

The State Scene

A Numbering Resource Publication for State Public Utility Commissions

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September

October

2000

CO CODE RECLAMATION GOES TO THE STATES

The FCC's NRO Order gave authority to the state commissions to reclaim CO codes in instances where Part 4 activation forms were overdue. This is a significant change from previous practice where NANPA had the authority to grant extensions on overdue Part 4s, or would take them to the Industry Numbering Committee (INC) for reclamation or a decision on further extensions. Because of this change, the INC last addressed reclamation in June.

NANPA recently initiated a cooperative process with the state commissions to put in place a new proposed set of reclamation guidelines for the states, and undertook discussions with state commission representatives to finalize the new procedures. The guidelines outlined how NANPA would work with the states in the reclamation process. Following the discussions, a final set of guidelines was established based on the original NANPA proposal with many changes suggested by the states. The final guidelines include a notice from NANPA to the service provider one month prior to the activation deadline requesting the filing of a Part 4. On the expiration of the 6-month activation period, NANPA will no longer accept a Part 4 filed by the service provider, but will pass along a list of delinquent Part 4s to the appropriate state commission. For more information on code reclamation, see State Roundup, page 3. 

STATE ROUNDUP

Utah PSC denies Telcordia Petition

On September 13, the Utah Public Service Commission (PSC) denied the petition filed by Telcordia Technologies requesting reconsideration of the PSC's decision to appoint NeuStar as the administrator of its 801 number pooling trial. The petition stated that the delegated authority under which Utah was to implement thousand block number pooling required that the job of pooling administrator be put out for competitive bid. Illinois and New York, the first states to put pooling trials out to competitive bid more than two years ago, chose NeuStar to serve as their Pooling Administrator. All other state trials have selected NeuStar for that same role.

In denying the Telcordia petition, the Utah PSC stated "The considerations for competitive bidding options in developing a future FCC program are not the same as those we face in dealing with the current impending local exhaust, and our efforts to deal with that exhaust on an interim basis. We consider the

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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 reply 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

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REGIONAL CONFERENCE CALLS

Central Region

AL, AR, IA, IL, IN, KY,
LA, MI, MN, MO, MS,
TN, TX, WI

Thurs., October 26,
10 a.m. (CST) Bridge:
888-771-4385
Passcode: 6501839

Western Region

AK, AZ, CA, CNMI,
CO, Guam, HI, ID,
KS, MT, ND, NE, NM,
NV, OK, OR, SD, UT,
WA, WY

Thurs., October 26,
11 a.m. (PST)
Bridge: 888-771-4385
Passcode: 6500849

Eastern Region

CT, DC, DE, GA, FL,
MA, MD, ME, NC, NH,
NJ, NY, OH, PA, PR,
RI, SC, USVI, VA, VT,
WV

Fri., October 27,
10 a.m. (EST)*
Bridge: 888-771-4385**
Passcode: 6509849

* Please note that this is a new time for the Eastern Region call. This will be a permanent time change if there are no problems

** If this number doesn't work, please call 847-619-6648 (Passcode 6505849)

STAFF CHANGES IN THE NANPA GROUP

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

Cheryl Dixon, former Senior Code Administrator for the Central Region, has replaced George Light as the Eastern Region Senior Code Administrator. Light recently moved to NANPA's NPA Relief Planning group 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, succeeds Dixon as Senior Code Administrator in that region. Rano, who joined NANPA in April 1999, was at MCI Worldcom previously.

Sandra Boclair, formerly a staff member with Virginia State Corporation Commission, has joined NANPA as an NPA Relief Planner for the Eastern Region. Boclair, who is based in Richmond, VA, can be reached by phone (804) 730-3772; fax (804)730-3098; pager (877) 710-0744 or e-mail at sandra.boclair@neustar.com.

After serving as a consultant representing the California Cable Television Association in industry numbering matters, Bill Winter has also joined NANPA as an NPA Relief Planner in the Western region. Winter can be reached at by phone (925) 363-8769; fax (925) 363-8729; pager (888) 990-2342 or e-mail at bill.winter@neustar.com.

Both Boclair and Winter joined NANPA on Sept. 1. **NEUSTAR**

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, 2000.

On March 31, the FCC released the 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. **NEUSTAR**

EFFECTS OF THE FCC'S NRO ORDER ON CODE ADMINISTRATION

NANPA has been ordered to implement the provisions of the 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 on page 6 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.

(continued on page 6)

delay caused by considering alternative providers would adversely affect the public interest in implementing rapid, interim conservation efforts to prolong the availability of telephone numbers and further postponing the need for an area code split.” Telcordia filed a similar petition in California on September 6 seeking to delay scheduled pooling trials there and to put the administration job out to bid.

