

BEFORE THE
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of:

IOWA UTILITIES BOARD PETITION
FOR DELEGATION OF ADDITIONAL
AUTHORITY

CC Docket No. 96-98
CC Docket No. 99-200

NSD File No.

PETITION FOR DELEGATION OF ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY

The Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) requests that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission) grant the IUB additional delegated authority to implement number conservation measures in Iowa. The IUB requests additional delegated authority to conduct a Thousands-Block Number Pooling trial in the 319 area code and to require non-LNP-capable carriers to participate in the 319 pooling trial, especially major carrier Iowa Telecom Services, Inc. (formerly GTE). The IUB requests this additional delegated authority based on special circumstances existing in Iowa and as part of its continuing efforts to extend the life of the NANP through the *Efficient Use of Telephone Numbering Resources* (IUB Docket No. NOI-00-3).

I. Background

The 515 area code (515) split was effective in December 2000. The 319 area code (319) split will be effective in December 2001. The Commission granted the IUB authority to perform a Thousands-Block Number Pooling (TBNP or pooling) trial in 515

but denied, without prejudice, the IUB's request for authority to pool in 319.¹ The Commission's reasons for denying the request were that 319 did not include one of the largest 100 MSAs and because the IUB did not supply information on the LNP-capability of carriers in 319.²

The 515 area code currently has 441 available codes and an estimated remaining life of 7 years. The estimated remaining life of 319, after the split, is 4 years. Until the split is finalized, 319 has only 182 available codes. The NANPA's range for declaring jeopardy is between 150 and 200 codes, depending on their (NANPA) forecasts. In March 2001, after the split is mandatory and the 90-day intercept period is over, the NANPA says 319 is scheduled to recapture approximately 230 NXX Codes.

In CC Docket No. 95-116, the Commission released a list of the largest 100 MSAs. Exchanges within these MSAs were required to become LNP-capable. No Iowa exchanges were included on the original list and, therefore, no Iowa carriers were required to become LNP-capable as a part of that order. When Iowa applied for pooling authority, the Census Bureau listed the Des Moines MSA as the 92nd largest, thereby qualifying 515 for TBNP. Qwest Corporation (Qwest) is currently the only major carrier in Iowa that is completely LNP-capable. Iowa's second-largest carrier, Iowa Telecom Services, Inc. (Iowa Telecom) serves parts of the Des Moines MSA but is LNP-capable in only 18 of its exchanges statewide. Iowa Telecom's policy is to become LNP-capable only if it receives a bona-fide request from a CLEC. The IUB believes that Iowa

¹ FCC Document DA 00-1616, paragraphs 31-32.

² *Id.*

Telecom, as a major carrier in the state, should be LNP-capable, as it now serves part of the nation's largest 100 MSAs.

Data request responses from the small and rural companies and their respective trade associations indicate there is minimal, if any, LNP-capability and no plans to become so unless required.

II. Discussion

The IUB fully participates, with the NANPA, in Code Reclamation. IUB staff recently reclaimed a few NXX codes through this process and continues to closely monitor the list of unused codes.

The IUB is in the process of starting the authorized pooling trial in the 515 area code. Except for the few Iowa Telecom exchanges that are LNP-capable, the pooling trial will be conducted in Qwest exchanges.

In the 319 area code, the IUB is currently moving forward with Rate Center Consolidation (RCC). However, due to the large number (over 150 in Iowa) of small and rural Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers (ILECs) and the interlocking configuration of EAS routes, it is difficult to find RCC candidates that provide substantial numbering relief and minimal carrier and rate impact. Only one, out of the handful of identified RCC candidates, is in a major population area and it only includes three rate centers.

Although the FCC has tightened the requirements for receiving NXX Codes, the 319 area code is still vulnerable. With only 182 remaining available codes, the 319 NPA is already within the NANPA's jeopardy range. Any one company could request assignment of enough new prefixes to put 319 in jeopardy before the split becomes final.

The only realistic approach to protecting 319 is to begin TBNP as quickly as possible. Since Qwest is already LNP-capable, pooling could start in Qwest's exchanges soon after the Commission grants authority. The IUB is willing, if the Commission requires it, to exchange its TBNP authority in 515 for TBNP authority in 319. However, the IUB prefers the Commission grant additional pooling authority in 319 because the IUB is preparing to begin its pooling trial in 515 and believes it would be problematic and inefficient to abort one pooling trial and start another.

Pooling in 319 would, of course, be more efficient with the addition and participation of Iowa Telecom and the key small and rural carriers. This, of course, is predicated upon the Commission granting the IUB authority to require non-LNP-capable carriers to participate in pooling. While this proposal runs contrary to the Commission's current position, it also is an opportunity for the Commission to test, in limited practice, the theory of requiring non-LNP-capable carriers to pool. The experience gained through this effort might assist the Commission in deciding whether to authorize this concept going forward.

III. Conclusion

The 319 area code is not one of the largest 100 MSAs. Therefore, the National Pooling Administrator will not begin pooling in 319. It is unclear, at this time, when TBNP would commence under the national plan. The IUB believes that the number conservation measures currently available in the 319 area code may not be adequate to protect the NPA from a relief situation. The IUB respectfully petitions the Commission to classify the 319 situation as a "special circumstances" case and to grant additional delegated authority for Thousands-Block Number Pooling in the 319 NPA. The IUB also respectfully petitions the Commission to require non-LNP-capable carriers to participate in authorized pooling trials.

Respectfully submitted,

_____/s/_____
Allan Kniep
General Counsel

March 2, 2001

_____/s/_____
David Lynch
Deputy General Counsel

Iowa Utilities Board
350 Maple Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Voice: (515) 281-6188
Fax: (515) 281-5329
E-mail: randy.thoesen@iub.state.ia.us

_____/s/_____
Randy Thoesen
Utility Specialist