

The State Scene

A Numbering Resource Publication for State Public Utility Commissions

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March

April

2000

FCC ORDER ADDRESSES VARIOUS NUMBER RESOURCE AREAS


On March 31, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released its Number Resources Optimization (NRO) Order, thus meeting the timeline offered by Chairman Kennard to the U.S. Congress last year. While the NRO Order does not address all issues originally released for comment in the May 1999 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), it does address many major ones.

Issues addressed in the Order include: standardized number utilization reporting requirements and definitions of number category usage; revision of the current number assignment processes through administrative conservation measures, such as utilization thresholds; and thousand block number pooling, including the FCC's decision to select the Pooling Administrator through a competitive bid process.

The FCC codified definitions for six categories of numbering use: Available, Administrative, Reserved, Intermediate, Aging, and Assigned. The FCC also limited the period of time during which a number could be held in reserved status to 45 days.

POOLING IMPLEMENTED IN THREE NEW NPAS

On March 18, thousand block pooling was implemented in California's 310 NPA. This is the first implementation of mandatory number pooling outside Illinois. NeuStar, in its role as the pooling administrator, had assigned 76 blocks over 16 rate centers to multiple carriers in the 310 NPA, as of April 6. The first ported block in 310 occurred on April 3.

On April 1, New York added its first mandatory pooling trial in the 716 NPA to its already existing voluntary trials in the 212 and 718 NPAs. And on April 3, Illinois implemented pooling in the 708 NPA, the fifth NPA in which Illinois has implemented mandatory pooling since the original trial began in the 847 NPA in 1998. In spite of the recent FCC decision to put National Pooling Administration out to bid, NeuStar has reaffirmed its commitment to the industry and states to implement pooling trials in California, New York, and Illinois. 

NEW YORK ORDERS POOLING STATEWIDE, DEFERS WIDE AREA RATE CENTERS

Following a December 2, 1999, Order implementing wide area rate centers, the New York Department of Public Service (NYDPS) issued an Order on March 17, suspending the implementation of wide area rate centers and ordering thousand block number pooling in 12 NPAs throughout the state. The implementation schedule laid out in the March 17 Order would have all of New York's NPAs pooling by August 31, 2001. On April 1, New York added its first mandatory pooling trial in the 716 NPA to its already existing voluntary trials in the 212 and 718 NPAs. The schedule for pooling rollout appears on page 6.

Under the wide area rate center approach, a single LATA-wide rate center would be created that could be used by carriers seeking to limit

(continued on page 6)



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REGIONAL CONFERENCE CALLS

Central Region

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

Thurs., April 13

10 a.m. (CST)

Bridge:

1-888-771-4385

Passcode: 5864784#

Western Region

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

Thurs., April 13

11 a.m. (PST)

Bridge:

1-888-771-4385

Passcode: 5865794#

Eastern Region

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

Fri., April 14

11 a.m. (EST)

Bridge:

1-888-771-4385

Passcode: 5861705#

STATE ROUNDUP

At the end of March, 15 state petitions for delegated authority were pending at the FCC: Nebraska, Indiana, Utah, Missouri, Iowa, Tennessee, Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia, Washington, Arizona, Pennsylvania, Colorado, Kentucky, and Oregon. Thirteen have closed comment periods and await FCC action; Kentucky's petition is still out for comment and the Oregon petition has not yet been released for comment. At the March NANC meeting, an FCC representative stated that the FCC would continue to grant authority to states while it begins the process to name a national pooling administrator, through competitive selection. The following is a brief summary of recent Commission activity:

California—In addition to implementing number pooling in the 310 NPA on March 18 (see story on Page 1), California is also moving forward to have pooling implemented in NPA 415 by July 29, and NPA 714 by November 4. California's pooling effort was extended to the 415 and 714 NPAs by Order on January 31, 2000 (95-04-043 & 95-04-044).

Maine—A Hearing Examiners report, released on February 3, directed the NANPA to reclaim 54 NXX codes acquired by Brooks Fiber based on a finding that Brooks Fiber is using the codes for an unauthorized interexchange service and not for facilities-based local exchange service.

New Hampshire—The New Hampshire Public Service Commission determined at a February 4 meeting to implement number pooling on May 1, using uncontaminated thousand blocks only. Contaminated thousand blocks would be added to the pool and available for use in January 2001.

