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Provided by the North American Numbering Plan Administration

## NANPA studies CAS/LENG discrepancies

As part of NANPA's 2001 Performance Improvement Plan (PIP), NANPA is studying discrepancies between CAS and LENG data and making recommendations on how to address and resolve these discrepancies. NANPA compared the August 1, 2002 edition of LENG and the August 1, 2002 copy of CAS and identified nearly 7,500 NXXs where CAS and LENG differed in one or more of the following data elements: Operating Company Number (OCN), Code Assignment status, and Rate Center. These discrepancies represented 3.3% of the 226,400 NXXs in CAS inventory. Over 80% of these records had an assignment date before the transition to NANPA (NeuStar).

The discrepancies identified by NANPA have been classified into seven categories. The categories are discussed in the table on page 4 along with the proposed action plan to address the discrepancy.

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## After many years, NANPA's Planning Letters to get a facelift

After many years as the definitive source of numbering information, the Planning Letters (PLs) published by NANPA on its Web site will be getting a makeover and reorganization. The information contained in the PLs will remain the same, but future documents will be organized so that readers can more easily obtain the information they seek. In addition, the reorganization will result in greater consistency in the content of the PLs. Hopefully, the new appearance of the PLs will be appreciated as well.

To make it easier to find specific information in

*continued on page 2*

## Guidelines now allow NPA relief petitions to be withdrawn

The implementation of number conservation measures such as thousands-block pooling, number utilization requirements, months-to-exhaust forecasts, and the increased return of unused codes are all starting to have a significant effect on the exhaust of many US NPAs (Numbering Plan Areas or area codes). Many area codes, once thought to be in imminent danger of prematurely running out of numbers, are experiencing a new lease on life. The exhaust dates for some of these area codes, which have already undergone extensive area code relief planning, have moved outward to such a degree that relief may be delayed for years into the future. This suggests that, under certain conditions, some relief petitions currently before state regulators might logically be withdrawn as unnecessary.

Based on the annual Numbering Resource Forecast/Utilization (NRUF) report of individual area code exhaust, NANPA initiates and conducts area code relief planning at least 36 months prior to the exhaust to allow sufficient time for the development of an industry-approved plan, submission of the plan to the state regulator, review and approval by the regulators of a relief plan, and the implementation of the plan, e.g., permissive dialing, customer education, network preparation, etc. Over the past 4 ½ years, NANPA initiated 132 relief planning projects in 42 states and filed relief petitions with state regulators on behalf of the telecommunications industry. Many of these relief petitions resulted in approved relief plans that either have been fully implemented, or are in the process of being completed, thus ensuring a steady availability of numbers to service providers and the public.

But in an increasing number of situations, the forecasts for exhaust of area codes whose relief plans remain active have moved outward far enough that some states suggested that the filed relief petitions might be withdrawn. At the suggestion of NANPA, the Industry Numbering Committee (INC), a national group charged with the development of numbering guidelines, recently revised the NPA relief planning guidelines to permit the withdrawal of previously filed relief petitions under the following conditions:

- The relief plan has not been approved by the regulators;
- The NPA will not exhaust within the next five years, based on non-rationed forecast;
- The NPA is not in jeopardy;
- The local industry or state regulator requests the NPA relief plan be withdrawn; and

*continued on page 3*

## New required field on NRUF form

On September 13, 2002, NANPA was directed by the FCC to add an additional data element, the Federal Registration Number (FRN), to NRUF Form 502. The updated form will be made available for use with the February 1, 2003 NRUF reporting cycle.

The FRN is a 10-digit number that is assigned to an entity that does business with the FCC. A filer, licensee, certificate holder, or any entity sending payments to the FCC is considered to be doing business with the FCC. The FCC uses this FRN to determine if all of an entity's fees have been paid. More information about FRNs can be found on the following web site: <https://svartifoss2.fcc.gov/cores/CoresHome.html>

The FRN field is required and will be added to the "Company Information" page of Form 502. If a

service provider fails to enter any information in the field (i.e., it is left blank), NANPA will reject the submission and inform the service provider that the FRN is required in order to have a valid NRUF on file. If the field is populated, NANPA will check to see if the number length is valid (i.e. a 10-digit number). If the number length is not valid, NANPA will reject the submission and notify the service provider. Finally, NANPA will collect and store the information provided in the field, similar to other company information provided on Form 502.

NANPA expects to have the revised Form 502 and associated FTP file formats updated and available approximately two months prior to the February 1, 2003 submission cycle.

