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To:
Recipients of North American Numbering Plan (NANP) Information

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From:
R. R. Conners, Director - North American Numbering Plan Administration

Abstract
This IL announces the assignment of Service Access Code (SAC) 500 for personal communications services.

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

This letter announces to the North American telecommunications industry the assignment of non-geographic Service Access Code (SAC) 500 for personal communications services and details the process by which 500-NXX codes will be assigned.

In August of 1993, the FCC requested that the NANPA delay the assignment of NXX codes within the 500 SAC until the Commission could consider several expressions of concern regarding the proposed assignment of these NXX codes. In a May 3, 1994 letter to the NANPA, the Commission stated that "... we no longer ask you to delay the assignment of the codes in question", citing its "... wish not to delay the introduction of new services."

Until such time as the industry moves to a fully portable number implementation, 500-NXX codes will be assigned to and identify service providers. NANPA will assign 500-NXX codes in accordance with the "Personal Communications Services (PCS) N00 NXX Code Assignment Guidelines", ICCF Document 93-113-0-11, dated November 17, 1993. These assignment guidelines were developed through the consensus process by the Industry Numbering Committee (INC), a standing committee of the Industry Carriers Compatibility Forum (ICCF).

Purpose of the 500 SAC

For the purpose of the 500 SAC, personal communications service, as defined in the assignment guidelines, is a set of capabilities that allows some combination of personal mobility, terminal mobility, and service profile management. These capabilities enable each personal communications service user to participate in a user-defined set of subscribed services, and to initiate and/or receive calls on the basis of some combination of a personal number, terminal number, and a service profile across multiple networks at any terminal, fixed or mobile, irrespective of geographic location. Service is limited only by terminal and network capabilities and restrictions imposed by the personal communications service provider.

A non-geographic resource is being assigned for personal communications services because each personal number represents the identity of the user and is independent of the user's location. In order to offer users the capability of establishing and receiving calls on any terminal and at any

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location, the identification of personal communications services users is treated separately from the addressing of, and routing to, terminals and network access points. These personal communications services attributes necessitate the assignment and use of non-geographic numbers.

The telecommunications industry has identified the need for the assignment of a singular non-geographic code for personal communications services because the currently assigned SACs (600, 700, 800, and 900) are already recognized by the public, network operators, and telecommunications service providers as having characteristics distinct from those envisioned for personal communications services.

500 SAC Implementation Issues

It is beyond the purview of the NANPA and, therefore this IL, to resolve or define access and interconnection arrangements for the new PCS services. It is felt, however, based on the number of inquiries received on these issues, that a brief summary of the current status relative to these issues is appropriate.

Public acceptance and comfortable use of personal communications services numbers have been identified as critical elements in the success of personal communications services. Because of this, industry consensus on aspects of the uniform implementation and use of personal communications services numbers that relate to providing a consistent and predictable public interface should be reached in the appropriate industry forums. Pending such industry consensus, these aspects will be addressed as follows:

Service Provider Identification/Selection - Identification/selection will be determined by analysis of the specific 500-NXX dialed digits. It is anticipated that this NXX assignment plan will evolve to a portability plan. The method by which to provide 500 code portability is currently being discussed by an Industry Numbering Committee (INC) workshop.

Access/interconnection Arrangements - Absent an industry consensus plan, access and interconnection arrangements will be negotiated with local access providers as appropriate.

Charging Plan - Absent a uniform, industry-wide charging plan, charging will be service provider-specific. Service providers are encouraged to develop a method of caller/user charge awareness, particularly if, and where, calling party paying arrangements exist.

Directory Services - 500-555 will be reserved pending a decision by the industry on whether and how to use it for personal communications service number Directory Assistance.