Pennsylvania Orders Code Reclamation

On August 17, the Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission (PAPUC) released an Order on CO code reclamation, implementing authority granted to states in the NRO Order. In that Order, the PAPUC confirmed that it will determine whether codes that have not been activated should be reclaimed, and whether codes for which Part 4 forms have been filed with NANPA have actually been activated.

Massachusetts Orders Reclamation of 62 Codes

On August 31, the Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Energy (DTE) issued a staff level directive to NANPA to reclaim 62 codes from a carrier going out of business. The 62 codes are spread across the 508, 617, 781, and 978 NPAs, all four of which have been declared in jeopardy. There are currently no codes left in the 617 NPA.

Texas Orders Pooling Cost Recovery

In August, the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) issued an Order on number pooling cost recovery. In this Order it identifies the Pooling Implementation and Establishment Fee, pool Implementation Meeting Fee, and, if necessary, the Pooling Transfer Fee and the Rate Area Fee as shared industry costs. The PUCT ordered shared industry costs allocation to be based on the number of assigned telephone numbers each carrier has in the 512 NPA.

California Assembly Passes Numbering Legislation

On August 30, the California Assembly passed a bill that would: (1) require the California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) to petition the FCC for permission to implement technology-specific area code relief; and (2) perform number utilization studies and implement reasonable conservation measures before implementing NPA relief. Governor Gray Davis has until September 30 to sign or veto the bill.

On July 20, the CPUC ordered statewide implementation of a number of conservation measures. These measures include the investigation of timely carrier code activation and need for code reclamation, a 75% utilization threshold that applies to all carriers requesting growth codes, and sequential numbering at the thousand block level.

Four States Awaiting FCC Decision, Indiana Supplements Earlier Petition

Four state commissions – Minnesota, New Jersey, Louisiana and Massachusetts – have petitions for delegated authority pending at the FCC, which request varying authority from the FCC on numbering issues. However, the one common theme among all four petitions is the authority to implement thousand block number pooling. While Massachusetts had previously received delegated authority for four NPAs - 508, 617, 718, and 978 - they are asking to have that authority extended. Both the Massachusetts and New Jersey petitions have been released for comment. Indiana, denied pooling authority in the FCC's July 20 Order dealing with multiple state petitions, has filed a supplement with the FCC asking for delegated authority to implement pooling in the 317 NPA.

Maine and California Commissions Given FCC Waiver

State commissions in Maine and California filed petitions requesting a waiver of the FCC's requirement that states conform their thousands-block number pooling trials to the FCC's national pooling rules by September 1, 2000. Both states requested waivers so that they can continue to apply their thousands-block number pooling rules, which include utilization thresholds for pooling carriers, until the national thousands-block number pooling rollout begins. The FCC granted both California and Maine a stay of the requirement to conform to national pooling rules. The stay will last until the FCC acts on the issue after receiving comments or until December 31, 2000. Meanwhile, the FCC is seeking comments on this very issue. **NEUSTAR**



Anne Boyle

PROFILE ON: ANNE C. BOYLE, COMMISSIONER, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In a state with just two NPAs, Nebraska hasn't seen the proliferation of area codes like other states, such as California, Florida, New York or Texas. But, when the 402 NPA was projected to exhaust and various relief plans including overlays, splits and boundary changes were proposed, Anne Boyle, District 2 Commissioner with the Nebraska Public Service Commission, began looking into ways to delay or eliminate the possibility of 10-digit dialing in the area that covered both metropolitan and rural areas.

What followed, due to Boyle's leadership, was the discovery that numbers weren't being used, but weren't available to consumers, either. The Commission performed an audit of service providers – something new in Nebraska – and uncovered thousands of numbers not in service. AT&T was among the first service providers that returned unused blocks. "We appreciated their good faith effort," said Boyle. "It set an example for others to follow."

That exercise also led the Nebraska Commission to perform audits, and to require service providers to return numbers that weren't used in the six-month mandated timeframe. In addition, service providers will be required to use an entire block of 10,000 numbers in the Omaha MSA before opening a new block. Both efforts will forestall the projected exhaust of numbers in the 402 area code.

"We are on the front line in representing the public at large."

In July, the Nebraska Commission was granted delegated authority to implement number pooling, which will start in the 402 NPA in February, with NeuStar as the pooling administrator. "We are working with the industry and have come a long way to have a more efficient use of numbers," noted Boyle. As the commission began to examine number pooling in the 402 NPA, in terms of better number usage, Boyle said forecasts projected that the life of the NPA could be extended at least three years.

