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TELEPHONE AND WATER UTILITIES INDUSTRIES DIVISION BULLETIN

Bulletin #: 2023-01

To: All Voice Network Service Providers

From: David Braley
Director, Telephone and Water Utility Industries

Re: Sequential Numbering

Date: October 10, 2023

The purpose of this Maine Public Utilities Commission Telephone and Water Utilities Industries Division Bulletin is to provide guidance to all Voice Network Service Providers (VNSPs) utilizing numbering resources in LATA 120 and the 207 Area Code about state and federal numbering rules and requirements.

Sequential Number Assignment

[47 C.F.R § 52.15\(j\)](#)

(j) Sequential number assignment.

(1) All service providers shall assign all available telephone numbers within an opened thousands-block before assigning telephone numbers from an uncontaminated thousands-block, unless the available numbers in the opened thousands-block are not sufficient to meet a specific customer request. This requirement shall apply to a service provider's existing numbering resources as well as any new numbering resources it obtains in the future.

(2) A service provider that opens an uncontaminated thousands-block prior to assigning all available telephone numbers within an opened thousands-block should be prepared to demonstrate to the state commission:

(i) A genuine request from a customer detailing the specific need for telephone numbers; and

(ii) The service provider's inability to meet the specific customer request for telephone numbers from the available numbers within the service provider's opened thousands-blocks.

(3) Upon a finding by a state commission that a service provider inappropriately assigned telephone numbers from an uncontaminated thousands-block, the NANPA or the Pooling Administrator shall suspend assignment or allocation of any additional numbering resources to that service provider in the applicable NPA until the service provider demonstrates that it does not have sufficient numbering resources to meet a specific customer request.

The Commission provides notice to all VNSPs that they must adhere to sequential numbering rules to maximize the numbering resources that have been assigned and to avoid the unnecessary contamination of numbering resources.

VNSPs Subject to Review and Audit

Commission Staff monitor the utilization of all block resource requests and their utilization. If there is concern that any VNSP is not adhering to state and federal numbering rules the Commission may open an investigation and request an audit of a VNSP's numbering resources pursuant to [47 C.F.R. § 52.15\(k\)](#).