

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF FARMERS MUTUAL)
TELECOM, INC.’S PETITION FOR A) CASE NO. FMU-T-22-02
SAFETY VALVE WAIVER OF FCC)
THRESHOLD REQUIREMENTS FOR)
NUMBERING RESOURCES) ORDER NO. 35563
)

On August 25, 2022, Farmers Mutual Telecom, Inc. (“Farmers” or “Company”) petitioned the Commission for an order waiving the Federal Communications Commission’s (“FCC”) Threshold Numbering Resource Requirements for the Fruitland, Idaho and Payette, Idaho rate centers (“Petition”).

Having reviewed the record in this case, we issue this Order granting the Company’s Petition.

THE PETITION

In the Petition, the Company asserted that it is replacing its existing Metaswitch VP3510 equipment/facilities in its Fruitland and Payette, Idaho exchanges. Because of this change, a new Number Plan Area (“NPA-NXX”) and Location Routing Number (“LRN”)¹ are required to establish homing arrangements for Local Exchange Routing Guide 7 Switching Homing Arrangement information (“LERG7SHA”) so the Company can order and install new trunking.² Petition at 1. The Company stated once the new switch is operational, its existing customers will be ported to it from the old switch. *Id.* Any unneeded 1,000 blocks will be returned to the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (“NANPA”). *Id.*

The Company stated that on August 22, 2022, it applied through the Pooling Administration System (“PAS”) of the NANPA for an LRN for the new Fruitland and Payette, Idaho switch within its Local Access Transport Area (“LATA”). According to the Company, NANPA’s administrator, Somos, Inc., denied the Company’s application because the Company

¹ The NPA, or Numbering Plan Area, is commonly called the area code. The NXX refers to the three digits of a phone number immediately following the area code and is also called the “exchange” or Central Switching Office Designation. The LRN, or Location Routing Number, is a unique 10-digit number used to identify a switch that holds ported or pooled numbers. Calls to ported or pooled numbers are routed based on the NPA-NXX of the numbers associated with the LRN.

² The LERG provides routing data obtained from the iconectiv Business Integrated Routing and Rating Database System (“BIRRD”) into which data is entered by service providers (“SPs”) and/or their agents.

did not meet the months-to-exhaust and/or utilization requirements in the Thousands-Block Number Pooling Administration Guidelines³ (the “Guidelines”). *See* Petition, Attachment A.

STAFF ANALYSIS

After evaluating the Company’s Petition, Staff believes that granting this waiver will not have any detrimental effect on the numbering resources in the Fruitland and Payette, Idaho rate centers. Because of the Company’s business need to replace the existing Meta switch equipment/facilities, it is reasonable for the Company to upgrade its facilities for the consumers of the Fruitland and Payette rate centers. Staff believes that the new switch will improve the performance of the two exchanges and will increase the need for additional numbers.

According to FCC orders and numbering guidelines, carriers may appeal NANPA decisions of this nature to the appropriate state regulatory authority. This Commission has granted similar waivers in the past to meet similar requests of other carriers. (*See* Commission Orders Nos. 33976, 34108, 34238, 34364, and 34501).

COMMISSION FINDINGS

Federal regulations allow a carrier to appeal a NANPA decision to withhold numbering resources. *See* 47 C.F.R. § 52.15(g)(4)(iv) and (5). The 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” requirements. *See* 47 C.F.R. § 52.15(g)(4)(iv) and (5). The Commission “also may overturn the NANPA’s decision to withhold numbering resources from the carrier based on its determination that the carrier has demonstrated a verifiable need for numbering resources and has exhausted all other available remedies.” 47 C.F.R. § 52.15(g)(5).

After reviewing Farmers’ Petition and Staff’s recommendation, the Commission finds that the Petition should be granted despite NANPA’s August 22, 2022, denial. The requested waiver is necessary for the Company in relation to its facilities upgrade and to meet the needs of its customers. We further find that the waiver and assignment will not detrimentally affect numbering resources for the Fruitland and Payette, Idaho rate centers. Consequently, we find it is reasonable to direct that NANPA provide the new number assignment requested by the Company.

³ To be assigned an additional thousands-block (NXX-X) for growth, “Months to Exhaust” must be less than or equal to six months. (FCC 00-104, Section 52.15(g)(3)(iii)).

Finally, we find that because the Company participates in number pooling the Company shall return any unused 1,000-blocks of numbers to NANPA.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Farmers' Petition for waiver of the numbering resource optimization Guidelines is granted.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any unused 1,000-blocks of numbers shall be returned to NANPA's numbering pool within six months from the service date of this Order.

THIS IS A FINAL ORDER. Any person interested in this Order (or in issues finally decided by this Order) may petition for reconsideration within twenty-one (21) days of the service date of this Order with regard to any matter decided in this Order. Within seven (7) days after any person has petitioned for reconsideration, any other person may cross-petition for reconsideration. *See Idaho Code §§ 61-626 and 62-619.*

DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this 17th day of October 2022.



ERIC ANDERSON, PRESIDENT

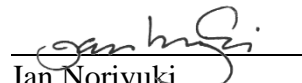


JOHN CHATBURN, COMMISSIONER



JOHN R. HAMMOND JR., COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:


Jan Noriyuki
Commission Secretary

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