

The State Scene

A Numbering Resource Publication for State Public Utility Commissions



Check out our
"Year in Review"
story on page 3!

May

June

2000

STATE ROUNDUP

California

On April 10, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) sent a letter to the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA) directing the NANPA "to discontinue the practice of carrying over codes from one month to the next." When rationing is in place, NANPA rations out codes at a set rate each month. When the number of requests for a given month equals fewer than the number of codes to be rationed, the excess codes are rolled over into the next month's lotteries. For instance, if six codes are to be rationed, but only three are requested, the three remaining codes are rolled over into the next month's lottery, making nine codes as the total available in the next month's lottery. In the letter, the CPUC further directed the NANPA to reduce the number of codes being rationed on a monthly basis in 19 NPAs across the state.

New York

On April 25, New York's 716 pooling trial was placed on hold due to the apparent inability of two carriers to receive information on numbers ported for purposes of pooling using Release 1.4. The

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CALIFORNIA CARRIERS FILE WITH FCC FOR AREA CODE RELIEF

On May 12, a contingent of nearly 50 carriers, both wireless and wireline, sent a letter to Common Carrier Bureau Chief Larry Strickling requesting the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to direct the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to implement area code relief in 12 NPAs throughout the state of California. In the letter, the carriers state that without NPA relief, they are being effectively denied access to numbering resources.

The carriers state that the CPUC is using rationing in place of NPA relief. They cite, as examples, CPUC decisions in the 310 NPA, where the California Commission suspended NPA relief, reduced the monthly rationing amount from six codes to two codes every month, and then further reduced the rationing to two codes every other month. The carriers further cite the CPUC's April 10 letter to the North American Numbering Plan Administration (NANPA) ordering NANPA to reduce the

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POOLING ADMIN TRACKS EFFORTS

During the month of April, NeuStar, as the Interim Pooling Administrator for a number of State trials, provided the first draft of a monthly reporting tool aimed at tracking its performance as Pooling Administrator. The measurements are a compilation of the Industry Numbering Council (INC) pooling administration requirements that have been developed by the telecommunications industry participants that represent their companies as members of INC. This first report served as a draft for service providers, and NeuStar has taken some of the comments and suggestions provided by industry to assist in making this tool meaningful and a useful parameter for measuring performance.

The initial report indicated that NeuStar met 20 of 21 quality measurements for the seven states in which measurements are taken for pooling. The one measurement missed - blocks activated in the Number Portability Administration Center (NPAC) on the scheduled effective date - was due to the technical problems encountered

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REGIONAL CONFERENCE CALLS

Central Region

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

Thurs., June 22

10 a.m. (CST)

Bridge:

888-771-4385

Passcode: 5887409

Western Region

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

Thurs., June 22

11 a.m. (PST)

Bridge:

888-771-4385

Passcode: 5880429

Eastern Region

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

Fri., June 23

11 a.m. (EST)

Bridge: 888-771-4385

Passcode: 5889429

STATE ROUND UP *(continued from cover)*

problem identified was that the two carriers had not properly tested their ability to receive information on ported numbers with the pooled number identifier. Using Release 1.4, each time a number is ported for pooling, it is identified specifically as a pooled number. The trial was back up and running by May 1. In the interim, NeuStar suspended all block assignments while the carriers worked to update their systems. All previously assigned pooled blocks had to be “un-ported” and “re-ported.” The one-week shut down was much shorter than originally anticipated.

On May 31, the New York Public Service Commission (NYPSC) and NeuStar held an implementation meeting for the 518 NPA in which pooling will begin on September 15.

Maine

Following a November 4, 1999, Order mandating thousand block number pooling in NPA 207 by June 1, pooling was implemented on time on that date. As of May 22, prior to the start of the trial, 386 contaminated and uncontaminated thousand blocks were returned by carriers across the 133 rate centers in NPA 207. These blocks, already designated for use in a particular rate center, will be used to fill out the pool of numbers in each individual rate center.

New Hampshire

Following a January 7 Order mandating thousand block number pooling in NPA 603 by May 1, pooling was implemented on time on that date. As of the start of the trial, 725 contaminated and uncontaminated thousand blocks were returned by carriers across the 117 rate centers in NPA 603. These blocks, already designated for use in a particular rate center, will be used to fill out the pool of numbers in each individual rate center.

