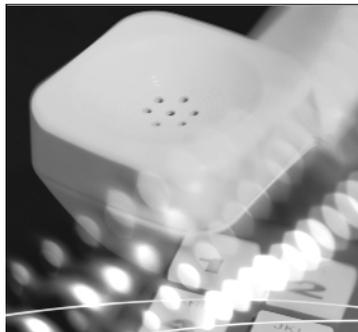
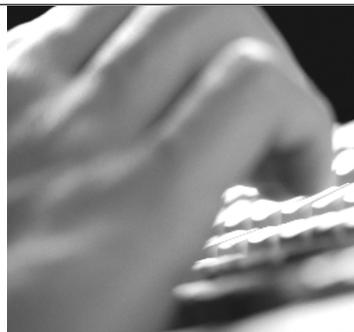


NANPA Numbering News



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January/February 2001

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FCC Releases Second Order on Number Optimization

On December 29, the FCC released its Second Report and Order on Number Resource Optimization (NRO). The Order addressed a number of areas that were raised in the First Report and Order that became effective in July 2000.

In the Second Report and Order, the FCC establishes a utilization threshold of 60% that carriers must meet before receiving additional numbering resources in a given rate center. This threshold will become effective three months after publication of the Second Report in the Federal Register. This threshold will increase by 5% on June 30, 2002, and annually thereafter until the utilization threshold reaches 75%. Carriers seeking growth numbering resources will be required to meet both the current Month-to-Exhaust criteria and the utilization threshold.

The utilization for a given geographic area (rate area or NPA) must be calculated by dividing all assigned numbers by the total numbering resources assigned to the carrier in that geographic area and multiplying by 100.

With regard to NPA relief planning, the FCC declined to amend the existing federal rules for area code relief or to specify any new federal guidelines for the implementation of area code relief at the present time. State commissions may continue to authorize area code relief in accordance with previous FCC rulings.

The FCC did conclude that a comprehensive audit program will be established and consist of "for cause" audits and random audits. For cause audits may be initiated by the FCC, the NANPA, the Pooling Administrator or a state commission that has reason to believe that a service provider may have violated the FCC's rules or orders or applicable industry guidelines. The FCC's Audits Branch of the Accounting Safeguards Division of the Common Carrier Bureau or other designated agents will oversee the audit program and ensure the audits are conducted properly and promptly.

The FCC also requested comments on a number of other numbering issues. Specifically, they requested comments on several issues con-

cerning service-specific and technology-specific overlays, policies concerning rate centers, fees for number reservations and potential penalties for violations of numbering resource requirements.

The FCC also seeks comments on developing market-based approaches for optimizing numbering resources. Finally, the FCC invites comments on the need to establish a "safety valve" apart from the general waiver process to allow carriers that do not meet the utilization threshold in a given rate center to obtain additional numbering resources.

Comments are due by February 12, and reply comments by March 5. ■

NANPA Begins Reclamation Process with FCC, States

Effective January 12, NANPA established a process to work with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and state commissions to reclaim central office codes that have not been activated by service providers.

In the NRO Order, the FCC granted authority to state commissions to investigate and determine whether code holders have "activated" NXXs assigned to them. If a state commission is satisfied that a central office code has not been opened and decides that it should be reclaimed, NANPA will abide by that determination and reclaim the code. The FCC further noted that if state commissions declined to participate in NXX reclamation, the FCC could order NANPA to be responsible for reclamation activities. In such instances, NANPA should consult with the FCC before conducting this activity.

