

The State Scene

A Numbering Resource Publication for State Public Utility Commissions

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September

October

1999

FCC GRANTS POOLING AUTHORITY

On September 15, the FCC granted authority to California, Florida, Massachusetts, and New York to implement mandatory number pooling trials, as well as a number of other conservation measures. On September 28, the FCC granted similar authority to Maine. The FCC's action follows petitions filed earlier this year by all five states requesting authority to implement various conservation measures, including thousand block number pooling. The grant of authority is subject to certain limitations, including:

1. Number pooling trial(s) must be in accordance with industry-adopted 1K-block pooling guidelines
2. States must consult with the industry before making changes in national guidelines
3. States must be prepared to implement a "back-up" NPA relief plan prior to the exhaustion of numbering resources in the NPA
4. States may not require a carrier to acquire LNP solely for the purpose of being able to participate in a thousands-block pooling trial
5. Access to numbering resources for non-LNP capable carriers must be the same before and after the trial began
6. Adequate transition time must be provided to carriers to implement pooling in their switches and administrative systems
7. States must determine how carrier-specific costs directly related to pooling admin are recovered
8. The authority delegated to states is limited to a trial that generally covers one MSA
9. Start dates for pooling trials in different MSAs should be appropriately staggered to permit the industry to undertake all necessary steps
10. Authority granted is interim and will be superceded by FCC Order in NRO proceeding.

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CIS HAS CENTRAL ROLE IN NUMBER RESOURCE OPTIMIZATION

Lockheed Martin's CIS group, which serves as the NANPA and LNPA, has played and will continue to play a central role in all forms of number resource optimization. Because number pooling uses the LNP technology, CIS, as the LNPA, has worked with the industry to define the software necessary for number pooling under national standards. As the NANPA, CIS worked to provide the FCC, State Commissions, and industry with up-to-date and accurate information on NPA forecasting and relief, and CO code assignment.

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QUOTABLES

This issue of *The State Scene* offers a new, periodic piece featuring quotes from the industry and commission staff regarding timely topics of interest. In light of the FCC's ruling that granted delegated authority to California, Florida, New York and Massachusetts on number conservation measures, we're focusing on related comments and thoughts.

"As the LNPA, it is our job to be prepared for the volumes of ported numbers related to the pooling trials likely to be implemented by the state granted pooling authority. Although we do not yet know the scope of the pooling effort to be undertaken by the states, we believe we are ready.

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Hoffman Named New NANC Chair

John Hoffman, former vice president for external affairs for US Sprint and Sprint Communications, has been named the new chairman of the North American Numbering Council (NANC), succeeding Alan Hasselwander, former CEO of Frontier Communications. William E. Kennard, chairman of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) made the announcement Sept. 1, and Hoffman assumed the new position at the NANC meeting Sept. 28-29.

The NANC was established in 1996 to advise the FCC on matters relating to the administration of numbering resources. NANC provides guidance to the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA) and the Local Number Portability Administrator (LNPA), which are both served by CIS.

NANC membership is comprised of all telecommunication industry segments, as well as the interests of state regulators and consumer groups. Hasselwander served as the NANC's first chairman, a position he'd held since October 1, 1996,

Hoffman brings to the NANC 30 years of experience in telecommunications. He first joined United Telecommunications, Inc. (formerly United Utilities, Inc.) as a law clerk in 1967 and later became general attorney in 1970. He rose through the general counsel division with United Telephone System Inc., and US Telecom, Inc. before retiring this year from US Sprint and Sprint Corporation.

Nebraska

On September 14, the Nebraska Public Service Commission (NPSC) filed a petition with the FCC for delegated authority in the 402 NPA to: (1) institute number pooling in thousand-blocks; (2) reclaim unused and reserved central office codes or portions thereof; (3) audit number assignments; and (4) institute any other measures and to use any other authority granted by the FCC to the states to address number exhaust and depletion.

The 402 NPA serves both Omaha and Lincoln, as well as the primarily rural area throughout the eastern half of Nebraska surrounding those two cities. The 1999 COCUS forecasted exhaust for the 402 NPA in 4Q 2000.

