

NANPA's data integrity efforts	2
Grandfathered central office codes	2
FCC issues fourth NRO order	3
CO code assignment information	3
CO code activity report	4



Provided by the North American Numbering Plan Administration

## 2003 NANP exhaust analysis

Each year, NANPA projects the exhaust of individual NPAs, and subsequently projects the exhaust of the NANP as a whole. These projections are based primarily on utilization and forecast data submitted by carriers through NRUF. Individual NPA exhaust projections were discussed in the previous issue of this newsletter, and may be found on the NANPA website. The results of this year's NANP exhaust study, which indicate that the NANP will exhaust in 2035, were presented to NANC in July 2003.

The assumptions underlying this year's study are similar to the assumptions for the 2002 study, with the primary change being the elimination of the assumptions associated with the rollout of wireless pooling. A complete list of assumptions is available in the full NANPA report that can be found on the NANPA website. To locate this information, click on "NRUF 2003 Results" under "Frequently Visited Pages" on the home page.

As expected, the NANP exhaust model developed

**Exhaust analysis** *continued on page 4*

## Withdrawal of NPA relief petitions

Based upon the 2003 NPA exhaust projections and subsequent updates, NANPA identified several area codes that were candidates to have their NPA relief petitions withdrawn. These NPAs include:

New Jersey	609, 856, 908
New York	516, 518
North Carolina	336
Pennsylvania	570
South Carolina	803, 843
Tennessee	615
Texas	214/469/972

NANPA has notified the effected state commissions that these NPAs are candidates for petition withdrawal.

Some states have taken action to have relief petitions withdrawn. The Pennsylvania PUC entered an Order on August 1, 2003 to dismiss the NPA 570 relief petition. They also dismissed the NPA 717 relief petition in the same Order. With concurrence from the TRA of Tennessee, NANPA facilitated a meeting on September 9, 2003 and the industry reached consensus to withdraw the NPA 615 relief petition. Finally, based upon direction from the New Jersey BPU, NANPA facilitated a meeting on September 29, 2003 to discuss withdrawal of the NPA 609, 856, and 908 relief petitions.

**NPA relief petitions** *continued on page 3*

## NeuStar selected to serve another five years as NANPA

This past July, the FCC selected NeuStar to serve another five years as NANPA. The selection resulted from a competitive bidding process that began in late 2002. The new fixed-price contract taking effect in February 2004 will be similar to the contract under which NeuStar serves as National Pooling Administrator. Between now and February 2004, NeuStar has been authorized by the FCC to operate in transitional mode, focusing on the development of a new mechanized system called the NANP Administration System or NAS to manage the assignment and administration of NANP resources.

Here are some changes that NANPA's customers will see as a result of the new contact:

- Service providers will continue to be able to enter and submit the Central Office Code Part 1s, MTEs, and Part 4s through a secure, web-based system.
- Service providers will be able to enter and submit the appropriate application forms for 500-NXXs, 900-NXXs, 456-NXXs, Carrier Identification Codes, 555 line numbers, and 800-855 line numbers via the secure web-based system.
- In addition to submitting utilization and forecast data (i.e., NRUF) via email and FTP, NAS will allow service providers to submit or update this information online, throughout the submission cycle.
- Interested parties will be able to receive notifications on such items as changes to assignment guidelines, NRUF requirements, report availability, client education, and system maintenance and availability. Notifications will also be available on a state-

**FCC selects NeuStar** *continued on page 2*

## **FCC selects NeuStar** *continued from page 1*

by-state basis, providing information about NPA relief planning activities, jeopardy notifications, and state-specific regulatory activities.

- State commissions will have online access to service-provider submitted utilization and forecast data provided via NRUF for their respective area codes.

In line with responsibilities in the new contract, and reflecting the decrease in workload resulting from the effects of the FCC's NRO orders and the vigilance of the state commissions, there have been changes and realignments in NANPA staff. In the Concord office, Sandy Tokarek will continue to serve as Regional Director of Central Office Code Administration, with the able assistance of Jan Connally, Senior Code Administrator. Relief planning efforts will be divided among Wayne Milby, Joe Cocke, and Tom Foley. These individuals, along with Sandy, will report to John Manning, Director of NANPA. The *About Us* section of the NANPA website has been updated to show the current responsibilities of each of the NANPA staff members. ■

## **Updates to NPA exhaust projections**

NPA exhaust estimates are prepared once a year and posted to the NANPA website, typically in the May-June timeframe. For some NPAs, however, particularly those that are volatile or close to exhaust, continuous monitoring of code assignment and return activity is necessary. Often, monitoring shows that the exhaust date has changed, indicating that contemplated relief

**Updates to NPA** *continued on page 3*

## **Grandfathered central office codes**

Sometimes the downstream effects of earlier decisions can result in unanticipated complexities. Such is the case with grandfathered codes.

