

NANPA Numbering News



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LEONHARD MARTIN

Communications
Industry Services

1200 K St., NW
Washington DC 20005

Provided by The North American Numbering Plan Administration (NANPA)

WELCOME

Numbering resources and the telecommunications industry are changing everyday. New issues, concerns, technologies, and players are moving in and out of the industry at break-neck speed. At the center of the industry is the North American Numbering Plan Administration (NANPA), providing high-quality, neutral, third-party services to the various segments of the industry.

As part of NANPA's commitment to the industry, we are establishing a new bi-monthly newsletter, *NANPA Numbering News*, to our clients and customers throughout the North American Numbering Plan area. Our goal is to provide relevant, topical information on items of interest, ranging from NANPA's website to the status of area code relief projects to statistics about NXX code assignments. Since this is our inaugural issue, we welcome your comments, suggestions and feedback for future issues.

What You Need to Know About CO Code Requests, Including Some Changes to the Process

NANPA CO Code Administration processes close to 4,000 code requests each month. In processing these requests, we follow the CO Code Assignment Guidelines, INC 95-0407-008, which contains information that applicants need to know:

- Section 4 identifies assignment criteria for central office codes
- Sections 5 and 6 provide the basic requirements for requesting, processing, and maintaining central office code assignments
- Sections 6.0-6.3 guide the code administrators in determining whether or not an application complies with the guidelines.

We strongly urge you to read and be familiar with these guidelines.

Changes in the Assignment Process

Several important changes have been made recently that affect CO Code assignments:

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New Electronic Document Distribution Service Coming Soon!

Beginning in September, NANPA will start distributing NPA relief planning notifications and documentation using a new electronic Document Distribution Service. In response to customer requests to replace faxing as the primary method of distribution, all notifications will be sent via e-mail to industry participants who sign up for the free service.

Using this new service, notifications will be e-mailed to the industry announcing a variety of upcoming industry relief planning activities, such as meetings, conference calls, public hearings, and availability of draft filings. The notification will direct the recipient to NANPA's web site, www.nanpa.com, to download pertinent documents.

For example, before NANPA distributes an Initial Planning Document (IPD), industry participants, who signed up for that state, will automatically receive an e-mail notice announcing the availability of the IPD, which includes descriptions of relief

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Year-to-Date Statistics (as of August 31, 1999)

NPA's Assigned in US	NPA's Working in US	NPA's in Jeopardy	Active* NPA Relief Projects (as of 8/16/99)
245	225	67	82

* Projects at various stages of relief planning from initial industry meeting to end of mandatory dialing.

What You Need to Know About CO Code Requests

(Continued from Cover)

1. State PUC staff members have identified a significant number of cases in which carriers have requested and received CO Code assignments for Rate Centers in which they were not certified. To ensure that this does not happen again, the first time a carrier requests a CO Code in a Rate Center, NANPA will verify certification with the state commission. Previously, the applying carrier only needed to certify on the application that it was entitled to operate in the Rate Center in question.
2. All requests for CO Codes for growth (i.e., beyond the initial one-code assignment) must now be accompanied by a Months to Exhaust Worksheet (MTE). Previously, applicants/holders were required only to complete the MTE and retain it in case of an audit. The MTE form can be found as an attachment to the CO Code Assignment Guidelines, which can be downloaded from the ATIS web site, www.atis.org. Filling out the MTE requires the applicant/holder to total the remaining numbers available in the area in question, calculate months to exhaust based on current growth rates over the last 6 months, and project growth over the next 12 months (six months in jeopardy situations).

In some cases, quantitative support may be required to demonstrate that the guidelines have been satisfied for code assignment requests. For example, while analyzing the MTE for accuracy and reasonableness, the Code Administrator checks the forecasted growth for relationship to the previous growth history. If there is a large disparity between the previous growth history and the forecasted growth, the Code Administrator will ask for an explanation and/or quantitative support.

3. NANPA will be conducting, as part of its original bid price, "for cause" audits when it finds and cannot satisfactorily resolve discrepancies in code applications. Any discrepancy associated with the application could trigger an audit, but the most likely trigger is a difference between the historical growth and projected growth. Since an audit will delay code assignments, it would be wise for applicants/holders to maintain the backup information used to calculate their entries on the MTE.

