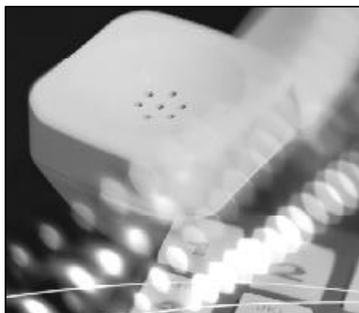


NANPA Numbering News



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August/September 2000

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FCC Issues Responses to Questions Regarding the NRO Order

On July 11, the FCC issued responses to questions submitted by NeuStar, service providers, state commissions and industry groups, to clarify different aspects of the NRO Order, which the FCC issued on March 31. The NRO Order took action with regard to numbering administration and adopting administrative and technical measures that allow it to more closely monitor the way numbering resources are used within the North American Numbering Plan (NANP). In the Order, the FCC also adopted certain cost recovery principles that are similar to those established for number portability, and sought further comment on which costs are eligible for recovery as carrier-specific incremental costs of thousands-block number pooling.

The FCC's full list of responses to the questions can be found at www.fcc.gov. Questions posed to the FCC for clarification ranged from utilization data to states' authority regarding numbering resources to CO Code assignments and NPA relief planning. A sampling of questions included:

- Q. *Is the NANPA required to verify that a state commission has appropriate procedures in place for protection of confidential information or may it rely on a state commission's certification?*
- A. The NANPA is not required to verify the sufficiency of state commissions' confidentiality protections. The NANPA may rely on a state commission's statements that it has appropriate confidentiality protections in place.
- Q. *For initial CO code applications, how much and what types of information must carriers provide the NANPA (para. 96)?*

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Effects of the FCC's NRO Order on Code Administration

NANPA has been ordered to implement the provisions of the new FCC NRO Order, which took effect on July 17. Provisions of the NRO Order affect the submission and processing of applications for central office codes. The purpose of this document is to make potential applicants for these codes aware of the changes.

The Industry Numbering Committee (INC) has established a task force to address the impacts of the NRO order. This document will be updated to reflect their work, and to incorporate any changes or clarifications provided by the FCC.

Listed below are changes now in effect to the procedures for central office code applications and assignments. Industry guidelines are still in the process of being updated.

1. Applications for central office codes must be submitted on the new forms, which may be found on the ATIS web site at this URL: <http://www.atis.org/atis/clc/inc/incdocs.htm>. There are several different versions of the central office code guidelines on the ATIS site. Be sure to use the forms attached to the June 19 version. This version is marked to indicate that it is effective after July 15. If the new forms are not used, or if the forms are not fully and correctly filled out, NANPA must deny the application.
2. The NRO order requires that carriers have a NRUF Form 502 on file, as of August 1, for each NPA in which you request central office code assignments. On July 31, however, the FCC released an Order (00-280) extending the due date for the new NRUF Form 502 until September 15. Per this order, NANPA will suspend checking for NRUF/COCUS forms until that date.

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CO Code Statistics for June - July 2000

	# of Codes Assigned	# of Changes	Suspensions	Denials	Canceled or Withdrawn	Disconnected	# of Reserved	Lottery Denial	Total # of Requests
June	1,437	1,212	597	274	86	195	0	482	4,486
July	1,328	1,214	464	713	113	253	1	474	4,745

NeuStar's Petition for Additional Funds is Granted by FCC

In light of the recent NRO Order and its' subsequent impact on the North American Numbering Plan Administration (NANPA), the FCC has ruled favorably on NeuStar's petition seeking additional funds to implement changes mandated by the Order.

On June 30, NeuStar filed a petition with the FCC stating that in order for NANPA to perform its expanded duties, as addressed in the NRO Order, it must hire additional personnel, purchase new equipment, and modify computer software. Because NeuStar supports the goals of the NRO Order, the company's petition stated that it has already voluntarily implemented some changes required by the NRO Order. Many of these changes have already been integrated into the company's operations, and therefore, NeuStar is not seeking compensation for these changes. However, some of the changes outlined in the NRO Order, NeuStar stated, justify and require adjustments to NANPA's compensation.

Major changes mandated by the NRO Order impact Central Office (CO) Code Administration and the collection and analysis of utilization and forecast data, formerly known as COCUS (Central Office Code Utilization Survey), now called NRUF (Number Resource Utilization Form). Applicants for central office code assignments must now submit detailed evidence of certification and equipment readiness. NRUF, which replaced COCUS, requires carriers to submit considerably more detail about how they are using the numbers assigned to them.