Grandfathered codes began in the days when wireless phones were more difficult to update than they are today. During an area code split, rate centers in the area code are divided. Some rate centers remain in the old area code, and some move to the new area code, depending on their location. If a rate center moves to the new area code, so do all of the central office codes associated with that rate center. This could have a significant impact on wireless service providers, requiring changes to each customer phone that moves to the new area code. In some area code split situations, state commissions allowed some central office codes to be grandfathered, an arrangement under which the service provider was allowed to retain existing code assignments (and rate centers) in the old area code when the rate center moved to the new area code. In addition, the service provider received an assignment of the same code in the new area code, to which the rate center moved. At the time these arrangements were created, they may have not been intended to be permanent since it was believed that normal customer turnover would eliminate the need for these codes over time.

With the upcoming implementation of wireless number portability in November 2003, NANPA was requested to identify all grandfathered NXX codes. Specifically, service providers expressed the desire for a listing of all grandfathered codes as they prepared for portability. As a result, working with the National Number Pool Administrator, a list of potential grandfathered codes was developed. This list was then furnished to the service providers assigned these codes in order to determine the accuracy and completeness of the information. A finalized list was published on NANPA's website August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2003 and can be found under *Central Office Codes/Prefixes*. The list currently contains more than 500 central office codes.

NANPA is seeking input from the industry to identify any additional unidentified grandfathered codes. For more information, contact Tom Foley at (407) 389-8929. ■

## **NANPA's data integrity efforts continue**

In an ongoing effort to provide the highest quality service and maintain accurate and comprehensive code assignment data, NANPA has undertaken a project to compare code assignment data in its databases with other sources of similar information. Through this process, NANPA has identified a series of NPA-NXXs that have inconsistent information requiring service provider input to determine the status of each code. Specifically, NANPA's records indicate a code is assigned while information obtained from other sources indicates the code is not assigned.

NANPA has posted three lists of these codes on the NANPA website. These lists can be found by clicking on *Central Office Code/Prefixes* and then selecting Central Office Codes Pending Industry Review.

NANPA is requesting that service providers review these lists and identify any codes about which they have any knowledge. Each list has an identified date by which responses must be received by NANPA. Please forward all information about these codes to Thomas C. Foley at thomas.foley@neustar.biz or contact him at (407) 389-8929.

NANPA will make available for assignment any codes for which carriers fail to provide information by the specified date. ■

## Updates to NPA *continued from page 2*

activity may need to be accelerated or deferred.

When these circumstances occur, NANPA publishes a “delta NRUF” indicating a change to the projected exhaust date. As of September 24, 2003, the exhaust dates for six NPAs have been changed.

Locality	NPA	Revised Date		June 02		Quarter +/-	Notes
Wisconsin (6/23/2003)	715	2006	4Q	2005	2Q	+5	Reflects impact of unavailable codes returned
New Jersey (8/15/2003)	609	2009	1Q	2006	3Q	+10	Reflects decreased demand for codes
New Jersey (8/15/2003)	908	2009	2Q	2006	4Q	+10	Reflects decreased demand for codes
Ohio (9/24/2003)	614	2009	2Q	2005	3Q	+15	Reflects decreased demand for codes
Ohio (9/24/2003)	740	2008	1Q	2005	3Q	+10	Reflects decreased demand for codes
Indiana (9/24/2003)	812	2007	2Q	2004	4Q	+10	Reflects decreased demand for codes

This information is published on NANPA’s website . Click on *NRUF 2003 Results* in the *Frequently Visited Pages* section of the home page. ■

## Central office code assignment information available on the NANPA website

NANPA’s website contains a wealth of information about central office code assignments. To access this information, click on *central office codes – prefixes* in the left hand frame of the home page. This article highlights two of the most useful reports: the assignment records report and the assignment activities report. Visitors to NANPA’s website can download these reports by clicking on the associated hyperlinks on the central office codes page.

