

# The State Scene

A CIS bi-monthly publication for State Public Utility Commissions

## Inside This Issue:

Legislative Update .....	2
Number Pooling News .....	3
Regional Conference Calls .....	4
CIS News .....	4

May

June

1999

## WELCOME

The inaugural issue of *The State Scene*, a bi-monthly newsletter for State Public Utility Commissions prepared by the Communications Industry Services (CIS) group of Lockheed Martin IMS, will offer a range of stories and information designed keep state commissions better apprised of numbering issues at a national level. As outlined in a letter sent to all state commissions in April from Jeff Ganek, senior vice president and managing director of CIS, this newsletter is part of the company's commitment to working with state commissions to better serve their needs. Feedback and suggestions are welcomed, as we build this relationship together. **CIS**

## AROUND THE STATES

Below is a recap of recent activity at several state commissions, including filings with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

### Massachusetts

On February 12, the Massachusetts Department of Technology and Energy (MDTE) petitioned the FCC to implement a technology specific, or service-specific, overlay in the 508, 617, 781, and 978 area codes in eastern Massachusetts.

The MDTE also petitioned the FCC, on February 17, for delegated authority for the 508, 617, 781, and 978 area codes to: 1) reclaim unused and reserved exchange codes; 2) maintain the current central office code rationing measures for at least six months after implementation of all the area code relief plans; 3) revise rationing procedures; 4) hear and address claims of carriers seeking additional codes outside the rationing plan; 5) set code allocation standards; 6) institute thousand-block number pooling; 7) implement Extended Local Calling Areas; 8) implement Inconsistent Rate Centers; and 9) implement Unassigned Number Porting. Comments for both petitions were filed April 5, with replies filed April 19.

*(continued on page 2)*

## COCUS RESULTS DUE IN MAY

The North American Numbering Plan Administration (NANPA) is in the final review of the 1999 Central Office Code Utilization Survey (COCUS) and plans to release the results at the North American Numbering Council (NANC) meeting in Washington, DC on May 25-26.

NANPA is required to forecast availability of NANP numbering resources and ensure the continued viability of the NANP. As part of this process, NANPA conducts an annual survey of telecommunications service providers on the number of central office (CO or NXX) codes currently assigned to them, as well as forecasts the number of additional CO codes they will need over the next five years. COCUS is used to predict the exhaust of individual NPA codes, and the NANP as a whole, and is instrumental for area code relief planning purposes.

With the introduction of local competition, coupled with an overall increased demand for telephone numbers, projecting NPA exhaust has become a very challenging process. Efforts are underway to account for new companies entering the market that may not be included in the COCUS input. In addition, NPA code

*(continued on page 2)*

LOCKHEED MARTIN 

Communication Industry  
Services  
1200 K Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
(202) 414-3500

## FCC ORDERS

### Future FCC Action

The FCC is preparing to release an Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) that will address number pooling.

### Commercial Mobile Radio Service (CMRS)

In February, the FCC released a Memorandum Opinion and Order in Docket FCC99-019 resetting the deadline for CMRS providers to implement local number portability (LNP). This Order granted a request for forbearance from LNP, extending the deadline until November 24, 2002, for broadband CMRS carriers to implement service provider LNP.

### Maine

On March 17 the Maine Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) petitioned the FCC for delegated authority to: 1) establish number assignment and utilization standards; 2) order interim unassigned number porting; and 3) order thousand-block number pooling. Comments were filed May 3, and replies filed May 17.

### Florida

On April 2, the Florida Public Service Commission (FPSC) petitioned the FCC to implement number conservation measures. The FPSC seeks the authority to: 1) implement thousand-block number pooling; 2) reclaim unused and reserved CO codes; 3) maintain the jeopardy rationing plans for at least six months after the implementation of all NPA relief plans; 4) expand deployment of permanent Local Number Portability; 5) implement unassigned number porting; and 6) order wireless carriers to provide the necessary COCUS data and other information needed to investigate the feasibility of various pooling scenarios. Comments were filed May 14, and replies were due May 28.

### New York

On February 19, the New York State Department of Public Service (NYSDPS) petitioned the FCC for delegated authority to: 1) implement mandatory thousand-block number pooling trials; 2) explore options for implementing individual telephone number (ITN) pooling and establishing ITN pooling trials where technologically feasible; and 3) implement interim unassigned number porting. The NYSDPS also petitioned for authority to adopt and enforce number assignment standards including: "fill rates,"

NXX code reclamation procedures, utilization surveys, NXX code rationing, enforcement, and auditing. Comments were filed April 5 and replies filed April 19. **GIS**

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

On April 12, U.S. Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) introduced a bill dubbed The Area Code Conservation Act. Co-sponsored by Sens. Robert Torricelli (D-NJ) and Joseph Lieberman (D-CT) the goal of the Bill is to "spare American businesses and households the expense and inconvenience of unnecessary changes in area codes." The Bill would set a date by which the FCC is required to develop a plan for efficient telephone number allocation. It would also give states the authority to implement area code conservation measures while the FCC develops its plan. **GIS**

## COCUS RESULTS

*(continued from cover)*

projections must also consider the impact of service providers expanding their service offerings within an NPA. To this end, NANPA has extensively examined the unique characteristics of each NPA and

developed a methodology intended to account for these events in order to improve NPA exhaust projections. **GIS**

## NANPA NEWS

NANPA's home page....

