

The State Scene

A Numbering Resource Publication for State Public Utility Commissions

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November

December

1999

LOCKHEED MARTIN'S COMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY SERVICES (CIS) GROUP BECOMES NEUSTAR

The administrator of the North American Numbering Plan (NANPA) and Local Number Portability (LNPA) for the telecommunications industry will now be known as NeuStar, Inc., following the Federal Communications Commission's approval November 17 of the transfer of Lockheed Martin's Communication Industry Services (CIS) division to NeuStar, Inc.

"NeuStar will continue to provide the same high-quality, neutral third-party clearinghouse services to the telecommunications industry as we did under Lockheed Martin," said Jeff Ganek, Chief Executive Officer of NeuStar. "The change to our customers will be transparent. We will still provide the same level of service, with the same systems and the same staff."

NeuStar is a key partner to the telecommunications industry. As the NANPA, NeuStar is the sole administrator of all area codes and CO codes in North America. NeuStar also oversees area codes relief activities.

As the LNPA, NeuStar manages the database that is a critical component for the routing of all telephone calls in North America. All telecommunications carriers in the United States and Canada connect to NeuStar's Number Portability Administration Center (NPAC) in Chicago. There, advanced LNP technology enables customers to keep their phone numbers if they switch telephone service providers. The LNP system also conserves numbers and facilitates competition within the industry.

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AROUND THE STATES

FCC Grants Additional Authority to 5 States, Bringing Total to 10

On November 30, the FCC added Texas, Connecticut, Wisconsin, Ohio, and New Hampshire to the list of states granted delegated authority to implement various conservation measures, including thousand block number pooling, bringing the total number of states granted authority to 10. California, Florida, Massachusetts, New York, and Maine were granted similar authority in September.

The FCC granted Texas, Connecticut, Wisconsin, Ohio, and New Hampshire the authority to implement mandatory number pooling trials, as well as a number of other conservation measures, subject to limitations identical to those in the earlier FCC decisions. Although the grants of authority are specific to what each state requested, the FCC generally delegated authority to: set NXX code allocation standards; reclaim unused and reserved NXX codes, and thousand-number blocks within those codes; investigate and order the return of reserved and protected NXX codes; require sequential number assignment; require the submission of utilization and forecast information; audit carriers' use of numbering resources; maintain rationing procedures for six months following area code relief; institute thousands-block pooling trials; and require carriers to demonstrate facilities readiness and setting fill rates.

Eight more states have petitions for delegated authority pending with the FCC. These are highlighted on page 5.

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REGIONAL CONFERENCE CALLS

The last set of State Regional Conference Calls for 1999 are scheduled for December 16 and 17. Please note that the bridge number for the Central Region call is different from the other regions this month.

Central Region

AL, AR, IA, IL, IN, KY,
LA, MI, MN, MO, MS,
TN, TX, WI

**Thurs., December
16, 10 a.m. (CST)**
Bridge: 800-988-6415
Passcode: 6431*

Western Region

AK, AZ, CA, CNMI,
CO, Guam, HI, ID,
KS, MT, ND, NE, NM,
NV, OK, OR, SD, UT,
WA, WY

**Thurs., December
16, 11 a.m. (PST)**
Bridge: 800-532-1188
Passcode: 6431*

Eastern Region

CT, DC, DE, GA, FL,
MA, MD, ME, NC, NH,
NJ, NY, OH, PA, PR,
RI, SC, USVI, VA, VT,
WV

**Fri., December 17,
11 a.m. (EST)**
Bridge: 800-532-1188
Passcode: 6431*

NANPA PERFORMANCE SURVEY

As NeuStar closes in on its second year as the NANPA, the NANPA Oversight Working Group (NOWG), a subgroup of the NANC, is preparing the next NANPA performance survey. The NANC is undertaking the evaluation of NANPA's performance as part of its advisory role to the FCC.

The NANC will seek input from the public, including state commissions and service providers to ensure that NeuStar is fully performing its responsibility to "assign and administer numbering resources in an efficient, effective, fair, unbiased, and non-discriminatory manner consistent with industry-developed guidelines and Commission regulations."

From the initiation of *The State Scene* newsletter and the Regional State conference calls to the addition of staff with prior state commission experience, NANPA has been exposed to a different perspective on important number administration issues, such as NPA relief planning. And thus, NANPA has worked to improve its working relationship with the states. NANPA has placed more emphasis on education, making frequent visits to state commissions in order to provide valuable information on numbering and the events that impact number resource management.

