

The State Scene

A Numbering Resource Publication for State Public Utility Commissions

Inside This Issue:

NANPA Forms Reclamation Group ...	2
Conference Call Schedule	2
NRUF Submissions Contain Errors ...	3
State Commissioner Profiles	4

November

December

2000

NARUC HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING, FILES EX-PARTE WITH FCC

From November 10-15, state public service commission staff and commissioners met in San Diego for the annual meeting of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC). While no new numbering resolutions were passed, on November 30, NARUC filed an Ex-Parte with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regarding numbering matters. In the Ex-Parte NARUC reiterated the position it took following its July meetings, including its desire for the FCC to:

- Appoint three additional NARUC members to the North American Numbering Council (NANC)
- Set forth parameters on technology specific overlays
- Authorize the establishment of one or more national non-service-specific area codes
- Act on pending State petitions for additional delegated authority
- Ensure carrier data is readily available at no charge to the individual States
- Affirm authorized State commissions' orders regarding telephone numbering decisions and the States' ability to exercise their delegated authority on numbering issues and require carriers to comply with previous State commission decisions and orders
- Not change the November 24, 2002, deadline for all wireless providers to be LNP-capable.

NARUC further expressed its desire for direct access to the North American Numbering Plan Administration (NANPA) Code Administration system in order to obtain specific code assignment information. **NeuStar**

STATE ROUNDUP

CPUC Issues 2001 Pooling Schedule

On November 21, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) issued an order laying out California's pooling implementation schedule for 2001. The Order adopted five criteria on which to base the implementation schedule:

1. The FCC's restriction on number pooling in the top 100 MSA boundaries
2. Whether other NPAs exist within the top 100 MSA boundaries in which number pooling trials have already been initiated or ordered
3. Expected NPA exhaust date
4. Number of rate centers in the NPA
5. The expected conversion date for NPAC software Release 3.0.

The schedule includes 10 area codes, but dates were set for only one NPA. Pooling has been mandated by March 24, 2001, for the 818 NPA, which serves the area just north of downtown Los Angeles. NeuStar, the Pooling Administrator for the 818 NPA, conducted an implementation meeting on December 7.

Virginia Requests PA Proposals

On November 16, the Virginia State Corporation Commission (VSCC) issued a request for

(continued on page 6)

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REGIONAL CONFERENCE CALLS

Central Region

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

Thurs., December 14,
10 a.m. (CST)

Bridge: 888-490-6952
Passcode: 6547149

Western Region

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

Thurs., December 14,
11 a.m. (PST)

Bridge: 888-490-6952
Passcode: 6544169

Eastern Region

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

Fri., December 15,
11 a.m. (EST)

Bridge: 888-490-6952
Passcode: 6549179

NANPA ESTABLISHES NEW RECLAMATION GROUP IN CONCORD

The FCC NRO Order, which took effect September 18, required major changes in the way that central office code reclamation works. To carry out these changes, NANPA established a new reclamation group, effective October 1.

The new group works with the states and the FCC to reclaim codes that have been assigned but not put into service. By doing so, they help alleviate the need for further area code splits and overlays, as well as facilitate more efficient use of the codes throughout the industry.

The Reclamation Group, part of NANPA's Code Administration team in Concord, Calif., identifies assigned central office codes for which Part 4 forms have not been returned, indicating that the codes have not been put into service. Each month, the Reclamation Group forwards a list of these codes to the appropriate state commissions, which can grant an extension to the service provider or direct NANPA to reclaim the code. (See related story in State Roundup, page 6.)

Anthony Davi, who previously served as a Code Administrator for NANPA's Eastern Region, is now serving as Reclamation Manager in the new group. Davi will spend time interacting with the state commissions and the FCC regarding code reclamation. Dara Sodano has joined the group as a Reclamation Coordinator. Both are based in Concord. Davi can be reached on 925-363-8705 and Sodano can be reached at 925-363-8774. [NeuStar](#)

NANPA STAFF CHANGES

Linda Hymans, former NPA Relief Planner in the Central Region, has been promoted to Manager, Regulatory Affairs for NeuStar. She began her new position on November 1. Hymans, who joined NANPA in July 1999, formerly worked at the Public Utilities Commission of Texas (PUCT) as a Senior Utility Analyst in the Telecommunications Division. She will report to **Brent Struthers**, NeuStar's Chief, Regulatory Matters, and be based in Austin, Texas. Hymans can be reached at 512-996-8757 or linda.hymans@neustar.com.