States that want to participate in reclamation have appointed a contact. Each month NANPA sends these contacts a list of "delinquent" central office codes for consideration. Once the list is transmitted,

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NPA Inventory Report Comparison Chart (January 1, 2000 vs. January 1, 2001)

Category	January 1, 2000	January 1, 2001
Possible NXX combinations	800	800
Not Assignable (N11, expansion codes N9X, blocks reserved by INC, non-dialable toll point codes)	121	116
Assignable Codes	679	684 ¹
Currently Assigned	316	344
In Service	275	289
In Service (Geographic)	263	276 ²
In Service (Non-Geographic: 500, 800, 900, etc.)	12	13
Currently Unassigned	363	340
Easily Recognizable Codes (ERCs)	51	49
General Purpose Codes	312	291
Reserved	275	238
Available	55	53 ³

1. Codes in the 521-9 series, previously set aside to avoid billing conflicts with Mexican wireless users roaming in the United States, have been returned to the inventory. This was offset by the reservation of 4 additional codes for 88X expansion.
2. 28 new area codes were assigned in 2000, but the number of area codes in service increased by only 14. There are currently 55 assigned area codes awaiting implementation.
3. Adjustments have been made to the number of reserved area codes, eliminating some cases where there were multiple reservations. Therefore, the remaining number of available general purpose area codes is fairly stable, declining by only two during the year.

NRUF on File Distribution List

NANPA has created a new mailing list for NRUF related announcements ("nruf-info"). The new mailing list provides a fast and efficient way to disseminate important and urgent information about NRUF. NANPA strongly suggests that anyone involved with submitting NRUF inputs subscribe to the list.

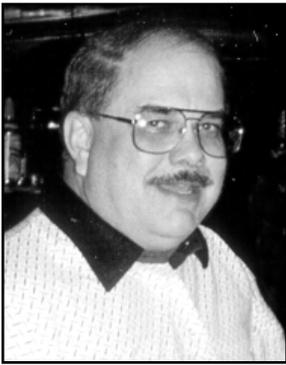
To subscribe, send an email message to: nanp-info-request@lists.nanpa.com. Leave the subject line blank. In the text of the message, type only the line: Subscribe nruf-info. If the sender has a "signature line" inserted automatically in the e-mail, it should be deleted.

The subscriber will then receive a written confirmation that their name has been added to the mailing list, along with instructions on how to unsubscribe and other major features. ■

NANPA's Washington, D.C. Office Relocates

The Washington, DC office of NeuStar moved to a new facility on January 20, but only one floor down.

Only the suite number has changed: 1120 Vermont Ave., NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20005. The phone and fax numbers of all NeuStar and NANPA staff remain the same. Please make note of the suite number change.



Profile On: Tom Foley, NPA Relief Planner Eastern Region, NANPA

Like many of his peers, Tom Foley has been on the front line of the evolving telecommunications industry during his 28-year career. But, now, as an NPA Relief Planner for the North American Numbering Plan Administration (NANPA), Foley's role is drastically different than when he worked for a service provider.

"It was a challenge to keep on top of the learning curve and know what was going on as the industry experienced technological, mechanical, and systemic changes, in addition to the impact that deregulation had on the industry," Foley said. "You had to mentally keep up with the changes, which were occurring at an accelerating pace, and know how to apply them."

What began as a job as a telecommunications engineer for Sprint Corp. in 1973, eventually evolved into various positions for the telecom company, and moved Foley to several U.S. locations and Saudi Arabia. Now, as one of three NPA relief planners in NANPA's Eastern Region, Foley is happily based in Florida, although the job takes him several southern states (North and South Carolina, West Virginia, Georgia, and Florida), as well as Washington, DC and the Caribbean. The Eastern Region covers the 17 states along the eastern seaboard from Maine to Florida, as well as Washington, DC and the Caribbean.

Now as an NPA relief planner, who joined NANPA in August 1999, Foley has discovered that the rapid pace of the telecom industry hasn't slowed down, he's just experiencing it from a different perspective.

"One of the biggest differences in the relief planning work is that we have shifted from straight relief planning to now dealing with new things that must be addressed when developing relief plans, such as

the implementation of numbering optimization measures like rate center consolidation and number pooling," Foley noted. "We're constantly looking at ways to revise and improve the process, as well as change and re-think what we do in relief planning.

"Customers want results and information quickly, and we work hard to meet and exceed their expectations," Foley said. "The surveys we're distributing at each meeting are telling us that we're meeting our customers' needs," he noted, but added that NANPA needs to continue working on some of the larger industry issues, such as customer participation in the relief planning process.