The NOWG plans to send out its survey near the end of the year. The NANPA encourages states to provide their valuable input to the NOWG in the form of a survey response.

REVISED POOLING FAQs RELEASED

After a great deal of work between various representatives to the industry, a revised list of Pooling Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) can be found at www.nanpa.com under "Reports." The FAQs are a means to answer some commonly asked questions regarding number pooling and have been updated with additional information. Should you have any questions regarding them, please call or e-mail Brent Struthers at 847-836-0785 or brent.struthers@neustar.com.

NEUSTAR (continued from cover)

In another neutral, third-party role, NeuStar serves as the administrator for number pooling trials in Illinois, New York, California and Maine. Number pooling is the technology that allows phone numbers to be assigned in blocks of 1,000, instead of the telephone network-mandated structure of 10,000 numbers blocks.

"We remain committed to working with the FCC, the North American Numbering Council, the telecommunications industry and state regulatory agencies to ensure that our valuable numbering resources are conserved and efficiently utilized," said Ganek. "This is important to extend the lives of area codes and telephone numbers, and for service providers to get the numbers they need to compete."

NeuStar, which is based in Washington, D.C., was formed as an independent company committed to providing competitively neutral services to the telecom industry last year after Lockheed Martin announced it was entering the market for telecommunications network services. To maintain the neutrality of the numbering plan administration, Lockheed Martin agreed to transfer CIS to NeuStar.

Visit NeuStar online at www.neustar.com.

NEUSTAR'S WASHINGTON, DC OFFICES RELOCATE

The Washington, DC offices of NeuStar have moved to a new, interim facility, effective Nov. 1. NeuStar had been located at 1133 15th St., which housed the NANPA staff, and at 1200 K St. in DC, but have now co-located to 1120 Vermont Ave., NW, Suite 550, Washington, DC 20005; phone, 202-533-2600; fax, 202-533-2975. Please make note of this address and phone number change. NeuStar's DC office plans to move to a permanent facility in 2000.

SPOTLIGHT ON:

JOHN HOFFMAN

CHAIRMAN, NORTH AMERICAN NUMBERING COUNCIL (NANC)

At the September meeting of the North American Numbering Council (NANC), John Hoffman, former vice president for external affairs for US Sprint and Sprint Communications, assumed the chairmanship of the Council. Hoffman replaced Alan Hasselwander, former CEO of Frontier Corporation, who was the first NANC chairman. To obtain his thoughts on his new position, the Council, and the role that state commissions play in this group, *The State Scene* recently talked with Hoffman, who spent 30 years with Sprint Corp and its predecessor and subsidiary companies.

What are the challenges facing the NANC and the telecommunications industry in the next year?

The overriding numbering challenge, in my view, is the preservation of the North American Numbering Plan (NANP). The number of Area Codes in the U.S. when the NANP was established in 1947 was 86. That number increased by only about one a year until the mid-1990s, when the demand for second residential lines and new wireless service offerings caused the rate of new Area Codes to increase to almost one a week in 1997. The number of Area Codes now being used stands at 248 (206 in the U.S.); with 73 currently in jeopardy (that is, all of the available NXX codes in those Area Codes may soon be used, so that none will be available for assignment to new users).

The FCC has primary responsibility for number assignments, and the Chief of the Common Carrier Bureau, Larry Strickling, is relying upon NANC to make appropriate recommendations to more efficiently assign numbers and thereby extend the life of the NANP. The FCC has tentatively concluded that implementing Local Number Portability (LNP) will facilitate the pooling of unused or unas-

signed thousands blocks of consecutive numbers in some areas so that they can be transferred to and utilized in other areas where number resources are scarce. NANC needs to work with the states and the industry to implement thousand-block pooling and other measures to help the FCC fulfill its responsibility. Because there are now a thousand-block pooling trials underway in some states, and some important numbering issues are due to be decided by the FCC very soon, I expect next year will be a very busy time for NANC.

“State commissions work very hard to make the most reasonable, responsible and meaningful decisions to benefit both consumers and the future development of telecommunications”

John Hoffman, NANC Chairman

As the new chairman, what are your goals/objectives for NANC? Will there be any changes to NANC?