In NANPA's Code Administration group in Concord, **Sandra Poortinga** has been promoted to Code Administrator for the central region. **Michael Jinkerson**, formerly with Pacific Bell, is a new Code Administrator in the Western Region, and Code Administrator **Terah Adger** has moved from the Western Region to the Eastern Region, replacing **Anthony Davi**. Davi and **Dara Sodano** have recently been named to the newly formed Reclamation Group in Concord. (See related story above). [NeuStar](#)



Happy Holidays
from NeuStar



NANPA RECEIVES NRUF SUBMISSIONS, BUT MANY CONTAIN ERRORS

With the NRO Order, the FCC directed new data reporting requirements for service providers. The requirements included the submission of utilization and forecast data to the NANPA by September 15. As of late November, NANPA had received over 3,700 submissions (i.e., Form 502). Unfortunately, more than 2,400 of these submissions contained errors.

More than 1,700 submissions contained the following types of errors:

- Failure to provide an entry in the Parent Company Name or OCN fields
- Unrecognizable NPA codes
- Invalid rate center name
- No recognizable forecast provided

More than 750 submissions contained errors so severe that they could not be processed and had to be rejected. Examples of these errors included:

- No Operating Company Number (OCN) in the service provider OCN field
- Multiple OCNs in the service provider OCN field
- A non-valid OCN format (i.e., OCN must be a four-digit, numeric number; if the OCN is in any other format, submission will be rejected)
- A non-valid OCN; the reported OCN cannot be found in the LERG
- Key information is missing (e.g., service provider name, company address, city, state, zip, contact name and contact telephone number.)
- Utilization or forecast data is missing (i.e., the individual utilization and forecast forms contain no data)
- Service provider modified the spreadsheet (e.g. eliminated workbooks).

Because carriers must have an NRUF on file to obtain central office code assignments, NANPA is focusing first on those carriers whose submissions have been rejected. Service providers will be allowed up to five days from date of notification to address these situations and respond to NANPA. Service providers that fail to correct the problem(s) during that period will be deemed, for purposes of applications for numbering resources, not to have an NRUF on file.

Carriers sometimes find it necessary to update their NRUF submissions, either to correct errors like those described above or to supply additional data. NANPA will accept updates and/or corrections to previously submitted NRUF submissions associated with the current reporting cycle, provided the carrier submits all the previously reported data contained on the 502 Form for the OCN in question, as well as the revision/update. This revised 502 Form will completely replace the existing data for that OCN.

In November, NANPA began sending out lists of codes to states to be reclaimed. In all, 17 states responded to the NANPA saying they would like to take part in the reclamation process. For the remainder of the states, lists of codes to be reclaimed were sent to the FCC. One issue has arisen regarding accuracy of carrier contact information on Part 1s originally sent to the NANPA. Some states have had difficulty contacting carriers whose codes face reclamation. The NANPA is working with the states to address this issue, and it was discussed at the November NANC meeting. **NeuStar**

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



PROFILE ON: NANCY BROCKWAY, COMMISSIONER, NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Nancy Brockway is no stranger to the life of the country's state public service commissions.

A veteran staffer who now serves as a Commissioner for the New Hampshire Public Service Commission, Brockway has previously worked for public service commissions in Maine and Massachusetts. And during her 15+-years in the Commission arena, Brockway has seen significant changes in the telecommunications industry.

Nancy Brockway

While at the Maine Public Utilities Commission, Brockway was a hearing officer for telecom issues during the breakup of AT&T. She then moved to the Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Energy (DTE) as general counsel when local competition was being introduced statewide. She was appointed Commissioner in New Hampshire in October 1998 and serves until her term expires in June 2003. With broad state commission experience, Commissioner Brockway believes the biggest challenge for all states is their lack of enforcement authority over the allocation of numbers.

"A vacuum has been created by the fact that number allocation is a national issue," Brockway said. She added that she believes that the states are in the best vantage point to have enforcement responsibility on behalf of the national policy. She noted that the FCC's recent decisions to allocate delegated authority to a number of states regarding numbering issues further clarifies the states' role in this critical matter. "It's a very exciting time to be working with numbering issues," said Brockway. "It now really matters."

Some may argue that numbering issues — especially when it comes to adding a new area code — is particularly critical in New Hampshire, which has fought hard to retain its one-area code (603) status.

"We are very proactive in protecting 603," Brockway noted, which is one of the driving factors behind her involvement in the North American Numbering Council (NANC), the advisory board established by Congress to provide advice and recommendations to the FCC on numbering issues. Brockway is one of five state commissioners that represent the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) on the NANC.

In late 1998, the telecommunications industry began planning a new NPA for the 603 area code because it was projected to exhaust in late 2000. Brockway was concerned because she had experienced the "waste and frustration" in splitting the 617 NPA while serving on the Massachusetts DTE. "I couldn't understand how over 7 million numbers could be exhausted (in New Hampshire) when there are only about 1.1 million phone lines in use," Brockway said.

