

BEFORE THE  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON D.C. 20554

In the matter of )  
 )  
Numbering Resource Optimization ) CC Docket No. **99-200**  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

**COMMENTS OF THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE  
COMMISSION ON THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES  
COMMISSION’S PETITION FOR AUTHORITY TO  
IMPLEMENT SPECIALIZED OVERLAY AREA CODES**

Pursuant to the Federal Communication Commission’s (“FCC”) procedural Schedule established in the above docket, the Michigan Public Service Commission (“MPSC”) hereby submits its comments.

**I. INTRODUCTION**

On October 16, 2003, the FCC requested comments regarding the California Public Utilities Commission’s (“CPUC”) Petition for Authority to Implement Specialized Area Codes.<sup>1</sup> Currently, the FCC requires States to petition for authority to implement Specialized Overlays (“SO”) on a case-to-case basis.<sup>2</sup>

The CPUC is requesting two SO area codes to cover the entire state of California, a total of 25 currently existing area codes. The SO area codes would accommodate non-geographic services that have transparent or non-geographic features such as On-Star, e-fax, ATMs, Points of Sales, modems and faxes for businesses with 50 or more access lines, paging services, Voice of Internet Protocol (VoIP), and Internet service provider

---

<sup>1</sup> CPUC Petition for Authority to Implement Specialized Area Codes, CC Docket 99-200 and 96-98, October 6, 2003.

<sup>2</sup> Third Report and Order and Second Order on Reconsideration, *Numbering Resource Optimization*, CC Docket 96-98 and 99-200, ¶ 67-94.

telephone numbers. Wireline and wireless telecommunications services would remain in the existing area codes.

The CPUC also requests authority to enforce the take-back of non-geographic-based numbers on a retroactive basis, meaning to change the area code of all current non-geographic-based telephone numbers in California to reflect the new SO area codes. In addition, the CPUC requests the authority to implement permanent seven-digit dialing within area codes, but continue to use 1+10-digit dialing between area codes and to encourage numbering resource conservation by placing the two SO area codes directly into mandatory pooling.

## **II. DISCUSSION**

As the MPSC has previously noted, state public utility commissions are on the forefront of the conservation of the current North American Numbering Plan (NANP).<sup>3</sup> A letter, from the FCC, to the MPSC stated “we recognize that state commissions are uniquely positioned to understand local conditions and ensure that the interests of consumers are addressed.”<sup>4</sup> Each state contains unique landscapes of numbering resource situations, requiring the authority and encouragement to provide its citizenry with the best solution possible.

California is very unique, as it contains 25 area codes. However, instead of providing typical area code relief by geographically splitting or overlaying the current area codes, the CPUC is requesting authority to implement just 2 overlay area codes. Although a non-conventional approach, the solution is not new. In 2001, the MPSC

---

<sup>3</sup> MPSC Comments to the FCC, Docket 99-200, December 13, 2001.

<sup>4</sup> Letter to the MPSC from Yog R. Varma, Deputy Bureau Chief, Common Carrier Bureau, FCC, July 28, 2000.

approved an area code plan placing one area code over the 313 and 734 area codes.<sup>5</sup> The MPSC provided this form of area code relief in light of the NANP exhaust, saving one area code number. In California's case, with the use of only 2 overlay area codes, 23 NANP area code numbers are reserved for future use.

The implementation of 10-digit dialing, within an SO area code and between the SO and the underlying geographic area code, was determined necessary in order to preserve competition between the affected carriers.<sup>6</sup> By drawing a non-geographic line between the services that will be unaffected by the area code overlays, there is no competitive ground. Preserving 7-digit dialing within area codes, for local calls, enhances citizen approval toward the need for area code relief and traditional customer satisfaction.

The "take-back" of telephone numbers from customers of non-geographic services is a basic concept of area code relief. When geographic splits are implemented, customers that receive the new area code prefix have their old telephone number replaced with their new telephone number, even though only the area code prefix is changed. The take-back of telephone numbers of non-geographic-based services should be permissible when implementing SO area codes.

The CPUC is also requesting that thousands-block number pooling be adopted upon the implementation of the 2 SO area codes. Many of the metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) in California are in the top 100 nationwide; therefore, instead of administratively placing specific rate centers or the underlying geographic area codes in

---

<sup>5</sup> Michigan Public Service Commission, U-12880 and U-12743, September 7, 2001.

<sup>6</sup> *Second Report and Order and Memorandum Opinion and Order*, CC Docket 96-98 (FCC 96-333), ¶ 286, August 8, 1996.

thousands-block number pooling, placing the entire SO area code in pooling would be administratively more effective.

### **III. CONCLUSION**

State utility commissions have played a vital role in numbering resource conservation and the CPUC has designed an approach to alleviate California's long-term area code issue, without placing the current NANP at risk. The MPSC, therefore, requests that the FCC grant the petition of the CPUC to implement two Specialized Overlay area codes to relieve California's current 25 geographic area codes.

The MPSC also requests that the CPUC be granted the authority to continue the use of 7-digit dialing for local calls within area codes and provide for the take-back of non-geographic-based telephone numbers. Further, the MPSC urges the FCC to authorize implementation of mandatory thousands-block number pooling throughout the areas of the Specialized Overlays.

Respectfully submitted,

**MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE  
COMMISSION**

By its attorneys:

Michael A. Cox  
Attorney General

David A. Voges  
Steven D. Hughey  
Assistant Attorneys General  
Public Service Division  
6545 Mercantile Way, Suite 15  
Lansing, MI 48911  
Telephone: (517) 241-6680

Dated: November 17, 2003  
99-200, 96-98, 95-116/Comments