Texas—In January, the Texas Public Utility Commission issued an Order that set an August 1 date for pooling to begin in the 512 NPA, using software Release 1.4, which was confirmed in a March order. The March order clarified that on the first day of the pooling trial, only vacant blocks (those with no numbers assigned) will be used for pooling. The schedule for using "10% contaminated" blocks (those with 100 or fewer numbers assigned) has yet to be determined. In the March Order, the Commission recommended the use of the current industry pooling guidelines, holding off on its original recommendation to use the state revised guidelines. In addition, NeuStar selected as the pooling administrator for the 512 trial.

Oregon—In March, the Oregon Public Utilities Commission (OPUC) filed a petition with the FCC for delegated authority to: (1) implement mandatory thousand number block pooling trials; (2) enforce number assignment standards by auditing number-resource use, by requiring data reporting and number utilization forecasting, and by requiring carriers to return portions of unassigned prefix codes; (3) adopt interim number assignment standards; (4) implement interim unassigned number porting; and (5) revise rationing procedures as necessary. **NEUSTAR**

Pending State Petitions	Filing Date	Comments Due & Reply Comments Due
Nebraska	9/14/99	12/3/99 & 12/17/99
Indiana	10/21/99	12/3/99 & 12/17/99
Utah	10/25/99	1/7/00 & 1/21/00
Missouri	11/1/99	1/7/00 & 1/21/00
Iowa	11/10/99	1/10/00 & 1/24/00
Tennessee	11/17/99	1/20/00 & 2/3/00
Georgia	11/19/99	1/20/00 & 2/3/00
North Carolina	11/29/99	1/20/00 & 2/3/00
Virginia	11/29/99	1/20/00 & 2/3/00
Washington	12/10/99	2/28/00 & 3/13/00
Arizona	12/23/99	3/14/00 & 3/28/00
Pennsylvania	12/27/99	3/14/00 & 3/28/00
Colorado	1/11/00	3/16/00 & 3/30/00
Kentucky	1/25/00	4/14/00 & 4/28/00
Oregon	3/00	TBD

FCC APPOINTS NEW MEMBERS TO NANC

In February, the FCC appointed three new members to the North American Numbering Council (NANC) to represent the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) and the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (NASUCA).

The new NARUC representatives are Jack Goldberg of the Connecticut Commission and Thomas Dunleavy of the New York Department of Public Service (NYPS). Barbara Meisenheimer, Missouri Office of Public Council, was appointed the NASUCA representative.

Commissioner Goldberg, whose term with the Connecticut Commission runs from July 1, 1995, to June 30, 2003, serves as the state's Energy Director. He is a member of the Energy Directors Committee of New England Governor's Conference, the Energy Working Group of the Coalition of Northeastern Governors and the NANC's Area Code Optimization Committee. Mr. Goldberg also serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Economic Resource Council, Inc. (CERC) and is a member of the National Reliability and Interoperability Council.

Commissioner Dunleavy was appointed to the NYPS on June 14, 1996. Prior to his appointment, he served as Deputy Commissioner of the New York City Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications since 1986. In this capacity, Mr. Dunleavy managed telecommunications administration for all Mayoral agencies, supervised New York City's five channel cable television network and administered the City's cable television and telecommunications franchises. Mr. Dunleavy co-chaired the Mayor's Task Force on Telecommunications Network Reliability and frequently represented the city before federal and state regulatory bodies.

Ms. Meisenheimer has been with the Public Counsel since 1996. She serves as a Chief Economist providing testimony and technical support in the representation of ratepayers of public utilities before the Missouri Public Service Commission and the Courts. Ms. Meisenheimer has actively participated in State and National forums addressing telecommunications policy issues. She was appointed to Missouri's Adaptive Telecommunications Equipment Program Advisory Committee and serves on the Missouri Commission's Telecommunications Roundtable Agenda Committee. She also serves as a staff member to the FCC's Universal Service Joint Board. **NeuStar**

FLORIDA ORDERS POOLING IN 3 NPAS

On March 16, the Florida Public Service Commission (FL PSC) released an Order on number conservation which, among several items, mandated implementation of thousand block number pooling in NPA 954 by May 1 and NPA 561 by July 1, using software Release 1.4, and in NPA 904 by October 1, using Release 3.0. Because there were objections to the Order filed, all dates in the Order are pending the results of a May 18 hearing.