One of the challenges Foley said he frequently faced in the early days of his tenure with NANPA was explaining the organization's neutrality requirements and the limitations NANPA has when the industry seeks its' input.

"In this job, all I can give is a fact and I can't interject opinion" Foley said. "That has been frustrating because a lot of people expect NANPA to make recommendations on what specific relief option to choose, but we can't. We can only give them the facts and they have to make the decision themselves."

Now that the relief planning is prevalent throughout North America, Foley said now the industry better understands NANPA's role, and those concerns are dissipating.

"As the business keeps changing, NANPA will continue to strive to provide leadership to the industry, as well as a good product and great service to those we deal with." ■

Editor's Note: The article is the first of several profiles of NANPA staff that will appear in future issues of NANPA Numbering News.

NANPA Analyzes Con Call Survey Results

In an effort to assess and improve the quality and effectiveness of the numerous conference calls it hosts during the relief planning process, NANPA developed an e-mail survey which was conducted during a trial period from September 21-October 31, 2000. After analyzing the results, NANPA has decided to continue the surveys, which will be conducted one month during each quarter. The next conference call surveys will be conducted in February.

All conference calls during this one-month period will be surveyed and participants will receive requests to provide feedback and comments. The results will be forwarded to NeuStar's Quality Assurance Manager within three weeks after the conclusion of the final survey, and aggregate results will be reported in future issues of NANPA Numbering News. Responses by participants are strictly confidential

and will only be used internally by NANPA to improve the quality of its performance.

The survey asks conference call participants to respond to nine questions about their conference call experience and to provide comments for areas of improvement. The surveys are web-based and conducted electronically, and take only a few minutes to complete. Responses and comments are automatically stored in a password-protected database for retrieval by NANPA.

During the trial period, NANPA facilitated 18 conference calls, which included meetings to review minutes or relief filings, jeopardy procedures, or emergency/imminent procedures, for example. Almost half of

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States Gain Access to NRUF Data

In order to gain access to NRUF data submitted by carriers, public service commissions in 21 states have submitted letters to NANPA indicating that they have appropriate confidentiality protections in place to safeguard the data. Upon receiving this assurance, NANPA provided these commissions a copy of the NRUF data for the NPAs in their states. The NRUF data provided to date is associated with the September 15, 2000, submission date.

In addition to the data, NANPA has provided four standard reports to assist the states in their analysis of the data. The reports are listed below:

- **OCN Report-Utilization**—List of OCNs reporting utilization data, sorted by NPA. Data provided includes service provider name, company address, service provider type, parent company name and parent company OCNs, contact name, telephone number, and date of submission.
- **OCN Report-Forecast**—List of OCNs reporting forecast data, sort-

ed by NPA. Data provided includes service provider name, company address, service provider type, parent company name and parent company OCNs, contact name, telephone number, and date of submission.

- **NPA Utilization Report**—List of OCNs, sorted by NPA, and their respective reported utilization data summarized into the five number usage categories and associated utilization level by NXX (rural carriers) and/or NXX-X (non-rural carriers). This report will also provide a service provider NPA-wide utilization rate, as well as a total NPA utilization rate.a
- **NPA Forecast Report**—List of OCNs by NPA and their respective reported forecast data, to include individual non-pooling service provider forecast of NXXs per NPA and pooling carriers' NXX-X forecast by rate center by NPA.

NANPA is presently accepting NRUF submissions associated with the February 1 submission deadline, and plans to make this information available to the states in the March timeframe. ■

NANPA, USTA Host NRUF Training Session

With the support of USTA, NANPA held a training session on December 1 regarding the NRUF Form 502. At this meeting, NANPA reviewed the revised Form 502 that had been previously submitted by the FCC to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval. Specifically, the group reviewed each Excel worksheet included in the revised Form 502, which contains several enhancements to assist service providers in filling out the form correctly. The group also reviewed and modified a job aid prepared by NANPA to assist carriers in completing the revised Form 502.

NANPA did not receive notification until January 9 that the revised Form 502 had been approved by OMB. Thus, from January 1-9, there was no approved Form 502 for service providers to submit to NANPA for the February 1 reporting date.

