

STATE OF NEW YORK
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

At a session of the Public Service
Commission held in the City of
New York on December 12, 2007

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Patricia L. Acampora, Chairwoman
Maureen F. Harris
Robert E. Curry, Jr.
Cheryl A. Buley

CASE 07-C-1486 - Proceeding on Motion of the Commission, Pursuant to Section 97(2) of the Public Service Law, to Institute a Proceeding to Investigate and Evaluate Options for Making Additional Central Office Codes Available in the 315 Area Code Region.

ORDER INSTITUTING PROCEEDING

(Issued and Effective December 20, 2007)

BY THE COMMISSION:

The North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA)¹ advised the Commission and Department of Public Service (DPS) Staff on September 6, 2007 that the 315 area code, serving all or part of eighteen northern and central New York

¹ The North American Numbering Plan Administrator monitors the use of telephone numbers within area codes nationwide, and projects the date when individual area codes will run out of assignable telephone numbers. Under the North American Numbering Plan, each telephone line is assigned a ten-digit number made up of a three-digit area (NPA) code, a three-digit central office (NXX) code and a four-digit station number.

counties,² is running out of assignable telephone numbers.³ NANPA's projected date for 315 area code exhaust is the third quarter of 2010. Therefore, an NPA Code Relief Plan needs to be developed and implemented prior to that date in order to ensure continued availability of telephone numbers in the 315 area code region beyond 2010. This Order institutes a proceeding, pursuant to Public Service Law §97(2), to develop a workable plan to provide additional central office and area codes in the 315 region while minimizing disruption and inconvenience to customers.

The 315 area code was near exhaust in 1999 and, at that time, pursuant to industry guidelines, NeuStar⁴ convened telecommunications industry meetings to identify and develop potential area code relief options for the region.⁵ Numbering resource conservation measures, such as thousand number pooling, adopted by the New York Commission, extended the life of the 315 area code and made immediate relief unnecessary.

In light of the new advisory issued by NeuStar for the 315 region, relief alternatives will again need to be considered. Staff will develop a White Paper containing potential relief options, including the pros and cons of each option, based on

² Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Ontario, Oswego, Otsego, Seneca, St. Lawrence, Wayne and Yates counties.

³ NANPA also projects that area codes 718/347 will run out of assignable numbers in 2011; the NPA Code Relief Planning and Notification Guidelines (NPA Guidelines) specify a thirty-six month period prior to the projected exhaust date for NANPA to prepare relief options (NPA Guidelines §5.0) so the Commission will likely receive formal notification of code exhaust in these areas during 2008.

⁴ NeuStar serves as the North American Numbering Plan (NANP) Administrator and the National Pooling Administrator pursuant to two separate contracts with the FCC. Under these contracts, NeuStar, inter alia., administers the assignment and implementation of new area codes in North America and the assignment and allocation of pooled blocks of telephone numbers in the United States in a manner designed to conserve telephone number resources.

⁵ The industry options included one code to overlay the entire region (overlay code) and several others based on splitting the existing area code along various geographic lines.

the most current telephone number utilization rates and NXX code growth rate projections. Because it is essential that we weigh the concerns and comments from users of telecommunication services in the affected 315 region before reaching any determination regarding the best method of providing area code relief in that region, the Staff White Paper will be issued for public comment.

Accordingly, the following procedures, based on processes that have been followed in previous area code relief proceedings across the State, are adopted for the 315 region to ensure that a timely decision is made well in advance of the projected 2010 exhaust date: (1) Staff will prepare a White Paper which puts forth potential options for providing area code relief; (2) Staff's White Paper will be noticed and issued for written comment; and (3) an extensive consumer education and public involvement program will be conducted in the 315 region, including educational forums and public statement hearings, to provide an opportunity for comments from the public in the affected areas. In addition, this matter is referred to the Office of Hearings and Alternative Dispute Resolution for assignment of an Administrative Law Judge to preside over the proceeding.

The Commission orders:

1. A proceeding is instituted to evaluate options available to address the potential exhaust of central office codes in the 315 region of north central New York.
2. This matter is referred to the Office of Hearings and Alternative Dispute Resolution for assignment of an Administrative Law Judge to preside over the proceeding.
3. This proceeding is continued.

By the Commission,

(SIGNED)

JACLYN BRILLING
Secretary