

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**IN RE: TELEPORT COMMUNICATIONS :
AMERICA, LLC WAIVER REQUEST : DOCKET NO. 25-18-TL
FOR NUMBER BLOCK RELEASE :
RHODE ISLAND ARMY NATIONAL GUARD :**

ORDER

On June 6, 2025, Teleport Communications America, LLC (TCAL) filed a request with the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for a waiver from the denial by the Number Pooling Administrator of TCAL's request to release numbers for the Rhode Island Army National Guard (customer). Specifically, TCAL requested 1,500 consecutive numbers in Greenwich Rate Center, specifically within the 401-XXX-6 and 401-XXX-7, to enable the customer's migration to its new communications platform. TCAL indicated that although it as has an adequate supply of numbers, those numbers are not in the requested format.¹

TCAL submitted a request to the Number Pooling Administrator for the numbers and the request was denied as not meeting regulatory requirements. In this instance, although TCAL has less than 6 months-to-exhaust its existing inventory, it has a utilization rate of only 30% which does not meet the utilization threshold for the release of numbers. Therefore, because the Federal Communications Commission Rules require a carrier to show that its months to exhaust are six or less and that it has put at least 75% of its existing numbers into service, TCAL's request for the specific block was denied. In other words, TCAL is not allowed, unless granted a waiver by the Commission, to obtain new blocks of numbers in the geographical area needed. The purpose of this rule is to preserve Rhode Island's available telephone numbers, thus preserving the 401 area code.

¹ Filing Letter (June 6, 2025).

According to a letter from the customer, the customer is ready, willing, and able to utilize 1,500 consecutive numbers in two blocks, or 75%.²

The purpose of the utilization rate and months-to-exhaust rules is to conserve unused numbers and thereby extend the life of the area code. Considering the importance of conserving numbers and preserving the area code, the Commission has previously set initial minimum standards that must be met by a carrier in order for the Commission to consider a request for a waiver.³ Although TCAL does not meet the utilization rate, it does meet the second standard which is having a customer ready, willing, and able to utilize at least 60% of the numbers within the requested blocks. Absent a Commission waiver, TCAL would not be able to adequately serve its customer.

The granting of this waiver will assist in public safety by allowing the customer to fulfill its mission-critical functions. Furthermore, the most recent area code exhaust projection shows the 401 area code not being exhausted until Quarter 2 of 2056.⁴ Therefore, based on prior Commission decisions and given the adequacy of available numbers in the 401 area code, the Commission finds that approval of the waiver will not unduly affect the availability of numbers in the 401 area code. However, the Commission cautions that carriers should make every effort to work with customers to avoid the need to seek a waiver and maximize the utilization of the numbers to which the carrier is assigned.

² Customer Letter (attached to the Filing Letter).

³ The PUC found that a carrier must have a utilization rate over 50% and must have a customer ready, willing and able to utilize at least 60% of the numbers within the requested blocks either immediately, or in the very near future. The PUC stated that it must review each request on a case by case basis for reasonableness and to keep some control on the release of blocks. (Order No. 22085 (Sept. 8, 2015)). In unique circumstances, the Commission has departed from these standards where the evidence presented is compelling that there is no other reasonable alternative to the waiver.

⁴ 2025-1 NRUF and NPA Exhaust Analysis April 2025; <https://www.nanpa.com/sites/default/files/2025-04/2025-1NPAExhaustProjectionsFinal.pdf> (last visited June 23, 2025).

Accordingly, it is

(25417) ORDERED:

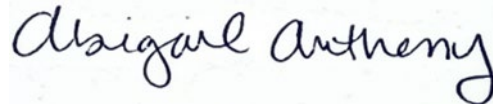
Teleport Communications America, LLC's request for a waiver from the denial of the release of 1,500 consecutive numbers in 401-NXX-6 and 401-NXX-7 is approved.

EFFECTIVE AT WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND ON JUNE 23, 2025, PURSUANT TO AN OPEN MEETING DECISION. WRITTEN ORDER ISSUED ON JUNE 24, 2025.

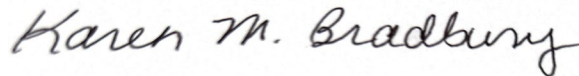
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION



Ronald T. Gerwatowski, Chairperson



Abigail Anthony, Commissioner



Karen M. Bradbury, Commissioner

Notice of Right of Appeal: Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-5-1, any person aggrieved by a decision or order of the PUC may, within 7 days from the date of the Order, petition the Supreme Court for a Writ of Certiorari to review the legality and reasonableness of the decision or Order.