[www.nanpa.com](http://www.nanpa.com)

provides a variety of information on numbering resource issues, including:

- Assignments of area codes
- Central office codes
- Carrier identification codes
- Contact numbers for NANPA personnel
- Planning letters that detail area code splits and overlays
- Jeopardy procedures
- Monthly reports to the North American Numbering Council (NANC).

A new chart on the website lists the status of active NPA relief projects throughout the United States. Titled "**Status of Active and Pending NPA Relief Projects**," the chart can be found in two places: "**What's New**" section under "**Report on Current Relief Projects**," or on the main menu by selecting "**Numbering Resource Information**" and then "**NANPA's Report on Current Relief Projects**." The chart also includes a listing of all the jeopardy NPAs.

For questions or comments about *The State Scene* or other issues and concerns, contact the PUC Hotline  
312-706-6268

## NPA RELIEF NEWS "Saving 7-Digit Dialing"

Overlays are an NPA relief alternative that involve placing a new NPA over the same geography as the current NPA. Overlays are becoming more popular as states look at creative ways to provide area code relief. Regulators in 10 states have opted for overlays in 21 NPAs. FCC regulations require 10-digit local calling within and between NPAs where an overlay is implemented. Although many in the industry think 10-digit dialing is inevitable, plenty of energy is being expended to save 7-digit local dialing, particularly in rural areas and for the elderly.

Recently, some creative approaches to NPA overlays have been introduced as states look to use this form of relief while retaining 7-digit dialing.

In Oregon, the state commission recently approved a concentrated overlay for the 503 NPA. Excluded from the overlay was the coastal region, which has been growing at a slower pace than the rest of the 503 area. The plan will set aside NXX codes for the coastal region, allowing 7-digit dialing to be retained.

Another creative 7-digit/overlay plan was approved in Florida's 407 NPA, which includes Disneyworld and Cape Canaveral. This plan called a "split, boundary extension, concentrated overlay" will split Brevard County in the eastern part of the NPA, from the 407 NPA, and give it the new 321 NPA. The 321 NPA will then overlay the remaining 407 NPA, thus allowing Brevard County to retain 7-digit dialing. To make it last for up to 8 years, 381 NXX codes from the 321 NPA have been reserved for Brevard County. The Debary rate center in the northern part of the 407 NPA was excluded from the overlay for other reasons.

A non-concentrated overlay is being considered in several other states to save 7-digit dialing for rural areas. This would be done by excluding rate centers with only one NXX from the overlay relief plan. This alternative has been nick-named the "spotted cow," and will be discussed in the next issue of *The State Scene*.

CIS

## NUMBER POOLING NEWS

### Illinois

Illinois has issued its third interim report on the status of the mandatory trial of thousands-block number pooling within the 847 NPA. The trial, which began on June 1, 1998, uses the existing local number portability architecture (i.e., LRN/LNP) and pre-port methodology for allocating thousands-blocks within assigned NXXs to different service providers serving the same rate areas. This trial requires mandatory participation by wireline service providers.

In February, Number Portability Administration Center (NPAC) Release 1.4 provided several NPAC and interface upgrades to enable number pooling.

The following data represents more than 10 months of pooling in the 847 NPA, as of April 9:

Total blocks allocated	<b>206</b>
Contaminated blocks allocated	<b>9</b>
Carriers that received allocated blocks	<b>10</b>
Est. NXXs saved by allocating blocks from existing codes	<b>137</b>
NXXs opened to replenish the pool or accommodate a specific carrier request	<b>22</b>
Clean blocks donated	<b>700</b>
Contaminated blocks donated	<b>121</b>
NXXs assigned within NPA 847	<b>733</b>

### New York State

Two pooling initiatives in New York—in the 212 and 718 NPAs—are using the existing local number portability architecture (i.e., LRN/LNP) and port-on-demand methodology for allocating thousands-blocks within assigned NXXs to different service providers serving the same rate areas. Both trials are based on voluntary participation by wireline service providers. In the 212 NPA, to date, 36 blocks were donated and 19 have been assigned to service providers. In the 718 NPA, 21 blocks have been donated to date.



## A Word From Our Managing Director

At CIS, we are committed to involving our state commission clients in all aspects of this organization's work to better serve our multifaceted customer base, and to effectively

operate as the North American Numbering Plan Administration (NANPA). A strong partnership between the state commissions and CIS is crucial to tying in our NANPA responsibilities more closely with the commissions.

