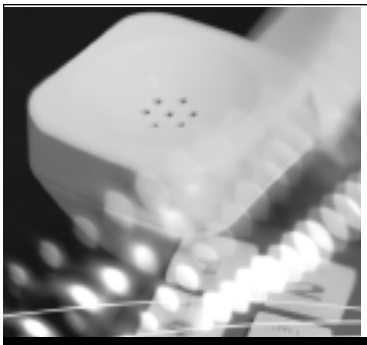
NANPA Numbering News



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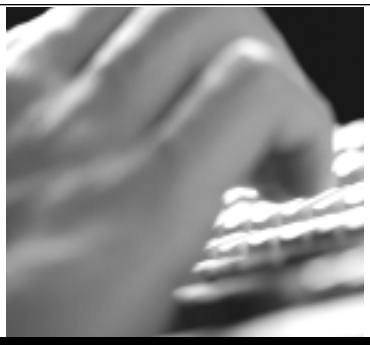

March/April 2001

NEUSTAR

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Provided by the North American Numbering Plan Administration (NANPA)

NANPA Web Site Provides Wealth of Information

NANPA is inundated with requests for data and other information about the NANP and number administration. Many people don't know that most of the information requested can already be found on NANPA's extensive web page, www.nanpa.com. The following is a review of some of the commonly requested information that is presently posted to the web.

Unless otherwise noted, all of the major headings addressed in this article are found on the left side of the home page. However, occasionally a user will need to "click" on different levels to reach the desired information. For example, to access "Active and Pending NPA Relief Projects," the user must choose from the home page: NPA Relief Planning/Report On Current Relief Activities/Active and Pending NPA Relief Projects.

Area Code Maps

Up-to-date area code maps are available for each state in the U.S. These maps have been specifically designed to be legible enough to read, but small enough in the file size to permit efficient downloading. Geographic Data Technology provides the maps for NANPA and updates the maps each quarter. The Canadian Area Code Map is maintained by the Canadian Numbering Administrator and is available at their site, www.cnac.ca. A link to their site is provided.

Document Distribution Service

Telecommunications service providers can sign up to receive notifications related to NANPA activities through the Document Distribution Service (DDS). In addition, users can download documents, which are in Adobe PDF format. The DDS is available to all CO code holders, potential code holders or an affected industry party, as defined in the industry Guidelines.

Active and Pending NPA Relief Projects

(From Home Page: NPA Relief Planning/Report On Current Relief Activities/Active and Pending NPA Relief Projects)
NANPA has developed a chart of the status of active and pending NPA relief projects in the U.S. This chart, which is updated weekly, provides information on NPAs, such as location, latest exhaust forecast, dates for industry or public meetings, jeopardy status, rationing status, NPA assignment status and other related relief planning data. The chart can be downloaded in two formats: an Excel spreadsheet or an Adobe PDF format. Definitions of the fields on the chart are provided.

NPAs in Jeopardy

At the beginning of 2001, 68 NPAs were in jeopardy, indicating that the supply of CO codes was in danger of exhausting before relief could be provided. This section of the site provides jeopardy procedures developed by the industry to manage the remaining supply of CO codes.

Central Office Codes (Prefixes) Information

The site contains extensive information about CO codes, such as:

1. Contact information for CO code administrators listed by state.
2. A job aid to assist carriers in applying for CO code assignments, along with specific information about meeting the requirements specified in the FCC's NRO order, as well as the most common reasons that applications are denied (See related story, Page 3)
3. CO code assignment information in text, EXCEL, and ACCESS formats. The amount of information provided has increased substantially, and the multiplicity of formats facilitates analysis. The reports include:

- Weekly CO Code Activity Report that provides a weekly update on what entities have been assigned CO codes

Continued on page 2

- Year 2000 Activity Report provides the net CO code assignments by month for each geographic NPA
- Year 2001 Activity Report provides the total codes assigned by month for each geographic NPA, as well as the quantity of codes returned in a month or year-to-date.

Reclamation

The Reclamation Process is explained, including the procedures and processes for reclaiming CO codes, a list of state PUC contacts, the Part 4 Form template, and instructions for changing the service provider's contact person for reclamation.

NRUF

With the implementation of new service provider reporting requirements by the FCC, the Form 502 and associated job aid can be downloaded for use in providing utilization and forecast data semi-annually to NANPA. Instructions for completing and submitting the form are provided along with pertinent information needed by service providers in forecasting their code requirements in specific NPAs.

Interested parties can also sign up to an email list and be forwarded updated information about the NRUF process. The NANP/NRUF Electronic Mailing Lists on the home page allows a person who signs up to automatically receive email notifications of major changes on the web, e.g., when a new Planning Letter is published. Registering for the service is easy and takes only a few moments.

Neutrality

NeuStar, in its role as the NANPA, is required to treat all applicants for NANP resources services in a fair and non-discriminatory manner. If you believe that NeuStar has violated this requirement, procedures are provided on how to file a complaint. These procedures are only for alleged neutrality violations, not for other types of issues, such as the inconvenience associated with the proliferation of new area codes.

