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NPA Exhaust Projections... *Continued from page 1*

requirement for NXXs from NANPA for wireline service providers continues to rise until the excess inventory of blocks due to block donations has been consumed. At this point, the wireline demand for NXXs from NANPA levels off at a rate below what the code demand was prior to pooling.

Based on data from the pooling trials, NANPA used the following estimate to reflect the impact of wireline pooling on NXX demand. In the first year after pooling begins, the demand for codes falls to 30% of the CO code requirements without pooling (assuming no rationing is in place). In the second year after pooling starts, the wireline demand rises to 40% of the code requirements without pooling. Finally, in the third and subsequent years after pooling starts, the requirements for NXXs from NANPA for wireline service providers levels off at 50% of the requirements without pooling. The effect actually varies from one NPA to another due to a variety of possible factors but the general trend is still apparent.

All area code exhaust projections were reviewed extensively by both the NPA Relief Planning and CO Code Administration groups within NANPA. Appropriate adjustments were made during this review to account for other important aspects unique to an NPA that potentially could impact CO code demand. ■

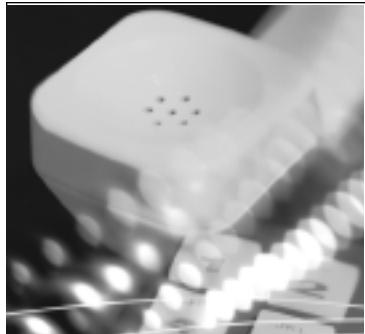
NANPA Numbering News

A NANPA bi-monthly publication

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NANPA Numbering News



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New Utilization Requirement Implemented May 8

Effective May 8, carriers must now meet a minimum utilization level prior to receiving growth codes. Per the FCC 2nd NRO Order, all service providers must meet a utilization requirement of at least 60% before NANPA can assign additional codes to that carrier in the rate center in which the carrier is requesting resources. This requirement is in addition to the months-to-exhaust (MTE) requirement that has been in place for receiving growth codes.

The FCC has established that utilization for a given geographic area (rate center or NPA) must be calculated by dividing all assigned numbers by the total number resources assigned to

that carrier in that geographic area and multiplying the result by 100. Code applicants that fail to meet this utilization requirement will have their applications denied.

State commissions that were using a utilization threshold pursuant to delegated authority that exceeded 60% were allowed to continue to use their utilization threshold in those areas, as long as it did not exceed the Commission's established ceiling of 75%. States exercising this authority were required to use the FCC utilization calculation; that is, only assigned numbers were to be included in the numerator. ■

NRUF Submission Cycle Coming August 1

NANPA is preparing for the August 1 NRUF submission cycle. A notice was sent via email in mid-May to all carriers that had previously submitted an NRUF to NANPA that the next submission deadline of utilization and forecast data was August 1.

The August 1 submission will be accepted no earlier than July 1. Utilization data should cover the period of January 1 through June 30, 2001. Forecast data is a 4 1/2-year forecast for the August 1 submission. Year 1 on all forecast forms refers to additional resources needed in 2001. Form 502 and associated instructions for completing and submitting it can be downloaded from the NANPA Web site at www.nanpa.com.

There have been some changes and clarifications to certain sections of the Form 502 Job Aid, including directions on sending revised submissions to a different e-mail address, request for Fixed Wireless providers to report as CLECs, and instructions for revisions to FTP submissions. Service providers are strongly encouraged to read the Job Aid before completing the Form 502. Doing so will lower the potential for errors that require follow-up by NANPA. ■

NANPA Conducts NRUF Training for States

In May 2001, NANPA held three conference calls with state public service commissions to provide additional training on the use of the NRUF data. Thirty three staff members from 22 states were represented on these calls. The primary objective of these calls was to educate state commissions on the data contained in the individual state databases provided to them by NANPA. This included a description of how they could use the capabilities and functions of these databases to assist them in understanding the current state of number utilization in their respective NPAs.

