

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

OF OREGON

UM 1141

In the Matter of)	
)	
PINE TELEPHONE SYSTEM INC.)	ORDER
)	
Petition for Temporary Suspension of)	
Wireline to Wireless Number Portability)	
Obligations)	

DISPOSITION: PETITION GRANTED

On August 5, 2004, Pine Telephone System, Inc., (Pine Telephone or the company) filed a petition with the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (Commission) to extend the temporary suspension of wireline to wireless number portability obligations in the Halfway exchange from August 22, 2004 to January 1, 2005. On August 10, 2004, the company filed another petition to extend the temporary suspension of number portability obligations in the Granite exchange from March 1, 2005 to June 1, 2005.

Background. Number portability is an obligation placed on all local exchange carriers and all wireless carriers by the Federal Communications Commission. Number portability allows customers to keep their telephone numbers when they change service from one carrier to another. On March 31, 2004, T-Mobile, a cellular carrier, requested Pine Telephone to implement wireline to wireless number portability in the Granite exchange. On April 5, 2004, Rural Cellular Corporation made a similar request for the Granite and Halfway exchanges. On April 14, 2004, Pine Telephone filed a petition for a temporary suspension of its number portability obligations and on April 26, 2004, amended that petition. The Commission granted the petition by Order No. 04-302, entered May 27, 2004.

The Petitions. In its August 5, 2004 petition for the Halfway exchange, Pine Telephone alleged that it had been working diligently with its vendors to implement wireline to wireless number portability in the Halfway exchange. The vendors are working with small telephone companies across the nation to implement number portability, but because of limited resources it is clear the vendors will not be able to meet the August 22, 2004 deadline set for Pine Telephone.

In its August 10, 2004 petition for the Granite exchange, Pine Telephone repeated the same facts, except it stated, "It is becoming more and more likely that the vendors will not make the March 1, 2005 date set for Pine Telephone."

Discussion. The Commission staff (Staff) notified both cellular carriers, T-Mobile and Rural Cellular Corporation, of Pine Telephone's petitions. Neither cellular indicated that it objected. Staff voiced no objection.

Pine Telephone is technically incapable of providing number portability in the Granite exchange until it replaces its switch. The company is technically incapable of providing number portability in the Halfway exchange, until the vendors correct software compatibility problems. The Commission is satisfied that Pine Telephone has been working diligently to provide number portability in both the Halfway and Granite exchanges.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Pine Telephone System, Inc.'s petition for extension of wireline to wireless number portability obligations until January 1, 2005, in the Halfway exchange, is granted.
2. Pine Telephone System, Inc.'s petition for extension of wireline to wireless number portability obligations until June 1, 2005, in the Granite exchange, is granted.

Made, entered, and effective _____.

Lee Beyer
Chairman

John Savage
Commissioner

Ray Baum
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.