Planning Letters

Planning Letters provide the latest detailed information on numbering resource in the NANPA, e.g., these documents provide details about future area code changes such as the new relief NPA codes, relief implementation dates (e.g., start of permissive dialing), test numbers, dialing plans, central office code lists for geographic splits, maps, etc. The maps are in Adobe PDF format and can be downloaded for remote printing.

Other NANP Numbering Resources Information

(From Home Page: "Number Assignments") The area includes numbering information detailing the assignments of NPAs, Carrier Identification Codes (CICs), 500 NXXs, 900 NXXs and 555 numbering resources is available. In addition, a listing of assignments of Vertical Service Codes, 456 NXXs, ANI II digits and 800-855 line numbers is provided.

Newsletters

Current and past issues of NANPA Numbering News and The State Scene newsletters are posted in this area, and can be downloaded in an Adobe PDF format.

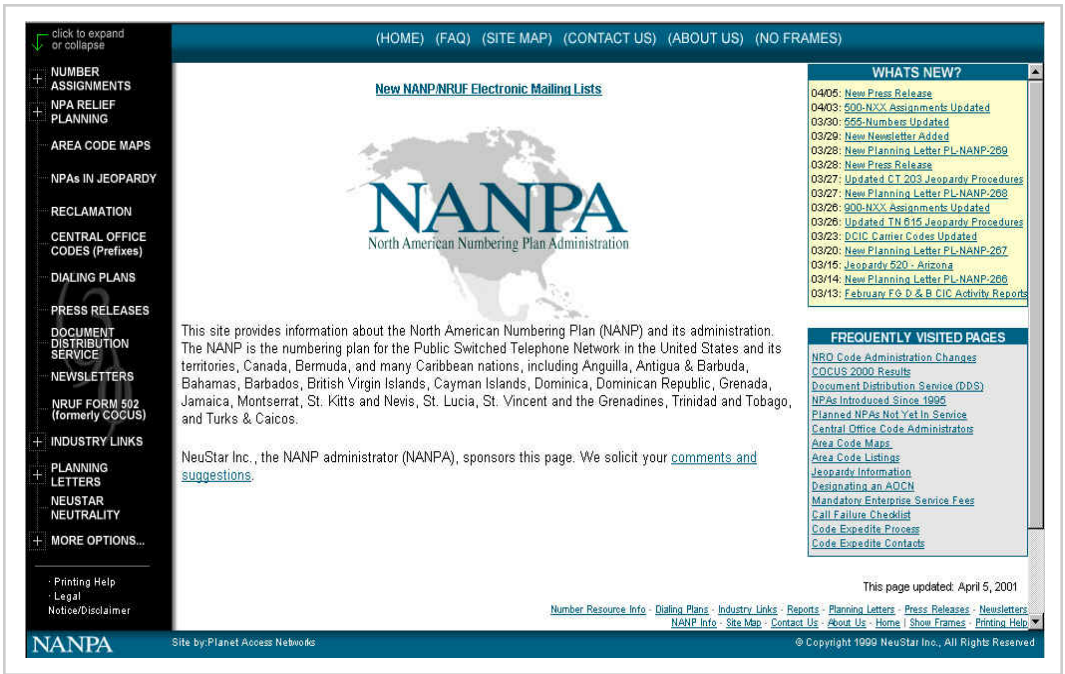
On the right side of the home page are pointers to the following useful information:

Frequently Visited Pages

Shortcuts to some of the most visited pages within the web site are easily found on the home page. Some of the "favorite" places in the web site include: NRO Code Administration Changes, Area Code Maps and Listings, NPAs Introduced Since 1995, Jeopardy Information, and Code Expedite Process and Contacts.

What's New

Also on the home page, the "What's New" box lists, in chronological order, everything new posted to the web site during the last few weeks. This information changes daily, at times.



Cecilia Louie

Profile On: Cecilia Louie, Sr. Code Administrator, Western Region, NANPA

In NANPA's Western Region, which includes California, the life of a code administrator is never dull. And when you're the senior code administrator for the region, you can't ever complain of being bored.

Cecilia Louie, senior code administrator for NANPA's Western Region, which includes 18 states, Guam and the Northern Marianna Islands, joined NANPA as a code administrator in April 1998, just shortly after the transition of NANPA began from the industry to NeuStar. She was promoted to her current role in February 1999.

"When I first started with NANPA, we were just beginning to assume the responsibilities of the 16 different entities that previously administered central office codes," said Louie, who's based in NANPA's Concord, Califfornia, office. "At that time there were only eight employees in the Concord office and now there are over 35 employees," which includes 14 code administrators and three other senior code administrators, in addition to Louie.

As a senior code administrator, Louie handles multiple responsibilities within the Western Region, such as managing and overseeing the region's four code administrators. Like many in the NANPA organization, Louie spends her 10+-hour days coordinating required information regarding NPA splits and overlays for planning letters and the LERG. She works closely with NANPA's Relief Planning group and provides frequent updates to the states regarding central office codes in any given NPA.

