

**PROJECT NO. 24186**

**THOUSAND-BLOCK NUMBER**                    §        **PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**  
**POOLING TRIALS IN TEXAS**                §                                    **OF TEXAS**

**ORDER IMPLEMENTING PROCEDURAL CHANGES  
REGARDING NUMBER POOLING AND OPTIONAL TWO-WAY EAS**

The Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) ordered thousand-block pooling trials in Texas beginning with the 512 NPA in August 2000 and continuing with San Antonio (October 1, 2001) and Houston (November 1, 2001 – January 1, 2002). Implementation of these pooling trials has revealed an issue relating to Extended Area Service (EAS) calling plans. This Order addresses the issue and instructs carriers and the pooling administrator on the methods that should be used in pooling trials that involve rate centers where optional two-way EAS calling plans are offered.

Optional two-way EAS requires two unique central office codes or thousand-blocks for any local exchange carrier (LEC) offering the service. Call routing for the two different calling scopes, EAS and local, is done over separate trunk groups at the incumbent LEC's central office. Currently, this use of separate trunk groups and therefore separate codes or thousand-blocks within the rate center is the only viable technical methodology. The codes or thousand-blocks within a rate center are not fungible. A carrier cannot provide optional two-way EAS with telephone numbers from a non-EAS code. Therefore, a single, non-distinguished pool of thousand-blocks is not adequate to accommodate the immediate needs of the industry and the pooling administrator.

At present, the Thousand-Block Pooling Administration Guidelines do not provide for a method to distinguish between thousand-blocks by category, i.e., local vs. Optional EAS. Therefore, the Commission orders the implementation of the following methodology to distinguish between blocks of numbers by type either within a pool or by use of separate pools.

- (1) All carriers must identify thousand-blocks from EAS NXXs prior to donation to the pool, designating the "EAS blocks" as such on the Donation Form under the heading, "Other Information."
- (2) The pooling administrator must keep EAS identified thousand-blocks segregated from other thousand-blocks in the pool.
- (3) All carriers requesting a thousand-block from the pooling administrator for the purpose of providing optional EAS service must specify such in the "Remarks" section on the appropriate form.
- (4) All carriers, when making their forecasts to the pooling administrator, will distinguish type of numbers being forecast as EAS or non-EAS.
- (5) If the pooling administrator needs to open a new NXX to replenish either the "EAS pool" or the "non-EAS pool" to maintain a sufficient level of inventory to fulfill any pooling participant's request for either type of thousands block, the pooling administrator will post all available blocks of both types on its web site, with updates at least weekly.

The above-described methodology is adopted for all thousand-block pooling trials in Texas currently ordered by the Commission.

**SIGNED AT AUSTIN, TEXAS the \_\_\_\_\_ day of October 2001.**

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS**

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**MAX YZAGUIRRE, CHAIRMAN**

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**BRETT A. PERLMAN, COMMISSIONER**

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**REBECCA KLEIN, COMMISSIONER**