500 NXX Code Assignment Process

From August 1993, when the Commission requested that the NANPA delay assignment of 500 NXX codes, until the present, the NANPA has received numerous letters requesting the assignment of 500 NXX codes if, and when, the Commission withdrew its delay request. Once the Commission withdrew its request, the NANPA developed a plan by which to fairly and impartially respond to the initial code assignment requirements of those entities that had already

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submitted written requests as well as any other entities that had not yet requested initial assignments but may wish to do so. The process to be used is as follows:

1. In deference to those entities that may not have applied for 500-NXX codes up to this point due to the FCC action and/or the lack of approved assignment guidelines, the NANPA has established an open application period for such entities to submit their applications and to thereby be treated equally with those that have already filed code assignment requests with the NANPA. The period from August 1993 (when the first application was received) to June 17, 1994 will be the open application period. During this period all applications received that include a properly completed "PCS N00 NXX Code Form", per the aforementioned assignment guidelines - ICCF 93-1130-011, will be processed by the NANPA in an equal manner. The following procedures apply:
 - A letter will be sent to all entities for which the NANPA has an assignment request letter on file but not containing a completed "PCS N00 NXX Code Form", requesting that they complete and return the form, per the assignment guidelines - ICCF 93-1130-011 - by June 17, 1994.
 - The NANPA will also accept new applications from entities not previously requesting code assignments. These entities must also submit a properly completed code request form to the NANPA by the same June 17, 1994 date.
 - Those entities that have already submitted a completed code form to the NANPA with their initial code request need not take any further action at this time.
2. From June 17, 1994 to July 8, 1994, the NANPA will process all properly completed request forms. Should additional information be necessary from specific applicants in order to process their application, the NANPA will contact the applicant during this period. If the additional information required relates to the number of codes requested and the issue of how many initial codes are appropriate cannot be resolved during this period, one initial code will be assigned while the multiple code request issue is being resolved.
3. If multiple requests for the same NXX code are received by the NANPA during the open application period (and any previously filed requests), the requests will be handled as follows:
 - If alternate codes are specified in one or more of the involved applications, the NANPA will first contact the applicant(s) offering an alternate code(s) to determine if the assignment of an alternate code, in the place of the primary code requested, is acceptable or if the applicant would prefer to proceed with the next steps of conflict resolution as detailed below. If the applicant will accept the assignment of an alternate code, that code will then be assigned instead of the primary code.
 - Entities requesting the same code and not offering or accepting alternate codes will be asked if they will abide by a random selection process. If all parties agree, the code will be assigned by random selection and the entities not receiving the requested assignment by the random selection process will be requested to identify an alternate code for assignment.

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- If all entities requesting the same code do not agree to a random selection process, a 60-day period will begin in which the NANPA will communicate with all parties encouraging that they reach agreement on the assignment and informing them that at the end of the 60 days the issue will be referred to the appropriate regulatory body, if a voluntary agreement has not been reached. The 60-day period can be extended if the involved parties are making progress and all agree that additional time to reach agreement is needed and will be successful.
 - If agreement has been reached by all parties on the assignment of the specific code, the administrator will make the assignment, based on the agreement, providing all but one request are withdrawn. The entities withdrawing their request may then request another code. That request will be honored immediately if the code is available.
 - If agreement has not been reached through the above negotiation process, the NANPA will refer the issue to the appropriate federal regulatory body(ies) for the country(ies) in which the applicants reside.
4. The NANPA will forward a letter to each entity that has submitted a code request form by July 11, 1994. This letter will either:
- inform the applicant that the requested code(s) has been assigned,
 - inform the applicant that one or more, but not all, of the codes requested has been assigned and explain, based on the assignment guidelines, why all the requested codes could not be assigned,
 - inform the applicant that, due to multiple requests for the same code, an assignment has not been made and request whether the conflict can be resolved by the random selection process, or
 - inform the applicant that the code assignment request has been denied since it was not in conformance with the assignment guidelines. In this last instance, the specific reason, including the applicable section of the guidelines, will be stated.

Conclusion

It is strongly recommended that any entity intending to apply for 500 NXX codes by the above process carefully read and conform to the aforementioned guidelines. Some specific areas to pay close attention to when completing a request form are adequate justification for more than one initial code, ability to implement the code within the requisite 12 months from assignment, and a complete description of the service to be provided.

Copies of this letter are being forwarded to the widest possible industry distribution and may be reproduced for further distribution as needed. Questions regarding the 500 SAC can be referred to Fred Gaechter, NANPA, at 201-740-4596 or by facsimile on 201-740-6860.

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