the Commission determined that it is necessary to convene a hearing on the request electronically in order to obtain a quorum of the voting panel without delay.

require ten-digit dialing with and between the affected areas, with a 13-month implementation schedule. Upon consideration of the *Petition*, filed comments, and the entire administrative record, the Commission approved NANPA's *Petition*.<sup>2</sup>

The 13-month implementation plan ("Plan") resulted from a consensus of the telecommunications industry of Tennessee ("Industry"). Upon assigning the new 729 NPA to overlay the 423 NPA, NANPA facilitated an implementation meeting with Industry where the implementation schedule for the 423/729 NPA was devised. Network preparation and customer education commenced on February 5, 2024, and commencement of the permissive dialing period took place on August 5, 2024. Under the Plan, mandatory 10-digit local dialing is scheduled to occur on February 5, 2025. The in-service date of the new 729 NPA is scheduled for March 5, 2025.<sup>3</sup>

On October 9, 2024, NANPA received notification from Industry stating that the Tennessee Network Security Integrators ("TNSI") had requested an extension of the implementation schedule of the Plan. TNSI cited the significant impacts of Hurricane Helene affecting Tennessee within the 423 NPA. TNSI asserts that changes to networks necessary to transition from 7 to 10-digit local dialing are now unable to be completed by February 5, 2025. NANPA facilitated a meeting with Industry wherein a consensus was reached to request a six-month extension to the Plan. The six-month extension would result in commencement of mandatory 10-digit local dialing on August 5, 2025. The in-service date of the new 729 NPA would be moved to September 5, 2025. NANPA currently projects the 423 NPA to exhaust its supply of Central Office codes ("NXX codes") in

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<sup>2</sup> *Order Approving Petition for Relief of the 423 Numbering Plan Area* (May 30, 2024).

<sup>3</sup> Letter from North American Numbering Plan Administrator ("NANPA") on Behalf of the Tennessee Telecommunications Industry Requesting an Emergency Extension to the Implementation Schedule for the Relief of the 423 NPA Adding the 729 NPA Overlay, pp. 2-3 (October 17, 2024).

the first quarter of 2026.<sup>4</sup> NANPA provided a copy of a Planning Letter that will be published concerning revision of the 423/729 NPA overlay upon approval of the emergency request.<sup>5</sup>

### **THE HEARING**

A Hearing in this matter was held before the voting panel of Commissioners during the electronic conference held on October 31, 2024, as noticed by the Commission on October 21, 2024. During the Hearing, Ms. Cecilia McCabe from NANPA, presented information on the emergency request. Members of the public were given an opportunity to offer comments, at which time, no comments were submitted.

### **FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

In its emergency request, NANPA and Industry have asked the Commission to extend the permissive dialing period for six (6) months. The panel found that since the projected exhaustion of 423 NPA NXX codes is anticipated to occur during the first quarter of 2026, the requested extension will not influence the supply of available numbers in the 423 NPA. In addition, the extension will allow sufficient time for companies to complete network changes and will not jeopardize the process of adding the 729 NPA to overlay the 423 NPA. Therefore, the panel voted to approve a six-month extension to the 13-month implementation of the all-services distributed overlay plan for relief of the 423 NPA.

### **IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

1. The emergency request of the North American Numbering Plan Administrator on Behalf of the Tennessee Telecommunications Industry for a six (6) month extension of the permissive dialing period in the 423 numbering plan area is granted. The new mandatory 10-digit dialing start date will begin on August 5, 2025, and the in-service date of the new 729 numbering plan area will be September 5, 2025.

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<sup>4</sup> *Id.* at 3.

<sup>5</sup> *Id.* at 4.

2. Any person(s) aggrieved by the Commission's decision in this matter may file a Petition for Reconsideration with the Commission within fifteen (15) days from the date of this Order.

3. Any person(s) aggrieved by the Commission's decision in this matter has the right to judicial review by filing a Petition for Review in the Tennessee Court of Appeals, Middle Section, within sixty (60) days from the date of this Order.

**FOR THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION:**

**Vice Chairman John Hie,  
Commissioner Robin L. Morrison,  
Commissioner Clay R. Good,  
Commissioner Kenneth C. Hill, and  
Commissioner David Crowell concurring.**

None dissenting.

**ATTEST:**

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Earl Taylor" followed by a smaller, less legible signature or initials "abh".

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**Earl R. Taylor, Executive Director**