N A N P A

numbering news

Provided by the North American Numbering Plan Administration

More codes made available

NANPA and service providers have been working together to examine the list of central office codes currently marked as unassignable in order to identify codes that might be returned to the inventory for future use.

NANPA has posted its third list of potentially releasable NPA-NXX codes on the NANPA Web site (www.nanpa.com) under the Central Office Code (Prefix) link. This list contains more than 1,000 NXX codes from 104 NPAs. Service providers and regulators who have any problems with any of the codes being returned to available status should contact NANPA.

NANPA's efforts to identify currently unavailable codes that are candidates to become available for assignment have been quite successful. To date, more than 700 NXXs have been made available for assignment as a result of this effort. ■

NANPA news going electronic

We're taking NANPA News electronic in 2002.

In order to streamline the publication process and bring the news to you faster, NANPA has decided to eliminate the print version of this newsletter. Instead, it will be delivered directly to your e-mail box.

To have NANPA News delivered to your mailbox, please send an e-mail to sharnae.lewis@neustar.biz, with "Subscribe NANPA News" in the subject line. Of course, the newsletter will also continue to be available in a PDF format on the nanpa.com and neustar.biz Web sites. ■

Happy Holidays from: **NANPA!**

NANPA document distribution service available

Sign up today for NANPA's Document Distribution Service (DDS) to receive notifications of upcoming NPA relief activities and to download relevant documents.

DDS was designed for use by service providers who hold central office codes, will likely hold central office codes, or provide related telecommunications services. The sign-up process is quick and easy. Simply go to NANPA's Web site at www.nanpa.com, select Document Distribution Service, and then select "sign up for e-mail notification of industry-related activities." Fill out the profile form, and then select "add my name." You may choose specific states to receive notifications, or the entire United States.

After you sign up for DDS, you will receive a confirmation notice along with a DDS User Guide to help you download documents, change your profile, retrieve old relief planning documents from the archives, and provide comments and feedback. NANPA has scheduled a special DDS tutorial session for Tuesday, December 18, 2001, at 2:00 PM EST. If you wish to attend, please contact Pamela Kenworthy at Pamela.Kenworthy@neustar.biz for more information. ■

NANPA annual performance survey now available responses due January 31, 2002

The NANPA Oversight Working Group (NOWG) survey is now available on the NANPA Web site. If you have interacted with NANPA during 2001, we strongly encourage you to fill out and return the survey. Completed responses are due to NOWG no later than January 31, 2002.

Each year, the NOWG uses the results of the annual survey to help evaluate how well NANPA has performed its duties. Once NOWG has completed its work, the North American Numbering Council reviews the evaluation, and then forwards it to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

Your participation is important. NOWG needs to develop a comprehensive, accurate view of NANPA's performance, and your feedback is critical to this effort.

Some of the ways that you might have used NANPA's services this year include:

- Requesting assignment of a central office code or other NANP resource, such as a Carrier Identification Code (CIC), 500- or 900-NXX code, or 555 number.

- Attending one or more NPA relief planning meetings.

- Using the NANPA Web site.

- Using the new Code Administration System (CAS).

- Filling out and submitting a North American Numbering Plan Numbering Resource Utilization/Forecasting Report (NRUF) Form 502.

Please take the time to provide a thoughtful response. NANPA depends on your feedback to shape its services to best meet your needs. ■
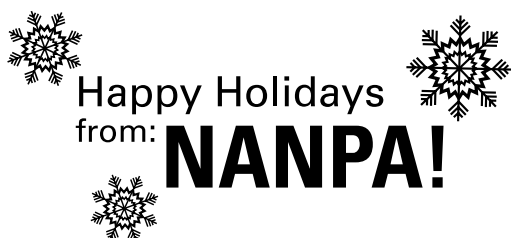
Beth Sprague
NRUF Manager
NeuStar, Inc.

All about NRUF

Beth Sprague is the person to talk to if you have a question about the North American Numbering Plan Numbering Resource Utilization/Forecasting Report (NRUF). As NeuStar's NRUF Manager, she has been involved in number forecasting since she joined the firm in January 2000. Previously, she worked for the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions.

