

**BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.** 

601 W. Chestnut Street Room 407 Louisville, KY 40203

Dorothy.Chambers@BellSouth.com

**Dorothy J. Chambers** General Counsel/Kentucky

502 582 8219 Fax 502 582 1573

December 2, 2005

RECEWED

Ms. Beth O'Donnell
Executive Director
Kentucky Public Service Commission
211 Sower Boulevard
P.O. Box 615
Frankfort, KY 40602-0615

DEC 0 5 2005

PUBLIC SERVICE

Re:

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.'s Petition

Requesting the Commission's Intervention in Neustar

Thousand Block Assignments (Louisville Rate Center, Area

Code 502 – Kentucky Air National Guard)

Dear Ms. O'Donnell:

Case No. 2005-00 5/6

Enclosed are the original and ten (10) copies of BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.'s Petition for Review of NXX Code Thousand Block Denial in the Louisville Rate Center.

Very truly yours,

Musch Wuur Morothy Chambers

**Enclosures** 

RECEIVED

## COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

DEC 0 5 2005

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

## BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.'s	)		1800 000	ا ا س
Petition Requesting the Commission's Intervention	on )	Case No.	205-00	716
In NANPA NXX Code Assignments (NPA 502)	)			

## BELLSOUTH'S PETITION FOR REVIEW OF NXX CODE DENIAL IN THE LOUISVILLE RATE CENTER

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth"), through its undersigned counsel, pursuant to the rules adopted by the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") for challenging determinations of the North American Numbering Plan Administrator ("NANPA"), Neustar petitions the Kentucky Public Service Commission ("Commission") for review of Neustar's denial of BellSouth's application for use of central office numbering resources in the 502 area code.

In support of this petition BellSouth states:

- BellSouth is a telecommunications utility regulated by the Commission. It
  provides, among other services, intraLATA local exchange telecommunications
  services in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.
- 2. Neustar is an independent non-governmental entity that is responsible for administering and managing the North American Numbering Plan ("NANP"). See 47 C.F.R. Sec. 52.13 (a), (b).
- 3. On March 31, 2000, the FCC issued a Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making relating to numbering resource optimization ("FCC 00-104"). The goal of FCC 00-104 was to implement uniform standards governing

- requests for telephone numbering resources in order to increase efficiency in the use of telephone numbers and to avoid further exhaustion of numbers under the NANP.
- 4. Among other things, FCC 00-104 adopted a revised standard for assessing a carrier's need for numbering resources by requiring carriers to report rate center based utilization data to Neustar, rather than switch-specific utilization data. The FCC further required that, to qualify for access to new numbering resources, applicants must establish that existing inventory within the applicant's rate center will exhaust within six (6) months of the application. The FCC reaffirmed this requirement in two subsequent orders. FCC 00-429 at para. 29 (rel. Dec. 29, 2000); FCC 01-362 at para. 48-49 (rel. Dec. 28, 2001).
- The shift to a rate center basis for determining the need for new numbering resources was intended to "more accurately reflect how numbering resources are assigned" and to allow carriers "to obtain numbering resources in response to specific customer demands." FCC 00-104, para. 105.
- 6. In addition to the months-to-exhaust ("MTE") requirement described above, the FCC's rules also require carriers to meet a rate center utilization threshold of seventy-five percent (75%) in order to receive additional numbering resources in a given rate center. FCC 00-429 at para. 22-26; FCC 01-362, para. 50. Based on the FCC's orders, carriers must meet both the MTE requirement and the utilization threshold requirement on a rate center basis in order to obtain additional numbering resources. <u>Id.</u>

- 7. On November 30, 2005, BellSouth submitted a Central Office Code (NXX)