### **Facelift** *continued from page 1*

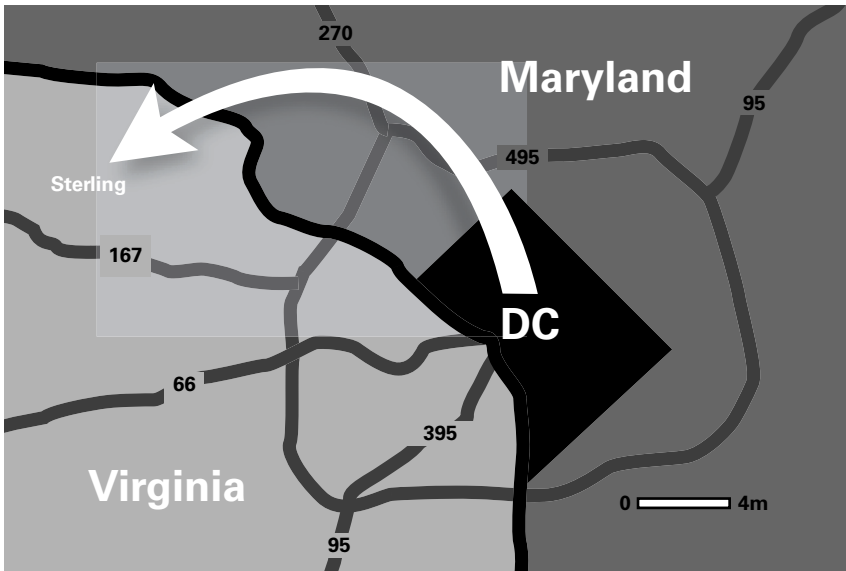
the PL, the document will be reorganized with new section headings. The new headings will include: General Description, Implementation of Relief Plan, Central Office Code Listings and NPA map, Dialing Plan, Network Testing, General Information, and Contact Information. The same information will consistently be presented in the same sections for each PL; beginning of permissive dialing will be in the Implementation of Relief Plan section. In addition, previous related PLs, if any, will be listed at the beginning of the PL.

PLs are normally published about a year in advance of new area code relief projects to give the industry, regulators, and the public sufficient time to respond to the upcoming change – be it a geographic split, an overlay, or some other combination. Information in the PLs includes a general description of the relief plan or numbering change, implementation dates (e.g., permissive dialing), dialing plans, test numbers, NANPA contacts, etc. PLs are also published to announce changes to relief plans or other signifi-

cant numbering events such as the assignment of a new toll-free area code. Over the years, PLs have evolved from Information Letters (ILs) to the current PL format created in 1996.

A list of ILs and PLs published since 1989 can be viewed on NANPA's Web site at [www.nanpa.com](http://www.nanpa.com) by selecting Planning Letters. Since 1996, PLs could be downloaded in Adobe PDF format. Prior to that time, PLs were designated as ILs, copies of which could be obtained by contacting NANPA. Visitors to NANPA's Web site may sign-up to automatically receive an e-mail notice when the next PL is available for downloading off the Web site. To sign up for this service on NANPA's home page, select 'Frequently Visited Pages', then select 'Electronic Mailing List Signup' and follow the instructions for the nanp-info mailing list.

So look for the next Planning Letter and let us know what you think. Send any comments or suggestions to [jim.deak@neustar.biz](mailto:jim.deak@neustar.biz).



**Guidelines** continued from page 1

- At a meeting scheduled by NANPA, the industry reaches consensus to withdraw the petition.

Based on the results of the 2002 NRUF, NANPA identified 7 area codes in 5 states (207 ME, 401 RI, 214/972/469 TX, 516 NY, 518 NY, 803 SC and 843 SC) that met these conditions and notified the appropriate state regulators and the industry.

Jim Deak, NANPA’s Regional Director for area code relief planning stressed that, according to the guidelines, “NANPA may only schedule a meeting to consider withdrawing a relief petition for an area code if we receive a written request from either the appropriate state regulator, or from at least two industry participants, otherwise the relief petition status remains.” So far, two conference calls have taken place the 401 NPA (Rhode Island) on 9/24/02 and the 207 NPA (Maine) on 10/1/02. The withdrawals of the 401 and 207 NPA petitions are pending final industry review.

To learn more about participating in these meetings, go to NANPA’s web site at [www.nanpa.com](http://www.nanpa.com) then select the Document Distribution Service (DDS), or send an e-mail message to [jim.deak@neustar.biz](mailto:jim.deak@neustar.biz).

