

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)
)
Telephone Number Requirements for IP-) WC Docket No. 07-243
Enabled Service Providers)
)
Local Number Portability Porting Interval) WC Docket No. 07-244
and Validation Requirements)
)

COMMENTS OF THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

INTRODUCTION

The Nebraska Public Service Commission (NPSC) hereby submits its comments in response to the Federal Communication Commission's (Commission's) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the dockets referenced above.¹ The NPSC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the issues in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and is in agreement with the Commission's steps to ensure that consumers will benefit from local number portability (LNP) as designed in the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the Act) . The NPSC agrees that the Commission should extend other requirements and numbering-related rules, including compliance with N11 code assignments, to interconnected Voice over the Internet Protocol (VoIP) providers. The NPSC also believes that further guidance on the acceptable length of the porting intervals may be in the best interests of consumers. However, the NPSC has concerns that a bright-line

¹ See *In the Matter of Telephone Number Requirements for IP-Enabled Services Providers*, WC Docket No. 07-243; *Local Number Portability Porting Interval and Validation Requirements*, WC Docket No. 07-244; *IP-Enabled Services*, WC Docket No. 04-36, *Telephone Number Portability*, CC Docket No. 95-116, *CTIA Petitions for Declaratory Ruling on Wireline-Wireless Porting Issues, Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis*, and *Numbering Resource Optimization*, CC Docket No. 99-200, Report and Order, Declaratory Ruling, Order on Remand and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 22 FCC Rcd 19531 (rel. November 8, 2007).

rule may be too rigid to account for unique characteristics of carriers and their systems. Accordingly, the NPSC suggests that the length of porting intervals should not be defined by a specific rule.

DISCUSSION

Code Assignments:

Consumers generally expect that all providers of telecommunications will deliver similar capabilities in terms of dialing and porting of telephone numbers. The Commission has previously extended the requirements for interconnected VoIP providers to supply 911 emergency calling and 711 abbreviated dialing for access to telephone relay services. It is fully appropriate for the Commission to extend other N11 code assignments to interconnected VoIP providers as well. There is a consumer benefit to uniform dialing as well as an expectation that certain N11 codes will be used in accordance with their designated purpose. Consistent with the Commission's designation of N11 codes, the NPSC has widely authorized the use of 211 for information and referral services, implemented 511 statewide for travel and information services and 811 for state "One Call" notification systems. Consumers in Nebraska rely on these abbreviated numbering systems to quickly and easily obtain information. The Commission should extend the N11 code requirements to interconnected VoIP providers.

LNP Process Requirements:

The NPSC agrees that LNP provides consumers with flexibility and competitive alternatives when selecting a communications provider and that LNP should appear to the consumer as a seamless process without service interruption (loss of dial tone) or undue delay. Simplicity and standardization should be the key factors in establishing LNP validation fields and intervals. A small set of fields should be used in a simple port which will reduce the opportunity for human error and allow reporting of all errors in the first return of a port request.

The NPSC also concurs with the Commission's November 8, 2007 Report and Order that "LNP validation should be based on no more than four fields for simple ports (i.e. wireline-to-wireline, wireless-to-wireless, and intermodel ports), and that those fields should be: (1) 10-digit telephone number; (2) customer account number; (3) 5-digit zip code; and (4) pass cost (if applicable)."² Conceptually, this should shorten the porting interval and allow consumers the ability to select the desired communications provider in a seamless manner.

The Commission should not specify the length of a porting interval by rule. Such a rule may prevent experienced carriers from actually achieving the shortest possible interval by setting the bar too low and may place an unreasonably high initial expectation on rural carriers who have just entered the porting process. The NPSC believes the 48 hours suggested by the Commission³ should be considered the ceiling

² *Id.* at 19557, para. 48.

³ *See id.* at 19562, para. 63.

with perhaps the wireless interval to serve as the goal by which all porting intervals should be achieved regardless of modality.

The length of porting intervals should be the shortest achievable by the provider and should be measured in hours instead of days. The Commission should also consider the fact that wireline-wireline ports have unique characteristics due to legacy systems. Some rural carriers in Nebraska are just now beginning to port numbers and do not have mechanized systems. Any guideline adopted by the Commission should balance consumer interest with the practicalities of smaller carriers' ability to comply with porting interval requirements.

CONCLUSION

Consumers will benefit from uniform numbering requirements. The Commission should refrain from setting a porting interval rule which specifically defines the proper porting interval length at this time. Rather, the Commission should set a ceiling on the length of a porting interval and provide an incentive for carriers to be more efficient.

Dated: March 24, 2008.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Nebraska Public Service Commission

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