On July 18, the FCC directed NeuStar, as the NANPA, to proceed with the implementation of CO code administration changes as outlined in the NRO Order. 

In addition to distributing hard copies of the *NANPA Numbering News*, electronic versions can also be found at: <http://www.nanpa.com/newsletters/index.html> and <http://www.neustar.com/pressroom/publications.index.html>

FCC Issues Responses to Questions Regarding the NRO Order

(continued from cover)

- A. Carriers are required to provide adequate documentation to the NANPA that demonstrates it has or will have facilities in place to provide service within 60 days of the numbering resources activation date (see para. 97). Self-certification will not be acceptable.
- Q. *Is the NANPA's "verification of carrier's need" limited to checking the carrier's current utilization level in the Months To Exhaust (MTE) Worksheet, and then comparing it to the utilization threshold (para. 103)?*
 - A. Yes. Those are the only requirements that must be met for carriers to receive growth numbering resources. The national utilization threshold will be determined later, but a utilization threshold may be set by the states pursuant to delegated authority in the interim. 

Fifteen Additional States Granted Delegated Authority

On July 20, the FCC delegated additional numbering authority to 15 states – Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, and Washington. There are now 26 states that have been granted such authority.

In its Order, the FCC granted 12 of the 15 states the authority to institute thousands-block number pooling. Other provisions granted to some of the states included: maintain rationing procedures for six months following implementation of area code relief; authority to hear and address claims of carriers seeking numbering resources outside of the rationing process; authority to implement NXX code sharing; and authority to conduct audits of carriers' use of numbering resources.

Since the FCC began granting delegated authority to states in September 1999, NeuStar has been selected as the pooling administrator

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Fifteen Additional States Granted Delegated Authority *(Continued from page 2)*

for 16 NPAs in eight states: Illinois, California, New York, Texas, Maine, New Hampshire, Nebraska and Utah, with Florida and Connecticut turning up pooling shortly. In addition, New York and California are in process of implementing number pooling in additional NPAs.

Below are highlights of recent state activity regarding number pooling.

Nebraska

Pooling is scheduled to be implemented in the 402 NPA on December 1.

Utah

Implementation meetings are scheduled for September 19 for number pooling in the 810 and 385 NPAs.

New York

Pooling for 516 began on July 1, and 30 blocks have been assigned. Currently, only uncontaminated blocks will be used until October 2. The New York Public Service Commission is continuing to look for contaminated blocks so new CO codes do not need to be opened. However, if NeuStar receives a code request and there are no contaminated blocks available, the commission has indicated that the codes can be opened. In the 516 NPA, 1/3 of the CO codes have been set aside for pooling. Pooling for the 518 NPA is scheduled to begin on September 15. In addition, the NYPSC recently added number pooling to the 315 NPA. The initial implementation meeting will be held Sept. 29.

Texas

The Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) implemented number pooling in the 512 NPA on August 1. There have been a total of 16 blocks assigned.

Florida

An implementation meeting was held for the 561 NPA on August 3. For both the 561 and 954 NPAs, the industry will be protecting contaminated and non-contaminated blocks – uncontaminated blocks will be donated first. There will be a call after the pooling assessment is completed to review when contaminated blocks will be donated. The call for the 954 NPA will be November 29 and for the 561 NPA on December 14. The mandated pooling date for the 954 NPA is January 22, 2001, and for the 516 NPA, February 5, 2001. An initial implementation meeting is scheduled for the 904 NPA on September 28.

New Hampshire

On August 14, the New Hampshire Public Service Commission held a conference call to discuss how to implement pooling in a Jeopardy environment and to finalize how the pooling administrator will allocate CO codes to the pooling participants. (This is the second state to have a Pooling Jeopardy Meeting – New York was the first.) There is not a standard industry process on pooling in a Jeopardy area, so each state is determining a process. The industry is still working towards a process, and a follow up call will be held September 21. Pooling for New Hampshire began May 1, and there have been 60 blocks assigned.

California

The 714 NPA is scheduled to turn up pooling on October 6, followed by the 909 NPA on December 8.

For a complete, up-to-date list of the pooling timelines, please visit www.numberpool.com. 

FCC Delays Data Reporting

On July 31, the FCC issued an Order (FCC-00-280) which extended the deadline for carriers to file utilization and forecast data with NANPA to September 15.

On March 31, the FCC released NRO Order, which required carriers to report semiannually on their actual and forecast number usage. Since the release of the Order, numerous parties requested waivers, stays or extensions of time to comply with the new reporting requirements. Although the Order outlined the data elements that carriers would be required to report on or by August 1, the Commission recognized that the volume of data to be reported was large and the actual electronic form for reporting the data had only been available since June.