Indiana

On September 9, the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) issued an order on NPA exhaust and number conservation within the state of Indiana (Cause No. 41535). The Commission ordered an investigation into the projected exhaust of all Indiana NPAs, but it will initially focus on the 219 NPA serving the northern third of Indiana. The 219 NPA is forecast to exhaust in the 1Q 2001. The Commission further ordered Staff to draft a petition to the FCC for delegated authority to implement number conservation measures, including number pooling and technology-specific overlays, and to prepare and distribute a data request to carriers.

Colorado Developing Statewide Pooling

The Colorado Numbering Task Force, led by Commission Staff and comprised of representatives of all industry segments and the Consumer Council, was initiated by the Colorado PUC in 1997 to address long-term solutions to the efficient utilization of telephone numbers. The Task Force is looking into the future to evaluate and test the feasibility of eliminating the rate center restrictions placed on pooling so that carriers may pool numbers within the entire State of Colorado without regard to rate center boundaries.

The Task Force filed its Third Report on Statewide Number Pooling on December 31, 1998, which concluded that the proposal is theoretically feasible and that further study must be done to evaluate technical and economic feasibility. (<http://www.dora.state.co.us/puc/DOCKET/97M329T/329task.htm>)

In the report, the Task Force concluded that the continued evaluation of statewide number pooling is an effort that will provide sufficient benefit in telephone numbering efficiency. The Task Force has initiated the next steps in the analysis after receiving unanimous Commission support in order to continue with the additional, more detailed evaluation.

The Task Force agreed that the complete evaluation of statewide number pooling and possible recommended implementation will not occur until after direction is received from the FCC on a national standard for number pooling or Unassigned Number Porting (UNP). The Task Force also found that a planning forecast of 5-7 years is warranted with statewide pooling and that a cost benefit analysis must be accomplished prior to making any recommendations.

Most recently, the Task Force has been working to further evaluate statewide number pooling and its effects on the current E 9-1-1 system in Colorado. Constructive meetings have been held between the telecommunications industry, public safety, local government, equipment vendors, consumer groups, NANPA, and PUC Staff. The Commission recently opened an investigatory docket to produce a report to the Commission on alternatives for upgrading the E 9-1-1 system to function properly in the future.

To maximize resources, all other technical subgroups in the Task Force have been delayed until the work is completed on the E 9-1-1 tasks. The next meeting of the Task Force will be October 13-14. **CIS**

FCC GRANTS AUTHORITY

(continued from the cover)

The FCC also delegated authority to the states to:

- Investigate whether carriers have activated CO Codes within the timeframes designated in the CO Code Assignment Guidelines
- Order NANPA to reclaim codes if they have not been activated, as well as to reclaim thousand blocks in connection with a pooling trial
- Perform utilization surveys of all carriers and to set fill rates that must be met prior to a carrier receiving a growth code
- Request whatever information a state deems necessary to evaluate a carrier's request for additional numbering resources
- Implement code sharing, as well as require sequential number assignment.

Maine was granted specific authority to require a carrier to demonstrate it will have the facilities in place to serve a rate center within six months of assignment of an NXX code. Maine was also granted authority to ask the NANPA to notify the Maine Commission on all CO Code requests.

The FCC denied states the authority to revise rationing plans put in place by industry consensus, or to implement unassigned number porting and individual telephone number pooling. They also

denied Florida the authority to direct NANPA to use LINUS within the state of Florida. And although the FCC denied Florida, New York and Massachusetts the authority to adopt rationing plans prior to deciding on an area code relief plan, it granted that authority to California based on special circumstances warranting differential treatment.

The FCC is expected to rule in the future on other state's petitions for delegated authority regarding number conservation. Those states are: Connecticut, Texas, Wisconsin, New Hampshire, and Nebraska.

