

Decision No. C97-797

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF
COLORADO** DOCKET NO. 97M-329T
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASK FORCE FOR THE EFFICIENT
MANAGEMENT OF TELEPHONE NUMBERS IN COLORADO **ORDER OF THE
COMMISSION OPENING DOCKET TO ESTABLISH
A TASK FORCE FOR THE EFFICIENT
MANAGEMENT OF TELEPHONE NUMBERS IN
COLORADO** Mailed Date: August 7, 1997

Adopted Date: August 6, 1997

I) BY THE COMMISSION Statement

1) The Commission recently issued Decision No. C97-761 in Docket No. 97A-103T (*In the Matter of the Application and Final Recommendation of the Numbering Plan Administrator for Relief of the 303 Area Code*). In its decision, the Commission ordered immediate consideration of and prompt implementation of NXX code conservation measures. Numerous potential conservation measures were suggested in the decision. Without implementation of these conservation measures, an exhaust of all available NXX codes in the 303 area code will occur much sooner.

2) The Commission is aware that certain investigations are taking place with regard to number pooling in other states and at the national level. For example, Illinois is proposing to implement a number pooling proposal using the Location Routing Number (LRN)

NXX-X solution by January 1, 1998. Also, the Industry Numbering Committee (INC) is providing information to the North American Numbering Committee (NANC) on number pooling. Neither of these efforts is focused on a quick resolution to a long-term solution to number exhaust problems. Instead, they are focused on solving nearer term problems with only a look toward the long-term. Our decision in Docket No. 97A-103T also does not address any long-term solutions to efficient use of number resources, but focuses on solutions which can be implemented prior to the original mid-1998 projection for exhaust of the 303 area code made by the Numbering Plan Administrator for Colorado..

3) Furthermore, this Commission has received evidence in Docket No. 97A-103T to the effect that each area code in Colorado is significantly underutilized. Of the possible telephone numbers available in each area code, very limited numbers are actually used. For illustrative purposes only, each of the three current area codes in Colorado (303, 719, 970) have approximately 7.9 million available numbers. Therefore, combined, the three area codes theoretically make almost 24 million numbers available in Colorado today. With Colorado's population at approximately only 3.5 million today, it is

apparent that a more efficient use of our current area codes is appropriate to prevent premature exhaust of numbers within Colorado's area codes.

4) In Decision No. FCC 96-333, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) addressed many issues associated with the administration of telephone numbers. In this decision the FCC adopted rules that provided for state commission jurisdiction over area code relief. Specifically, FCC rule 52.19(a) states that "state commissions may resolve matters involving the introduction of new area codes within their states." Rule 52.19(b) states that "(s)tate commissions may perform any and all functions related to initiation and development of area code relief plans", so long as they act consistently with FCC guidelines. Thus, this Commission has authority to act in the manner set forth in this Order.

5) Finally, for purposes of implementing permanent local number portability in Colorado, the Commission established a task force in Docket No. 95M-392T. That task force was made up of representatives of the telecommunications industry, the Colorado Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC), the 9-1-1 Task Force and Commission Staff. The LNP Task Force has successfully

provided a vehicle for the timely and efficient implementation of permanent LNP in Colorado. The Colorado LNP effort also assisted many other states in the effective implementation of LNP.

6) Many of the active members in the Colorado LNP effort are also primary parties in the national efforts on telephone numbering. Similar issues and problems arise in the potential solutions to telephone numbering as were and are being addressed by the LNP effort. The Commission believes a task force designed under the same structure as the LNP Task Force can provide effective resolution to the long-term and short-term telephone numbering efforts.

A) Conclusion

1) A task force ("Task Force") should be established to provide solutions to a more efficient management of telephone numbers in Colorado. This Task Force shall be given the objective of providing the Commission with a recommended solution to the long-term efficient use of telephone numbers within the area codes in Colorado; an objective timeline for the implementation of this long-term solution; and recommendations for interim conservation measures consistent with the long-term solution. Any interim measures recommended by the

Task Force should take into account those measures which are the subject of the application to be filed on or before August 29, 1997, pursuant to Decision No. C97-761.

2) The members of this Task Force should not be limited to a specific number of representatives. It should contain representatives from all persons interested in deciding the long-term solution to the efficient use of telephone numbers in an area code. It should be comprised of at least one representative from each of the following: the Colorado Numbering Plan Administrator, a large Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier (ILEC), a small ILEC (or its association), a Competitive Local Exchange Carrier (CLEC), an interexchange carrier, a wireless providers (including cellular, PCS and/or paging), a 9-1-1 service representative, the Colorado Office of Consumer Counsel, and the Staff of the Commission. A member of the Staff of the Commission shall participate as a full member and serve as facilitator. To the extent possible meetings will remain open to the public and representatives of any other entity may attend meetings and provide input. Any interested persons or entities shall submit names of proposed members and alternates to the Commission within 20 days after the effective date of this Order. The Commission shall

consider appointments of members of the Task Force at its next regularly scheduled weekly meeting following the 20-day period for receipt of proposed members.

3) Members of the Task Force should be willing and able to address the technical issues associated with telephone numbering and to make firm commitments to the final report or recommendations of the Task Force. The Commission encourages the Task Force to reach consensus on all issues; however, for issues where consensus cannot be reached, a vote may be taken wherein each member of the Task Force shall have one vote and the majority will rule. For those issues where consensus cannot be reached, the Task Force may elect to provide majority and minority reports to the Commission in the final report.

4) Attendance at all meetings is imperative. If a representative or a designated alternate cannot attend, that member shall be designated as absent. Decisions, including consensus decisions, may be made by the representatives present during any scheduled meeting. Absentee votes may be considered by the Task Force.

5) The Task Force shall take detailed minutes of all meetings and, upon approval by the Task Force, provide copies of those minutes to all members and the official file in this docket. Upon direction of the Task

Force, any other information, reports, or items of importance to the Task Force may be provided to the official file for this docket.

6) As a part of the process, the Task Force should monitor and evaluate efforts for telephone number management at the national level and other state jurisdictions.

7) The Task Force should meet as often as necessary to accomplish its objectives. Each meeting agenda shall be distributed to all members at least one week prior to the meeting and shall be posted on the Commission's internet web site (<http://www.puc.state.co.us>).

8) The Commission grants the Task Force the authority to obtain any information necessary to perform its tasks from jurisdictional utilities or from the Colorado Numbering Plan Administrator. Proper disposition of confidential material through a Commission-ordered protective agreement shall be accommodated in the docket.

9) The Task Force shall endeavor to provide the Commission with its recommendation in a formal report on or before to January 1, 1998. If such date cannot be met, the Task Force shall provide the Commission with a report on or before January 1, 1998 detailing progress to

date, setting forth major issues and positions of the Task Force on these issues, and proposing a schedule for completing its task.

10) The Task Force shall continue in operation until the Commission determines that the duties of the Task Force are complete.

I) ORDERThe Commission Orders That:

1) A telephone number management Task Force is hereby established and organized as described in this Order. A list of names of designated Task Force members shall be provided to the Commission no later than 20 days following the effective date of this Order.

2) Docket No. 97M-329T is hereby opened for the receipt of any of the information and reports described in this Order.

3) This Order is effective upon its Mailed Date.

**A) ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
August 6, 1997.**

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

Commissioners



Bruce R. Smith