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**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**  
**OF OREGON**

UM 953

In the Matter of an Investigation into the            )                                    ORDER  
Conservation of Number Resources.                 )

**DISPOSITION: INTERIM POOLING ADMINISTRATOR  
SELECTED/POLICIES ADOPTED**

On November 24, 1999, the Commission issued Order No. 99-729 opening an investigation into methods of conserving telephone number resources in Oregon. That investigation was docketed as UM 953.

At its public meeting on February 6, 2001, the Commission considered a report from its Staff regarding certain issues in UM 953. The Commission considered Staff's comments and comments from NeuStar and WorldCom. The Commission adopted Staff's recommendation to select NeuStar as the interim 1000 Block Pooling Administrator (Interim Number Pooling Administrator or INPA). The Commission also adopted Staff's other recommendations, except as modified herein.

**Background**

Order No. 99-729 recognized the importance to telephone users in Oregon of the development of means of conserving telephone number resources. Number pooling can be an important means of conserving numbers.

At its September 21, 1999, public meeting, the Commission instructed its Staff to petition the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for interim authority to pursue telephone number conservation procedures, including the implementation of 1000 Block Pooling procedures in Oregon. Staff filed a petition with the FCC for interim authority to implement number conservation measures, such as number pooling. On July 20, 2000, the FCC granted the Commission specific authority to implement interim 1000 block pooling for both the 541 and 503/971 area codes. The number pooling is interim because in the near future the FCC will appoint a national number pooling administrator.

On September 28, 2000, the Oregon Exchange Carrier Association (OECA) filed a petition requesting that the Commission appoint an Interim Number Pooling Administrator for the telephone numbering plan in Oregon. On December 15, 2000, the Commission issued a Request for Applicants (RFA) seeking candidates for the position of INPA. Two applicants responded to the RFA: NeuStar, Inc., and Telcordia Technologies, Inc. Staff reviewed the applications and interviewed both applicants. Staff concluded that NeuStar should be selected to become the INPA.

OECA's petition also requested that the Commission address several issues related to 1000 block pooling in addition to the appointment of the INPA. Qwest Corporation attached a "Statement of Position" to the OECA petition asserting that the Commission does not have authority to implement interim number pooling on an area code basis but only on a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) basis. Qwest's concern relates to possible workload problems if large carriers who operate in several states and have many switches are required to implement number pooling in several states at about the same time. Qwest asks the Commission to address the following issue: "Whether there should be a limit to the number of switch conversions for interim number pooling that any one carrier is obligated to make per quarter."

### **Staff Report**

Staff prepared an extensive report for presentation at the February 6, 2001, public meeting. It addresses the issue we note above and other matters related to the selection of the Oregon 1000 block number pooling administrator. It makes six recommendations. It responds to Qwest's concern about workload issues. We have reviewed Staff's report and the comments of those involved in this matter. We conclude that the recommendations made by Staff are persuasive. We adopt Staff's recommendations and the reasoning for them as set out in its report, with the exceptions described below.

Staff's report states that the first implementation meeting should be held on March 15, 2001. It also states that implementation of interim number pooling in the 541 area code should occur by June 30, 2001, and in the 503/971 area codes by September 30, 2001. Given the occasional difficulties of setting meetings on a specific day and the complexity of the implementation process, we conclude that these dates should be guidelines, not firm directives. Our ordering paragraphs below reflect our conclusion.

WorldCom made an appearance through its attorney, Lisa Rackner. Ms. Rackner asked the Commission to clarify or modify Staff's recommendation (3), regarding the allocation of costs incurred by NeuStar. She asked that the allocation be based on revenues from Oregon intrastate operations or, in the alternative, revenues from Oregon specific intrastate and interstate operations.

The Commission will, however, adopt Staff's recommendation that we use an allocation method for NeuStar's costs similar to the method used by the FCC to allocate Local Number Portability (LNP) shared or common cost among carriers. We note that these costs will be so small, perhaps in fact zero, that we cannot justify creating a new proceeding to determine how to allocate them among carriers in Oregon. Number pooling benefits all carriers, and the public generally, because it is a significant aspect of conservation of telephone numbering resources. It is reasonable to allocate the Administrator's charges among all carriers in Oregon based on their total telecommunications end-user revenues. This method will comply with the FCC's competitive neutrality requirements. We spell out the details of that allocation method below in the ordering paragraphs.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

The Commission adopts Staff's report dated January 30, 2001, which is attached to and made a part of this order as Appendix A, with the modifications described above and set out in the ordering paragraphs below.

### **ORDER**

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The OECA, operating through the industry North American Portability Management, LLC, shall enter into negotiations with NeuStar, Inc., to act as the interim 1000 Block Pooling Administrator for Oregon area codes 541 and 503/971. Compensation for NeuStar's service shall be the payment schedule presented in the company's January 10, 2001, application.
2. If NeuStar is not selected as the National 1000 Block Pooling administrator, the total costs billed to Oregon carriers shall not exceed \$10,000.
3. The costs incurred by NeuStar in completion of the terms of the contract shall be allocated to telecommunication carriers in the same manner as common costs are now allocated for local number portability. Specifically, NeuStar, Inc., shall allocate or distribute its charges among telecommunications carriers in Oregon based on the carriers' intrastate, interstate, and international end-user telecommunications revenues for Oregon.

4. The first implementation meeting shall be held at the PUC by March 15, 2001, or as soon thereafter as practicable, to establish the plan and procedures to implement interim number pooling in the 541 area code by June 30, 2001, and in the 503/971 area codes by September 30, 2001, or as soon after those dates as practicable.
5. The Commission will not accede to the OECA request to petition the FCC for clarification of authority delegated to the Oregon Commission regarding interim number pooling.
6. The Commission directs that a docket be opened to investigate costs which may be recovered for interim number pooling.

Made, entered, and effective \_\_\_\_\_.

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**Ron Eachus**  
Chairman

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**Roger Hamilton**  
Commissioner

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**Joan H. Smith**  
Commissioner

A party may request rehearing or reconsideration of this order pursuant to ORS 756.561. A request for rehearing or reconsideration must be filed with the Commission within 60 days of the date of service of this order. The request must comply with the requirements in OAR 860-014-0095. A copy of any such request must also be served on each party to the proceeding as provided by OAR 860-013-0070(2). A party may appeal this order to a court pursuant to applicable law.