  Assignment Request ("Part 1") Thousand Block Application Request and CO

  Code Assignment/Months-to-Exhaust Certification Request Worksheet to Neustar for the assignment of one thousand block of numbers to meet the numbering demands of the Kentucky Air National Guard. The application is attached hereto as Attachment 1.
- 8. BellSouth completed the application in accordance with the Industry Numbering
  Committee's Guidelines and filled out the necessary Months-To-Exhaust
  Certification Worksheets as required.
- 9. The code assignment request was for a block of 1,000 consecutive numbers in the 502 NPA requested by the Kentucky Air National Guard. BellSouth, however, did not have sufficient number resources available within its inventory to meet the Kentucky Air National Guard's numbering needs and was unable to meet the customer's specific request for numbering resources. At the time of the filing of the Code request, the Louisville Rate Center had an MTE of 38.8 and a utilization of 74.08 %. BellSouth submitted this code request because the Louisville Beechmont switch does not have the numbers needed to meet the customer's needs. On November 30, 2005 Neustar's Central Office Code Administration denied BellSouth's code request on the grounds that BellSouth had not met the rate center utilization criterion now set forth in the Central Office (NXX) Guidelines. Neustar denied BellSouth's code request despite the fact that BellSouth does not have adequate numbering resources needed to satisfy its

- customer's demands in the above referenced switch. Neustar's response is on the last screen of Attachment 1.
- National Guard with the requested numbers prevents BellSouth from providing the quality of service this customer desires, needs, and expects. If BellSouth is not assigned the thousand block of numbers needed to meet the customer's request, BellSouth will be unable to provide the telecommunications services requested by the customer. Neustar's refusal to grant numbering resources sufficient to meet the Kentucky Air National Guard's needs is inconsistent with the FCC's position that "[u]nder no circumstances should consumers be precluded from receiving telecommunications services of their choice from providers of their choice for a want of numbering resources." FCC 00-429 at para.61.
- Both the FCC's rules and the Central Office Code (NXX) Guidelines provide that state regulatory authorities have the power and authority to review Neustar's decision to deny a request for numbering resources. See FCC 01-362, Appendix A, Final Rules, para. 52.15(g)(4)("The carrier may challenge the Neustar's decision to the appropriate state regulatory commission.") FCC 01-362 at para. 61-66; Central Office Code (NXX) Guidelines para. 13.0 ("Appeals may include but are not limited to one or more of the following options: . . . C. The CO Code Administrator(s) and code holders/applicants may pursue the disagreement with the appropriate governmental/regulatory body").

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> BellSouth employs a number administration technique called "sequential numbering" in order to preserve the largest blocks of consecutive numbers for as long as possible. The lack of consecutive numbers in the switch referred to above is the consequence of a high level of utilization, not any failure on BellSouth's part to conserve blocks of consecutive numbers.

- 12. Prior to the FCC's orders and the resulting change in the Central Office Code (NXX) Assignment Guidelines, the MTE procedures used by Neustar permitted a carrier to receive a code assignment, even if the MTE requirement at the switch level was not met. These waivers or exceptions were granted where customer hardships could be demonstrated or where the service provider's inventory did not have a block of sequential numbers large enough to meet the customer's specific request. Under today's procedures, Neustar looks at the MTE and utilization for the entire rate center without any exceptions. The FCC has determined, however, that States may grant relief "if 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." FCC 01-362, para. 64. In addition, the FCC has ruled that, "States . . . may grant requests for customers seeking contiguous blocks of numbers." Id.
- 13. BellSouth requests that the Commission reverse Neustar's decision to withhold numbering resources from BellSouth. BellSouth's request for numbering resources would not materially impact exhaustion of the remaining 129 NXXs available in the 502 area code in the Louisville rate center.
- 14. This Commission, as well as the Commissions in Alabama, Florida, Georgia,
  Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee have all
  previously addressed similar situations and ordered Neustar to provide BellSouth
  with the numbering resources, even though BellSouth was unable to satisfy the
  required months-to-exhaust and utilization criteria.

## WHEREFORE, BellSouth requests that the Commission:

- 1. Reverse the decision of Neustar to deny BellSouth's requests for additional numbering resources,
- 2. Direct Neustar to provide the requested central office code for the switch identified herein, and
- 3. Grant the requested relief as soon as practicable.

Respectfully submitted this 2nd day of December, 2005.

OROTHY J. CHAMBERS

601 W. Chestnut Street, Room 407

P. O. Box 32410

Louisville, KY 40232

(502) 582-8219

COUNSEL FOR BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.

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