

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

THE APPLICATION OF NANPA ON BEHALF OF THE)
KENTUCKY TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY)
FOR APPROVAL OF NPA RELIEF PLAN FOR THE) CASE NO.
270 NPA, AND NUMBER CONSERVATION) 2006-00357
MEASURES WITHIN KENTUCKY)

O R D E R

The Commission has sought to obtain for Kentuckians the benefits of thousands-block number pooling as a tool in extending the life of a numbering plan area ("NPA"). The Commission originally petitioned the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") for delegated authority to implement mandatory pooling on June 27, 2001, as part of early relief efforts for the 270 NPA.¹ Although the FCC ultimately implemented voluntary, in lieu of mandatory, thousands-block number pooling for the 270 NPA in 2003, the full impact of number pooling has not been realized as some carriers have elected not to participate. On October 10, 2006, the Commission again filed a petition for delegated authority to implement mandatory thousands-block number pooling within the 270 NPA.² On May 31, 2007, just after the Commission ordered a split for the 270 NPA, the FCC granted the petition.³

¹ Public Service Commission of Kentucky's Petition for Interim Delegated Authority to Implement Number Pooling Trials within the 270 NPA (dated June 27, 2001).

² The Kentucky Public Service Commission's Petition for Additional Delegated Authority to Implement Number Conservation Measures (dated October 10, 2006).

³ *In the Matter of Numbering Resource Optimization, Implementation of the Local Competition Provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Petition of the Kentucky Public Service Commission for Additional Delegated Authority to Implement Number Conservation Measures*, CC Docket No. 99-200, CC Docket No. 96-98, DA (May 31, 2007).

The Commission continues to believe that mandatory pooling will extend the life of the 270 NPA and delay the need for immediate NPA relief. However, the Commission must begin quickly to implement the authority delegated by the FCC in order to assess the full impact of mandatory pooling upon the life of the 270 NPA. Therefore, the Commission requests all carriers within the 270 NPA to provide comments, if desired, regarding the implementation of mandatory pooling.

In its national rollout of mandatory pooling within the largest 100 Metropolitan Statistical Areas on March 15, 2002, the FCC ordered that certain carriers be exempt from the pooling requirement. Those carriers receiving exemptions were rural telephone companies and Tier III Commercial Mobile Radio Service providers that had not received a specific request for the provision of Local Number Portability from another carrier, as well as carriers that are the only service provider receiving numbering resources in a given rate center. As required by the FCC in its Order delegating authority to the Commission, any carrier that meets the federal exemption requirements will continue to be exempt from mandatory pooling as implemented in the 270 NPA.⁴ However, the Commission requires that carriers exempted from mandatory number pooling must so notify the Commission. The notice of exemption shall include a listing of each rate center to remain exempt along with a description of the specific qualification(s) met for such exemption. The Commission will issue an implementation Order for mandatory pooling once comments have been reviewed.

The Commission's decision to implement a geographic split as the relief method for the 270 NPA remains intact. However, the Commission finds that the

⁴ Id., Paragraph 9.

implementation dates set in the May 31, 2007 Order should be altered so that the benefits of mandatory pooling within the 270 NPA can be evaluated. The permissive dialing period for the new NPA will begin on July 1, 2008, instead of April 1, 2008. The Commission will defer setting a date certain for mandatory dialing. Upon obtaining sufficient information and evaluating the effect of mandatory pooling upon the life of the current 270 NPA, the Commission will then establish the date by which mandatory dialing should begin.

On June 12, 2007, the North American Numbering Plan Administrator ("NANPA") notified the Commission that 364 will be the NPA code assigned to the western NPA created from the geographic split of the 270 NPA. On July 1, 2008, end-users with telephone services provided from locations on the western side of the geographic split may be contacted using either the new 364 NPA or the current 270 NPA. However, on and after the date to be set by the Commission for mandatory dialing, end-users may only be contacted by dialing the new 364 NPA. Therefore, those end-users required to adopt the 364 NPA are advised to begin considering appropriate measures to adequately notify others of the new 364 NPA. This information should also be utilized by carriers in their customer education plans. Because of the changes in the implementation plan discussed herein, Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers ("ILEC's"), Competitive Local Exchange Carriers ("CLEC's"), and wireless providers will not be required to file customer education plans until November 1, 2007.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. Within 20 days of the date of this Order, any carrier so desiring shall file comments regarding the implementation of mandatory thousands-block pooling within the current 270 NPA.
2. Within 20 days of the date of this Order, any carrier claiming an exemption from the mandatory pooling requirement, shall notify this Commission as specified herein.
3. The Commission's May 31, 2007 Order is hereby amended to reflect that the permissive dialing period shall begin on July 1, 2008.
4. The Commission's May 31, 2007 Order is hereby amended to eliminate the date for mandatory dialing until further Order by the Commission.
5. The western area code region, which includes the cities of Henderson, Hopkinsville, Madisonville, Murray, and Paducah, shall be assigned the new 364 NPA.
6. The Commission's May 31, 2007 order is further amended to reflect that ILEC, CLEC and wireless providers shall file customer education plans no later than November 1, 2007.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 15th day of June, 2007.

By the Commission

ATTEST


Executive Director