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| PUC logo | COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  P.O. BOX 3265, HARRISBURG, PA 17105-3265 | **IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO OUR FILE** |

**April 1, 2015**

Docket No. M-2015-2472927

Utility Code: 312050

NICOLE WINTERS

WINDSTREAM SERVICES LLC

4001 RODNEY PARHAM ROAD

LITTLE ROCK ARKANSAS

Re: Windstream Pennsylvania, LLC Safety Valve Request for 814 NPA Sligo and 724 NPA Enon Valley Rate Centers

Dear Ms. Winters,

On March 16, 2015, Windstream Pennsylvania, LLC (Windstream PA or the Company), submitted a Pennsylvania Safety Valve Numbering Resource Request form pursuant to our order entered at M-2008-2032767.[[1]](#footnote-1) Windstream PA is requesting expedited review of a denial by the Pooling Administrator of its request for additional numbering resources in the Sligo and Enon Valley rate centers of the 814 and 724 Numbering Plan Areas (NPAs). The Company requests codes consisting of ten thousand (10,000) numbers or an NXX code for LRN purposes for its new packet switches that are being deployed for projects supported by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Connect America Fund Phase I (CAF I) funding distributions.

According to the applicable industry Location Routing Number (LRN) Assignment Practices document (ATIS-0300065), Windstream PA must establish a unique LRN to identify the recipient switch or point of interconnection (POI) and must establish an LRN per LATA per switch from an assigned NXX for the recipient switch in the number portability capable network. Windstream PA will keep a one thousand (1,000) number block or 1K block for its use in each rate center and return the remaining nine thousand (9,000) numbers to Neustar, the Number Pooling Administrator. The Company's request comes before the Commission since it did not meet the months-to-exhaust criteria or the utilization criteria established by the FCC in its *Third Report and Order.*[[2]](#footnote-2)

The FCC granted state commissions the authority to provide relief to telecommunications carriers for additional numbering resources in a given rate center if the carrier cannot meet the demand for resources through its current inventory.[[3]](#footnote-3) In accordance with the Third Report and Order, carriers may demonstrate such a need by providing documentation of customer requests and current proof of utilization in the rate center.[[4]](#footnote-4)

Mandatory 1,000 number pooling was implemented in the 814 and 724 NPAs pursuant to the FCC’s national rollout schedule for pooling.[[5]](#footnote-5) Accordingly, as a pooling carrier, Windstream PA must comply with the FCC’s thousand-number block pooling regulations.[[6]](#footnote-6) Consequently, Windstream PA as a pooling carrier is required to obtain its numbering resources from Neustar.[[7]](#footnote-7)

Windstream PA states its current inventory and utilization of numbers in the Sligo and Enon Valley rate centers will not permit the Company to reach the FCC's required six-months-to-exhaust criteria for rate centers.[[8]](#footnote-8) Neustar, per the FCC’s *Second Report and Order*, rejected Windstream PA’s requests for an NXX code for each rate center since the carrier could not meet the growth requirements for obtaining additional numbering resources in these specific rate centers. In compliance with the FCC’s *Third Report and Order,* the Company petitioned the Commission to obtain additional numbering resources in the Sligo and Enon Valley rate centers of the 814 and 724 NPAs.[[9]](#footnote-9)

The FCC has clearly specified that certain state commissions may grant relief if a carrier demonstrates it received a denial of its request for numbering resources in a given rate center for which it cannot meet that request with its current inventory.[[10]](#footnote-10) Windstream PA provided supporting documentation that verifies that the Company is deploying new switches in the 814 and 724 NPAs. We have determined the public interest will be served by granting Windstream PA's request.

We note that Windstream PA has provided supporting documentation that verifies that it has requested that an NXX code be assigned to the Sligo and Enon Valley rate centers for its exclusive use. In order to comply with its current internal dialing plan, the Company is in need of the blocks of telephone numbers that match the following numbers:

814-xxx-9 (Sligo)

724-xxx-9 (Enon Valley)

There is verifiable evidence that Windstream PA is unable to satisfy the request from its current inventory. Accordingly, the Commission hereby approves its request to obtain 10,000 numbers in the 814 and 724 NPAs for assignment to the Sligo and Enon Valley rate centers by Neustar’s Pooling Administrator.

Consistent with the FCC's delegation of authority to this Commission, we direct Neustar’s Pooling Administrator to assign an NXX code to each of the Sligo and Enon Valley rate centers for Windstream PA within three business days after receipt of its request and documentation pursuant to this order, so that the Company has the necessary numbers to provide telecommunications services to its customers in a timely manner. Windstream PA will keep one 1K block of the assigned NXX code it receives for each rate center from the Pooling Administrator and return the remaining 18,000 numbers or 18 1K blocks back to the pool. The Company is only permitted to activate the 1K block of numbers for LRN purposes to accommodate the specific telecommunications needs of this particular switch deployment. Otherwise, Windstream PA must return the numbering resources to Neustar and may not retain the numbering resources to serve any other customers without first meeting the FCC's growth numbering resource requirements. Lastly, the Commission will mark this matter closed.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Chiavetta

Secretary

cc: Neustar Pooling Administrator

1. *Additional Numbering Resources to Local Exchange Carriers: Safety Valve Process*, Docket No. M-2008-2032767 (Orders entered November 6, 2008 and January 13, 2012). In this proceeding, the Commission streamlined its safety valve request process for telecommunications carriers. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. *In the Matter of Numbering Resource Optimization. Third Report and Order and Second Order on Reconsideration*, CC Docket No. 99-200 (*Third Report and Order,* adopted December 12, 2001). The order, among other things, addresses the issue of national thousand-block pooling. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. *In the Matter of Numbering Resources, Third Report and Order,* CC Docket No. 99-200 (Order adopted December 12, 2001) at ¶64. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. *Id.* at ¶64. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. *See In the Matter of Numbering Resource Optimization,* CC Docket No. 99-200, ¶¶1-10 (Order adopted April 24, 2002). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. The FCC directs that all service providers required to participate in thousands-block number pooling shall donate thousand blocks with less than ten percent contamination to the thousands-block number pool for the rate center within which the numbering resources are assigned. 52 C.F.R. § 52.20(c)(1). [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. *Federal Communications Commission’s Common Carrier Bureau Selects Neustar, Inc as National Thousands-Block Number Pooling Administrator*, Press Release (rel. June 18, 2001).  [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. *See In the Matter of Numbering Resources Optimization, First Report and Order* (Order adopted March 13, 2000) ¶¶ 101-102*;see also In the Matter of Numbering Resources*, *Second Report and Order*, CC Docket No. 99-200 (Order adopted December 7, 2000) at ¶¶23, 27-29. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. *In the Matter of Numbering Resources, Third Report and Order*, CC Docket No. 99-200 (Order adopted December 12, 2001) at ¶61. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. *Id* at ¶64. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)