Oregon

The FCC put Oregon’s petition for delegated authority (File No. NSD-L-00-29, CC Docket 96-98) out for public comment. In their petition, Oregon asked for delegated authority to: (1) implement mandatory thousands-block number pooling trials; (2) enforce number assignment standards by auditing number resource use, by requiring data reporting and number utilization forecasting, and by requiring carriers to return portions of unassigned prefix codes; (3) adopt interim number assignment standards; (4) implement interim unassigned number porting; and (5) revise rationing procedures as necessary. Comments are due June 15. Replies are due June 30.

Florida

On May 30, the Florida Public Service Commission ordered pooling in three Florida NPAs (Docket No. 981444-TP, Order No. PSC-00-1046-PAA-TP). Pooling will be implemented first in the 954 NPA on January 22, 2001. NeuStar was selected as the pooling administrator in the Order. **NEUSTAR**

CALIFORNIA CARRIERS FILE WITH FCC FOR RELIEF

(continued from cover)

rationing amounts for all NPAs across the state in which rationing is currently in effect. They request the FCC to order NANPA to revert to the rationing amounts being used on November 1, 1999, prior to the reductions ordered by the CPUC.

On June 2, CPUC Commissioner Wood released a statement calling “upon the telecommunications companies to get behind the CPUC program, to withdraw their proposal to the FCC and to enthusiastically support our efforts to slow down area code growth.” **NEUSTAR**

THE STATE SCENE: A YEAR IN REVIEW

In May 1999, NeuStar (then the CIS group of Lockheed Martin IMS) began publishing the first-of-its kind newsletter, *The State Scene*, to the state public utility commission customers. The past year has gone by quickly for the industry and state commissions, and many changes have come about during this time. The following timeline reflects the work that has taken place in the last year, as reported in *The State Scene*. As we move into the future, NeuStar remains committed to the state commissions to better serve your needs.

May/June 1999 issue:

- Inaugural issue of *The State Scene* is distributed to almost 500 state commission staffers and associates throughout the country. Response has been very positive.
- The North American Numbering Plan Administration (NANPA) releases the results of the 1999 Central Office Code Utilization Survey (COCUS).
- Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issues its Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) that addressed a variety of number optimization measures, including number pooling.
- Two former state commission staffers join the NeuStar staff:
 - Brent Struthers, chief of regulatory matters, to serve as the liaison between NeuStar and the state commissions. Struthers was formally the lead staff member for the Illinois Commerce Commission's (ICC) telecom division.
 - Bruce Armstrong, NPA relief planner for the NANPA group. Armstrong was the senior engineer with the department of telecom for the Colorado Public Utilities Commission. Armstrong now works as pooling implementation manager for NeuStar's Pooling Administration group.
- Conference calls between NeuStar personnel and state commission staffs were initiated on a regional basis and continue today.

July/August issue:

- In addition to the 847 NPA, the ICC expands number pooling to four more NPAs: 312, 773, 630, and 708. Pooling to be implemented throughout the remainder of 1999 and early 2000.
- Missouri Public Service Commission and the Kansas Corporation Commission eliminated over 600 protected CO codes – and seven-digit dialing – in the Kansas City calling area.
- The New York Public Service Commission (NYPSC) expands its pooling trials from the 212 and 718 NPAs to the 516 NPA.
- The Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) joins state commissions in New York, Florida, Massachusetts, California and Maine to petition the FCC for delegated authority to implement number conservation measures.
- *The State Scene* offers two differing viewpoints on number pooling with guest columnists Seamus Glynn, associate director for the Citizens Utility Board (CUB) in Illinois, and Norman Epstein, manager of industry standards for GTE.
- Linda Hymans, former senior utility analyst for the PUCT, joins NeuStar as an NPA relief planner within the NANPA group.

September/October issue:

- FCC grants authority to state commissions in California, Florida, Massachusetts, New York, and Maine to implement mandatory number pooling trials, as well as a number of other conservation measures.
- State commissions in Nebraska and Indiana petition the FCC for delegated authority.
- Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission orders an investigation into the projected exhaust of all Indiana NPAs.
- John Hoffman, former vice president for external affairs for Sprint, is named the new chairman of the North American Numbering Council (NANC). Hoffman succeeds Alan Hasselwander, former CEO of Frontier Communications.

