

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Commission,) Application No. C-3049
on its own motion, to conduct an)
investigation into possible) ORDER IMPLEMENTING
solutions for extending the life) MANDATORY THOUSANDS BLOCK
of area codes 308 and 402.) NUMBER POOLING IN CERTAIN
) RATE CENTERS OF THE 402
) AREA CODE AND SETTING A
) HEARING
)
) Entered: March 14, 2006

BY THE COMMISSION:

On November 13, 2003, the Nebraska Public Service Commission (Commission) opened Application C-3049 "to investigate further the potential use of thousands-block number pooling outside of the top 100 MSAs and rate center consolidation to return valuable number resources to the pool and further extend the life of both 402 and 308 area codes."

The March 30, 2004 order, seeking comments and setting a hearing, indicated "It is the stated goal of the Commission to implement thousands-block number pooling and further rate center consolidation in an effort to extend the life of the 308 and 402 area codes in the most efficient and cost effective manner possible."

Qwest, Alltel and Frontier Communications each agreed to cooperate with the Commission in its effort to conserve numbering resources. Their willingness to participate in voluntary number pooling has been essential in extending the forecasted exhaust date for the 402 area code. However, numbering resources in the 402 area code remain scarce.

On November 23, 2004, the Commission petitioned the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for Authority to Implement Additional Number Conservation Measures.

On February 24, 2006, the FCC released *Numbering Resource Optimization*, Order and Fifth Notice of Proposed Rule Making, CC Docket No. 99-200 (2006) granting the Commission "the authority to implement mandatory thousands-block pooling in the 402 NPA".

The 402 area code consists of 283 rate centers of which 249 are currently marked as voluntary pooling and 34 are marked as mandatory pooling due to their inclusion in the Omaha MSA.

Of the 179 rate centers in which Alltel, Frontier, and Qwest are the incumbent local exchange carriers, 24 of the rate

centers are already marked as mandatory pooling by the Pooling Administrator due to their inclusion in the Omaha MSA and the remaining 155 are designated as optional pooling. Since Alltel, Frontier, and Qwest are participating in voluntary pooling, each carrier has been reporting their numbering resource utilization at the thousands-block level. These three carriers have also contributed to thousands-block pools in their respective rate centers thereby meeting the numbering resource needs of other carriers in these pooling rate centers. A listing of the 155 rate centers in the 402 area code served by Alltel, Qwest, and Frontier is attached hereto as Appendix A.

Of the remaining 104 rate centers in the 402 area code 10 are marked as mandatory due to their inclusion in the Omaha MSA and 94 are designated as voluntary pooling. A listing of these 94 rate centers is attached hereto as Appendix B. These rate centers are served by the carriers listed in Appendix C.

Changing the classification of the 155 rate centers served by Alltel, Frontier, and Qwest from optional pooling to mandatory pooling is the first step we believe should be taken under the authority granted by the FCC, thereby further extending the life of the 402 area code. Such action will prevent new carriers entering these rate centers from inadvertently obtaining resources at the full code level of 10,000 numbers. New carriers will instead receive numbering resources at the thousands-block level.

Because Alltel, Frontier, and Qwest have been reporting their numbering resource utilization at the thousands-block level in the affected rate centers, and have been participating in voluntary thousands-block pooling, the impact of changing the pooling classification from optional to mandatory on all carriers seeking resources in the designated 402 area code rate centers is believed to be minimal.

However, more information is needed to determine the proper timeline and procedure for implementation of mandatory pooling in the remaining rate centers in the 402 area code listed in Appendix B. Commission staff is directed to contact the NeuStar Pooling Administrator and other industry entities to determine the necessary steps and process for implementing mandatory pooling in the remaining rate centers in the 402 area code listed in Appendix B

Therefore, the Commission finds those rate centers within the 402 area code currently served by Alltel, Frontier, and Qwest as outlined in Appendix A should be designated as mandatory thousands-block pooling. Commission staff is directed

to take all steps required by the Neustar Pooling Administrator to implement this change.

Furthermore, carriers with numbering resources in these areas should review their current numbering resource inventory and donate all eligible thousands-blocks in accordance with the Industry Numbering Committee Thousands-Block Number (NXX-X) Pooling Administration Guidelines (ATIS-0300066).

Finally, the Commission finds that a hearing should be held in order to establish a timeline and procedure for the implementation of mandatory thousands-block pooling in the remaining rate centers in the 402 area code. Said hearing should be scheduled for **May 16, 2006 at 1:30 p.m.** in the Commission Hearing Room, 1200 N Street, Suite 300, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Carriers and interested parties should file direct testimony no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 8, 2006. Each person filing direct testimony shall submit one original and eight (8) copies.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that those rate centers in the 402 area code currently served by Alltel, Frontier, and Qwest as outlined in Appendix A be designated mandatory thousands-block pooling.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all non-paging carriers with numbering resources in the 402 area code rate centers listed in Appendix A shall review their current numbering resource inventory and donate all eligible thousands-blocks in accordance with the Industry Numbering Committee Thousands-Block Number (NXX-X) Pooling Administration Guidelines (ATIS-0300066) within 45 days of the effective date of this order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a hearing be held on May 16, 2006 at 1:30 p.m. in the Commission Hearing Room, 1200 N Street, Suite 300, Lincoln, Nebraska, to establish the procedure and timeline for the implementation of mandatory thousands-block pooling in the remaining rate centers in the 402 area code listed in Appendix B.

IT IS FINALLY ORDERED that Carriers and interested parties shall file direct testimony no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 8, 2006. Each person filing direct testimony shall submit one original and eight (8) copies.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 14th day of
March, 2006.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chairman

ATTEST:

Executive Director