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Title NANP Capacity Expansion Study by the INC	Project Number(s) 5V1000.17	
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To:
Recipients of North American Numbering Plan (NANP) Information

Restrictive Comments
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From:
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Abstract
This IL reports the activities of an INC workshop tasked to recommend the method by which the NANP capacity should be expanded when required. The IL also encourages participation in the workshop's efforts by those potentially affected by a NANP capacity expansion.

Letter Information (Includes safety liability disclaimer (if applicable), ordering information, originator's signature information)

The North American telecommunications sector - users, network operators, service providers, vendors, and regulators - have recently experienced a change in the format of the North American Numbering Plan (NANP) - the NANP-wide introduction of interchangeable NPA codes. This particular format change was designed more than thirty years ago. Based on the experience of this recent format change, including the lead time necessary to design and implement it, it is apparent that the time to start planning the next NANP change is now.

Although the current 10-digit format of the NANP, including the interchangeable NPA code format, is expected to serve the North American telecommunications sector for many years to come, the continually increasing demand for new and existing telecommunications services will ultimately exhaust the capacity of the NANP resources currently available. This ongoing demand has created the need to define the structure of an expanded NANP, and to develop an evolution strategy to effect the smooth transition to it. Such an effort should start far in advance of its anticipated need. In this context, the Industry Numbering Committee (INC) has formed a workshop to develop an industry recommendation for the expansion of the NANP capacity for implementation when required. The INC is a standing committee of the Industry Carriers' Compatibility Forum (ICCF), which is sponsored by the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS).

The INC asked Bellcore, as the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA), to inform the North American telecommunications sector, via this IL, of the INC workshop activities in this area. The INC and the NANPA are hereby advising you of this activity in order to ensure that you are aware of the project and to solicit and encourage your strategic, technical, and policy related input to the process. By keeping the North American telecommunications sector apprised of, and involved in, this activity, the INC will gain the broadest perspective possible and ensure input to, and support for, the work and its ultimate recommendation throughout the development process.

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The INC intends to identify capacity expansion options, establish criteria for the selection of the "best" option, and, if possible, ultimately recommend one of the identified options as the capacity expansion plan to be implemented when required. Subsequently, the INC will develop an evolution strategy to transition from the current NANP format to the recommended format with the least amount of impact on the various segments of the telecommunications sector. This process is currently projected to take several years.

The INC intends to publish the results of its work periodically throughout the development process in order to solicit additional input and to gain support for the conclusions being made. However, the best way to ensure that your interests are addressed during this critical debate is to directly participate in the process. The meeting schedule for the workshop, as well as additional information related to workshop activities, may be obtained from the INC secretary, Kathy Cullen, at 908 699 3245.

Any questions regarding the above should be referred to Fred Gaechter on 908 699 3051.



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