

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

INVESTIGATION INTO THE ASSIGNMENT) ADMINISTRATIVE
OF ABBREVIATED N11 DIALING CODES) CASE NO. 343

O R D E R

On November 5, 1993, after investigation, the Commission determined that the allocation of N11 dialing codes was not in the best interests of Kentucky telephone users or information service providers. The Commission found that N11 was a scarce public resource that should not be allocated to private enterprises but should be used for the delivery of critical services to the public. Moreover, the Commission determined that its mandate should not be construed as authorization for local exchange carriers to offer N11 dialing codes as a tariffed service.

Pursuant to an April 13, 1995 request by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet ("Transportation Cabinet"), the Commission found that the intended use by the Transportation Cabinet of a 3-digit dialing code for traffic routing in the northern Kentucky area was in the best interest of Kentucky. The Commission found that the Transportation Cabinet's use of the 3-digit dialing code should be strictly limited to its public service project, and approved that project for a period of two years on June 21, 1995.

The Commission originally allocated 311 for the use of the Transportation Cabinet's project; however, on November 14, 1997, the Commission changed the

dialing code to 211 because the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) had allocated 311 on a nationwide basis for non-emergency police calls.

On October 29, 1999, the Commission extended the assignment of the 211 dialing code to the Transportation Cabinet for a period of six months past the FCC’s decision in its proceeding regarding allocation of N11 codes.

On August 30, 2000, the Transportation Cabinet filed a petition requesting permanent assignment of the 511 dialing code for statewide traffic routing information. The FCC’s decision assigning the 511 dialing code for traveler information and providing transportation agencies discretion in its implementation had been released on July 31, 2000.¹ The FCC allocated 211, currently used by the Transportation Cabinet, for social service agencies. According to the FCC order, state transportation agencies have the discretion to determine the deployment schedule of 511, determine the type of transportation information to be provided using the three-digit number, and ensure that state and local transportation agencies cooperate in their implementation of 511. In addition, the agencies are to provide appropriate transportation information and ensure that such information covers more than municipal boundaries and is retrievable by a single telephone call.

According to the Transportation Cabinet, it is the only agency in the Commonwealth of Kentucky that can fulfill all of these mandates. The Transportation

¹ Third Report and Order on Reconsideration, FCC Docket Number 92-105.

Cabinet indicates in its petition that it will work with other agencies such as the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government and nine other entities that currently provide traveler information in Kentucky.

The Commission has reviewed the Transportation Cabinet's petition and concurs with its contentions. Accordingly, the Commission finds that the 511 dialing code should be assigned to the Transportation Cabinet on a permanent, statewide basis. The Transportation Cabinet is urged to convert its use of 211 to 511 as expeditiously as possible.

BE IT SO ORDERED.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 30th day of October, 2000.

By the Commission

ATTEST:

W. H. Fowler
Deputy Executive Director