What followed was rationing numbers to service providers (jeopardy). Subsequently, several meetings were held before an overlay was recommended to the New Hampshire Commission in February 1999. Last June, the Commission approved the overlay but, to date, it has not been implemented. Rationing has delayed the overlay in the 603 NPA, and current forecasts have extended the life of the NPA until fourth quarter 2001. The Commission is currently planning to implement number pooling in the 603 NPA in December 2000.

Because New Hampshire is a one-area code state, Brockway allows that she and her staff haven't had to deal with the other "painful" details of NPA relief planning and expansion that other nearby states have experienced. Regardless, Brockway is committed to working with the FCC and the industry to find better ways of allocating numbers and extending the life of the North American Numbering Plan (NANP). "There are sensible ways of avoiding the waste of numbers."

Another issue regarding NANP exhaust and expansion that concerns Brockway is how much it will cost and who will be responsible. Brockway stressed that there are not solid cost estimates for expansion of the NANP, and that consumers bear the costs of these changes more than carriers do. One solution, Brockway said, is to set up incentives for the industry regarding NANP expansion, based on FCC-established rules and procedures. In addition, the states — and not an outside contractor or

(continued on page 6)



PROFILE ON: NORA MEAD BROWNELL, COMMISSIONER, PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Nora Mead Brownell

As a commissioner with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC), Nora Mead Brownell has seen significant changes in the state's telecommunications arena during her three-year stint. And, now, as Brownell assumes the reigns of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) as its newly installed president, she knows too well that many more changes are coming.

"This is the time for all of us to provide leadership to leverage the opportunities that free markets bring to businesses, the community and consumers," Brownell said in accepting the NARUC position on November 15.

In addition to devoting "significant" time to introducing herself to a new Administration and Congress, Brownell said NARUC needs to "provide leadership at a time when this country is experiencing new and exciting changes in the telecommunications industry. We have to be the eyes and ears for the community."

Brownell is passionate about how the telecommunications industry affects not only consumers but competitive markets. She has been a leader in establishing robust competitive markets in the telecommunications industry, and actively supported Pennsylvania's pursuit of competition in the local markets for telecommunications. At the same time, Commissioner Brownell has worked to enhance services to rural areas and protect consumers.

"All that we do at the Commission – particularly in telecommunications – is about economic development," Brownell said. "If we don't get it right, we disadvantage the local community, the states and the country."

Brownell was quickly enveloped in the state's numbering issues when she was appointed to the Commission in 1997. Her first major telecom issue as a Commissioner was looking at a petition for NPA relief. Like many states, Pennsylvania has tripled the number of NPAs (from 4 to 12) since 1994.

One of Brownell's own frustrations over NPA relief is the fact that no one has adequately measured the hard costs (letterhead, business cards, signage for businesses) or the soft costs (anger, frustration, angst, wasted time for consumers) when an area code changes. As president of NARUC, Brownell said she will encourage the state commissions to look at these costs to help better measure the full impact of an NPA change.

"Nothing infuriates the population more than going through an NPA split," Brownell said. "Our job is to minimize the impact to our customers and work with the industry to maintain a competitive market. We don't want the industry to incur undue costs."

A numbering issues working group with the Pennsylvania Commission has done a lot of work in this arena, Brownell said. In May 1997, the Pennsylvania Commission issued an order regarding a number of ways to conserve numbers. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) ruled that they had the sole authority over numbering issues, but the Pennsylvania PUC petitioned – along with 29 other states – to receive delegated authority over numbering issues. That authority was granted to Pennsylvania in July. Since then, the Pennsylvania Commission has been busy researching the impact that number conservation measures are having in other states and how they may ultimately affect Pennsylvania.

"States should consolidate their experiences to gather empirical data and determine the best methods and measure the impact of these changes," Brownell noted. She will encourage states to "take the tools we know we have and implement them as widely and quickly as possible." "If we want to be active managers of this transition, we need to be quicker, more agile, more nimble."

Leveraging resources and maximizing opportunities between the states is one of Brownell's goals — and challenges — for NARUC. "There is a network of incredibly intelligent people [within NARUC] that can participate in debate and issues that

(continued on page 6)

STATE ROUNDUP *(continued from page 5)*

proposals for pooling administrator. The selected administrator will implement number pooling in the 804 by March 1, 2001, in 540, 757 and 703 by June 1, 2001, and in 571 by August 3, 2001. The proposals, which were due on November 30, will be evaluated by Commission Staff.

West Virginia Releases Order on Number Conservation

On November 21, the Public Service Commission of West Virginia (WV PSC) released an Order indicating its interest in number conservation techniques. Specifically, the WV PSC is looking at number pooling, auditing and monitoring carriers' use of resources, NXX code sharing, maintenance of rationing procedures following NPA relief, authority to address carriers' needs for resources outside the rationing process, code reclamation; and rate center consolidation. In this Order, the WV PSC sets forth code reclamation guidelines for carriers to follow in West Virginia. The Commission has also requested detailed information on carriers' use of codes for "administrative purposes" in West Virginia's only NPA, 304.