November/December issue:

- On December 1, Lockheed Martin transferred its CIS business unit to NeuStar, formally establishing an independent, standalone company dedicated to providing the highest level of neutral, third-party services to the telecommunications industry. NeuStar will continue to operate with the same systems, staff and services as CIS did under Lockheed Martin.
- FCC grants delegated authority to state commissions in Texas, Connecticut, Wisconsin, New Hampshire and Ohio, bringing the total to 10 states with such authority.
- State commissions in Missouri, Iowa, Tennessee, Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia, Washington, Arizona, and Pennsylvania follow suit with other states and petition the FCC for delegated authority regarding number conservation measures. By the end of 1999, 22 states have filed petitions with the FCC, with 10 being granted that authority and 12 still awaiting a decision.

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A YEAR IN REVIEW *(continued from page 3)*

- California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) issues an order mandating number pooling in the 310 and 818 NPAs and suspends implementation of the overlays in those areas. Later, the CPUC does the same thing with the proposed overlays in the 408, 415, 510, 650, 714 and 909 area codes.
- NYPSC orders number pooling in the 716 NPA.
- NANPA establishes an electronic notification and document distribution system to provide information on NPA relief planning activities. To date, close to 2,000 customers have signed up for the service.

January/February 2000 issue:


- The PUCT orders number pooling in the 512 NPA; trial is to start August 1.
- California's Commission adds the 415 and 714 NPAs to its list of number pooling trials.
- New Hampshire Public Utility Commission (NHPUC) orders number pooling in the 603 NPA. The trial starts May 1.
- State Commissions in Colorado and Kentucky petition the FCC for delegated authority regarding number conservation measures.
- Five of seven carrier LLCs that contract with NeuStar for LNP consolidate their business activity. New entity is called the North American Portability Management (NAPM), LLC.
- NYPSC orders NANPA not to assign 30 set aside codes in NPA 716.
- Amy Putnam, former attorney with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, joins NeuStar as pooling implementation manager for NeuStar's Pooling Administration group

March/April 2000 issue:

- On March 31, the FCC released its Number Resources Optimization (NRO) Order. Some of the issues addressed in the Order include the implementation of mandatory thousands block number pooling, including the FCC's decision to select the Pooling Administrator through a competitive bid process.
- The CPUC implemented thousand block pooling in the 310 NPA. This is the first implementation of mandatory number pooling outside Illinois. NeuStar, in its role as the pooling administrator, had assigned 96 blocks over 16 rate centers to multiple carriers in the 310 NPA, as of May 31.
- The NYPSC orders thousand block number pooling in 12 NPAs throughout the state by August 31, 2001. On April 1, New York added its first mandatory pooling trial in the 716 NPA to its already existing voluntary trials in the 212 and 718 NPAs.
- Oregon Public Utilities Commission joins the list of states to petition the FCC for delegated authority.
- On April 3, the ICC implemented pooling in the 708 NPA, the fifth NPA in which Illinois has implemented mandatory pooling since the original trial began in the 847 NPA in 1998.
- Three representatives from state commissions are appointed to the North American Numbering Council (NANC): New commissioners representing NARUC are Jack Goldberg of the Connecticut Commission and Thomas Dunleavy of the NYPSC. Barbara Meisenheimer of the Missouri Office of Public Council was appointed as the NASUCA representative.
- Rebecca Beaton, a former Program Manager/Consultant at the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC), joins NANPA as an NPA Relief Planner for the Western Region. 

POOLING ADMINISTRATION TRACKS EFFORTS *(continued from page cover)*

by service providers in the New York 716 pooling trial (see State Roundup, New York, page 1).

The measurements include items such as preparing and distributing minutes from implementation meetings to receiving and processing NXX-X application in a timely manner, and working with the NPAC to ensure pooled numbers are ported properly. Measurements were based on requirements of the Pooling Administrator in the INC Thousand Block Pooling Guidelines. For copies of these measurements, as well as a pooling status report by state, go to www.numberpool.com. NeuStar encourages comments or suggestions that will help in tailoring a reporting tool that is easy to use and beneficial to the industry. 

