

STATE OF IOWA  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
UTILITIES BOARD

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IN RE:

QWEST CORPORATION

DOCKET NO. WRU-06-8-272

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**ORDER GRANTING WAIVER AND REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIALITY**

(Issued February 23, 2006)

On February 15, 2006, Qwest Corporation (Qwest) filed with the Utilities Board (Board) a request for a waiver of the number utilization threshold requirements for the Ames, Iowa, rate center. The requirements relating to optimization of telephone numbering resources are outlined in various orders of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

Qwest states it received a request from a corporate customer for 100 consecutive direct inward dialing (DID) numbers in the Ames rate center that begin with the number "2." Qwest states that it does not have the sequential numbers to fulfill the customer's request without a new block of 10,000 numbers, sometimes referred to as a new NXX. On January 31, 2006, Qwest submitted a request for a new NXX to NeuStar, Inc. (NeuStar), the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA), but that request was denied because Qwest did not meet the "months-to-exhaust" threshold for the Ames rate center.

The FCC has given states the authority to overturn NANPA's decision to withhold numbering resources from a carrier based on the state's determination that

the carrier has demonstrated a verifiable need for numbering resources and has exhausted all available remedies. (See 47 C.F.R. § 52.15(g)(4).) In addition, the FCC states that carriers may demonstrate the need for additional numbering resources by providing the state with documentation of a customer request and current proof of utilization in the rate center. (FCC 01-362, § 64.) The FCC is careful to point out, however, that states may not accommodate requests for specific numbers (i.e., vanity numbers), but may grant requests for customers seeking contiguous blocks of numbers. (Id.) Therefore, a statement by the carrier regarding the types of numbers being requested is necessary.

The information filed by Qwest in support of its request satisfies the requirements specified in the FCC's orders delegating waiver authority to the Board. Qwest has provided documentation of its customer's request for 100 consecutive DID telephone numbers as well as statements regarding number utilization in the Ames rate center. Qwest also states that its customer is not requesting a block of vanity numbers.

At the time Qwest filed its request for waiver with the Board, there were no blocks of 1,000 numbers available in the Ames number pool that met Qwest's needs, so Qwest requested a full NXX to obtain an adequate amount of numbers to fulfill its customer's request. Since that time, a block of 1,000 numbers has become available in the Ames number pool. The availability of this thousand block meets Qwest's need and prevents another full NXX from being opened. Qwest has agreed to take

the thousand-block of numbers rather than a new NXX. The Board will grant Qwest's modified request for a thousand-block of telephone numbers.

Also on February 15, 2006, Qwest filed a request for confidential treatment of cost support information submitted in support of its waiver request. Qwest supports its request for confidentiality with an affidavit by a corporate officer, stating that the information constitutes confidential trade secrets under Iowa Code § 550.2(4) and also constitutes a report to a government agency within the meaning of Iowa Code § 22.7(6). The materials were sealed in a separate envelope and marked confidential. Qwest cites Iowa Code §§ 22.7(3) and 22.7(6) as authority for confidential treatment of the information.

The Board finds that the application and affidavit support a finding that the cost information constitute a trade secret under Iowa Code § 550.2(4) as it derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by proper means, by a person able to obtain economic value from its disclosure, and it is the subject of reasonable efforts to maintain its secrecy. The Board finds that this information, if released, would provide an advantage to Qwest competitors.

Iowa Code § 22.7(3) provides confidential treatment for trade secrets which are recognized and protected as such by law. The material submitted by Qwest includes cost support material and supporting data. The supporting affidavit by Max A. Phillips, Qwest President—Iowa, states that the information is unpublished

data not known outside of Qwest and is in fact restricted to certain Qwest employees. Iowa Code § 22.7(6) provides confidential treatment for public records that are reports to government agencies and which, if released, would give advantage to competitors and would serve no public purpose. The Board finds the submitted information constitutes a report to a government agency and the Board finds that the release of the information would serve no public purpose. Therefore, the Board will hold the information confidential under the provisions of Iowa Code §§ 22.7(3) and 22.7(6) as requested by Qwest on February 15, 2006.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

1. The request for waiver of the FCC's utilization threshold requirements filed by Qwest Corporation on February 15, 2006, is granted as discussed in the body of this order, so that Qwest can obtain the 515-817-2XXX block for use in the Ames, Iowa, rate center.
2. The Executive Secretary of the Utilities Board shall mail a copy of this order to NeuStar, Inc., 1800 Sutter Street, Suite 780, Concord, CA 94520, to the attention of Ms. Tara Farquhar, Iowa Number Pooling Administrator.
3. The request for confidentiality filed by Qwest Corporation on February 15, 2006, is granted pursuant to Iowa Code §§ 22.7(3) and 22.7(6).

4. The information shall be held confidential by the Board subject to the provisions of 199 IAC 1.9(8)"b"(3).

**UTILITIES BOARD**

/s/ John R. Norris

/s/ Diane Munns

ATTEST:

/s/ Judi K. Cooper  
Executive Secretary

/s/ Curtis W. Stamp

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2006.