In the past, state commissions had minimal involvement in telephone number administration, as national industry forums often took action with little input from the States. It is time to change, and we are committed to providing that positive change.

Since assuming the NANPA responsibilities just over a year ago, CIS has focused on numbering administration functions that had been managed by various independent parties. We built the organization and infrastructure from scratch, as well as transitioned all CO code administration and area code relief planning responsibilities from the incumbent local exchange carriers, and area code assignment responsibilities from Bellcore - all on schedule. For the first time, there is a single, competitively neutral number administrator for all of North America.

As we continue to improve NANPA's processes, we will create an opportunity for meaningful input from the state commissions, which will be incorporated into CIS' formal state commission program. It's part of our objective to maintain regular dialogue with state commissions, understand your concerns, and manage the NANPA responsive to your needs.

CIS

## CIS NEWS

---

In further commitment to the state PUCs, CIS recently hired three former State Commission staffers from Colorado, Missouri and Illinois:

### Bruce Armstrong

A former senior engineer within the Department of Telecommunications at the Colorado Public Utilities Commission, Bruce Armstrong joins CIS' NANPA organization as an NPA Relief Planner for the Western Region. Bruce is based in Denver.

**Phone** (303) 774-8915  
**Fax** (202) 887-0331  
**E-mail** bruce.armstrong@nanpa.com

### Ben Childers

Ben Childers comes to CIS after serving as a senior staff member within the Telecommunications Division at the Missouri Public Service Commission. Ben joins NANPA as an NPA Relief Planner for the Central Region, and is based in Columbus, Mo.

**Phone** (573) 442-7721  
**Fax** (573) 442-7821  
**Pager** (888) 469-6341  
**E-mail** ben.childers@nanpa.com

### Brent Struthers

Brent Struthers served as a lead Staff member within the Telecommunications Division at the Illinois Commerce Commission prior to joining CIS. In his new role, Brent will serve as Chief of Regulatory Matters and is responsible for CIS' state action plan and newsletter.

**Phone** (847) 836-0785  
**Fax** (847) 836-2201  
**Pager** (800) 480-5786  
**E-mail** bstruthers@npac.com

---

## REPORT FROM THE NUMBERING RESOURCE OPTIMIZATION (NRO)

The Numbering Resource Optimization (NRO) group is in the process of presenting four COCUS alternatives to the industry at the NANC meeting in May.

The NRO has been charged with determining the most effective methodology for forecasting the exhaust of

individual NPAs and the NANP as a whole. The NRO set criteria and examined four specific alternatives. The analysis included a list of desired attributes and graded the importance on a scale of 1 to 3 (high, medium, and low.)

The four options include: 1) the current COCUS and its five-year projected demand; 2) the AT&T Minimalist approach and its use of growth and initial code applications to project demand; 3) the US WEST contribution that used historical demand of

CO Codes to project future demand; and 4) Lockheed Martin IMS' proposed LINUS (Line Number Utilization Survey) that requests line level data to determine growth and utilization for its exhaust findings.

NRO developed a fourth approach to COCUS known as a Hybrid Method, since it incorporates a portion of each of the alternatives. NRO has asked NANPA to provide relative cost estimates on each of the four alternatives, which will also be discussed at the NANC meeting. **CE**

---

## REGIONAL CONFERENCE CALLS

CIS is scheduling monthly regional conference calls with the state commissions to discuss issues and concerns. These calls are the first opportunity to provide feedback directly to CIS on a variety of issues. CIS will use the information to enhance service to all its customers, including state commissions. Prior to the calls, a packet will be mailed out with the agenda, material for the call, and the conference bridge phone number. Contact Brent Struthers with additional questions or issues prior to the conference calls.

Following is the schedule of the first round of regional conference calls.

**Thurs., June 17, 10 a.m. (CST)** Central Region (North) - MN, WI, IL, IA, IN, MI, MO

**Fri., June 18, 10 a.m. (EST)** Eastern Region (North) - ME, VT, NY, NH, PA, CT, MA, OH, RI, NJ, DE, MD, DC

**Wed., June 23, 10 a.m. (PST)** Western Region - AZ, CA, CO, WA, OR, ID, MT, ND, SD, WY, NE, KS, OK, NM, NV, UT, HI, AK, CNMI, Guam

**Thurs. June 24, 10 a.m. (EST)** Eastern Region (South) - WV, VA, NC, SC, GA, FL, PR, USVI

**Fri, June 25, 10 a.m. (CST)** Central Region (South) - AR, MS, AL, LA, TX, TN, KY

---

## The State Scene

*A CIS bi-monthly publication for the State Public Utility Commissions*

**Sr. Vice President & Managing Director, CIS** *Jeff Ganek*

**Industry Liaison** *Brent Struthers*

**Editor** *Rebecca Barnhart*

**Contributing Writers** *Barry Bishop  
Rose Breidenbaugh  
Ron Conners  
Jim Deak  
John Manning*

**Layout/Design** *Tracy Keller*