BEFORE

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Commission's Investi- )

gation into Telephone Numbering and ) Case No. 97-884-TP-COI

Number Assignment Procedures )

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AT&T OHIO'S REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF A

DECISION OF NEUSTAR - POOLING ADMINISTRATOR \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 AT&T Ohio, by its attorneys and pursuant to 47 CFR § 52.15(g)(3)(iv), respectfully requests that the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (“Commission”) review and overturn the Pooling Administrator’s (“PA” or “NeuStar”) denial of AT&T Ohio’s request for numbering resources, as more fully described herein.

Fairfield County requested one block of 1,000 consecutive telephone numbers in the Lancaster rate center in conjunction with the implementation of a new Internet Protocol (IP) telecommunications system for the County. More specifically, Fairfield County requested a block of numbers with a number format where the first digit of the thousands block is “seven.” Numbers conforming to the requested format are needed to ensure compatibility with Fairfield County’s existing 4-digit dialing plan and to ease the transition to a new telephone number. The numbering resources in AT&T Ohio’s inventory are inadequate to meet Fairfield County’s needs. However, the number pooling inventory shows (740) 652-7 available for assignment. Therefore, AT&T Ohio respectfully requests that the Commission overturn NeuStar's denial and direct NeuStar to assign the requested numbers in the Lancaster rate center to AT&T Ohio for use by Fairfield County.

Since the initial installation of Fairfield County’s Centrex system in the 1980's, number blocks have periodically been added to meet growth and expansion needs. Presently, telephone numbers from six different NXXs comprise Fairfield County’s existing numbering plan. Use of multiple NXXs creates confusion for callers trying to reach the various County offices. Replacing the six different NXXs with a block of 1,000 consecutive numbers from a single NXX will eliminate such confusion and will enhance public safety and security. It will provide the County the opportunity to create a greatly simplified numbering plan by replacing the disjointed and almost unworkable array of multiple exchanges currently in use within the County and sometimes within even the same department. Assignment of a block beginning with a “seven” will allow Fairfield County to transition a significant number of existing numbers with a prefix change only, greatly easing the transition as well. Ultimately, 800+ telephone numbers currently in use by Fairfield County will be “freed-up” as a result of this initiative and will be returned to AT&T Ohio once the installation of the new telecommunications system is complete. After these numbers have gone through the appropriate aging cycle, they will be returned to AT&T Ohio’s inventory and will be available for re-assignment.

Fairfield County’s request for numbers cannot be filled with AT&T Ohio’s existing numbering resource inventory. Recent review of AT&T Ohio’s inventory in the Lancaster rate center demonstrates that the required number of consecutive telephone numbers is simply not available. Although AT&T Ohio has an adequate supply of usable telephone numbers in this rate center to satisfy incremental requests for numbers without receiving a new block of numbers, AT&T Ohio’s existing telephone number resources cannot satisfy this customer’s specific need. However, the number pooling inventory shows (740) 652-7 available for assignment. Nevertheless, AT&T Ohio’s request to obtain the required numbering resources from NeuStar will not be processed because AT&T Ohio does not meet the two required FCC criteria to obtain numbering resources in the Lancaster rate center. The FCC requires a months-to-exhaust (MTE) of 6 months or fewer. AT&T Ohio is at a 95.43 MTE due to a negative growth history and a negative growth forecast for this rate center as well as overly contaminated inventory that does not qualify for donation. In addition, the FCC requires utilization of 75% or higher and AT&T Ohio is at 63.26%. Thus, neither FCC criteria is met in this case.

The FCC's rules identify a procedure whereby denial of a numbering resource request can be brought to the appropriate state commission for review. 47 CFR § 52.15(g)(3)(iv) provides as follows:

(iv) The NANPA shall withhold numbering resources from any U.S. carrier that fails to comply with the reporting and numbering resource application requirements established in this part. The NANPA shall not issue numbering resources to a carrier without an Operating Company Number (OCN). The NANPA must notify the carrier in writing of its decision to withhold numbering resources within ten (10) days of receiving a request for numbering resources. The carrier may challenge the NANPA's decision to the appropriate state regulatory commission. The state regulatory commission may affirm or overturn the NANPA's decision to withhold numbering resources from the carrier based on its determination of compliance with the reporting and numbering resource application requirements herein.

In addition, the FCC's December 12, 2001 Order in its Number Resource Optimization Report and Order, CC Docket No. 99-200, FCC No. 01-362, paragraph 64 states that, "States may not accommodate requests for specific numbers (i.e. vanity numbers), but may grant requests for customers seeking contiguous blocks of numbers." AT&T Ohio submits that Fairfield County’s request constitutes special circumstances and demonstrates a clear requirement that warrants the Ohio Commission's review and reversal of NeuStar's decision.

Attached to this request are copies of AT&T Ohio's Thousand Block Application Form, the Months-to-Exhaust Certification, a copy of NeuStar’s denial, and a copy of Fairfield County’s request.

 For the reasons set forth herein, AT&T Ohio respectfully requests that the Commission overturn NeuStar's denial and direct NeuStar to assign the requested numbers in the Lancaster rate center to AT&T Ohio for use by Fairfield County.

Respectfully submitted,

AT&T Ohio

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