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Provided by the North American Numbering Plan Administration

By the way...

Part 3 disconnect report

NANPA has posted to its Web site (www.nanpa.com) a new report that lists all code disconnects for which NANPA has returned a Part 3 to the code holder. This weekly report contains each affected NPA-NXX and the effective date of the disconnect. The report is designed to assist carriers in checking to ensure that codes scheduled for disconnect do not have any ported telephone numbers. NANPA will continue to perform its own checks for ported telephone numbers for any returned codes.

NPA inventory

As of October 1, 2001, there were 363 assigned NPAs, of which 309 were in service. All but 13 of the in-service codes are used for geographic area codes. In addition, 19 NPAs have been assigned since January 1, 2001, and 54 NPAs are awaiting implementation.

Changes in NPA exhaust dates

NANPA sometimes revises the exhaust date of an NPA as a result of changes in Central Office code demand, the return of codes, or the implementation of rationing. Changes to exhaust dates can be found on the NANPA Web site under "NPA Relief Planning" and "Latest NRUF Results."

Central office code reports

NANPA posts weekly and monthly CO code reports on its Web site. These reports provide updated information on individual NPA-NXX assignments as well as the quantity of "assigned" and "available" codes in geographic NPAs. The reports can be found under the Central Office Code (Prefix) link.

New list of releasable codes

NANPA has posted another list of potentially releasable NPA-NXX codes on the NANPA Web site under the Central Office Codes (Prefix) link. Service providers and regulators who had problems with any of the codes being returned to "available" status were asked to contact NANPA by November 10.

2001 NANP exhaust analysis available

NANPA has completed its latest exhaust analysis and presented the results to the North American Numbering Council (NANC). The bottom line is that the North American Numbering Plan (NANP) is projected to be exhausted in 2025, assuming a total of 685 NPAs available for assignment.

Each year, NANPA projects the exhaust of the NANP on the basis of the utilization and forecast data submitted by carriers via the Number Resource Utilization/Forecasting (NRUF) reporting process. Using the model developed for the 2000 NANP Exhaust Study and updated with the new NPA exhaust projections published in June 2001, NANPA developed a set of assumptions to reflect the potential impact of thousand-block number pooling, as prescribed in the FCC NRO Order.¹

The latest analysis relies on an average Central Office (CO) code demand rate of 11,600 codes assigned per year and assumes that thousand-block number pooling will be implemented in every NPA, with at least 50 percent of its rate centers in the 100 largest metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs).

The 2001 study methodology differs slightly from that of the 2000 study. Last year's study applied a percent reduction to the *total* CO demand to reflect the implementation of wireline number pooling. For this year's study, that same percentage reduction was applied *only* to wireline CO code demand. For wireless number pooling, the percentage reduction was applied only to demand for commercial mobile radio service CO code. Furthermore, the latest analysis includes the implementation of wireless number pooling beginning January 1, 2003, rather than 24 months after the implementation of wireline pooling.

NANPA performed a sensitivity analysis to clarify the relative impacts of certain assumptions on the results. This analysis led NANPA to identify two aspects of the exhaust analysis that affect the study's results.

NPAs implementing pooling

The first assumption was that only those NPAs with 50 percent or more of their rate centers in the top 100 MSAs would implement pooling. To understand the sensitivity of this assumption, NANPA reduced this requirement to just one rate center. This reduction resulted in an additional 55 NPAs implementing pooling. The projected NANP exhaust was 2027.

Percentage reduction in CO code demand criteria

The second assumption was that there would be a reduction in CO code demand to reflect the impact of pooling (i.e., 50 percent reduction in CO code demand for NPAs with 25 or more rate centers, 30 percent reduction for NPAs with 24 or fewer rate centers, and a 10 percent reduction to account for wireless pooling). At the time, it was recognized that very limited data was available to assist in projecting the impact of number pooling on CO code demand. The percentage reductions included in the assumptions were estimates of the impact of pooling, to be further refined as additional data became available. For this reason, the assumptions included increasing the percentage reductions for both wireline and wireless demand.

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¹A copy of NANPA's assumptions and the complete NANP Exhaust Analysis are available on the NANPA Web site at www.nanpa.com (go to "NPA Relief Planning" and click on "Latest NRUF Results"). At the time of this study, the national pooling rollout schedule was not yet available.