NANPA reviewed the different tables, queries and reports provided with the database. With regard to the queries, NANPA explained how the existing queries could be modified or new queries created. During these discussions, the states provided input on additional queries and reports they would find useful. NANPA is currently examining this input and will develop additional queries for inclusion with the database. ■

CO Code Statistics for January-April 2001

Month	Requests	Assignments	Changes	Susensions	Denials	Cancel	Disconnects	Reservations	Lottery denial	Lottery priority
January 01	4,373	959	1,414	266	841	104	789	0	N/A	N/A
February	4,590	817	1,922	14	1412	64	361	0	N/A	N/A
March	6,980	1,319	3,660	4	1333	89	575	0	N/A	N/A
April	3,514	754	1,541	9	839	37	334	0	N/A	N/A

NPA Exhaust Projections Available

Results of the Number Resources Utilization and Forecast (NRUF) 2001 and NPA Exhaust Analysis have been published and are now available on the NANPA Web site, www.nanpa.com. This report provides an NPA-by-NPA exhaust projection for all geographic area codes in the U.S. and Canada. The Canadian Number Administrator provided the information used to developed the exhaust projections for NPAs in Canada.

The most significant change since the May 2000 forecast was that the Central Office Code Utilization Survey (COCUS) reporting process was replaced by the NRUF reporting process, as mandated by the FCC NRO Orders. Further, the overall economic environment and its impact on service providers was also considered, primarily in determining the size of growth pools. Growth pools were designed to absorb unforecasted demand that was resulting in significant advancement in area code exhaust. Based upon recent trends in the industry, especially those involving CLECs, an adjustment was made in determining the size of a growth pool to account for observed changes in code demand. These changes included a decrease in the size and frequency of spikes in CO code demand. Generally, the size of a typical growth pool was reduced slightly because of these observed trends.

In projecting area code exhaust, NANPA grouped the area codes into three primary categories: 1) NPAs without pooling; 2) NPAs in pooling prior to December 31, 2000; and 3) NPAs with pooling ordered to start after December 31, 2000. The forecast methodology used by NANPA was driven by the particular category that the NPA was placed.

For NPAs without pooling, the method used in forecasting these NPAs was similar to the methodology used previously by NANPA. This methodology included using the forecast data submitted by the service providers, as well as historical CO code demand by industry segment over the past three years, the number of service providers and expansion of footprint over the same time period, recent NPA relief activity, and CO code rationing. Using this information, NANPA developed a projected CO code demand rate for the NPA.

For each of the NPAs where pooling was started before December 31, 2000, the Pooling Administrator (PA) provided a

forecast of the number of NXXs that will be needed from NANPA in 2001 to fulfill the needs of the pooling service providers. Information about the quantity of 1K blocks in the PA inventory for each rate center was also provided. The block inventory by rate center was used to calculate how much of the demand for blocks in each pooling rate center in years 2002 through 2005 could be satisfied from the existing block inventory. The NRUF forecast for pooling service providers was reduced by this amount since the PA would not have to obtain NXX codes from NANPA to satisfy this part of the demand.

In some of the pooling NPAs, the State Commissions have ordered that a certain quantity of NXXs be set aside exclusively for pooling. In addition, some State Commissions have indicated their intent to return some of the codes set aside for pooling to the inventory of codes available to non-pooling service providers so that the pooling and non-pooling codes will run out at the same time. In developing its exhaust projections for NPAs where codes had been set aside for pooling, NANPA assumed that a State Commission would return codes set aside for pooling to the inventory of codes available to non-pooling service providers in an effort to ensure that pooling and non-pooling codes exhaust at the same time.

The methodology used for NPAs where pooling has been ordered to start after December 31, 2000, was similar to the methodology used for NPAs where pooling was implemented before December 31, 2000. However, in the NPAs where pooling was ordered to start after December 31, 2000, pooling service providers were not required to forecast their code requirements separate from non-pooling service providers. Therefore, even if the PA was able to provide a forecast, it could not be used because it was unknown what portion of the forecasted demand it replaced. As a result, a different method was used to estimate the reduction in demand for NXXs due to the effects of pooling.

