

MAR 23 2001

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Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Petitions of the	)	
Connecticut Dept. Pub. Utility Control	)	NSD File Nos.: L-01-35
Michigan Pub. Serv. Comm'n	)	L-01-36
	)	
For Additional Delegated Authority to	)	
Implement Number Conservation Measures	)	
	)	
and	)	
	)	
Implementation of the Local Competition	)	CC Docket No. 96-98
Provisions of the Telecommunications Act	)	
of 1996	)	
	)	
and	)	
	)	
Number Resource Optimization	)	CC Docket No. 99-200

**COMMENTS OF SBC COMMUNICATIONS INC.**

SBC Communications Inc., on its own behalf and on behalf of its local exchange carriers,<sup>1</sup> (SBC) files these comments to the petitions of the Connecticut Department of Public Utility Control (Connecticut) and Michigan Public Service Commission (Michigan) seeking additional delegated authority to implement number conservation measures.

**I. Background**

In the face of concerns about numbering resources, the Commission has been permitting state commissions to petition it for delegated authority to trial numbering optimization schemes, such as mandatory number-pooling trials.<sup>2</sup> In these proceedings, Michigan has sought the same

<sup>1</sup> These local exchange carriers include the Ameritech operating companies (Illinois Bell Telephone Company, Indiana Bell Telephone Company, Michigan Bell Telephone Company, The Ohio Bell Telephone Company, and Wisconsin Bell Telephone Company), Nevada Bell Telephone Company, Pacific Bell Telephone Company, Southern New England Telephone, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, and SBC Telecom.

<sup>2</sup> *In the Matter of Number Resource Optimization*, CC Docket No. 99-200, *Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, FCC 00-104, ¶ 169 (rel. March 31, 2000) (*NRO 1<sup>st</sup> Report and Order*).

or similar delegated authority. Connecticut seeks authority to respond to carrier requests for NXX codes outside of the rationing process. According to the Public Notice, Connecticut “states that such authority would provide it with more flexibility to prolong the lives of existing area codes and offer Connecticut consumers the ability to choose their service providers.” At the Commission’s request for comments, SBC files its concerns about the Michigan petition.

## **II. Argument and Citation of Authorities**

Previously, SBC filed comments in opposition to the petitions of several states seeking delegated authority to implement number conservation measures, specifically thousands-block number pooling. SBC’s concern was primarily the impact such delegated authority might have on preparations for nation-wide number pooling, as well as cost recovery. On March 14, 2001, the Common Carrier Bureau granted in large part those petitions.<sup>3</sup>

It would appear that the Bureau is predisposed to grant these state-commission petitions for delegated authority. Nevertheless, SBC is still concerned about the haste in granting delegated authority for numbering resource optimization trials and the delay in making nation-wide number pooling a reality. By reference to its earlier comments filed on February 12, 2001, SBC adopts the same concerns raised in the prior comments in response to the Michigan petition.

SBC also notes that the rush of state-commission petitions is caused by the desire to fill the vacuum created by the Commission’s own failure to act. Specifically, the need for these petitions would be alleviated were the Commission to proceed with dispatch to name the number Pooling Administrator (PA) and, thereby, initiate the nation-wide numbering resource optimization mechanisms designed by the Commission to address the exhaust of the NANP. SBC urges the Commission to act swiftly to name the PA and to replace the patch-work of numbering resource optimization trials with a single, nation-wide plan and provide guidance to the states by outlining a tentative schedule for deploying the national, number-pooling directive.

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<sup>3</sup> *In the Matter of Numbering Resource Optimization*, CC Docket No. 99-200 (NSD File Nos. L-01-206, 272 – 277), *Order*, DA 01-656 (rel. March 14, 2001) (Bureau Order).

Also, SBC was distressed to find that its comments were not directly addressed in the Bureau's Order. The Commission and its bureaus to which it delegates authority are obligated to take all substantive comments into consideration. In its orders, the Commission should state the rationale for its decision and explain the result in the context of the comments made. SBC would urge the Commission, and by extension the Bureau, to take SBC's substantive comments into consideration in its decision to grant or deny these petitions for delegated authority.

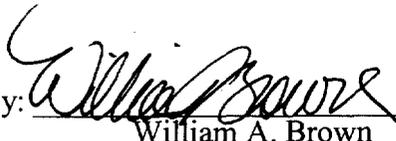
SBC does not oppose Connecticut's petition for delegated authority.

### **III. Conclusion**

SBC continues to oppose the piecemeal approach to number resource optimization, preferring a nation-wide plan. SBC urges the Commission to eliminate the perceived need for numbering trials by naming a national Pooling Administrator as soon as possible. With the naming of the PA, the Commission's own numbering resource optimization schemes can be implemented, and carriers and customers alike can begin to enjoy their benefits.

Respectfully submitted,

SBC COMMUNICATIONS INC.

By:   
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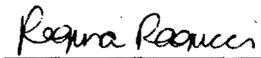
March 23, 2001

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Regina Ragucci, do hereby certify that on this 23rd day of March 2001, Comments of SBC Communications Inc. in CC Docket No. 99-200, was served via hand delivery and first-class, postage pre-paid to the parties listed below.



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