ROBERT ATKINSON

Chairman
North American Numbering Council

Part Two

Robert Atkinson assumed the chairmanship of NANC in June 2001, replacing John Hoffman. In August, NANPA *Numbering News* talked with Atkinson, former Deputy Chief of the FCC's Common Carrier Bureau and current Policy Research Director with the Columbia Institute for Tele-Information at Columbia University's Business School. Part One of the interview focused on how to strike a balance between calls for enlarging the supply of numbers and demands for greater conservation. In Part Two, Chairman Atkinson looks at NANC's oversight responsibilities, its key function, and its future, as well as that of the telecommunications industry.

What issues other than that of number supplies do you see before NANC?

Well, there are always periodic issues of NeuStar's contract. In addition, we have the bidding of contracts for NANPA and the current pooling contract. Providing various oversight recommendations of the contractor is an important part of NANC's responsibility, because the FCC doesn't have the capability or the day-to-day interaction with the contractor. I think the FCC properly places a lot of weight on the opinions of NANC, which represent the opinions of both the users and consumers and other government bodies in evaluating whether NeuStar is doing a good, bad, or indifferent job.

When you look more broadly at NANC, where do you see the organization going? Will there be changes at NANC?

The NANC charter clearly lays out NANC's role and responsibilities. I expect we will continue in the same role of being an advisor and providing oversight and guidance to other industry organizations on guidelines and similar matters.

What do you feel are NANC's strengths and weaknesses? What are its greatest accomplishments?

I think its greatest accomplishment will be getting industry consensus and encouraging such things as thousand-block number pooling. Its strength is consensus—establishing a consensus on what is, by definition, a complicated technical, economic, and political issue of how to ensure an adequate supply of numbers.

The FCC could not, in my opinion, make decisions based on its normal process of proposed rulemakings or inquiries. In a normal straight rulemaking environment, everybody unfortunately takes fairly aggressive positions, with the expectation that the FCC will come up with some sort of a compromise. That is not the best means for decision making, particularly for technical decisions. A compromise is possibly just as bad as any alternative, and it may satisfy absolutely nobody. With one foot in the fire and one foot

in the freezer, on average, you're comfortable. Well, that really doesn't help.

Clearly, the FCC set up NANC because its normal processes were just not well suited for this kind of decision making. NANC allows all the stakeholders to get together once a month or so. My job, in a sense, is to get these parties together, go through these issues, and find a consensus. I must work with people on all sides of the agenda and start to understand the real problems of organizations that have different views. And I think just the mere process of discussion, of having coffee with other people and getting a better handle on the underlying problems of the various stakeholders, allows people of good will to find a consensus and a middle ground that isn't just one foot in the fire, one foot in the freezer, but is a rational, thoughtful decision—and a result that actually satisfies most parties.

Therefore, a NANC recommendation can go to the FCC, which can then put it out for public comment via its normal process. But the proposal itself has a strong basis. It's been well thought out and has broad support across the entire range of stakeholders. Now, the FCC has a relatively easy job. So it's a way the FCC can make rational decisions relatively quickly and can make better decisions than it could without an organization like NANC.

How do you think the telecommunications industry has changed?

The two things that I think gave rise to the numbering crisis of a few years ago were the rapidly increasing number of carriers and the rapidly increasing number of services. Probably, in the long run, those two trends will continue.

I think we should always assume that there will be more carriers, more service providers, more services, and more consumers. I don't think we should get complacent with the idea that 10, 15, 20 years from now the telecomm industry will look the same as it does today. I think we should always assume more of everything and incorporate the concept into NANC thinking. Because if we're wrong, I don't think there's any harm. But we'll be terribly worse off if we stick our heads in the sand. ■

NANPA'S code administration system goes public

For many years the process of applying for a Central Office code assignment required the applicant to fill out forms and mail or fax them to NANPA. All that changed on October 22, when the external interface to NANPA's Code Administration System (CAS) became generally available.

NANPA's CAS offers:

- A secure, web-based system that allows code administrators to enter and submit Part 1, Months-to-Exhaust, and Part 4 forms online.
- Automatic population of many fields on the forms, based on the applicant's profile information.
- Limited validation as data is entered so that common errors can be corrected before forms are submitted.
- An option to save templates and partially completed forms, which may then be submitted at a later date.
- Automatic tracking of the forms submitted, allowing code administrators to query and report on the status of their forms.

NANPA is pleased to report that the response from the 13 companies that used CAS on a trial basis from September 24 to October 21 has been very positive. The participants commented that the system is easy to use.