## NANPA’s Washington, DC personnel move to Sterling, VA

On August 15, 2002, NANPA personnel formerly based in Washington, DC moved to NeuStar’s office in Sterling, Virginia. The new address is:

46000 Center Oak Plaza  
Sterling, VA 20166

Equally important, the fax number used to submit applications for CICs, 500-NXX codes, 555 line numbers, and all numbering resources administered by NANPA other than central office codes has changed. New telephone and fax numbers are as follows:

	Old phone number	New phone number
Ron Conners	202-533-2650	571-434-5510
Nancy Fears	202-533-2653	571-434-5512
Beth Sprague	202-533-2654	571-434-5513
LaShanda Tomlinson	202-533-2657	571-434-5518
NANPA Fax Number	202-887-0331	571-434-5502

## CO code assignments

Month	ReRequests	Assignments	Changes	Suspensions	Denials	Cancel	Disconnects	Reservations	Lottery Denial	Lottery Priority
January 02	3,132	491	1,254	N/A	630	102	655	0	N/A	N/A
February	2,821	557	1,593	N/A	462	77	132	0	N/A	N/A
March	3,180	683	1,388	N/A	587	110	412	0	N/A	N/A
April	6,047	896	3,570	N/A	731	181	669	0	N/A	N/A
May	3,121	792	1,495	N/A	414	74	346	0	N/A	N/A
June	2,586	704	1,238	N/A	320	79	425	0	N/A	N/A
July	2,335	576	1,131	N/A	314	107	207	0	N/A	N/A
August	2,788	855	1,407	N/A	315	58	153	0	N/A	N/A



46000 Center Oak Plaza  
Sterling, Va 20166  
www.neustar.biz

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NeuStar, Inc.  
Managing editor  
Barbara Blackwell

Contributing writers  
Ron Conners  
John Manning

Graphic designer  
Will Hoffman

Copy editor  
Corina Henriques

NeuStar, Inc.  
Chairman and CEO  
Jeff Ganek

Chief Operating Officer  
Michael Lach

Senior Vice President, Operations  
Joe Franlin

Vice President, Numbering Services  
Greg Roberts

Vice President, Operations  
Chris Walker

Director, NANPA  
Ron Conners

Director, Numbering Services  
John Manning

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please visit [www.nanpa.com](http://www.nanpa.com).

NeuStar, Inc.  
46000 Center Oak Plaza  
Sterling, Va 20166

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www.nanpa.com

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## CAS/LERG discrepancies identified by NANPA

Category	Records	Description	Action plan
Category I	2,694 records	The Operating Company Number (OCN) in CAS for an NPA-NXX differed from the OCN shown for the same NPA-NXX in the LERG. Further, the OCN for the NPA-NXX that reported utilization and forecast information via the NRUF process did not match the OCN in CAS. This discrepancy occurs when a service provider changes, through merger, for example, their OCN. The service provider has notified the LERG but not filed documentation (Part 1) with NANPA for inclusion in CAS.	The OCN, as recorded in CAS for each of the affected NPA-NXXs, will be contacted by e-mail (if such data is available) and asked to verify their "ownership" of the NPA-NXX and requested to submit the appropriate Part One for the change. Alternatively, the Code Holder will be permitted to submit the corrective changes electronically in bulk format. NANPA will accept reply e-mails as authentication to verify OCN or to make corrections.
Category II	1,094 records	The NPA-NXX is listed in CAS as under investigation while the code state in the LERG is different (e.g., the code state in the LERG is assigned or vacant). There is no record for the specific NPA-NXX in NRUF.  The vast majority of these occurrences have a vacant state in the LERG.	As NANPA's Unavailable Code project progresses, the occurrences in this category will decrease. Presently, 479 NPA-NXXs are scheduled for release to available status.
Category III	776 records	CAS indicates the NPA-NXX is assigned and LERG indicates otherwise. There is no record in NRUF for this specific NPA-NXX.	Same as Category 1.
Category IV	692 records	The rate center in CAS does not match the rate center in the LERG. The rate center reported in NRUF for that NPA-NXX matches the rate center in the LERG.	Same as Category 1.
Category V	333 records	The OCN in the LERG for an NPA-NXX does not match the OCN in CAS. The NPA-NXX was not reported in NRUF.	Same as Category 1.
Category VI	252 records	The OCN in CAS for the NPA-NXX and the OCN in the LERG are not the same. None of the OCNs for the particular NPA-NXX in NRUF matches the OCN in the LERG. There is a future change to the OCN in the LERG with no corresponding change in CAS.	These occurrences are technically not, as yet, discrepancies because the service provider could still submit a confirming Part 1 before the effective date. If the service provider does not submit a Part 1, the NPA-NXX moves to Category I above, and would be addressed there.
Category VII	324 records	The CAS shows the NPA-NXX as vacant and the LERG shows the NPA-NXX as assigned. In some cases, there is a corresponding NPA-NXX record in NRUF, in some cases, there is not.	NANPA will contact the LERG-indicated code holder with the contact information from the LERG and/or appropriate NANPA sources such as recent code requests. NANPA will secure information from the service provider to determine the status of the effected NPA-NXX and request the service provider to take appropriate steps (e.g., submit a Part One).