

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE: VERIZON RHODE ISLAND'S :
WAIVER REQUEST FOR NUMBER BLOCK : DOCKET NO. 4013
RELEASE – CAREY, RICHMOND & VIKING :
INSURANCE :

REPORT AND ORDER

I. OVERVIEW

On November 20, 2008, 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, Factory Mutual Insurance Company (“the Customer”). The Customer requested 3000 telephone numbers specifically in the Cranston central office in order to provide integrated dialing at an existing facility to support the growth of the organization. The Customer needs the specific numbers requested so that its telecommunications systems will be compatible with its existing dialing patterns while they plan for expansion and growth. VZ-RI currently does not have 3000 consecutive numbers in the inventory for the Cranston exchange. Therefore, in order to meet the Customer’s needs, VZ-RI had requested three consecutive thousands blocks that begin with 401-NXX 1000, 2000 and 3000.

II. RELEVANT HISTORY OF COMMISSION’S WAIVER ORDERS

In Docket No. 3567, Order No. 17622 (issued December 1, 2003), Cox Communications 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.

III. COMMISSION FINDINGS

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 current utilization rate in the Providence Rate Center which serves the Cranston switch is 68.48 percent. Therefore, it does not meet the FCC's requirement. However, it does meet the Commission's first standard for seeking a waiver. VZ-RI also meets the Commission's second standard because it has a Customer ready, willing and able to utilize all of the numbers immediately or in the very near future. Therefore, the Commission will allow the waiver request for the release of three

consecutive available blocks of numbers in the Cranston exchange beginning with 1000, 2000, and 3000 in the 401-NXX.

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, a Customer is expanding its operations and the release of the requested numbers will assist in fostering economic development in Rhode Island.

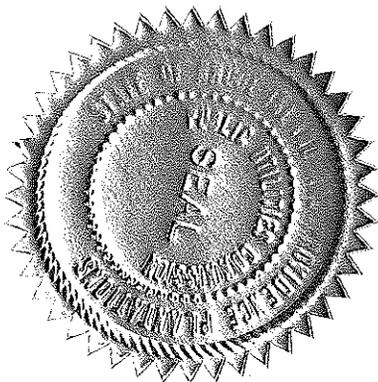
Accordingly, it is

(19518) ORDERED:

1. That VZ-RI's request for a waiver from the denial of the release of three consecutive thousands blocks beginning with 1000, 2000, and 3000 in any Cranston exchange (401-NXX) is granted.

EFFECTIVE AT WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND ON DECEMBER 10, 2008
PURSUANT TO AN OPEN MEETING DECISION. WRITTEN ORDER ISSUED ON
DECEMBER 11, 2008.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION



Elia Germani

Elia Germani, Chairman

Robert B. Holbrook

Robert B. Holbrook, Commissioner

Mary E. Bray

Mary E. Bray, Commissioner