The goals and objectives for NANC are clearly defined by the Common Carrier Bureau Chief. They are, in short, to extend the life of the NANP by developing and overseeing the implementation of a number of measures (like thousand-block pooling) to achieve more efficient numbering resource utilization.

The NANC has been in existence since October 5, 1996. Its first chairman, Alan Hasselwander, former CEO of Frontier Corp., led the NANC through some difficult and developing times. Al and the NANC did a remarkable job and established a strong foundation. My challenge is not to change any of those accomplishments, but to build upon them to achieve the FCC's goals and objectives. I have told the NANC that I would like to con-

tinually review what we do and how we do it, with the purpose of always looking for better ways to get the job done. The NANC is comprised of some very bright, hard-working and dedicated people, and I believe that I owe it to them to make sure we are using their talents efficiently and effectively to produce worthwhile results.

Do you have a plan to reach out to state commissions?

Absolutely, yes. I spent almost 10 years of my career working directly with the Public Service Commissions in literally all of the continental U.S. I came to realize that there is where most of the real regulatory work is done in this country, and appreciate the dedication and concern of State Commissioners. Indeed, the significant contribution of the NARUC members on NANC exemplifies that lesson. Thus, there's no question in my mind that the goals and objectives of the FCC and NANC cannot be achieved without the direct involvement and support of the states PSCs, and I genuinely look forward to working with all of them.

What do the reps for NARUC and NASUCA bring to the NANC that service providers don't?

NARUC is a very activist group that supports the work of its members, especially on common issues of national significance. The NARUC representatives on NANC, with which I have dealt – the Honorable Vince Majkowski of Colorado, the Honorable Jo Anne Sanford of North Carolina, and their staffs – do a marvelous and very professional job of educating the NANC and the FCC about the legal, regulatory and practical concerns of the states on the difficult

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SPOTLIGHT

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numbering issues. Their input and cooperation, in my view, is invaluable. NANC would be much less effective without them.

NASUCA is focused upon the impact of regulatory issues on consumers. They bring a needed and very important perspective to the NANC. NASUCA's representatives – Philip McClelland of Pennsylvania and Natalie Billingsley of California – in particular, provide NANC with some very thoughtful and insightful input on every important numbering issue. They think about and articulate positions on both current and potential impacts of NANC recommendations upon the everyday lives of consumers across the country. They are both helpful and enjoyable to work with.

In your career, what has been your experience in dealing with state commissions?

State Commissioners have a very difficult job, and they are often called upon to make almost impossible choices; yet, my experience is that they work very hard to make the most reasonable, responsible and meaningful decisions to benefit both consumers and the future development of telecommunications in their states. I, obviously, greatly admire the work they do. I, also, personally like almost all of the individual state Commissioners that I've met through the years.

They are decent, honest, concerned and caring people. In fact, the opportunity to work again with NARUC was one of the things that helped persuade me to accept my current assignment with the NANC.

What perspective do you believe the individual states can add to the national discussion on numbering issues?

I believe they can add possibly the most important perspective. After all, the state arena is where the rubber-hits-the-road; that is, the state PSCs have to order and actually experience the consequences of any and all efforts to implement better numbering resource utilization. The states will know first whether any measure recommended by NANC is reasonable and will work. A good example is the thousand-block pooling trials currently underway in a few states; they will tell us the practicality of pool-

ing numbers and whether it actually will provide relief from the pressures on the NANP. I am hopeful that NANC can add to the process by monitoring and learning from the individual state's experiences, so that others can benefit from the sharing of that information and we can thereby accomplish a workable national solution.

What do you feel are the strengths and weaknesses of the NANC? Greatest accomplishments?

The strengths are the clarity and urgency of the direction given to the NANC by the FCC's Common Carrier Bureau, and the intelligence and dedication of the people who serve on the NANC to effectively, timely and professionally fulfill that responsibility. If there are any weaknesses, I'd have to say it's the size of NANC; there are so many people on the Council that's it's sometimes difficult to achieve consensus. However, the number and diversity of views on the NANC is also one of its strengths, because those folks ensure that recommendations are always well thought-out and representative of all-important concerns.