Delaying a new area code in the 402 calling area has been one of Boyle's goals "from the first day I heard about this." However, Boyle stressed that the Commission needed to be thoughtful in its approaches to implementing changes and utilizing technology, and to work cooperatively with the industry during the process.

Boyle was elected to a six-year term with the Nebraska Public Service Commission in 1996 – the same year the Telecommunications Act was passed. From the first day, Boyle has had a strong interest in consumer affairs and how the end users are affected. "Because of competition, more and more companies need numbers, and the people who bear the brunt of these changes are the end users."

One of the changes the industry is going through is how the different groups – service providers, regulators, NANPA – relate to each other. "All of us are getting used to one another," Boyle said, adding that the relationship between the FCC and the state commissions is more "vibrant" today. But, it's still important for Commissioners, as policymakers, "to step back and make the right decisions that are critically important to the industry." The FCC, Boyle said, should "continue to look to the states for their perspective on issues as they emerge. We are on the front line in representing the public at large."

In terms of the service providers, Boyle encourages them to consider the state commissions as partners in numbering issues. "Whenever we bring something forward, they (service providers) ought not to run for cover," she added. Working through issues may take time, money and resources, but the goal is to solve problems together, not create new ones, Boyle said. "While issues are more complicated than they appear, they are, nonetheless, solvable problems."

A NARUC member since 1997, Boyle said one of the objectives of the NARUC network is to share remedies with other states that they can then explore. "We're in a brand new environment. We're all discovering problems we didn't have to deal with," noted Boyle. "If we're not talking to each other, we need to get out and do that." **NEUSTAR**



Thomas Dunleavy

PROFILE ON: THOMAS J. DUNLEAVY, COMMISSIONER, NEW YORK PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

When it comes to numbering issues – and particularly thousands block number pooling – the New York Public Service Commission has been ahead of the curve. Along with the Illinois Commerce Commission, which was the first commission to implement mandatory number pooling, the NY PSC led the way in voluntary pooling trials, and the leadership position is one in which Commissioner Thomas J. Dunleavy said New York likes to be.

“The history of the New York Public Service Commission has been to try to get ahead of the curve and anticipate what’s going to happen in the industry and figure out how to address those changes,” said Dunleavy.

He added that the number pooling trials in the 212, 718, 716, 516, and 518 NPAs are going well because it’s been a cooperative effort between the commission and the industry. “The Commission staff has a solid relationship with the industry and experience in dealing with numbering issues,” which began with local number portability and has continued into number pooling, Dunleavy said. “The industry, to its credit, worked together to develop the guidelines and also worked together to develop an RFP to select a pooling administrator.”

There was enough support from the industry to get the 212 voluntary pooling trial started, which has developed into a solid working relationship. “Things as important as numbering issues shouldn’t be adversarial, they should be collegial,” Dunleavy added. And, to date, he wouldn’t change anything in the pooling trials because they’re working – 1,000 blocks are being assigned, central office codes are being saved, and NPA exhaust is being delayed.

Dunleavy, who was appointed to the New York Commission in June 1996, is now one of five representatives from the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissions (NARUC) that sit on the North American Numbering Council (NANC), and has been on the Council for about a year.

“Together we have an obligation to make sure we don’t squander this precious resource.”

The New York Commission also broke new ground late last year when it ruled on a county line area code split for the 516 NPA on Long Island. And while Dunleavy said the industry would have preferred to split along the traditional rate center boundaries, he said consumers prefer the geographic split. “If they (geographic splits) are planned well, and there’s enough time for permissive dialing and consumer education, and producing the least amount of consumer disruption possible, we can make them work.”

Before his term ends, Dunleavy said he would like to see the state commissions have primary authority over numbering issues. “States are in the best position to make these critical determinations and decisions because we’re closer to the issues.” This includes piloting new programs, getting the tools needed to administer programs, and having the freedom to try new ways to better utilize numbers and enforce code reclamation, while at the same time working together with the industry to preserve resources for the service providers. “Together we have an obligation to make sure we don’t squander this precious resource.”

In addition to number pooling, the New York Commission has also implemented other conservation methods in order to make more efficient use of their numbering resources. Dunleavy said they have instituted a utilization threshold – 75% for growth codes – and are actively pursuing code reclamation. They have examined rate center consolidation, he added, but haven’t fully implemented it yet because there might be adverse consumer impacts.