The Federal Communications Commission issued its NRUF reporting mandate in March 2000, and carriers filed the first reports in September 2000. NRUF reports are due February 1 and August 1 of each year. Three cycles into the new reporting process, *NANPA News* talked to Sprague about how NRUF reporting is working and what tools are available to help carriers meet their reporting requirements.

What is the purpose of the reporting, and how did it come about?

The purpose of the FCC NRUF reporting requirement is to provide utilization and forecast data to assist in forecasting the exhaust of area codes. And since NANP exhaust projections are based upon individual area code exhaust, NRUF provides needed information to assist in this effort. Prior to the FCC's Number Resource Optimization order, the process of providing forecast data was voluntary. As a result, not all service providers responded. Now that reporting is mandatory, it is enforceable and the response from carriers has increased significantly. The FCC did a random audit after the first reporting cycle, and fined some carriers who failed to report.

How often are carriers supposed to report?

Carriers report February 1 (for July–December) and August 1 (for January–June). The report provides a snapshot of everything in their inventory as of December 31 and June 30. Specifically, carriers provide utilization information as of December 31 and June 30. They also provide a five-year forecast of their resource requirements.

What are some of the problems that you've encountered with the NRUF submissions?

Well, we've had a lot fewer problems than we had in the beginning. For example, in the first reporting cycle in September 2000, we got a total of about 3,500 submissions, and about 2,000 of them were rejected for various reasons. Many of the problems dealt with failure to complete the form. A lot of the problems were service providers failing to provide their operating company number (OCN). And many carriers were having a hard time with the Excel spreadsheet. Plus some weren't reporting on time.

Are there some recurring problems?

The most common problem is that carriers still fill out their utilization and forecast forms with invalid rate center abbreviations. NANPA provides a notification to the carriers letting them know that they have included an invalid rate center. Some carriers ignore the error notification. A problem then occurs when they apply for resources. The Code Administrator (or Pooling Administrator if the service provider applies for a thousands-block) checks to see if they have a forecast on file for the rate center in which the carrier is requesting a code or thousands-block. It's not going to show up, and their application for resources will be denied.

Carriers can find rate center name abbreviations from the Central Office Code Assignment Records (www.nanpa.com) or from the *Telcordia*^{TM} *LERG*^{TM} *Routing Guide.*

What tools does NANPA provide to help carriers complete the NRUF form?

We have a "job aid" that we update any time there is a process change. The job aid gives step-by-step instructions for filling out the form, including editing, deleting, and moving data. It's useful, because the instructions on the actual form are really definitions.

People who use it say that it's very helpful. It also gives a number of Web addresses to help a carrier in case, for example, you need to know where to go to actually get an OCN or to find out whether you have a valid rate center. And it provides information on all the NPAs that are in pooling. In fact, for every submission cycle we put an updated list on our Web site of those areas that are in pooling.

What does NANPA do after it receives a carrier's submission?

Once we receive a submission, the form is imported into a database and an error check is run. Any errors that are found generate an e-mail response to the contact on the form and anyone else that contact has copied on the e-mail address. The e-mail notification provides the exact line

Number utilization reporting due February 1, 2002

Per FCC Numbering Resources Optimization (NRO) Order FCC 00-104, carriers in most states must submit an updated Form 502 on or before February 1, 2002. Exempted are carriers in states where the state commission has reduced the filing requirement to an annual reporting cycle. At this time, only Maine has exempted rural carriers that have no plans to request central office codes from providing the February 1 NRUF submission.

Each carrier's utilization data should be reported as of December 31, 2001. Forecast data for the February submission, meanwhile, are based on a five-year forecast. Year 1 on all forecast forms refers to resources needed in 2002. Carriers must also report utilization for all their assigned NXX codes from the 500 NPA and 900 NPA, as well as a five-year forecast for each resource.

NRUF Form 502, along with associated instructions, can be found on the NANPA Web site.

