

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE: VERIZON RHODE ISLAND :  
WAIVER REQUEST FOR NUMBER BLOCK : DOCKET NO. 3826  
RELEASE – AMGEN :

REPORT AND ORDER

On March 16, 2007, Verizon Rhode Island (“VZ-RI”), filed a request with the Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) for a waiver from the denial by the North American Number Pooling Administrator (“NANPA”) of VZ-RI’s request to release certain blocks of numbers for VZ-RI’s customer, Amgen (“the Customer”). Specifically, Verizon had requested 2000 numbers in two consecutive blocks. VZ-RI does not have 2000 consecutive numbers in its inventory in the Coventry exchange 412. Because of Amgen’s dialing pattern, the thousand blocks must begin with 8 and 9. All must be consecutive in order to make its expanded telecommunications system compatible with its existing system.

In Docket No. 3567, Order No. 17622 (issued December 1, 2003), Cox Communications, LLC had a customer seeking specific blocks of numbers. The customer was seeking to install a DID system and further, to have the new numbers match the old extensions, thus prompting a request for specific blocks which Cox did not already have. In that case, Cox did not have a 70% utilization rate on its assigned blocks, but rather, only had a 51% utilization rate on the remaining numbers it had available for customers.

The request in Docket No. 3567 was an issue of first impression for the Commission. The Commission noted that the purpose of the utilization percentage is to conserve unused numbers in order to extend the life of the NPA. In light of the importance of conserving numbers and preserving the NPA, the Commission set initial

minimum standards that must be met by a carrier in order for the Commission to consider a request for a waiver. The Commission found that a carrier must have a utilization rate over 50% and must have a customer ready, willing and able to utilize at least 60% of the numbers within the requested blocks either immediately, or in the very near future. This in no way was meant to suggest that the Commission will automatically approve every request that meets these minimum standards. The Commission stated that it must review each request on a case by case basis for reasonableness and to keep some control on the release of blocks.

In order for a carrier to receive an additional block of numbers, the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") has determined that the carrier must have a 75 percent utilization rate. VZ-RI's utilization rate is 79.7% in the Coventry exchange. However, the blocks were denied because NANPA determined that under normal circumstances, based on the utilization of numbers already assigned, VZ-RI would be unable to exhaust the two blocks within six months. Therefore, while on its face, VZ-RI would not meet the FCC's requirement, because it has a Customer who will require 100% of both blocks, VZ-RI meets both of the Commission's standards for waiver.

The Commission again cautions that carriers should make every effort to work with customers to avoid the need to seek a waiver and maximize the utilization of the numbers to which the carrier is assigned. The Number Pooling Rules are in place to conserve the 401 area code. However, in this case, VZ-RI has a customer who is willing to use a majority of the total numbers requested.

Accordingly, it is

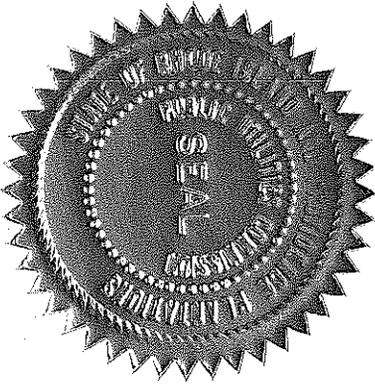
(18919) ORDERED:

1. That VZ-RI's request for a waiver from the denial of the release of two thousand blocks in the 401-412 commencing with 8000, 9000 is granted.

2. VZ-RI shall file with the Commission a copy of the Part 4 (certifying numbers in service) that it will need to file with NANPA.

EFFECTIVE AT WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND. PURSUANT TO AN OPEN MEETING DECISION ON APRIL 2, 2007. WRITTEN ORDER ISSUED ON APRIL 13, 2007.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION



*Elia Germani*

Elia Germani, Chairman

*Robert B. Holbrook*

Robert B. Holbrook, Commissioner

*Mary E. Bray*

Mary E. Bray, Commissioner