NANPA has observed that wireline service provider demand falls off significantly when pooling is first introduced since most wireline service provider requirements can be satisfied either using their inventory of numbers and/or donated blocks. As the donated blocks are consumed in popular rate centers, the requirement for codes for wireline service providers rises. The

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Carriers to File NRUF for the 500 and 900 NPAs

Beginning with the August 1 submission, carriers must report utilization and forecast data for all NXX assignments for the 500 NPA and 900 NPA. Directions for reporting on these non-geographic area codes can be found at www.nanpa.com under the NRUF Form 502 link. To assist service providers in completing the Form 502 for non-geographic resources, NANPA has developed special instructions and an Excel file to report non-geographic forecast and usage data for 500 and 900 NPA codes.

The 500/900 NPA reporting carrier must complete the following forms within the NRUF Excel workbook: Company information; the U2 utilization form for primary reporting; the U4 utilization for intermediate reporting, and the F3b forecast form. Carriers should not attempt to populate the cells for entering rate center and state information in the U2, U4, and F3b spreadsheets. In addition, the ‘donated to pool?’ field on the U2 spreadsheet is not required. These cells are shaded and protected from entering data since these cells only apply to geographic reporting.

Please note that 500/900 NPA reporting carriers should not attempt to complete the U1,U3,F1a,F1b, F2a,F2b, F3a, or rural certification forms. These forms are shaded to signify that 500/900 NPA reporting carriers should not enter data in these forms. There are two exceptions to the requirement for 500/900 NPA reporting carriers to complete the three forms (Company Information, U2 and/or U4, and F3b):

- Intermediate reporting carriers are not required to complete a forecast form. This exception only applies to carriers that operate solely as intermediate carriers.
- Reporting carriers that do not have any assigned numbers are not required to complete a utilization form. (Please note that any NXXs that are not reported on are subject to reclamation.)

If a carrier does not forecast a need for any resources associated with a specific service provider OCN, the carrier should still complete the F3b noting zeros for Year 1 through Year 5.

NANPA has notified service providers that currently hold NXXs from the 500 and 900 NPAs of the requirement to report utilization and forecast data. ■

Area Code Information on the NANPA Web Site

Significant changes have been made to the way in which area code information is presented and synchronized on the NANPA Web site.

A new capability, called “area code search,” allows visitors to the site to type in an area code and retrieve a one-page display of information about that area code, including how and where it is used, when it went into service, the dialing plan, relevant planning letters, and much more. Users can access this new capability from the navigation bar at the top of the page or from the area code page itself.

Area code information is summarized in several tables, including: geographic area codes in service sorted by number; geographic area codes in service sorted by location; non-geographic area codes in service; area codes introduced since 1995; and planned area codes not yet in service.

Keeping these tables synchronized and up-to-date has been a challenge. Now, thanks to new programming, all of these tables are generated dynamically when requested. The area code database that serves as the basis for these reports is updated weekly, or more frequently when changes occur. ■

Atkinson Appointed NANC Chairman

Robert Atkinson, former Deputy Chief of the FCC’s Common Carrier Bureau, has been appointed Chairman of the North American Numbering Council (NANC). Atkinson replaces John Hoffman, who resigned in April. The NANC advises the FCC on matters relating to the administration of numbering resources. Atkinson presided over the June NANC meeting.

Atkinson joined the FCC in 1999 after a 27-year career in the telecommunications industry, including 13 years with Teleport Communications Group (TCG). He served as the Deputy Chief from January 1999 to June 2000, and is currently the Executive Director of the Columbia Institute for Tele-Information (CITI) at Columbia Business School in New York. ■

States Receive Part 1 Notifications

In response to the 2nd FCC NRO Order, NANPA has initiated a process that provides State Commissions notification of an application submitted to NANPA for the assignment of a CO code. For those states that have a letter on file with the NANPA that they have appropriate confidentiality protections in place, NANPA will send an e-mail notification that a Part 1 has been submitted for the assignment of either an initial or growth code for an NPA in their respective state. Information provided

includes the following:

- NPA
- Rate center
- Date application submitted
- Initial/growth code request
- Company name and OCN
- Switch identification
- Requested effective date
- Code applicant contact information

States can request a daily, weekly, or monthly update from NANPA. ■