Most significantly is Louie's role in overseeing her region's share of the 4,000 to 4,500 code requests that come in every month from service providers. "Code Administrators spend 80% of their day processing code requests," Louie noted, each of which results in a Part 3 confirming an assignment, denial, change, suspension or a code return.

There are several reasons that code requests are denied, Louie said, such as when the wrong rate center or NXX is listed or if no documents are attached to support initial requests. To assist applicants, NANPA has added information to its' web site (www.nanpa.com) regarding the most common reasons applications are denied, which are also listed at right.

One of Louie's more pressing responsibilities over the last year has been keeping abreast of all changes from the FCC's NRO Order and other State orders that affect NANPA's Code Administration group. "We have developed job aids or help guides on the web site to assist services providers in informing them of the changes and assisting them with any questions they have," Louie noted.

Thousands-block number pooling has also dramatically changed the way requests are processed, Louie said. In the Western Region's pooling trials, lotteries for additional NXX codes are limited to only non-LNP capable carriers. Code Administrators must validate that the carriers are truly non-LNP capable before allowing them to participate in the lottery. For LNP-capable carriers, the Code Administration group must now interface with the Pooling Administrators in the respective states.

Code administrators are also now required to monitor both pooling and non-pooling Service Provider code requests and the Pooling Administrator, which has increased their efforts. "There is more validation involved to ensure that set aside codes are maintained for pooling and non-pooling carriers." In addition to her code administration role, Louie is also one of NANPA's three representatives on the Industry Numbering Council (INC) and attends 8-10 meetings annually. Louie's primary role is to bring issues and contributions that assist INC's CO Code guidelines, as well as voice concerns or improvements to other contributions introduced that affect code administration. ■

Editor's Note: The article is one in a series of profiles of NANPA staff that will appear in future issues of NANPA Numbering News.

The Most Common Reasons Code Requests Are Denied

- **Incorrect rate center and NPA**
- **Missing headquarters address**
- **Missing parent OCN**
- **No NRUF on file for the NPA or OCN requesting the code**
- **No home tandem operating company**
- **No "type of service" listed**
- **No documents attached to support initial requests**
- **OCN and Company name do not match**
- **Application does not meet NRO requirements**
- **No NXX listed for a change or return**
- **State specific requirements not met**
- **Jeopardy requirements not met**

Voluntary Return of Codes Increasing

Following the NRO Order last fall, NANPA has been working with the FCC, states and the industry to work out reclamation guidelines and to send out reclamation lists to the states. Since that began, NANPA has seen an increase in the number of voluntarily returned resources.

In the five-month period from May–September 2000, 1,450 assigned codes were "disconnected," that is, returned voluntarily or reclaimed. In the five months since, through February 2001, 2,296 additional codes have been disconnected. For the most part, carriers are voluntarily returning codes. Since the end of 2000, when the new FCC-mandated reclamation process was introduced, roughly 90% of all code returns have been voluntary.

In the new reclamation paradigm, state commissions have been empowered to decide whether or not to reclaim central office codes that are not put into service. Currently, 29 state commissions participate in the reclamation process. The FCC makes the decision for delinquent codes in the remaining states.

NANPA, States Working on Standardized Reports

At its February NANC meeting, NANC directed NANPA to continue working with state commissions in developing a set of standard reports. On March 9, NANPA conducted a conference call to again review the standard reports being proposed and attempt to reach agreement on an initial set of reports. On this call, NANPA and the 15 states participating on the call reached agreement to move forward with the standard reports as presented by NANPA at the February NANC meeting.

During this call, several states offered suggestions on how to enhance the reports. NANPA is currently examining how it can incorporate these suggestions into the reports. Also, it must be emphasized that both NANPA and the states agreed that the development of standard reports was an evolving process, a work in progress. Additional enhancements and possibly other reports will be added in the future as states start using the new reports and have other ideas on data that is needed.

The first weekly and monthly CO code activity reports are posted to the NANPA web site, www.nanpa.com, under the Central Office Code (Prefixes) portion of the web site.

NANPA Investigating "Unavailable Codes"

Each NPA has a certain number of CO codes marked as unavailable (UA). As the supply of available CO codes in an NPA dwindles, it becomes important to find out if the reasons why these codes were marked unavailable are still valid, or whether the codes can be used to help forestall exhaust.

Because in many cases the codes were designated as unavailable many years ago, over the next month, NANPA will be contacting the former CO code administrators and requesting their assistance in determining the disposition of these codes. Further, NANPA will use the carrier data submitted with NRUF to determine if there is any reported usage of the codes. Several state commissions have indicated an interest in conducting their own review process.

Once this effort is complete, NANPA will update its weekly CO code report that is posted on the NANPA web page. The report will include the disposition of all codes, limiting the number of unavailable codes to only those codes that are truly unavailable for assignment (e.g., N11, 555, 950, Home NPA, overlay NPA(s), test codes 958 and 959). The NPA Relief Planning organization will be leading this effort within NANPA. Additional updates will be provided as this effort progresses.

NANPA Numbering News

A NANPA bi-monthly publication

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