Carriers are required to comply with the new reporting requirements by September 15. The FCC also directed NANPA to withhold the assignment of new numbering resources from non-compliant carriers after this date.

Copies of the FCC Form 502, which must be used by carriers to submit their utilization and forecast data, can be found on the NANPA web site (www.nanpa.com). Service providers desiring to submit their data using Electronic File Transfer (EFT) will also find EFT file format and definitions and directions on how to submit this data on the NANPA web site. Also posted to the web site are responses to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that have been generated as a result of the new reporting requirements.

NANPA will continue to update the industry as new information becomes available concerning utilization and forecast data reporting requirements. 



NANPA Numbering News: A Year in Review

In August 1999, NeuStar (then the CIS group of Lockheed Martin IMS) published the inaugural issue of *NANPA Numbering News*, which is designed to provide relevant, interesting and topical information on items of interest regarding NANPA and the North American Numbering Plan (NANP). The past year has moved quickly for the industry, and many changes have come about during this time. The following timeline reflects the work that has taken place in the last year, as reported in *NANPA Numbering News*. As we move into the future, NeuStar remains committed to the telecommunications industry and our NANPA customers to better serve your needs.

August/September 1999 issue

- Inaugural issue of *NANPA Numbering News* was distributed to almost 700 service providers, regulators and other interested parties, and response was very positive.
- NANPA establishes an electronic notification and document distribution system to provide information on NPA relief planning activities to affected industry members, thus replacing faxing as the primary method of distribution. To date, close to 2,300 customers have signed up for the service.
- Service providers are updated on changes being made in how CO Code requests are being processed, as well as provided an overview of Part 4's and the code reclamation process.
- The NANPA web site, www.nanpa.com, provides a wealth of information regarding NANPA and the North American Numbering Plan (NANP).
- For the Jan. 1-June 30, 1999, timeframe, 7,902 NXX codes were assigned, which is ahead of projections for the year. At the end of 1999, over 15,000 NXX codes were assigned.

October/November 1999 issue

- Over the last year, NANPA has been implementing changes and suggestions on improving service which were received from the industry's review of NeuStar's performance during its first year as NANPA. Initial changes included hiring new staff to focus on relationships with the industry, as well as new staff for the NANPA organization, and improvements to the COCUS process.
- CO Code Assignment information on NANPA's web site, www.nanpa.com, is now organized geographically to streamline the information and make it easier to access. In addition, the *NANPA Numbering News* has been added to the web site under "Newsletters."
- An overview of the North American Numbering Council (NANC) is featured, as well as a one-on-one interview with John Hoffman, the new chairman of the NANC. Hoffman is the former vice president for external affairs for Sprint, and successor to Alan Hasselwander, former CEO of Frontier Communications.
- NANPA implements NPA relief planning customer surveys.

December 1999/January 2000 issue

- On December 1, Lockheed Martin transferred its CIS business unit to NeuStar, formally establishing an independent, standalone company dedicated to providing the highest level of neutral, third-party services to the telecommunications industry. NeuStar will continue to operate with the same systems, staff and services as CIS did under Lockheed Martin.
- FCC grants delegated authority to state commissions in Texas, Connecticut, Wisconsin, New Hampshire and Ohio, bringing the total to 10 states with such authority.
- NANPA develops a new NPA forecasting model which will allow the NPA relief planners to estimate the lives of various NPA relief alternatives in a uniform and flexible manner.
- NANPA works diligently to successfully reclaim CO codes and follow up on outstanding Part 4's for assignments prior to NANPA transition. As a result, over 1,000 CO codes were made available for assignment.

February/March 2000 issue

- State commissions in Georgia, Washington, Arizona, Pennsylvania and Colorado follow suit with other states and petition the FCC for delegated authority regarding number conservation measures.
- The 1999 NANPA Annual Report was delivered to the February NANC meeting. The second annual report highlights NANPA's 1999 performance, and can be downloaded from the NANPA web site.

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NANPA Numbering News: A Year in Review *(continued from page 4)*

- NANPA provides performance summary for 1999 in the areas of NPA relief planning and Code Administration, and reaches a consistently higher performance level than the previous year.
- Beth Sprague, formerly with ATIS, joins NANPA as an Administrator, and will be responsible for coordinating NANPA's participation and representation in the INC, as well as supporting COCUS efforts. Rebecca Beaton joins NANPA as an NPA relief planner for the Western Region. Beaton was a program manager/consultant at the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC).
- Voluntary code returns are strongly encouraged by NANPA and endorsed by NANC.

