

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



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Debra A. Howland

December 29, 2010



Debra Howland  
Executive Director  
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission  
21 South Fruit St., Suite 10  
Concord, NH 03301

Re: DT 10-211, Petition of the North American Numbering Plan Administrator  
for Relief of the 603 Numbering Plan Area  
Report of Technical Session

Dear Ms. Howland:

Pursuant to the approved schedule in the above-captioned docket, Staff, the parties and intervenors (collectively the parties) held a technical session for the purpose of discussing proposed ideas for extending the life of the 603 area code. Some of the details of that session are set out in this report. At the outset, Staff clarified that it was still reviewing information relative to recovering numbers previously held by GlobalNAPs, but that it was not clear how many numbers could be recovered, or whether they could be recovered.

The parties also discussed the possibility of rate center consolidation and whether consolidations would be possible without disrupting the current rate structure. Following some discussion, it was determined that FairPoint would internally review information about its rate centers, the possibility of consolidating some rate centers and any potential technical or billing impediments to consolidation. FairPoint stated that once it has had an initial opportunity to review the scope of the required analysis, it would provide a timeline for completing an analysis of the possibility of consolidation. Bill Stafford of Granite State Telephone volunteered to work with FairPoint on this analysis with respect to the independent telephone company rate centers.

Next, the parties discussed the possibility of implementing a specialized overlay, that is, the new area code would initially be specifically intended for particular services, such as wireless or voice over Internet protocol (VoIP). There was some resistance to that possibility since the benefits of implementing a specialized overlay were not clear. Moreover, there was a belief that absent some relief from the Federal Communications

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Commission (FCC), the imposition of a specialized overlay would require the same transition to ten-digit dialing that would be required if an all-services overlay was used. There was also concern that obtaining relief from the FCC would so delay the process of implementing the new code that it would cause difficulty for the carriers.

Finally, the parties discussed the possibility of increasing the contamination level of number blocks which are eligible for donation to the numbering pool. FairPoint had suggested that the contamination level be changed from ten percent to twenty percent. Generally, the discussion appeared to indicate that such a change would not significantly extend the life of the current area code. FairPoint, however, agreed to review its records to determine how many new number blocks would become available should the contamination level be changed.

In sum, the parties are awaiting information on rate center consolidation and number block contamination from FairPoint. Following receipt of that information, Staff will then be able to more fully report to the Commission on which strategies may be worth pursuing, if any. Accordingly, Staff does not request that the Commission take any action at this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew J. Fossum', with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Matthew J. Fossum  
Staff Attorney