A WORD FROM NEUSTAR'S CHAIRMAN AND CEO

Just over a year ago, NeuStar implemented a comprehensive program, solidifying our commitment to the state public service/utility commissions. The guiding principle behind this program is that the state PUCs are important industry players and key constituents of NeuStar. As the neutral administrator in numbering, local number portability and number pooling, NeuStar must serve all its constituents in a fair, neutral and equal way. Included in that is our commitment to serve the state commissions. And, as the name NeuStar implies, we take our neutrality very seriously. Neutrality has been and will always be the foremost concern in each of our dealings with our many and varied customers, from CLECs to ILECs to state commissions.

To meet the requirements of our roles, NeuStar has hired key staffers from multiple state commission (e.g., Illinois and Colorado), creating a group solely responsible for interfacing with the 50 state commissions. We hold regular teleconferences to inform commissions of developments in numbering. And, we meet regularly on special issues with interested PUCs. In addition, *The State Scene* was created as a tool to better inform our state commission customers and to offer news and updates on a consistent basis.

With this issue of *The State Scene*, we are celebrating the one-year anniversary of the newsletter, which is distributed to over 500 people throughout the industry. As a celebration of this milestone, we've provided a timeline of events that have occurred over the course of the last year. This timeline demonstrates how quickly the industry is growing and changing, and its need for a neutral, third-party provider to help inform and facilitate that growth.

One key highlight from the past year is the action taken by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to grant approval to 10 state commissions to have delegated authority over a variety of number conservation measures, primarily number pooling. As we have reported, number pooling trials are now ongoing in 10 area codes throughout the country, with at least 6 more scheduled to begin this year. NeuStar has been selected as the pooling administrator for all of the current trials. And we look forward to continuing that role in the future.

As further demonstration of our commitment to the states, several former state commission staff personnel have joined NeuStar in a variety of roles. Brent Struthers, formerly with the ICC, now heads our state regulatory group and is the primary liaison between NeuStar and the states. In addition, our North American Numbering Plan Administration (NANPA) and Pooling Administration groups have been strengthened by the addition of several state commission staff from Pennsylvania to Texas to Washington State.

And, one of the most exciting highlights from the last year was the transfer of NeuStar from Lockheed Martin IMS to an independent, standalone company that has strengthened the foundation started with Lockheed Martin. NeuStar looks forward to the upcoming year – and those beyond – to continue working with the telecommunications industry on several levels, especially the state commissions. As always, please feel free to contact me or any of my staff if we can be of assistance.



Jeff Ganek

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jeff Ganek". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light background.

COCUS 2000 RESULTS AVAILABLE

The results of the Central Office Code Utilization Survey (COCUS) 2000 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 exhaust projections for NPAs in Canada.

The NPA exhaust projections were developed using the same methodology that was implemented for the April 1999 NPA exhaust analysis. In early January 2000, service providers were requested to provide the total number of NXX codes assigned to it in each NPA as of January 1, 2000, and a forecast of the number of central office (CO) codes the service provider will need over the next five years (2000-2004).

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RELEASE 3.0 ON TARGET FOR JULY DELIVERY

Release 3.0 is the largest software enhancement release for the NPAC system to date and is on target to meet the current July 28 software delivery date. The release is currently in System and Regression testing, an internal certification process performed by NeuStar Technical Operations staff and subcontractors. Interoperability Testing (IIP), which tests the

interface between the Service Providers or their vendors and the NPAC, is underway and is approximately 50% complete. Turn Up Testing (TUT) registration, which begins June 15, is performed by the Service Providers and tests the Release 3.0 application. The table at the left shows the key milestones for Release 3.0 delivery. **NEUSTAR**

Task	Dates
Region 1 (Northeast) Turn Up Testing	7/31/00-9/15/00
Region 1 Group Testing	9/18/00-10/20/00
Region 1 Performance Testing	10/23/00-10/27/00
Region 1 Disaster Recovery Testing	10/30/00-11/3/00
Region 1 General Availability	11/6/00
Disaster Recovery Test – Production	12/3/00
Super Region Turn Up Testing	9/18/00-11/10/00
Super Region (Regions 1-7) Group Testing	11/13/00-2/19/01
Region 2 (West Coast) General Availability	1/15/01
Region 3 (Southeast) General Availability	1/22/01
Region 4 (Southwest) General Availability	1/29/01
Region 5 (Western) General Availability	2/5/01
Region 6 (Midwest) General Availability	2/12/01
Region 7 (Mid Atlantic) General Availability	2/19/01

The State Scene

A Numbering Resource Publication for State Public Utility Commissions

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