While it works through these myriad of numbering issues, Dunleavy stressed that an integral part of this entire process is that all affected parties work together. “We need to establish a clear framework for states to follow that all understand and that allows participation from the industry, FCC and NANPA.

“No one has a corner on the market on how to best handle these issues,” Dunleavy said. “To the extent that we can go down this road together and resolve issues together, it’s in the best interest of the consumers.” **NEUSTAR**

EFFECTS OF THE FCC'S NRO ORDER ON CODE ADMINISTRATION

(continued from page 2)

1. Applications for central office codes must be submitted on the new forms, which may be found on the ATIS web site at: <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 the carriers 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.
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), the carrier must mark the relevant sections so that the code administrator may readily determine if the documents submitted meet the FCC Numbering Order criteria. 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.
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. **NEUSTAR**

*This document was updated August 1, 2000

NANC DEVELOPS POOLING DOCUMENT *(continued from cover)*

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.

On September, the FCC released the document for comments, which are due Sept 25. Reply comments are due October 2. **NEUSTAR**

CORRECTION

In the July/August issue of *The State Scene*, it was reported that the FCC had ruled favorably on NeuStar's petition seeking additional funds to implement changes mandated by the NRO Order. The FCC has not ruled on NeuStar's petition. Rather, they have directed NANPA to proceed with certain changes in CO code administration as outlined in a July 18, 2000, letter and will provide compensation for these changes subject to an FCC audit. **NEUSTAR**

To be added to *The State Scene* mailing list, please email your name and address to Rebecca Barnhart at rebecca.barnhart@neustar.com

A WORD FROM NEUSTAR'S CHAIRMAN AND CEO

When the FCC issued its NRO Order last month, new requirements and processes were mandated that force changes to the industry. And these changes are occurring rapidly. NeuStar has already implemented portions of the NRO Order, as directed by the FCC, and is now approaching the implementation of some other key requirements.



Jeff Ganek

A primary tenet of the FCC NRO Order was involving States in the numbering process as never before. As the FCC stated in the NRO Order, “we recognize...that the states have an important role in the management of our numbering resources.” This fact is something that NeuStar clearly understands and treats with significance. The states are an important partner in conserving North America’s numbering resources, and in ensuring that they are used with optimum efficiency. It is with this in mind that we have begun to implement the many requirements of the FCC’s NRO Order.

A strong example of this cooperation can be seen in the development of the newly defined CO Code reclamation guidelines. The original guidelines were the result of discussions with State Commissions that were involved in proceedings where number reclamation was a key issue. The final guidelines would not have been possible without significant input from State Commissions. This type of cooperation will be necessary if the FCC NRO Order is to be fully implemented by NeuStar, the states, and the industry.

NeuStar looks forward to continuing to work with the states as it collects carrier Number Resources Utilization Forecast (NRUF) data from the carriers. The FCC has ensured access to this data by the states, and NeuStar will comply. But more importantly, is the follow-up work. Specifically, the FCC has given states authority to review the “validity” of carrier provided NRUF data and work with NANPA to ensure that no additional numbering resources are given to a carrier until any “inconsistencies or anomalies” have been resolved. This, like other new processes created as a result of the NRO Order, will require great communication between all parties involved. NeuStar will continue to serve as the neutral, focal point to administer the processes and facilitate that communication.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Ganek', written in a cursive style.

RECENT FCC ACTIONS

August 9 – Released for comment New York request for new NPA to provide relief for 716 NPA

August 29 – Released for comment Massachusetts petition for delegated authority

August 30 – Public notice for comment on California and Maine requests for waiver of requirement to conform pooling rules to national pooling rules

August 31 – Order released staying compliance with national pooling rules for California and Maine

Sept 5 – Public Notice released seeking comments on national PA technical requirements

UPCOMING FCC ACTIONS

- Numbering Resource Optimization Second Report and Order
- Award of Pooling Contract and implement national pooling. 

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RELEASE 3.0 UPDATE

Individual User turn-up testing for Release 3.0 is currently progressing in the Northeast region. A daily status report is published that details – with Service Provider anonymity – the current state of each participant’s progress. Super region testing began on September 18 and will run concurrent with the remainder of Northeast turn-up testing.

At this time, service providers and NeuStar have jointly decided to postpone group testing until the entry criteria has been met. Pending satisfaction of the three entrance criteria, which are assessed on the weekly testing call, group testing will begin. Those criteria are: completion of individual turn up testing, one week of stability, and completion of any necessary regression testing.

The delay of the group testing in the Northeast region does not have a corresponding day-for-day slip in the super region. 

The State Scene

A Numbering Resource Publication for State Public Utility Commissions

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