

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)
solutions for extending the life) ORDER CLOSING DOCKET
of area codes 308 and 402.)
)
) Entered: November 22, 2010

BY THE COMMISSION:

On June 9, 1999, the Nebraska Public Service Commission (Commission) initiated a proceeding in Docket C-2057/PI-28 to investigate the potential exhaust of assignable numbers in the 402 area code. At that time, The North American Number Plan Administrator (NANPA) estimated the 402 area code would be exhausted within two years. To delay the necessity of a new area code, the Commission worked with the industry to implement number conservation measures including thousand-block number pooling¹ and rate center consolidation. On July 20, 2000, the Federal Communications Commission authorized the Commission to implement thousand-block pooling in the largest 100 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) in the 402 Area Code.² Voluntary thousand-block number pooling began in the 402 area code on February 17, 2001.

On November 13, 2003, the Commission opened the above-captioned docket to investigate the use of thousands-block number pooling outside of the top 100 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) to further extend the life of both 402 and 308 area codes. The Commission held a hearing on May 5, 2004, exploring further thousands-block pooling outside of the largest 100 MSAs.

On November 23, 2004, the Commission petitioned the FCC for Authority to Implement Additional Number Conservation Measures. The FCC issued an order on February 24, 2006, granting the Commission the requested authority to implement mandatory

¹ Thousand-block number pooling is a number resource allocation method that divides a prefix or central office code (NXX) which normally consists of 10,000 telephone numbers into ten sequential blocks of 1,000 numbers. Thousand-block number pooling extends the life of an area code because it allows multiple service providers operating in the same rate area to share the ten thousand blocks in a prefix at the thousand-block level.

² See *In the Matter of Numbering Resource Optimization et al.*, CC Docket No. 99-200, DA 00-1616, ORDER (Rel. July 20, 2000) ("CC Docket No. 99-200") (approving the petitions filed by a number of states to implement conservation measures.)

thousands-block pooling in the 402 Numbering Plan Area (NPA).³

On March 14, 2006, the Commission entered an order implementing mandatory pooling in 155 of the 283 rate centers in the 402 area code. All 155 rate centers were served by incumbent local exchange carriers Alltel⁴, Frontier, and Qwest.

The Commission held a hearing on June 1, 2006, on the prospect of designating all rate centers in the 402 area code as mandatory. In an order released on June 27, 2006, the Commission implemented mandatory pooling for all the rate centers in the 402 area code as of November 1, 2006. In the same order the Commission granted waivers of the November 1, 2006, deadline for certain rate centers that requested additional time to implement mandatory pooling in all of their rate centers. All rate centers implemented mandatory pooling by the end of 2008.

Additional efforts undertaken by the Commission with the cooperation of the telecommunications industry resulted in extensions of the projected exhaust date for the 402 area code. However, in the NANPA 2008 Forecast, the exhaust date of the 402 area code was projected to be the third quarter of 2010. While the exact date of exhaust could not be predicted, the Commission was required to adopt a specific area code relief plan. On March 17, 2009, the Commission opened Docket C-4152 to adopt a relief plan for the 402 area code. On September 15, 2009, the Commission adopted an all-services overlay plan for the relief of the 402 area code.⁵ Implementation of the overlay plan is on-going.

Based on the complete implementation of mandatory thousands-block number pooling in the 402 area code and the on-going implementation of the relief plan for the 402 area code, the Commission finds that the above-captioned docket should be closed.

³ *In the Matter of Numbering Resource Optimization*, CC Docket No. 99-200, Order and Fifth Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (Rel. February 24, 2006).

⁴ The incumbent local exchange carrier that was Alltel subsequently changed its company structure and name to Windstream Nebraska, Inc.

⁵ See Docket C-4152, *In the Matter of the Commission, on its own motion, to adopt a relief plan for the 402 area code*, Order (September 15, 2009).

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that Docket C-3049 be, and it is hereby, closed.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 22nd day of November, 2010.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chairman

ATTEST:

Executive Director

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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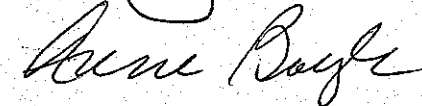
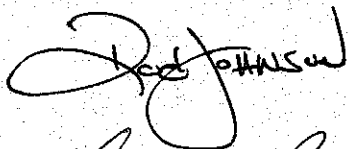
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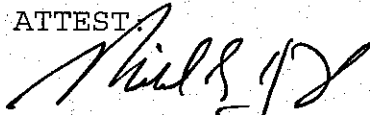
COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:



//s// Frank E. Landis
//s// Tim Schram


Vice Chairman

ATTEST:


Executive Director