Meanwhile the nation's only current mandatory number pooling trial, in Chicago's 847 NPA, has been expanded to the 312 and 630 NPAs, and the 773 NPA will be added by October 1. Prior to the FCC's Pennsylvania Order limiting state authority, the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) ordered number pooling in all Chicago NPAs (847, 312, 773, 630, and 708). This was done with the caveat that implementation beyond 847 would wait until it was determined that carriers would not experience SCP capacity overload upon implementation in the other four NPAs. The ICC recently confirmed their decision to move forward after taking testimony on SCP capacity issues. **CIS**

CIS HAS CENTRAL ROLE IN NUMBER RESOURCE OPTIMIZATION

(continued from the cover)

"CIS came to Virginia to meet with us to discuss a variety of issues like CO Code assignments, the possibility of rate center consolidation, and to answer questions about number pooling. They were very informative," said Alan Wickham, Deputy Director of the Division of Communications of the Virginia State Corporation Commission.

CIS will continue to work with the industry to ensure service providers get the necessary number resources. Further, because of its work in number administration, the NANC has recommended to the FCC that the NANPA act as the national pooling administrator. Until the FCC acts on that NANC recommendation, CIS will perform the role of pooling administration as it has done in the nation's only current pooling trials to this point, in Illinois and New York. While CIS, the NANPA, and the LNPA play varying roles in number conservation, each serves in its role with an overriding goal of ensuring efficiency and uniformity on a nationwide basis. **CIS**

CIS NEWS

NANPA Publishes Newsletter

Following the successful launch in May of *The State Scene*, targeted to state public service commissions, CIS began a similar newsletter in August for customers and interested parties of the North American Numbering Plan Administration (NANPA).

NANPA Numbering News, which is produced semi-monthly – opposite *The State Scene* publication dates – is designed to provide relevant and topical information on items of interest, ranging from NANPA's website to the status of area code relief projects to statistics about NXX code assignments.

Numbering resources and the telecommunications industry are changing everyday. New issues, concerns, technologies and players are moving in and out of the industry at break-neck speed. CIS is committed to working with the various industry segments to provide high quality, neutral, third-party services.

To be added to the mailing list for NANPA Numbering News, please contact
Corina.Henriques@npac.com.

The next issue is schedule to come out in late-October.

REGIONAL CONFERENCE CALLS

An action item from the first set of Regional Conference Calls is complete. The *Introduction to Numbering* document has been finalized and will soon be available on the www.nanpa.com website. Hard copies will also be sent to each Commission.

For the next round of conference calls, some regions have been aggregated, so please note to which region your state has been assigned. For all regions, the call-in number is 800-532-1188; passcodes are listed below.

Central Region

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

**Thurs, October 28,
10 am (CST)**

Passcode: 3367*

Western Region

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

**Thurs, October 28,
11 am (PST) Passcode:
8097***

Eastern Region

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

**Fri, October 29,
11 am (EST) Passcode:
2693***

QUOTABLES

(continued from the cover)

Porting volumes are below what we expected when we sized our database.” *Jan Trout-Avery, Manager, Chicago NPAC, Lockheed Martin CIS*

“NANPA will work with the states should they decide to implement fill rates or undertake investigations to reclaim CO Codes. As the keeper of the nation’s numbering resources, we will likely be involved in one way or another in almost any number conservation plan implemented by a state.” *Ron Conners, Director, NANPA, Lockheed Martin CIS*

“We are very encouraged by the FCC’s decision to give these states the tools they need to address their respective numbering issues. We look forward to a similar ruling on our petition in the very near future.” *Pat Wood, III, Chairman, Public Utility Commission of Texas*

“My hat is off to the FCC and to its Chairman for recognizing the critical nature of these issues in Florida. We now have new tools at our disposal to take the initiative on some far reaching conservation policies.” *Joe Garcia, Chairman, Florida Public Service Commission*

“Without question, the ILECs represented by USTA are supporters of initiatives that result in optimization of the number resource. While the FCC has granted temporary authority to some states to order some new optimization methods, such as thousand block pooling, USTA believes that the extent of the realization of the potential optimization benefits depends largely on how close to national structures and guidelines the implementations are based. *Tony Pupek, Director, Network Operating Principles, United States Telephone Association (USTA)*

