

STATE OF NEW YORK  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CASE 14-C-0182 - Petition of Neustar, Inc. for Approval of  
Numbering Plan Area Relief Plan for the 631  
Area Code.

NOTICE SEEKING COMMENTS

(Issued October 7, 2014)

On May 14, 2014, The North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA)<sup>1</sup> advised the Commission and Department of Public Service Staff (Staff) that the 631 area code, serving Suffolk County, is anticipated to run out of assignable telephone numbers.<sup>2</sup> The most recent official NANPA forecasts indicates that the 631 Area Code could be out of assignable central office codes by the first quarter of the 2016 calendar year. Accordingly, this proceeding has been initiated in order to have timely and effective relief in place for the 631 Numbering Plan Area (NPA) prior to number exhaust.

In areas where number exhaust has been anticipated, new area codes in a given geographic area are generally provided in

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<sup>1</sup> 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 code (or NPA), a three-digit central office (NXX) code and a four-digit station number.

<sup>2</sup> NeuStar serves as the NANPA and the National Pooling Administrator pursuant to two separate contracts with the Federal Communications Commission. 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.

either of two ways: (1) an overlay,<sup>3</sup> or (2) through a geographic split of the existing area code.<sup>4</sup> In light of this advisory issued by NeuStar for the 631 region, relief alternatives will again need to be considered. Staff has developed a White Paper containing potential relief options. The White Paper was issued for public comment on June 16, 2014 and is available at <http://www.askpsc.com/askpsc/publication/?PublicationAction=renderPublicationById&PublicationId=f1c24bfce1b5aa8e044978e41b2a0256>.

Comments were filed by AT&T, Cablevision, Sprint, T-Mobile and Verizon, and by seventeen individuals. Four informational forums and public statement hearings were held on July 15 and July 16 in Riverhead, Holbrook, Smithtown, and Huntington Station, in Suffolk County. Twelve individuals appeared at these hearings.

At the October 2, 2014 session, Staff advised the Commission, based on a review of the NANPA petition and the filed comments, that the overlay option is the preferred alternative. It also recognized that the provision of area code relief in this case will affect the habits and practices of several hundred thousand customers using the telephone system within Suffolk County and of additional customers who are making calls into Suffolk County and that one further solicitation of public comment in this case could be useful. After this additional comment

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<sup>3</sup> An overlay option means that one new code is used throughout the entire geographic area for all new telecommunications services, while existing phone numbers generally are not affected.

<sup>4</sup> Previously, the 631 area code was near exhaust in 2000 and NeuStar prepared several relief options, including two overlays and a geographic split, for consideration by the telecommunications industry. However, before any further action was taken, several numbering conservation efforts were implemented, such as reclamation of underused NXX codes and pooling of numbers, and the projected exhaust date was subsequently revised.

period expires, Staff will consider the additional input received, re-evaluate its recommendation in light of the comments, and bring the matter to the Commission for a final decision at a later session.

NOTICE is hereby given that comments may be submitted to the Secretary by e-filing through the Department's Document and Matter Management System (DMM),<sup>5</sup> or by e-mail to the Secretary at [secretary@dps.ny.gov](mailto:secretary@dps.ny.gov), on or before November 7, 2014. Those unable to file electronically may mail or deliver their comments to the Hon. Kathleen H. Burgess, Secretary, New York State Public Service Commission, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, New York, 12223-1350. All comments submitted to the Secretary will be posted on the Commission's Web site and become part of the official case record.

KATHLEEN H. BURGESS  
Secretary

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<sup>5</sup> How to Register with DMM, <http://www.dps.ny.gov/e-file/registration.html>.