To address this situation, NANPA allowed carriers to use the expired Form 502 if they needed to file an emergency update to support a code application. Carriers were not to use the expired Form 502 for their February 1 NRUF submission. As of January 10, NANPA began accepting the revised Form 502 only.

The FCC's NRO Order requires service providers to have a NRUF submission on file with NANPA in order to receive number resources. If the service provider doesn't have an NRUF on file (i.e., forecast) for the area in which the service provider is requesting resources, NANPA is to withhold numbering resources. NANPA has been suspending code applications if this condition is not met. Effective February 1, NANPA will deny the code applications if there is no NRUF on file.

During the December 1 session, the process of checking for an NRUF on file was discussed extensively. The process is as follows: NANPA looks up the OCN provided on the code application in the NRUF-on-file database which contains the service provider OCN field on the Form 502. If the OCN is found, NANPA checks to see if the service provider included a forecast for the NPA/rate center in which it is requesting resources. If NANPA finds no forecast or OCN, the application is suspended and the service provider notified.

Effective February 1, NANPA will no longer suspend code applications but rather deny these applications that fail the NRUF-on-file check. This action is consistent with previous practices when COCUS was made a requirement in early 2000 prior to the assignment of a code. ■

NANC Schedule for 2001

The North American Numbering Council (NANC) resumed its 2001 schedule on January 16-17, after taking a break in December. The following is a schedule of the meetings for the remainder of 2001.

February 20-21	August: No meeting
March 20-21	September 18-19
April 17-18	October 16-17
May 15-16	November 27-28
June 19-20	December: No meeting
July 17-18	

NANPA Begins Reclamation Process with FCC, States

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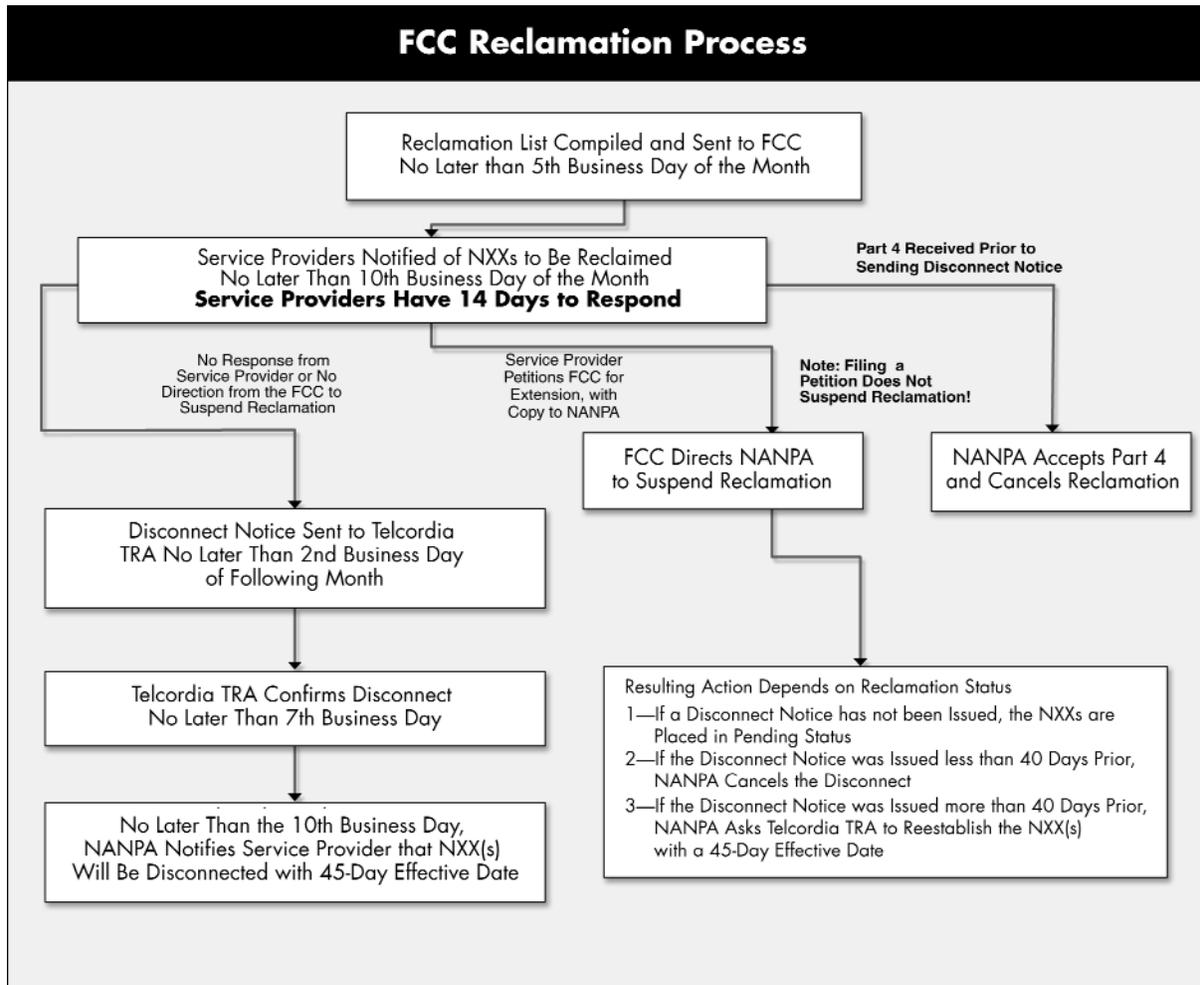
NANPA takes no further action on these codes until directed by the state commission.

