

PROJECT NO. 24186

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

ORDER REQUESTING COMMENTS ON THOUSAND-BLOCK POOLING

The Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) is firmly committed to taking all necessary and appropriate actions to conserve numbering resources in the state of Texas. The Commission is convinced that number pooling plays an important role in number conservation.

Background

On July 5, 1999, the Commission filed its Petition for Delegation of Additional Authority to Implement Number Conservation Measures (Petition) with the FCC.¹ In its Petition, the Commission requested authority to implement thousand-block number pooling trials; reclaim unused and reserved NXX codes and thousand number blocks within those codes; require the submission of utilization and forecast information to the Commission; require sequential number assignment; and implement unassigned number porting. On November 30, 1999, the FCC issued an Order granting all of the Commission's requests with the exception of unassigned number porting.² In its Order, the FCC acknowledged the area code situation in Texas is critical, with eleven new codes having been added since 1990.³

In March of 2000, the Commission signed its Order Initiating Number Conservation Measures in the 512 NPA.⁴ Thousand-block pooling began in the 512 NPA on August 1, 2000. Further, on June 4, 2001, the Commission signed two other pooling orders in Project No. 24186 initiating pooling in the San Antonio, Houston, Dallas and Fort Worth metropolitan areas.⁵

¹ *Petition of Public Utility Commission of Texas for Expedited Decision for Authority to Implement Number Conservation Measures*, CC Docket No. 96-98, NSD File No. L-99-55 (July 5, 1999) (Petition).

² *Petition of Public Utility Commission of Texas for Expedited Decision for Authority to Implement Number Conservation Measures*, CC Docket No. 96-98, Order, NSD File No. L-99-55 (Nov. 30, 1999) (Delegation Order).

³ *Id.* at para. 7.

⁴ *Numbering Plan Area Relief Planning for the 512 Area Code*, Project No. 21772, Order Initiating Number Conservation Measures in the 512 Area Code (March 29, 2000) (512 Pooling Order).

⁵ *Thousand-Block Pooling Trials in Texas*, Project No. 24186, Order Initiating Thousand-Block Pooling Trial in the 210 NPA, Order Initiating Thousand-Block Pooling Trials in the Houston, Dallas and Fort Worth Metropolitan Areas (June 4, 2001).

While pooling will not eliminate the need for area code relief, previous pooling trials in Texas and elsewhere have clearly demonstrated that number pooling can significantly extend the life of an NPA. Therefore, the Commission intends to utilize this tool more effectively throughout the state.

Request for Comments

Although thousand-block pooling is a proven number optimization and conservation method, its effectiveness may be diluted in some NPAs depending on the characteristics of the NPA. The Commission is interested in thoroughly evaluating the effectiveness of pooling in the remaining NPAs in the state prior to ordering further pooling trials. To assist the Commission in this task, the Commission requests comments from any and all codeholders in the state on the effectiveness of thousand-block pooling in the following NPAs: 806, 940, 915, 830, 956, 361, 979, 936, 409, 903 and 254. Interested codeholders should file comments in Project No. 24186 no later than July 20, 2001 to ensure consideration.

SIGNED AT AUSTIN, TEXAS the _____ day of June 2001.

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS

PAT WOOD, III, CHAIRMAN

BRETT A. PERLMAN, COMMISSIONER