From the March 16 Order, the Commission also requires:

- (1) All carriers to return unused and reserved NXX codes in the 954, 561, and 904 NPAs;
- (2) NANPA to provide monthly Local Exchange Routing Guide (LERG) reports by NPA, including the code assignment and activation dates;
- (3) All carriers to submit to Commission Staff copies of each code request along with an approved interconnection agreement, and a facilities-readiness statement for both initial and growth code requests
- (4) All carriers to assign numbers out of one thousand block at a time, and submit utilization reports on the request of Staff. **NeuStar**

NUMBERS FOR SALE?

The Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Energy (MDTE) recently sent out subpoenas to all code holders requesting information on a carrier accused of offering to sell numbers to another carrier. The INC Code Assignment Guidelines state that numbering resources are public resources and "cannot be sold, brokered, bartered, or leased by the assignee for a fee or other consideration" and, if they are, would be subject to reclamation. No further action was taken, following the collection of the information.

The NRO Order mandates the reporting of number utilization and forecast information to the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA) as a prerequisite to receiving numbering resources. Currently, the Central Office Code Utilization Survey (COCUS) is performed annually by NANPA, and collects only carrier forecasts at the NXX level. The FCC NRO Order specifies: "In pooling areas, forecast data shall be reported at the thousands-block per rate center level for pooling carriers and at the NXX level per rate center for non-pooling carriers. In non-pooling areas, forecast data shall be reported at the NXX per NPA level because carriers will receive their resources at this level." The data must be filed semi-annually (unless states determine that annually is appropriate) by all carriers with the NANPA. The NANPA is charged with evaluating the validity of the data and reporting to the states when a carriers' data is insufficient. Carriers that fail to provide COCUS data will be denied number resources. Those carriers must look for relief from state commissions, who will also have access to COCUS data.

The FCC also made changes in the numbering assignment arena. For initial code requests, carriers must provide proof that they are authorized to provide service in the area for which the numbering resources are requested, and will be capable of implementing it within 60 days of the numbering resources activation date. Utilization thresholds will be applied to all applications for growth codes filed by non-pooling carriers. The FCC is seeking further comment on the actual utilization percentage.

Thousands-Block Pooling Administration

While the FCC mandated the implementation of thousand block number pooling, it decided to release the job of Pooling Administrator for competitive bid. In February, the NANC had recommended to the FCC that NeuStar be appointed as the Pooling Administrator, as an addition to its role as the NANPA. The timeline in the process to select a National Pooling Administrator was not detailed in the Order, but the FCC states that national pooling rollout will begin nine months from the date an administrator is selected.

Meanwhile, the FCC stated that it will continue to delegate authority to petitioning states to implement pooling trials. State trials will need to conform with the national pooling frame-

work detailed in the Order. The participation of wireless carriers in number pooling, once they become LNP capable, was released for further comment. The Pooling Administration contract will coincide with the term of the current NANPA contract, which runs through February 2003.

The FCC Order stated that national pooling rollout will begin in the top 100 MSAs at the rate of three area codes per NPAC region per quarter. However, the FCC required area codes on the rollout schedule to be prioritized in order of:

- NPAs that were initially pooled or scheduled to be pooled pursuant to the FCC's delegations of pooling authority to state commission
- Jeopardy NPAs in the largest 100 MSAs, which have a life of one year or more
- New NPAs.

The actual national roll-out schedule has not yet been drafted. According to the Order, it will be drafted by the Pooling Administrator seven months prior to the start of rollout.

Carrier Cost Recovery

The NRO Order outlined the three categories for carrier cost recovery:

1. Shared industry costs, costs incurred by the industry as a whole (including NANP administrator costs, and enhancements to the number portability regional database)
2. Carrier-specific costs directly related to thousands-block number pooling implementation (such as enhancements to carriers' SCP, LSMS, SOA, and OSS systems)
3. Carrier-specific costs not directly related to thousands-block number pooling administration.

However, it did not specify the final cost recovery mechanism due to a desire to collect more information on actual costs and savings from the implementation of number pooling.

The FCC reiterated its belief that neither unassigned number porting (UNP) nor individual telephone number pooling (ITN) are ready for national implementation. They did, however, adopt the use of sequential number assignment where carriers must assign the numbers within one thousand block before assigning numbers in another block. **NEUSTAR**

NEW NPA RELIEF PLANNING TOOL DEVELOPED

Because of the increasing frequency and complexity of the NPA relief decisions and a need for national uniformity in NPA forecasting, a new NPA forecasting model has been developed. This new model will allow NANPA NPA Relief Planners to estimate the lives of various NPA relief alternatives in a uniform and flexible manner. As compared to the model previously used by NPA Relief Planners for the same purposes, this new model features more mechanization, meaning quicker and more accurate results.