February 1, 2002, NRUF submissions will be accepted no earlier than January 1, 2002. Carriers can submit the February 1 NRUF submissions by e-mailing the completed Excel spreadsheets to cocus@neustar.com, or via electronic file transfer (EFT) to ftp://www.nanpa.com/pub/incoming/cocus/. Carriers submitting the Form 502 Excel spreadsheet must note in their e-mail transmissions that they are attaching their February 1, 2002, NRUF submission. Carriers should refer to the Form 502 Job Aid for unique specifications and directions to submit the Form 502 via EFT, as well as for specific directions for populating and moving the data in the form's Excel spreadsheet.

NANPA will continue to accept updates and corrections to the August 1 NRUF submissions through December 31. Updates should be sent to rev-cocus@neustar.com. Any revisions correcting an error identified by NANPA should be submitted directly to the Customer Service Representative, as noted in the NANPA error message. If a carrier needs to update the August 1, 2001, forecast between January 1 and January 31, 2002, the carrier should send a new Form 502, containing only forecast information, to rev-cocus@neustar.com.

Form 502, and instructions for completing and submitting it, can be downloaded from the NANPA Web site at http://www.nanpa.com. Just click on the NRUF Form 502 (formerly COCUS) link on the left frame of the NANPA homepage. The NRUF Form 502 can be accessed by pressing the link for 500/900 Non-Geographic Reporting. Directions for reporting on these non-geographic codes, as well as the Form 502 Job Aid for Non-Geographic Reporting, can be found at http://www.nanpa.com under the NRUF Form 502 link.

Please direct any questions concerning this notification to NANPA at 202-533-2654 or 202-533-2657. Direct any questions concerning 500/900 code assignments to 202-533-2653. ▪

Assignments and reclamations

The following table depicts the quantity of assignments and reclamations for Carrier Identification Codes (CICs), 555 line numbers, and central office codes from the 500 NPA and the 900 NPA since January 2001.

	CICs	555	900	500
January 01	27	1	0	30
February	17	33	0	34
March	20	57	0	0
April	12	21	0	30
May	28	171	0	0
June	15	86	0	30
July	17	105	0	1
August	22	136	0	0
September	33	42	0	0
October	18	42	1	1
Total YTD	209[1]	694	1	126
Reclamations YTD	197	1	8	161

[1] Of the 209 assignments, 3 were Feature Group B CICs

All about NRUF *continued from page 2*

numbers and the exact errors, and indicates that they need to correct the error within five business days and send it back to the customer service representative. Carriers also get a confirmation once the form is received, the error check is run, and there are no errors.

How do you keep in touch with carriers?

We're required to maintain an updated contact list on each company that fills out an NRUF form. We've found that the easiest way to do this is to have them subscribe to an electronic notification service (our "exploder list"). Every time that we change something, or add a new address, or there's a new submission due, we send out a reminder notice. Instructions for signing up for this distribution list can be found on NANPA's Web page.

Clearly, the FCC set up NANC because its normal processes were just not well suited for this kind of decision making. NANC allows all the stakeholders to get together once a month or so. My job, in a sense, is to get these parties together, go through these issues, and find a consensus. I must work with people on all sides of the agenda and start to understand the real problems of organizations that have different views. And I think just the mere process of discussion, of having coffee with other people and getting a better handle on the underlying problems of the various stakeholders, allows people of good will to find a consensus and a middle ground that isn't just one

foot in the fire, one foot in the freezer, but is a rational, thoughtful decision—and a result that actually satisfies most parties.

Therefore, a NANC recommendation can go to the FCC, which can then put it out for public comment via its normal process. But the proposal itself has a strong basis. It's been well thought out and has broad support across the entire range of stakeholders. Now, the FCC has a relatively easy job. So it's a way the FCC can make rational decisions relatively quickly and can make better decisions than it could without an organization like NANC.

How do you think the telecommunications industry has changed?

The two things that I think gave rise to the numbering crisis of a few years ago were the rapidly increasing number of carriers and the rapidly increasing number of services. Probably, in the long run, those two trends will continue.

I think we should always assume that there will be more carriers, more service providers, more services, and more consumers. I don't think we should get complacent with the idea that 10, 15, 20 years from now the telecom industry will look the same as it does today. I think we should always assume more of everything and incorporate the concept into NANC thinking. Because if we're wrong, I don't think there's any harm. But we'll be terribly worse off if we stick our heads in the sand. ▪