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FCC RELEASES TELEPHONE NUMBERING RESOURCE UTILIZATION REPORT

Washington, D.C. – The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) today released its latest in an ongoing series of reports on telephone number utilization in the United States. Telephone number utilization refers to the percentage of telephone numbers assigned to customers compared to the total of telephone numbers assigned to carriers. The Numbering Resource Utilization Report details how those telephone numbers are being used. As of December 31, 2005, numbering resource utilization was at 43.4%, up from 43.0% six months earlier.

The report presents numbering resource utilization statistics based on December 2005 data that carriers submitted to the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA), as well as other information. Tracking number utilization is one of a number of initiatives taken by the Commission to ensure that limited numbering resources are used efficiently.

Summary Data

1. **Utilization Statistics by Carrier Type** – Reporting carriers have over 1.3 billion telephone numbers. Of these, nearly 582 million were assigned to customers, about 669 million were available to be assigned, and about 91 million were used for other purposes, such as for administrative use.

Following are utilization statistics by carrier type as of December 31, 2005:

- Overall, 43.4% of all telephone numbers were assigned to customers.
- The overall utilization rate for Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers (ILECs) was 52.4%, down from 52.8% six months earlier.
- The overall utilization rate for Cellular/PCS carriers was 59.1%, up from 56.9% six months earlier.
- The overall utilization rate for Competitive Local Exchange Carriers (CLECs) was 19.7%, up from 18.1% six months earlier.

2. ***Telephone Numbers Saved through Thousands-block Pooling*** – Through December 31, 2005, thousands-block pooling has made it unnecessary to distribute nearly 230 million telephone numbers. Thousands-block pooling is available in areas with the most demand for additional numbering resources. This means that telephone numbers can now be distributed in blocks of 1,000 rather than blocks of 10,000. This enables carriers to obtain the telephone numbers they need to serve their customers while allowing unneeded blocks to be made available to other carriers.

3. ***Telephone Numbers Returned*** – As required by the Commission’s Numbering Resource Optimization Orders, carriers are returning large quantities of telephone numbers that they do not need to the NANPA so that those numbers can be assigned to other carriers with more immediate needs.
 - In the second half of 2005, carriers returned 4.49 million telephone numbers to the NANPA.
 - In the first half of 2006, carriers returned 3.69 million telephone numbers to the NANPA.

4. ***Most Utilized Area Codes in the United States*** – Florida’s area code 754 is the most utilized, with 75.3% of numbers assigned to customers. New York’s area code 212 (New York City) is next, with 73.2% of numbers assigned to customers.

5. ***Customers Moving Millions of Telephone Numbers to New Carriers*** – Since wireless number portability began on November 24, 2003, wireless customers have moved more than 25 million telephone numbers to new carriers. During the same time, wireline customers moved more than 30 million telephone numbers to new carriers.

6. ***Utahans port their numbers the most*** – Utahans have ported 15.4% of their assigned numbers. Delawareans are next, with 13.8% of assigned numbers ported.

This report is updated twice a year and is available in the FCC's Reference Information Center, Courtyard Level, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554. Contact the Commission’s duplicating contractor Best Copy and Printing, Inc. at (202) 488-5300 to purchase a copy. This and many other reports can be downloaded from the Wireline Competition Bureau Statistical Reports Internet site at www.fcc.gov/wcb/stats.

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