For the states where the state commission has opted not to participate, NANPA has developed a process to ensure effective and uniform code reclamation. Highlights of the process include:

- NANPA will compile a list of central office codes to be reclaimed (i.e., codes for which no Part 4 form was provided by the code applicant to NANPA) and provide the list to the FCC by the 5th business day of the month. NANPA will proceed with the reclamation process for those codes appearing on the list unless or until otherwise directed by the FCC.
- Service providers will be notified of central office codes to be reclaimed and will have 14 calendar days to respond. If the service provider submits a Part 4 form, NANPA will cancel the reclama-

tion. If the service provider does not respond (and no further direction is received from the FCC), NANPA will send a disconnect notice to Telcordia TRA.

- A service provider desiring an extension must direct its request to the FCC. NANPA is not authorized to grant an extension and will not request extensions on behalf of the service provider. If a service provider requests an extension from the FCC, NANPA will continue the reclamation process unless directed by the Commission. NANPA will only accept notification from the FCC—not the service provider—that an extension has been granted.
- NANPA will accept a Part 4 for the code in question at any time up to when NANPA sends a notification to Telcordia to disconnect the code in the LERG, which only the FCC can direct NANPA to stop the reclamation of a code. ■





NANPA Analyzes Survey Results

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the participants responded to the surveys. The following table summarizes the average scores for each of the nine survey questions. The scale used was the same as that used for the face-to-face meeting surveys; namely 5=Strongly agree with statement, 1=Strongly disagree.

Questions:	Average Score
1. NANPA provided adequate notice of the call?	4.8
2. Information provided was sufficient?	4.6
3. No difficulty dialing in to the conference call?	4.9
4. Conference call facilities were satisfactory?	4.6
5. NANPA was an effective facilitator on the call?	4.7
6. NANPA conducted the call impartially?	4.8
7. NANPA was well prepared for the meeting?	4.6
8. I had an opportunity to express my opinions?	4.8
9. Overall satisfaction with the conference call?	4.7

A number of the comments were complimentary towards NANPA's conduct of the conference calls, including those regarding facilitation, impartiality and neutrality. Suggestions for improvements included providing additional materials/information prior to the call, as well as streamlining the calls and keeping them more focused. ■

New NANPA Staff

Clare Larca, formerly with Ameritech, joined NANPA on January 8 as an NPA Relief Planner in the Central Region. Larca is based in Middleburg Heights, OH, and can be reached by phone at 440-234-8602; fax, 440-234-8667; pager, 877-645-7690 and via email at clare.larca@neustar.com.

NANPA Numbering News

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