April/May 2000 issue

- On March 31, the FCC released its Number Resources Optimization (NRO) Order. Some of the issues addressed in the Order include the implementation of mandatory thousands block number pooling, including the FCC's decision to select the Pooling Administrator through a competitive bid process.
- Effective May 8, CO code applications received by NANPA for which there is no COCUS on file will be denied.
- NANPA continues high performance level in first quarter of 2000. Code administration processed a record number of code requests for the 1Q 2000 – a 13.8% increase over the last quarter of 1999. February and March saw an all-time high in the number of code requests, with 4,245 and 4,533 applications submitted, respectively.
- NeuStar posts a Neutrality Requirements document to the NANPA web site, as well as procedures for filing a complaint if one believes the NeuStar has violated its neutrality requirements.

June/July 2000 issue

- Results of COCUS 2000 and the NPA Exhaust Analysis are published and available on www.nanpa.com. The Exhaust Analysis provides an NPA-by-NPA exhaust projection for all geographic area codes in the U.S. and Canada.
- The NRO Order was posted to the Federal Register on June 16, which begins the 30-day timeframe for the publication to go into effect.
- The Canadian Numbering Administrator (CNA) is profiled. Canada is one of 19 countries that obtains numbering resources through the NANPA.
- Sandy Tokarek is named NANPA's new Regional Director – Code Administration, replacing Bruce Bennett, who resigned in June. **NEUSTAR**

NANC Develops Pooling Document

The North American Numbering Council (NANC) has developed a number pooling technical requirements document, which can be found on the FCC web site, www.fcc.gov/ccb/nanc.

The purpose of the document is to define the technical and operational requirements, the system requirements, and functions of the Pooling Administrator. It also serves as an umbrella document to the industry guidelines, FCC orders, technical standards and technical requirements that support thousands block number pooling so that the Respondent will be able to ascertain the full functionality required of the designated National Pooling Administrator. The Respondent will be required to respond to this document, as well as requirements and additional particulars contained in all reference documents.

The document provides a framework for the Respondent to generate a firm fixed pricing schedule, which includes detailed descriptions of the system, functions and services described in these requirements. This information will then be used to evaluate vendor responses to the administrative and assignment tasks and functions, as well as the system required for thousand block telephone number pooling. The selected vendor is expected to perform the duties of the National Pool Administrator for the designated Term of Administration.

References to blocks, pools, or administrator throughout this document are specific to thousand-block (NXX-X) number pooling in the United States only, unless otherwise specified. **NEUSTAR**

NANPA Announces Additional Staff Changes, New Hires

Several staff changes and additions in the NANPA organization were recently announced.

Frank Colaco, an NPA Relief Planner in the Eastern Region, has been promoted to Senior NPA Relief Planner in the Central Region, replacing Sandy Tokarek, who recently was named Regional Director – Code Administration for NANPA. Colaco joined NANPA in March 1999 and previously worked as a consultant for Telcordia Technologies.

George Light, former Senior Code Administrator for Eastern Region, has transferred to the NPA Relief Staff as an NPA relief planner for the Central Region. Light joined NANPA in June 1998 and was promoted to Senior Code Administrator position in June 1999. Prior to joining NANPA, Light worked five years for Pacific Telephone.

Cheryl Dixon has replaced Light as the Eastern Region Senior Code Administrator, having served that same position in the Central Region. Dixon joined NANPA in April 1999, and previously worked for Teleset, Inc. Joe Rano, former code administrator in the Central region, has been promoted to Senior Code Administrator in that region, succeeding Dixon. Rano, who joined NANPA in April 1999, was at MCI Worldcom previously.

Florence Weber, former code administrator for the Eastern Region, has been promoted to Senior Code Administrator, and will have cross-regional responsibility for the methods and procedures associated with CO Code administration. Weber, who joined NANPA in February 1999, will coordinate the introduction of the new Code Administration System.

New NANPA staff additions include Bill Winter and Sandra Bocclair, who will serve as NPA relief planners for the Western and Eastern regions, respectively. Both joined NANPA on Sept. 1. Winter comes to NANPA after serving as a consultant representing the California Cable Television Association in industry numbering matters. Prior to joining NANPA, Bocclair was with the Virginia Corporation Commission. **NEUSTAR**

NANPA Conducting Surveys for Conference Call Meetings

NANPA relief planners host numerous meetings where industry participants and regulators discuss relief planning alternatives, jeopardy procedures, and implementation procedures, and review draft minutes and regulatory filing, for example.