NANPA CO Code Administrators are responsible for ensuring that NXX codes are used in the most effective and efficient manner possible. This may mean contacting the applicant with questions to get a better understanding of their needs for the new resources. **GIS**

Document Distribution Service (Continued from Cover)

alternatives and associated rate center maps. The e-mail message will include instructions on how to easily download the document.

All documents will be formatted in Adobe .pdf, a national standard that provides compatibility with all computer platforms. The files can be downloaded and opened using Adobe Reader software, which is available free from Adobe's web site, www.adobe.com. Users of this service will also need an e-mail address, Internet (World Wide Web) access, and an internet browser, e.g., Netscape Navigator.

Key benefits of this new service include:

- Notifications are directly e-mailed to the intended recipient (faxed documents are sometimes misplaced)
- Documents can be downloaded at anytime, whether in the office or on the road
- Fax machines will not be tied up transmitting large documents
- Users can decide which documents to convert to hard copy
- Users can modify their profiles at any time to change notification information or to delete their name from the system.

Industry participants are encouraged to sign up now to receive the NPA relief planning notifications using this new service. To sign up, please go to NANPA's web site at <http://www.nanpa.com>, select Document Distribution Service, and complete the form provided. Industry representatives who are not ready or cannot receive notifications and documentations electronically will continue to receive them by fax. **GIS**

Nanpa.com Provides Wealth of Information

The NANPA website (www.nanpa.com) was designed to provide information and access to a variety of items of interest regarding the NANP. In efforts to continually improve the website, several new features have been added including shortcuts to popular reports, the addition of new reports, and a menu button for press releases.

The shortcuts for the following reports can be found under “**frequently visited pages**” in the lower right hand corner of the home page.


- “**Area Code Listings**” provides current area code information, including assigned codes sorted numerically and alphabetically by state.
- “**New Area Code Schedules**” is a table of upcoming and past area code changes since 1995. The list is sorted chronologically by effective date of the new area code, with the recent changes first. Included in the table are the old and new codes, the effective date of the new area code, the end of permissive dialing date, the relevant planning letter(s), and the test number.
- “**Central Office Code Administrators**” lists the name and contact information for the central office code administrator for each state. This is the person to contact to apply for central office codes in a given state.

Questions regarding NPAs should be forwarded to Rose Breidenbaugh; those involving NPA relief planning should be referred to the senior relief planner for the state, which is also listed on the website.

Several new reports have also been added. To download them, click on “**number resource info**” at the bottom of the home page and then on:

- “**NANPA Report On Current Relief Projects**” provides detailed status on each relief project currently in progress.
- “**NPA Relief Schedule**” lists when relief planning will begin for all area codes projected to exhaust within the next 10 years.

In addition, menu buttons have been added for press releases issued by NANPA, as well as newsletters published by the Communications Industry Services (CIS) group of Lockheed Martin IMS.

Comments and questions are welcomed: Click on “**Contact Us**” at the top of the home page. 


Central Office Code Assignments Ahead of Projection

At the August meeting of the North American Numbering Council (NANC), the NANPA reported on the central office (CO) code assignments made for the first half of 1999. From Jan. 1-June 30, 1999, 7,902 NXX codes were assigned, which represents the total number of codes assigned less any codes returned to the NANPA during the year.

Industry Segments	1Q99	2Q99	Total	% of Total
CLEC	1,983	2,316	4,299	54.4%
CMRS	1,101	942	2,043	25.9%
ILEC	419	427	846	10.7%
Paging	312	402	714	9.0%
TOTAL	3,815	4,087	7,902	100%

1999 CO Code Growth Summary (Jan. 1-June 30, 1999)

In its report, NANPA also included a status on the number of NPA codes currently in rationing. As of June 30, 1999, 65 NPAs were in some form of rationing. Of these area codes, 10 have been in rationing since 1997, and 30 started rationing in 1998.

