

The State Scene

A Numbering Resource Publication for State Public Utility Commissions

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January

February

2000

NUMBER POOLING UPDATES ACROSS THE STATES

The state commissions for Texas and California recently ordered number pooling trials to begin in three NPAs throughout their states. Below is a summary of those orders.

Texas: 512 NPA

On January 27, the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) issued an interim order initiating number conservation measures, including thousand block number pooling in the 512 NPA. Under the interim order, pooling would begin by August 1, with NeuStar as the pooling administrator. A pooling implementation meeting will be held on February 25.

Specifically, the PUCT ordered carriers in the 512 NPA to: (1) administer codes in thousand blocks within each rate center; (2) set aside unopened thousand blocks, unless other numbers are unavailable; (3) set aside blocks with 10% or less contamination, unless other numbers are unavailable; (4) implement sequential number assignment; and (5) submit forecast and utilization information. Further, the PUCT will begin investigating the possibility of reclaiming inactivated NXXs. Finally, the PUCT proposed the use of thousand block pooling guidelines as revised by a multi-state team. Initial comments on the proposed guidelines were due February 7, and reply comments due February 14. The revised guidelines may be found at www.puc.state.tx.us under Project No. 21772. *(continued on page 2)*

FEDERAL NUMBERING LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

On January 31, U.S. Rep. Rodney P. Frelinghuysen (R-NJ) introduced a bill to ensure the efficient allocation of telephone numbers. H.R. 3555 states that by June 30, the FCC will have developed a plan to allocate numbers efficiently and that the plan will be in place by the end of the year. The plan must include mechanisms to ensure portability of telephone numbers, intercarrier sharing of unassigned numbers, and take into account all technologies using telephone numbers.

Until the FCC plan has been implemented, the FCC will delegate authority to states, upon request, to establish fill rates, collect utilization information, require return of unused or underused codes and blocks, establish individual telephone number pooling, thousand block pooling, and unassigned number portability, and ration codes. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Commerce. **NS**

NANPA CONDUCTING COCUS 2000 SURVEY

The 2000 Central Office Code Utilization Survey (COCUS) is currently underway. COCUS is an annual survey of current and potential CO code holders to monitor CO code demand, project the exhaust of area codes and the demand for new NPAs needed for area code relief.

The success of COCUS in predicting NPA exhaust depends on having complete and up-to-date information on the need for central office codes. To that end, the industry is currently revising the CO Code (NXX) Assignment Guidelines to require service providers to submit a COCUS prior to receiving NXX resources in an area code. Specifically, in order to obtain CO codes, a service provider must submit or have submitted a COCUS to the NANPA for the NPA(s) in which the CO code(s) is being requested. Without a COCUS on file, resources will not be assigned.

To assist in submitting COCUS this year, NANPA has provided the survey on its website at www.nanpa.com. **NS**



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REGIONAL CONFERENCE CALLS

Central Region

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

**Thurs., February 24,
10 a.m. (CST)**

Bridge:

1-888-771-4385

Passcode: 1945568#

Western Region

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

**Thurs., February 24,
11 a.m. (PST)**

Bridge:

1-888-771-4385

Passcode: 1945576#

Eastern Region

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

**Fri., February 25,
11 a.m. (EST)**

Bridge:

1-888-771-4385

Passcode: 1945579#

NUMBER POOLING

(continued from cover)

California: 415 and 714 NPAs

On February 1, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) ordered thousand block pooling trials in both the 714 and 415 NPAs. The 714 NPA serves areas south of Los Angeles suburbs near Anaheim, while the 415 serves San Francisco and areas north. This follows the CPUC's recent directive to implement pooling in the 310 NPA, also in the Los Angeles area. The Order mandates implementation of pooling in the 415 NPA by July 29, and in the 714 NPA by November 4. NeuStar has been designated as the pooling administrator for both trials. Implementation meetings for the 415 and 714 NPAs will be held on March 7 and June 6, respectively. Both trials will begin using the NPAC software Release 1.4 functionality unless Release 3.0 is ready for use. **NS**

STATE ROUNDUP

Massachusetts

Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Energy (MDTE) set up their next pooling implementation meeting, for the 617 NPA for February 29. Also in Massachusetts, Bell Atlantic submitted to the MDTE a pooling proposal that would roll out pooling in three phases in the 617, 508, 781, and 978 NPAs. The first phase would begin pooling in 617 and 508 by April 4, using uncontaminated blocks from within codes on the priority list (see New York Orders NANPA Not to Assign Codes story on Page 3). Phase two, beginning no later than June, would require carriers to donate uncontaminated blocks to the pool from their embedded inventories. The final phase, starting after February 1, 2001, would have carriers donating blocks with 10% or less contamination. The MDTE is considering the proposal.

New Hampshire

On January 7, the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (NHPUC) ordered a thousand block number pooling trial in the 603 NPA by May 1. The NHPUC also ordered all carriers to submit utilization information on a quarterly basis, demonstrate facilities readiness to the NHPUC when requesting numbering resources, and send a copy of the code application, months to exhaust worksheet, and number utilization data for the rate center in

which the resource is requested to the NHPUC when the request is made. On February 4, the NHPUC held a pooling implementation meeting for the 603 NPA, setting the schedule to have pooling implemented by May.