New York Holds Implementation Meeting for Four New NPAs

On November 17, the New York PSC held a number pooling implementation meeting for four additional NPAs: 914, 845, 646, and 347. The agreed upon schedules for all four NPAs are largely identical, with number pooling in each NPA to be implemented by April 30, 2001.

Michigan Rules on Reclamation

On November 2, the Michigan Public Service Commission (MI PSC) set forth rules for carriers to follow with regards to reclamation of CO codes for the state of Michigan. The Order states that following the receipt of the list of delinquent codes from the NANPA, the Commission will notify each carrier on the list. Requests for extension to activate a code must be sent to the MI PSC within 14 days. Extensions are limited to 60 days. If the carrier does not respond within 14 days, the MI PSC will Order the NANPA to reclaim the code(s). **NeuStar**

COMMISSIONER BROCKWAY *(continued from page 4)*

advisory group — could have the delegated authority to monitor the industry and be responsible for managing the numbering resource.

And while Brockway is not ready to declare NANP exhaust a "forgone conclusion," she believes that the industry — including carriers and regulators — should be looking at the factors that are driving the exhaust, as well as options for preventing it and associated costs.

She also encourages the carriers to look beyond the specific competitive advantage and work together with government to improve the NANP and its administration to avoid number exhaust and continue frustration for consumers.

Brockway said she applauds the FCC's increased attention to the NANP exhaust issue. "It's not going away, and we continue to need involved leadership with the FCC," she added. "States stand ready to work with the FCC to improve sound policy regarding to numbering issues." **NeuStar**

COMMISSIONER BROWNELL *(continued from page 5)*

others can't. We have got to tap into the resources within the state commission staffs and develop good relationships between the states so that they can work cooperatively together to study the impact of technology and develop ways to be more responsible and market driven."

One aspect of that goal is the relationship between NARUC and states with the FCC and staff. Brownell vowed to continue and expand the working relationship with the FCC. But, she noted, the roles of the states and the FCC need to be better defined. "We need to be clear about who can and who should be responsible." **NeuStar**

A WORD FROM NEUSTAR'S CHAIRMAN AND CEO



Jeff Ganek

During this holiday season, it is fitting to take a look back at the preceding year and reflect on one's accomplishments and struggles, and plan and prepare for the new year approaching. For the folks of NeuStar, this time of the year is not only filled with the holidays, but it's also time to celebrate the company's one-year anniversary. On December 1, 1999, the Communications Industry Services (CIS) group within Lockheed Martin IMS was transferred to NeuStar, an independent, standalone company committed to serving the telecommunications industry. So, the Year 2000 will hold significant meaning for us for many reasons, and we're privileged to be able to share it with you.

One of the highlights of 2000 was the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) action in delegating authority to 25 states in regard to numbering issues. Many states have implemented – or are in the process of implementing – number pooling and other conservation measures, thus extending the life of NPAs all over the country. NeuStar has been integral in that process, serving as the Pooling Administrator for 11 states and 32 NPAs.

As we approach 2001, NeuStar looks forward to the selection of a National Pooling Administrator, and is hopeful to be a major player in rolling out number pooling throughout the country. We are proud of our role in this very important and necessary aspect of the telecommunications industry. NeuStar was the first – and is the only vendor – that is providing number pooling administration services to the states and industry today.

On the heels of granting states delegated authority, the FCC also released its Number Resources Optimization (NRO) Order in March. Myriad topics were covered in the NRO Order which affected the states and industry alike, as well as NeuStar in its roles as the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA) and Local Number Portability Administrator (LNPA). The implementation of these changes is still underway, and will continue into the new year. In December, the FCC will vote on a 2nd Report and Order to clarify issues remaining following their March Number Resources Optimization Order. While we cannot say what will be specifically addressed in the Order until the FCC votes and the Order is released, we can be sure that it will continue the ongoing changes to the landscape of numbering into the foreseeable future.

The year 2000 was very full and busy in the telecommunications industry and throughout the state commissions, with changes too numerous to be fully addressed in this column. Regardless, as this year winds down and a new one awakens, NeuStar remains committed to the state commissions as we work through the issues and changes together.

I join all NeuStar staff in wishing you a very Happy Holiday season!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Ganek". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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NANC SCHEDULE FOR 2001

Due to the holidays, the North American Numbering Council (NANC) will not meet in December, but will resume January 16-17, 2001. The following is a schedule of the 2001 meetings through August. The dates for the remainder of the year will be published when they're finalized.

February 20-21	June 19-20
March 20-21	July 17-18
April 17-18	August: No meeting
May 15-16	

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

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