“Time Warner Telecom in its review of the recent FCC orders for New York, California, Massachusetts and Florida supports in part the FCC decisions and looks forward to working with the State PUCs in their trials of number pooling, and in their efforts to optimize TNs.” *Barbara Galbreath, Senior Operations Planner-Numbering, Time Warner Telecom* **CIS**

POOLING UPDATE

Development of Release 3.0 Has Begun; Pooling Expands in Illinois

Software development for Release 3.0, or the national pooling software, has begun and will be completed and ready for testing by June 2000. Carriers will then need to test the functionality of Release 3.0 for a period of three to four months. At the successful completion of the carrier testing, pooling, under the national standards, may be rolled out.

Release 3.0 is a new version of the software originally required for carriers to port numbers between each other. Release 3.0 has been designed by the industry and CIS to increase the automation process of number pooling. Today, in the Illinois number pooling trials, for example, Release 1.4 is used, which requires some functions to be handled manually, including the storage of thousand blocks in individual carrier databases. Release 3.0 will make it easier for carriers to implement number pooling.

Meanwhile, the mandatory pooling trial using Release 1.4 continues in Illinois in the 847 NPA and it has been expanded to two more area codes, 630 and 312, and will soon be expanded into a fourth, 773. To date, 316 thousand blocks have been assigned in the 847 NPA with pooling; that’s the equivalent of saving 142 full NXX codes.

Preliminary information for the 630 NPA shows carriers forecasting a need for 344 thousand blocks, and total carrier donations of 385 blocks. Because the donated blocks are not necessarily located in the same rate centers as where carriers forecast need, 13 full NXX codes will be assigned for pooling. Carriers in the 312 NPA, which has only one rate center, have donated 18 blocks and forecast need for 98 blocks, meaning 8 full NXX codes will be assigned for pooling there. No information is yet available for the 773 NPA. **CIS**

For suggestions and comments regarding
The State Scene, please contact
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To be added to the mailing list, send
information to rebecca.barnhart@npac.com.

A WORD FROM OUR MANAGING DIRECTOR

Support for CIS Divestiture Increasing Throughout Industry

Since our last issue of *The State Scene*, a groundswell of support has grown regarding the divestiture of CIS from Lockheed Martin. While we await the FCC's ruling on the restructuring of CIS, a broad and deep consensus is building throughout all industry segments that demonstrates their support of the divestiture. We believe that CIS' divestiture is in the best interest of the telecommunications industry members, customers and clients. We are encouraged that an increasing number of them support an expeditious review and approval of the transfer and are making their approval known to the FCC.

A strong letter of support for quick approval was sent to the FCC by the North American Numbering Council (NANC), in which the NANC concluded that CIS' new restructuring "is substantially better than the previous proposal" submitted to the FCC last year. In addition, letters of support were sent by IXCs, including AT&T, MCI/Worldcom and Sprint. The U.S. Telephone Association, which represents ILECs, and the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association submitted comments urging approval, as well. Endorsements have also come from a state public utility commissioner and a state PUC. Capping the supportive comments were those from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Finally, it should be noted that no regulator, service provider or consumer group has objected to the proposed restructuring.

Under the proposed restructuring, CIS will be acquired by NeuStar, Inc, a new, free standing, independent company whose mission is to deliver the same high quality services to the same customers at the same prices. All current CIS employees and systems will transfer to NeuStar, which has a strong financial foundation. As a result, the restructuring will be seamless to our customers. By approving the restructuring, the FCC will enable CIS and the industry to ensure our telecommunications infrastructure meets the challenges of the next century.

One of the challenges facing the industry is that of optimizing numbering resources, and doing so in a manner that addresses a broad bandwidth of industry members and concerns. The FCC's recent ruling, which granted delegated authority to state commissions in California, Florida, New York, Massachusetts and Maine, opens the doors for the states to help solve the numbering resource issues that face all industry segments.

