

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE: ONE COMMUNICATIONS :
WAIVER REQUEST FOR NUMBER BLOCK : DOCKET NO. 3922
RELEASE :

REPORT AND ORDER

I. OVERVIEW

On February 14, 2008, CTC Communications Corp d/b/a One Communications (“One Communications”), filed a request with the Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) for a waiver from the denial by the North American Number Pooling Administrator (“NANPA”) of One Communications’ request to release certain blocks of numbers for its Customer.¹ Specifically, One Communications had requested 200 numbers in a one thousand block ranging from 1500-1699 in the Providence rate center to meet the Customer’s request for additional numbering resources. It does not appear the NXX is as important to the customer as the specific thousand block. One Communications does not have a block available containing these specific numbers which are required to be compatible with the Customer’s direct inward dial (“DID”) system. One Communications’ utilization rate in the rate center was at 72.143%, below the 75% required by the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”).²

II. STANDARD

In Docket No. 3567, Order No. 17622 (issued December 1, 2003), Cox had a customer seeking specific blocks of numbers. The customer was seeking to install a DID

¹ At an open meeting held on February 28, 2008, the Commission denied One Communications’ request for confidential treatment of its customer’s identity. The Commission has not granted such treatment to other carriers requesting waivers and the Commission found that the FCC’s CPNI rules do not apply to the name of the customer.

² One Communications Filing Letter dated 2/14/2008, pp. 1-2.

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.³

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 Numbering Plan Area (“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 was not 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.⁴

III. COMMISSION FINDINGS

In order for a carrier to receive an additional block of numbers, the FCC has determined that the carrier must have a 75 percent utilization rate. One Communications’ current utilization rate in the Providence rate center is 72.143 percent. Therefore, it does not meet the FCC’s requirement. However, it does meet the Commission’s first standard for seeking a waiver. One Communications’ Customer is ready, willing and able to

³ The threshold set by the FCC is now 75%.

⁴ Order No. 17622 (issued December 1, 2003).

accept the numbers. However, in this case, the Customer will require only 20 percent of a one thousand block. Therefore, One Communications' request does not meet the Commission's second standard. However, because One Communications' utilization of all of its assigned blocks is less than 3 percent below the FCC's requirement, it is likely that One Communications will be able to assign numbers from that block without undue delay. Therefore a waiver will not unduly burden the area code with unused assigned numbers.

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, One Communications does not have the available numbers for its existing customers and has a utilization rate very close that that which would have prompted NANPA to release the requested block of numbers.

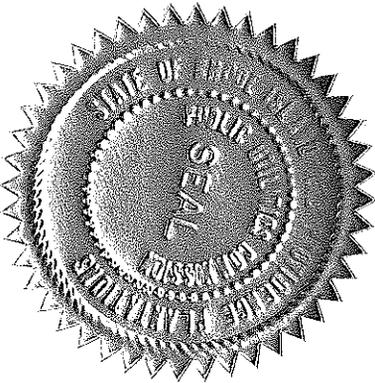
Accordingly, it is

(19218) ORDERED:

1. That CTC Communications Corp. d/b/a One Communications' request for a waiver from the denial of the release of a single one thousand block containing the numbers 1500-1699 in the Providence rate center is granted.
2. That CTC Communications Corp. d/b/a/ One Communications' request for confidential treatment is hereby denied.

EFFECTIVE AT WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND ON FEBRUARY 28, 2008
PURSUANT TO AN OPEN MEETING DECISION. WRITTEN ORDER ISSUED ON
FEBRUARY 28, 2008.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION



Elia Germani, Chairman

*Robert B. Holbrook, Commissioner

Mary E. Bray, Commissioner

*Commissioner Holbrook did not participate in the decision.