As part of its report, the NANPA provided a comparison of the CO code assignment rates for the first half of 1999 with the demand projected for 1999 in its April 1999 NANP Exhaust Study. This study projected that 14,889 CO codes would be required in 1999. When the six-month period results are annualized, it is estimated that over 15,800 codes will be assigned, for more than 900 codes originally projected in the exhaust study. 

CO Code Reclamations: It's Use it or Lose it! Return Your Part 4's

As part of the NANPA responsibilities, the CO Code Administration unit monitors the use of newly assigned NXX codes on a regular basis. The CO Code Assignment Guidelines, INC 95-0407-008, describe the responsibilities of both the Service Provider (SP) and the CO Code Administrator, including the reclamation of unused numbering resources.

Certification of Service is Mandatory

An NXX code assigned to a SP, either directly by the Code Administrator or through transfer from another SP, should be placed in service within six months after the initial published effective date. If the assignee no longer needs the NXX code, the code should be returned to the Code

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A Word from Our Managing Director

To maintain and strengthen the neutrality of the NANPA, Lockheed Martin's Communications Industry Services (CIS) operations are being restructured. They will be acquired by a new, free standing, independent company named NeuStar (the "Neu" is for neutral). NeuStar's mission is to deliver highly reliable, neutral services.

As NeuStar, we will continue to deliver the same high quality services to the same customers at the same prices. All current CIS employees and systems will transfer to NeuStar, which has a strong financial foundation. As a result, the restructuring will be seamless to our customers.

The proposed restructuring of CIS has been strongly approved by the North American Numbering Council (NANC), which includes representatives from ALL major segments of the industry. Closing of the restructuring depends on final approval from the FCC.

As we await FCC approval, CIS remains an operating unit of Lockheed Martin. We are focused on providing the highest quality of reliable, neutral services to the telecommunications industry. Our commitment has been, is, and will be strong. The integrity of the NANP and its administration is a critical public trust that we carry for the industry and for all of North America.

CO Code Reclamations

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Administrator and made available for reassignment. "Part 4" of the CO Code request form is the vehicle for the SP to confirm use of the assigned NXX code.

How the Process Works

If it is determined through an audit process or other means that an NXX code is not in use after six months, the Code Administrator will request the return of the code. Assignees are notified by letter, as a reminder, that certification of service (Part 4) is due to the Code Administrator. If the Part 4 is not received within two weeks, a registered letter is sent to the SP requesting a response within 30 days to either confirm activation or return the assigned NXX code.

If the SP is unable to activate the NXX code within the specified timeframe, they can apply for an extension, which can be granted for a maximum period of up to 90 days. Prior to that date, the SP must certify use of the NXX code or return it to the Code Administrator.

Non-compliance with the Guidelines

The Code Administrator will refer to the INC for resolution on those NXX codes assigned to SPs for which the Part 4 has not been returned. This includes those assignments not confirmed to be in use within six months from the originally published effective date or within the 90 day extension, if applicable.

Current Reclamation Status

Most SPs provide their Part 4s regularly, confirming code activation and certifying that the NXX CO code assigned is "in service." Conversely, for the NXX Codes assigned by NANPA, hundreds of first and second letters have been sent to SPs for those that have reached the six-month deadline. NANPA has also been working with the past Code Administrators in all regions to follow-up on outstanding Part 4 certifications for assignments prior to NANPA transition. The SPs contacted have been responsive in returning Part 4s or returning unused NXX codes. To date, only a small number of unconfirmed assignments have been submitted to INC for resolution. So remember, return those Part 4s!

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Senior Vice President and Manager Director, CIS	<i>Jeff Ganek</i>
Vice President, Operations	<i>Joe Franlin</i>
Director, NANPA	<i>Ron Connors</i>
Industry Liaison	<i>Cathy Handley</i>
Editors	<i>Rebecca Barnhart Corina Henriques</i>
Contributing Writers	<i>Bruce Bennett Jim Deak John Manning</i>
Layout/Design	<i>Tracy Keller</i>

If you would like to be added to the mailing list or have any story ideas, please e-mail Corina.Henriques@npac.com