

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

IN RE: MCIMETRO ACCESS TRANSMISSION :
SERVICES LLC dba VERIZON ACCESS :
TRANSMISSION SERVICES WAIVER : **DOCKET NO. 5216**
REQUEST FOR NUMBER BLOCK RELEASE – :
US NAVAL WAR COLLEGE :

ORDER

On December 21, 2021, MCImetro Access Transmission Services LLC dba Verizon Access Transmission Services (Verizon RI) filed a request with the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for a waiver from the denial by the Number Pooling Administrator of Verizon RI’s request to release certain blocks of numbers for its customer, US Naval War College (customer). Specifically, Verizon RI had requested 1500 consecutive numbers in two thousand blocks in 401-856-5XXX and 401-856-6XXX to meet the customer’s organizational growth. The request was updated on January 7, 2022 in response to Commission information requests.¹

In this instance, although Verizon RI has less than 5 months-to-exhaust its existing inventory, it has a utilization rate of only 64.95% 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, Verizon RI’s request for the specific blocks was denied. In other words, Verizon RI 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 All documents in this matter can be accessed on the Commission’s website at: <http://www.ripuc.ri.gov/eventsactions/docket/5216page.html>.

According to an attachment to Verizon RI's filing, the customer is ready, willing, and able to utilize 75% of the requested numbers in the two thousands blocks by the end of January 2022.² The customer requires 1500 consecutive numbers "with the same NPA/NXX and a contiguous range as the main campus" for expansion of its current telecommunications system.³

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. In light of 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.⁴ Verizon RI meets both criteria. The granting of this waiver will assist in economic development by allowing the customer to expand its services within its existing network configuration. Furthermore, the most recent area code exhaust projection shows the 401 area code not being exhausted until Quarter 3 of 2053.⁵ 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 again 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 Request at 1-2; Customer Letter.

³ Customer Letter.

⁴ 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.

⁵ October 2021 NPA Exhaust Analysis;

<https://nationalnanpa.com/reports/October%202021%20NPA%20Exhaust%20Analysis.pdf>.

Accordingly, it is

(24295) ORDERED:

MCImetro Access Transmission Services LLC dba Verizon Access Transmission Services request for a waiver from the denial of the release of 1500 consecutive numbers in two blocks in the 401-853 NPA-NXX is approved.

EFFECTIVE AT WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND ON JANUARY 12, 2022 PURSUANT TO AN OPEN MEETING DECISION. WRITTEN ORDER ISSUED ON JANUARY 14, 2022.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION



Ronald T. Gerwatowski, Chairman



Abigail Anthony, Commissioner



John C. Revens, Jr., 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.