The greatest accomplishment to date has to be the selection of the NANP Administrator (NANPA). The process of defining the requirements, seeking competitive bids, selecting the best candidate and working with them to produce an effective and efficient neutral NANPA consumed the NANC in the first couple years. It was a sea-change in the manner in which numbers are assigned and numbering resources are managed in this country, and the results are impressive. It is equally impressive, in my view, how the NANC has moved from that selection process to consider other important policy issues (such as utilization studies, LNP, pooling, cost-recovery, audits, etc.) for the future. I have found it to be very stimulating to become a part of the NANC's work.

For suggestions and comments regarding *The State Scene*, please contact Brent Struthers at brent.struthers@npac.com. To be added to the mailing list, send information to rebecca.barnhart@npac.com.

NANPA IMPLEMENTS ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

In September, NANPA announced the introduction of a new electronic notification and document distribution service to provide information on NPA relief planning activities. In response to customer requests to replace fax as the primary method of distribution, all notifications will be sent via e-mail to industry participants who sign up for the free service.

Since it began, more than 1,000 industry participants have registered for the service, and NANPA has distributed over 120 e-mail notifications of industry meetings, Initial Planning Documents, meeting minutes, etc. The response to the service has been very positive.

Although NANPA continues to fax notifications and documentation to those not yet signed up, the goal is to have a majority of the industry to sign up in the near future. For more information, go to www.nanpa.com, select Document Distribution Service and complete the form.

AROUND THE STATES

(continued from cover)

Granted State Petitions	Filing Date	Released for Comments & Grant of Authority
Florida	4/2/99	4/15/99 & 9/15/99
Massachusetts	2/17/99	3/5/99 & 9/15/99
California	11/3/99 & 4/23/99	1/6/99 & 5/14/99 & 9/15/99
Maine	3/17/99	4/1/99 & 9/29/99
New York	2/19/99	3/5/99 & 9/15/99
Texas	7/2/99	7/14/99 & 11/30/99
Connecticut	7/28/99	8/5/99 & 11/30/99
Wisconsin	8/5/99	8/12/99 & 11/30/99
Ohio	9/13/99	9/29/99 & 11/30/99
New Hampshire	9/15/99	9/15/99 & 11/30/99

Pending State Petitions	Filing Date	Comments Due & Reply Comments Due
Nebraska	9/14/99	12/3/99 & 12/17/99
Indiana	10/21/99	12/3/99 & 12/17/99
Utah	10/25/99	1/7/00 & 1/21/00
Missouri	11/1/99	1/7/00 & 1/21/00
Iowa	11/10/99	TBD
Tennessee	11/17/99	TBD
North Carolina	11/99	TBD
Virginia	11/29/99	TBD

Florida

Florida Public Service Center (PSC) held number conservation workshops (981444-TP) following their delegated grant of authority. At a workshop on October 20, five issue groups were formed under the direction of a Steering Group with the oversight of Commission Staff. Following is the workshop structure:

1. A Steering Committee (next meeting 12/7)
2. Rate Center Consolidation
3. Number Pooling (next meetings 12/3 and 1/7)
4. Short-Term Efficiency Conservation Measures
5. NXX Code Sharing
6. Legal Issues (met on 11/29)

Massachusetts

The Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Energy (MDTE) held their first number pooling implementation meeting on October 21. Massachusetts followed this up with discovery requests for further detail on some of the issues discussed at the implementation meeting. The MDTE is

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A WORD FROM NEUSTAR'S CHAIRMAN AND CEO



I'm happy to announce that on December 1, the Communications Industry Services (CIS) group of Lockheed Martin IMS was transferred to NeuStar, Inc., a new, free-standing independent company. This follows the FCC's approval on November 17, to transfer CIS to NeuStar, Inc.

As we continue to serve all segments of the industry as the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA), the Local Number Portability Administrator (LNPA), the Number Pooling Administrator for New York, Illinois, California, and Maine and in our work with State Commissions, we will do so under our new name, NeuStar.

While our name and corporate structure are new, our vision remains the same as in the past, and the transition will be seamless to our customers. NeuStar will continue to provide evenhanded, neutral third-party clearinghouse services to the telecommunications industry. We remain focused on providing high quality, reliable and responsive services to all industry segments, and are dedicated to delivering the best solutions to meet the needs of the competitive industry. NeuStar retains the same experienced management team and knowledgeable, dedicated staff as we did under Lockheed Martin.