**Assignment Records** – This report, updated weekly, contains a complete listing of the status (e.g., assigned, vacant) of all central office codes, sorted by state and area code. The data is available in three formats: text, Microsoft Excel, and Microsoft Access. A separate file explains each field in the report and its significance. The report includes recent code assignments and their effective dates, indicating if each code was assigned as an initial or growth code.

**Assignment Activities** – This report, updated monthly, contains a summary of central office code assignment and return activity, sorted by state and area code. Fields include jeopardy and rationing information, the number of assignments for each month in the past year, returns, the number of available/unavailable codes, and the remaining set-aside codes for pooling, if applicable. A separate file explains each field in the report and its significance.

The information in these reports has proven valuable to industry code administrators as well as regulators interested in managing numbering resources in their jurisdictions. ■

## FCC issues fourth NRO Order

On June 18, 2003 the FCC released a new NRO order, officially titled “Fourth Report and Order in CC Docket No. 99-200 and CC Docket No. 95-116, and Fourth Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in CC Docket No. 99-200.” The new Order is primarily concerned with local number portability and pooling issues, and does not impact current NANPA code administration and relief planning procedures.

The new Order may be downloaded from the Telecommunications Access Policy Division section of the Wireline Competition Bureau section on the FCC website, [www.fcc.gov](http://www.fcc.gov). ■

## NPA relief petitions *continued from page 1*

Section 5.10 of the NPA Code Relief Planning & Notification Guidelines allows NANPA to withdraw submitted, but not yet approved, relief petitions if current projections indicate that the effected NPA will not exhaust in the next five years. Three conditions must be met:

1. The exhaust of the NPA, based on a non-rationed forecast, is at least five years in the future.
2. The regulatory authority has not yet acted on the petition.
3. The NPA is not in jeopardy.

The guidelines require NANPA to notify the industry and regulatory authorities when these three conditions are met. ■



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

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NeuStar, Inc.  
Managing editor  
Barbara Blackwell

Contributing writers  
John Manning

Design layout  
Tara Gloss

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  
John Manning

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46000 Center Oak Plaza  
Sterling, Va 20166

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## Exhaust analysis *continued from page 1*

by NeuStar is highly sensitive to the aggregate yearly demand for central office (CO) codes. Extending and combining the demand rates used to project the exhaust of individual NPAs indicates an average aggregate yearly demand of nearly 8,700 CO codes. To put this number in perspective, NANPA compared the projected demand with observed demand over the last few years, shown in the table below. The table shows both the total number of codes assigned (gross) and the total number assigned less returns (net).

Year	Annual Gross CO Code Demand	Annual Net CO Code Demand
2000	16,000	12,500
2001	10,400	4,400
2002	7,200	3,600
2003 (annualized)	3,800	1,900

Given the significant difference in projected and actual demand, but being aware that new technology could impact future demand, NANPA based this year's NANP exhaust study on an annual aggregate demand rate of 7,000 CO codes. This represents a 20% reduction in the annual demand rate projected from extensions to the NPA exhaust study. Although this number is higher than the projected 2003 gross CO code demand rate, it remains to be seen whether the CO code demand rates will continue at current levels or will eventually rebound to higher levels. Code returns are expected to decrease as the industry adjusts to the optimization measures put in place with the FCC's NRO order and as the local exchange market stabilizes. Further, as a result of the current focus on number conservation, it is likely that annual net demand will approach gross demand as carriers obtain resources only when needed.

Using an average CO code demand rate of 7,000 codes assigned per year, the projected NANP exhaust date is 2035.

For comparison purposes, NANPA performed a sensitivity analysis, varying the annual CO code demand. The sensitivity analysis calculated NANP exhaust using 8,700 annual CO code demand, which represented the gross demand as calculated from the June 2003 NPA Exhaust Analysis. Using this scenario, NANP exhaust occurs in 2030. In addition, NANPA repeated the calculation assuming an annual code demand of 4,400 CO codes per year, which represented a further reduction in demand. Exhaust occurs in 2040 using this lower demand rate. ■

## Central office code activity report

The following table is a summary of the Central Office (CO) code activity for the period of January – August 2003.

Month	Requests	Assignments	Changes	Denials	Cancel	Disconnects	Reservations
January	1,348	354	587	193	30	184	0
February	1,491	261	748	194	79	209	0
March	1,875	282	1,190	201	62	140	0
April	2,024	407	1,052	335	51	179	0
May	1,439	321	745	179	42	152	0
June	1,526	279	875	209	63	100	0
July	1,871	360	1,118	115	53	225	0
August	1,139	218	622	123	22	154	0