To learn more about CAS, go to the NANPA Web site home page (www.nanpa.com) and click on the plus sign to the left of the "CAS" link, located in the left frame. A drop-down menu will appear. There you will find links to the User Guide and a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs).

To use CAS, choose the "application" link from the drop-down menu. From there, you can choose to log in to CAS, or to establish a *login* and *password* if you have not already done so. For security reasons, NANPA reviews login and password requests before granting them. You will be notified within 24 hours of the disposition of your request. CAS is currently available for use from 8 AM until 8 PM Eastern time.

For you to use CAS, your PC must meet the following *minimum* system requirements:

- Internet Explorer 5.0 or Netscape 4.0 (or later versions)
- 28KB modem (or faster)
- 800 X 600 screen resolution
- 128KB of available memory

Once you have tried CAS, we hope that you will want to continue using it. Rest assured, however, that mail and fax applications options will continue to be available. ■

NANC charter renewed

The General Services Administration (GSA) has renewed the NANC charter through October 4, 2003. NANC will continue to advise the FCC on rapidly evolving and competitively significant numbering issues facing the telecommunications industry.

NANC is a federal advisory committee, created pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C., App. 2 (1988) and established to advise the FCC on issues related to NANPA in the United States, including local number portability administration issues. NANC has provided

the FCC with important recommendations regarding numbering issues, including thousand-block number pooling administrator technical requirements, procedures, and administration; the cost for the COCUS replacement tool used to collect number utilization and forecast data; secondary definitions for numbering categories; administration auditor technical requirements; and wireless number portability technical, operational, and implementation requirements. ■

Central office code assignment activity report

The following table is a summary of the Central Office code activity for January through September 2001.

| Month | Requests | Assignments | Changes | Suspensions | Denials | Cancellations | Disconnects | Reservations |
|-----------|----------|-------------|---------|-------------|---------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| January | 4,373 | 959 | 1,414 | 266 | 841 | 104 | 789 | 0 |
| February | 4,590 | 817 | 1,922 | 14 | 1412 | 64 | 361 | 0 |
| March | 6,980 | 1,319 | 3,660 | 4 | 1333 | 89 | 575 | 0 |
| April | 3,514 | 754 | 1,541 | 9 | 839 | 37 | 334 | 0 |
| May | 5,143 | 1,358 | 1,757 | 7 | 1,392 | 73 | 556 | 0 |
| June | 4,224 | 1,024 | 1,589 | 20 | 1,087 | 73 | 430 | 1 |
| July | 3,439 | 768 | 981 | 36 | 831 | 73 | 750 | 0 |
| August | 3,140 | 734 | 1124 | N/A | 787 | 132 | 363 | 0 |
| September | 2,974 | 610 | 937 | N/A | 891 | 38 | 498 | 0 |



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2001 NANP exhaust analysis available *continued from page 1*

Using the base model of an annual CO code demand of 11,600 codes, and assuming that pooling is implemented only in NPAs that have 50 percent or more of their rate areas in the top 100 MSAs, NANP exhaust could be extended to 2028. Assuming pooling is implemented in NPAs with at least one rate center in the top 100 MSAs, NANP exhaust would be pushed back to 2034.

NANPA also applied the percentage reductions in CO code demand resulting from number pooling to two other possible annual CO demand rates. For comparison purposes, NANPA performed a sensitivity analysis using 13,300 codes per year, which represented the lowest demand rate used in the September 2000 NANP Exhaust Analysis. In addition, NANPA further reduced demand to 9,900 codes per year.

Using an average annual CO code demand rate of 13,300 codes and assuming that pooling is implemented only in NPAs that have 50 percent or more of their rate areas in the top 100 MSAs, NANP exhaust is projected between

2022 and 2025. With an average annual CO demand rate of 9,900, the exhaust time frame moves to between 2029 and 2031. The same sensitivity analysis was performed assuming pooling is implemented in NPAs with at least one rate center in the top 100 MSAs. With an average annual CO code demand rate of 13,300 codes, NANP exhaust occurs between 2024 and 2030. Assuming a 9,900 annual CO code demand rate, the exhaust time frame is 2031 to 2038.

As detailed in the September 2000 NANP Exhaust Study, the impact of number pooling on the overall exhaust of the NANP is based primarily on the assumptions used in the analysis. Looking forward, with the selection of a National Pooling Administrator and a rollout of pooling scheduled to begin in March 2002, the identification and date of those NPAs implementing pooling will be available. Furthermore, additional data from NPAs implementing pooling today will be available to refine the assumptions used in the analysis. ■