Maine

A Hearing Examiner's report was filed recommending that the Maine Public Utilities Commission deny Bell Atlantic's motion to defer the implementation of pooling in the 207 NPA from June to October. The Hearing Examiner also recommends the use of the thousand block pooling guidelines as revised by a multi-state team. (See Texas Pooling Story on the cover for more information on revised guidelines.)

California

The 310 NPA in California will be the first to implement thousand block number pooling outside Illinois or New York since the original trials began rolling out in those two states in 1998. Carriers in the 310 NPA submitted their forecasts and thousand block identification forms to NeuStar in December. Actual block donation is scheduled to occur on February 26, with the pooling trial to begin March 18. There have been monthly taskforce meetings to prepare for this implementation. The next industry workshop is scheduled for February 18 in Irvine, CA. The aggregate forecasts and blocks available for the 310 NPA can be found at <http://numberpool.com>. **NS**

NEW YORK ORDERS NANPA NOT TO ASSIGN CODES

The New York State Public Service Commission (NY PSC), under the delegated authority granted to them by the FCC in September 1999, informed NeuStar on February 1 that it could not release 30 set aside codes in the 716 NPA until number pooling was in place. The NY PSC stated that a process is in place by which carriers in need of codes outside the rationing plan can make a request of the Commission. They noted that two carriers have used this process to receive codes outside the normal rationing process.

The NY PSC's action follows a January 18 meeting where service providers in the 716 NPA met to discuss the remaining 38 CO code requests that were on the priority list. In the Northeast, a priority list is used to more fairly distribute codes when rationing is in place and creates an order in the way the rationed codes are assigned. When code requests are greater than the rationed amount during a given month, the unfulfilled code requests that are not denied are put onto a priority list, which allows those service providers to be the first to receive codes the next month. This ensures that a carrier has a fair, equitable opportunity to receive a code through the lottery process.

Even with the priority list system, the possibility exists for the list to grow to the point where all remaining codes in an NPA have been designated to a carrier, although not officially assigned, via the priority list. This has happened in Virginia, New York and Massachusetts. In the 716 NPA, the industry chose to put all 38 codes in an imminent exhaust pool, meaning all of the codes could be assigned immediately to those on the priority list as long as the requests met the three-months to exhaust criterion. **NS**

For suggestions and comments regarding *The State Scene*, please contact Brent Struthers at brent.struthers@neustar.com. To be added to the mailing list, send information to rebecca.barnhart@neustar.com.

CONSOLIDATION OF LLCS IN THE UNITED STATES

The management and administration of local number portability (LNP) in North America has centered around the legal entities which were formed to provide a contractual conduit to develop the technical system and vendor support needed to operate this new venture. In 1996 and 1997, groups of service providers banded together in the U.S. to form Limited Liability Corporations, (LLCs) that developed and submitted the RFPs that were used to award vendors the right to develop the number portability systems that are operational today.

The LLC service areas mapped directly to the old seven RBOC regions in the U.S. and had anywhere from 4-12 voting members in each LLC. In Canada, reflective of variances in national business law, a Consortium was formed to manage the selection and operation of the number portability system and services. The Consortium operates very consistently with the business tenants of the U.S. LLCs.

In November, five of the seven U.S. LLCs concluded a year-long process to consolidate their business activities in order to provide their members with lower operating costs, reduced travel expenses and less overall man hours in support of industry decision making and vendor management. The Northeast Carrier Acquisition Company, LLC; the Mid Atlantic Carrier Acquisition Company, LLC; the Southeast Number Portability Administration Company, LLC; the Southwest Region Portability Company, LLC; and the Western Region Telephone Number Portability, LLC effectively became the North American Portability Management, LLC and listed the following companies as members:

- AT&T
- Bell Atlantic
- BellSouth
- BTI
- Cablevision Lightpath, Inc.
- Cox Communications, Inc.
- Electric Lightwave, Inc.
- Global Crossing Ltd.
- GTE Florida, Inc.
- ICG Communications
- MCImetro Access Transmission Services, LLC
- MediaOne, Inc.
- NEXTLINK
- Mindshare, LLC
- SBC Communications, Inc.
- Sprint Missouri, Inc.
- U S West Communications **NS**

UPDATE ON NPA EXHAUST

After the release of the April 1999 COCUS and NPA Exhaust Analysis, NANPA committed to providing a review of the NPA projections in the 4Q99. NANPA has completed its review of the exhaust projection for each of the geographic area codes in the U.S. Using assignment data for an eight-month period (April 1 – December 1, 1999), NANPA examined the predicted versus actual number of CO code assignments. Adjustments to the projected NPA exhaust have been made accordingly. The results are posted to the NANPA web site (www.nanpa.com).

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NEUSTAR HIRINGS AND JOB CHANGES

Bruce Armstrong, formerly a senior engineer with the Department of Telecommunications at the Colorado Public Utilities Commission and most recently an NPA relief planner for NANPA, has transferred to NeuStar's pooling team as a Pooling Implementation Manager.

Amy Putnam, a former attorney with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, has joined NeuStar's pooling team as a Pooling Implementation Manager.

Brent Struthers, NeuStar's Chief of Regulatory Matters, has relocated from Chicago to NeuStar's Washington, D.C. office. Brent's new office number is 202-533-2698; fax, 202-533-2975; pager, 800-480-5786 or by e-mail at brent.struthers@neustar.com. E-mail can still be sent to the old address, brent.struthers@npac.com. **MS**

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