Though our goals remain the same, our industry continues to change. As NeuStar, we will strive to meet the industry's growing requirements for transaction and administrative services that facilitate the interoperability of competing telecommunications customer groups. And we will continue to work with all industry segments – from regulators to service providers – while ensuring our neutrality, which is so critical to numbering resources.

NeuStar's team is pleased to serve our State Commission customer base, and we look forward to continuing to provide and build on the same excellent service you have come to expect from us—and that you deserve.

“As we continue to serve all segments of the industry...we will do so under our new name, NeuStar.”

requesting detailed information on the tasks necessary for carriers to implement number pooling using Release 1.4 by April, June, or October 2000, and the costs of using 1.4 versus Release 3.0. The MDTE also asks carriers for their porting (SCP) capacity, as well as whether they can commit to various pooling start dates.

California

In October, the California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) issued orders mandating number pooling for both the 310 and 818 NPAs and suspending the implementation of overlays in those areas. California held a pooling implementation meeting on November 9, and the following milestones were set:

(1) Carrier Forecast Report due Dec. 4; (2) Block Protection date is no later than Dec. 14, variable by company; (3) Block Identification date is Dec. 14; (4) Pool Assessment by CIS from Dec. 14 to Jan. 4, 2000; (5) Block Donation Date is Feb. 26, 2000 (1.4 must be fully tested by carriers); (6) Block Allocation Start date is March 11, 2000; (7) Pool Start date is March 18, 2000.

Also, the CPUC released a draft decision that, if adopted, would halt start-up of the 510/341 and 310/424 overlays, as well as the related mandatory 1+10 digit dialing. The decision would further suspend the planned overlays and 1+10 digit dialing for the 408, 415, 510, 650, 714, and 909 NPAs. Finally, the draft decision would mandate use of thousand-block number pooling, recovery of unused NXX codes, and the filing of NXX utilization studies by carriers. The West Coast LLC has signed the pooling agreement and approved use of the pooling functionality in Software Release 1.4.

Maine

Maine held a pooling implementation meeting on November 18, led by Commission Staff and NeuStar as the pooling administrator. At the meeting, an implementation schedule for number pooling was set: (1) Block Protection date is Dec. 14, 1999 to Feb. 2, 2000 on a carrier by carrier ability basis; (2) Block Identification date is April 27, 2000; (3) Pool Assessment by NeuStar from April 27 to May 18, 2000; (4) Uncontaminated Block Donation Date is May 25, 2000 (1.4 must be fully tested by carriers); (5) Pool Start date is June 1, 2000; (6) Contaminated Block Donation Date October 30, 2000; (7) Contaminated Block Assignment Readiness Nov. 1, 2000

New York

On November 17, the New York Department of Public Service (NYPSC) concluded their number resources conservation investigation (Case 98-C-0689) by ordering number pooling to be implemented by April 1, 2000, in NPA 716, while at the same time working to expand their voluntary number tri-

als now running in the 212 and 718 NPAs. A pooling implementation meeting will be held December 9, led by Commission Staff and NeuStar.

Missouri

On November 1, the Missouri Public Service Commission (MPSC) filed a petition for delegated authority to implement number conservation with the FCC. The MPSC requested authority to: (1) implement thousand-block pooling trials; (2) establish usage thresholds; (3) reclaim unused and reserved NXX codes, and portions of those codes; (4) establish numbering allocation standards; (5) require sequential number assignment; (6) hear and address claims of carriers seeking numbering resources outside of the rationing process; (7) maintain rationing procedures for six months following area code relief; (8) require the submission of utilization data from all carriers; (9) implement NXX code sharing; and (10) audit carrier's use of numbering resources. The petition has not yet been released for public comment.

Iowa

On November 10, the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) filed a petition with the FCC for delegated authority to implement number conservation. The IUB requested authority to: (1) implement thousand block number pooling; (2) reclaim unused and reserved exchange codes; and (3) monitor the use of numbering resources. The petition has not yet been released for public comment.

Tennessee

On November 17, the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (TRA) filed a petition with the FCC for delegated authority to implement number conservation. The TRA requested authority to: (1) enforce current number allocation standards; (2) institute fill rates; (3) reclaim unused and reserved NXX codes and portions of those codes; (4) order number utilization and forecast reporting, and audit those reports; and (5) implement mandatory thousand-block number pooling. The petition has not yet been released for public comment.

The State Scene

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