The new planning tool uses current Local Exchange Routing Guide (LERG) data, NANPA forecast data, and also allows for specific user input to address NPA-specific issues. Another feature of the new model is that it will allow the NPA Relief Planner to determine the number of codes attributed to wireless carriers and that may be candidates for grandfathering. The model will further show the effect grandfathering may have on the lives of the NPA using different relief alternatives.

The release of protected central office codes resulting from the 10-digit dialing requirement in an overlay is incorporated into the model as well. The resulting forecast can be calculated in two phases utilizing different assumptions; pre-relief growth and post-relief growth.

Future developments to this model may include incorporating the COCUS competitive LEC growth at the rate center level, and data input at the thousands block level to account for number pooling. The NANPA will begin using this new tool in its NPA relief efforts across the country immediately. **NEUSTAR**

NEUSTAR STAFF NEWS

Rebecca Beaton

Rebecca Beaton, a former Program Manager/Consultant at the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC), has joined NANPA as an NPA Relief Planner for the Western Region. At the WUTC, Rebecca was responsible for area code resources and utilization, number portability, universal service, competitive market entry, service quality, network efficiency, and public and press relations. She also worked at US WEST and AT&T Technologies/Western Electric in varied technical assignments. Rebecca can be reached at 360-664-1287 or rebecca.beaton@nanpa.com. **NEUSTAR**

A WORD FROM NEUSTAR'S CHAIRMAN AND CEO



Jeff Ganek

When NeuStar, Inc., was formed in December 1999, our mission was then – and continues to this day – to provide the highest level of neutral, third-party services to the telecommunications industry. Included in our commitment are the individual state commissions, with whom we work closely every day.

While the FCC's recent order puts the function of the National Pooling Administrator out for competitive bid, NeuStar remains focused on and committed to the states where we are working as the Number Pooling Administrator, and we look forward to opportunities with additional states in this capacity, as well.

As the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA), we were disappointed with the FCC's decision in not naming NeuStar as the National Pooling Administrator. As noted in paragraph 146 of the FCC NRO Order, in July of last year the NANC recommended that the NANPA (NeuStar) be the national Pooling Administrator. The NANC had concluded that having a separate entity serve as the Pooling Administrator would lead to a more costly and less efficient arrangement, and likely delay the implementation of a thousands-block number pooling rollout. As further noted in the Order, of the states given authority to implement pooling trials, all having made a decision on a pooling administrator have chosen NeuStar.

Nonetheless, the states and the industry must continue to move forward, and NeuStar remains committed to support all parties in the process. We are excited about the ongoing activity within the states and industry in the various number-pooling trials throughout the country. In addition to Chicago's 847 NPA, NeuStar also serves as the administrator for trials in four other NPAs in Chicago (312, 630, 773, and 708), California's 310 NPA, and New York's 212, 718 and 716 NPAs. NeuStar has also been appointed as the pooling administrator for additional trials in California, Texas, Maine, and New Hampshire.

The 847 number pooling trial – the first of its kind in the country – has successfully delayed the implementation of the 224 overlay for almost two years. The 310 number pooling trial in the Los Angeles area began on March 18 and has already saved over 64 CO codes in its short life. We anticipate more successful activity throughout the country in the weeks and months ahead.


As always, please contact me or Brent Struthers as issues arise and decisions are made that impact the states, the industry and the NANP. The future is bright and there are many changes in front of us. No matter what happens, NeuStar's commitment to the state commissions is unwavering.

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NEW YORK ORDERS POOLING STATEWIDE, DEFERS WIDE AREA RATE CENTERS

(continued from cover)

their need for numbering resources across multiple rate centers. The traditional rate centers would be retained. The NYDPS proposed that the wide area rate center – and all NXX codes assigned to it – would be included in the local calling area for customers in every traditional rate center. A carrier desiring a local presence throughout an area code with a LATA could do so with one NXX code, as opposed to requiring one NXX code for each of the existing rate centers. However, following further consultation with the industry, concerns were raised regarding revenue impacts, as well as a lack of interconnection agreements among the independent LECs and the CLECs. 

NPA	Roll-out date	NPA	Roll-out date
516	7/1/00	347	4/30/01
518	9/15/00	607	6/30/01
315	2/01/01	631	6/30/01
914	4/30/01	212	8/31/01
845	4/30/01	718	8/31/01
646	4/30/01	917	8/31/01

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