However, we realize that solutions won't happen overnight. State commissions will have to determine which number resource measures to implement and service providers will need to examine the technical requirements, challenges, and timeframes to activate those changes.

CIS is committed to working with all parties to respond to inquiries and provide expert technical and operational advice about number pooling and other number conservation measures. Since we serve as the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA) and as the pooling administrator for number pooling trials in Illinois and New York, we are able to provide technical, expert and operational support and services to all industry groups.

In addition to our role in Illinois and New York, the NANC has recommended to the FCC that CIS serve as the national pooling administrator. Until the FCC rules on that recommendation, we have reached an interim agreement with the NANC to serve as the national pooling administrator. Because of this, we're able to provide factual and unbiased information about the technical and operational issues related to number pooling and its administration.

Recently, we have received numerous inquiries from state commissions, service providers, and the media regarding the roles and responsibilities of a pooling administrator, and number resource optimization measures throughout the U.S. As a result of these inquiries, we have assembled a list of frequently asked questions regarding pooling administration and number pooling. Those questions can be accessed at www.numberpool.com.

We look forward to working with the state commissions in the upcoming weeks and months to work through the FCC's recent rulings and continuing to provide assistance in other matters you are facing. Again, please contact me or my staff if you have questions, comments or suggestions.



“While we await the FCC’s ruling on the restructuring of CIS, a broad and deep consensus is building throughout all industry segments that demonstrates their support of the divestiture.”

JUST THE NUMBERS...

In this industry, everyone is bombarded with numbers and statistics everyday, and below are some more to consider. For example, the number of area codes in the United States has more than doubled in the last 10 years. The information below provides, a current snapshot of activity within the industry.

Portability/Pooling

Total ported numbers at the end of 1998	554,119
Total ported numbers at the end August 1999	3,028,939
Total that are pooled numbers	238,185
Average monthly ported numbers	
January - August 1999	309,352.5/mo

Which region has the most ported numbers? The **Midwest** region has 658,297 ported numbers and 238,185 pooled numbers. The Southwest region is second with 461,334 ported numbers (no pooled numbers).

NPA Relief Planning

Total number NPAs assigned	302
Total number NPAs assigned beginning 1960	122
Total number NPAs assigned	
January 1961 - December 1995	42
Total number NPAs assigned since	
January 1996	138
Total active NPA relief projects	82
Total number NPAs in jeopardy	67
Total number NPAs forecast to exhaust by year-end:	
2002	104
2005	153
2010	193

CO Code Administration

Total number of CO Codes assigned to carriers less codes returned from	
January - June 1999	7,902 (79.02M numbers)
Assigned to CLECs	4,299
Assigned to CMRS	2,043
Assigned to ILEC	846
Assigned to Paging	714

CIS PROVIDES FAQs ON POOLING FOR INDUSTRY

Since the FCC's ruling in September, which granted delegated authority for number optimization measures to five states – California, Florida, New York, Massachusetts and Maine – numerous inquiries have arisen from state commissions and service providers regarding technical and operational issues related to implementing those measures.

Because of its current role as the Pooling Administrator (PA) in number pooling trials in Illinois and New York state; the NANC's recommendation to the FCC that CIS serve as the national PA; and the interim agreements with the North American Numbering Council (NANC), CIS has been contacted by the states regarding its roles and responsibilities as a PA, and posed with questions about number conservation measures in the particular state.

Questions range from "What is Number Pooling?" and "How Does It Work" to "How are costs allocated and recovered?" to "What software release is required to start pooling?" The list also addresses how states will be affected after the FCC issues an order for nationwide pooling.

As a result of inquiries from states, service providers, and the media, CIS has assembled a list of frequently asked questions of a pooling administrator regarding number pooling. To access those questions, look on <http://www.numberpool.com>.

The latest Pooling Administration Guidelines can be found on the <http://www.atis.org> web site under the INC documents section. Please note that the most current version, which is being continuously modified, can be found under the working documents section. Additional information and reports detailing the Illinois and New York trials can also be found at <http://www.numberpool.com> **CIS**

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