For some of these discussions, an in-person meeting is essential to accomplish the meetings' objectives most effectively. But for the majority, customers have indicated a preference that, when possible, the discussions should be conducted using audio conference call facilities. Conference calls save time and travel expense and can provide the same benefit as an in-person meeting. Conference calls average about two hours in length and are the typical "meet me" arrangement, whereby participants call in to a conference bridge at the scheduled time.

Conducting conference call meetings presents special challenges to NANPA in assuring that all participants have an opportunity to express their views, that the consensus processes – as defined by the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS) – are accurately followed, and NANPA maintains its neutrality and impartiality throughout the call. In NANPA's continuing efforts to improve the quality of the conference calls, starting in September, participants will be asked to provide feedback to NANPA following the conference call meetings.

The process will be simple and should take just a few minutes to complete. Participants will receive an email invitation to provide feedback electronically to a series of questions on a form that will be brought to their computer screen simply by clicking on an email address embedded in the invitation. As a reminder, the invitation will include the date and time of the call, the subject, and the name of the facilitator. Questions on the form will cover subjects, such as the timeliness of notifications, the quality of the conference call arrangement, the effectiveness and impartiality of the facilitator, and NANPA's preparation for the meeting. Space will be provided for the respondent to include much-valued comments and suggestions.

Any customers that participate in a NANPA-sponsored conference call can expect to receive a request to provide feedback on the quality of the experience. Comments and suggestions are welcomed and essential in helping NANPA to provide the best quality conference call services. **NEUSTAR**



Jeff Ganek
NeuStar Chairman and CEO

A Word from NeuStar's Chairman and CEO

When the FCC's NRO Order took effect last month, many changes were required that affected number administration and assignments, and how service providers obtain the valuable resource they need to stay competitive and to serve their customers. As the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA), NeuStar is committed to working with the industry regarding these changes, facilitate the implementation and iron out confusion, when necessary and appropriate.

For example, the NRO order has drastically changed the way in which you get central office codes, supplanting the industry-developed guidelines that have been in place for many years. The FCC has introduced these changes to conserve numbers and extend the life of the NANP. As NANPA, our job is to assist the FCC in shifting to this new paradigm. Each of the more than 4,000 code requests we process each month is subject to new rules. As we learn more, we update our website (www.nanpa.com) to share our experiences with you.

For initial code requests, the NRO order requires applicants to supply more detailed documentation than previously required to establish their certification to operate and their readiness to use the numbers. Positive dialogue among the FCC, the industry, and NANPA has led to the development of a list of documents that applicants can supply as evidence that they are adhering to the new guidelines. And, because of this, initial code applications are moving forward smoothly.

Changes have also been made regarding growth code requests. The NRO order limits assignments to cases in which the applicant can demonstrate that the numbers it holds in the given rate center will exhaust within six months. The central office code assignment guidelines allowed applicants to bypass exhaust requirements if there was a technical reason. Such justification can still be used, but the FCC must approve the exception, not NANPA. If this affects you, we strongly encourage you to present your petition to the FCC as soon as possible so that your code requests will not be delayed.

We realize that these are changing times within the industry – an industry that never stands still. Our commitment has always been to provide the highest level of neutral, third-party services to the industry, and we're not wavering on that. As we work together to implement new changes, work through new requirements, and determine new and better solutions, NANPA will continue to serve the industry in that critical neutral role.

Effects of the FCC's NRO Order on Code Administration *(continued from the cover)*

3. If a carrier is requesting an initial assignment of a central office code, it must include in its application: a) documentation demonstrating that they have been certified by the state commission to do business in the area for which they are requesting codes, and b) documentation establishing readiness to provide service within 60 days of the code effective date. If the documentation is voluminous (more than 5 pages), please mark the relevant sections so that the code administrator may readily determine if the documents submitted meet the FCC Order. If NANPA cannot clearly ascertain through the documentation provided that the applicant is authorized to provide service and operational readiness in the area for which the CO Code(s) are requested, NANPA will deny the CO Code request.

Subsequent clarification from the FCC indicates that although a carrier cannot self certify readiness, the carrier with which they interconnect may certify readiness through a letter that would be attached to the code application.

4. If requesting growth codes, carriers must fill out and submit the new MTE form, which includes utilization calculations.

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Effects of the FCC's NRO Order on Code Administration *(continued from page 7)*

5. NANPA is no longer permitted to allow carriers to extend the time allowed for their assigned codes to be placed in service. The Part 4 is due within six months of the LERG effective date.
6. To dispute NANPA's decision to deny a carrier's request for initial numbering resources, the carrier must direct the dispute to the appropriate state commission. 

If you would like to be added or have changes to the mailing list, please submit to rebecca.barnhart@neustar.com

NANPA Numbering News

A NANPA bi-monthly publication

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