

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**DT 10-211**

**NORTH AMERICAN NUMBERING PLAN ADMINISTRATOR**

**Petition for Relief of the 603 Numbering Plan Area**

**ORDER OF NOTICE**

On August 10, 2010, NeuStar, Inc., the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA), filed with the Commission, on behalf of the New Hampshire telecommunications industry and in its role as the neutral third party relief planner for New Hampshire, a petition requesting approval of a relief plan for the 603 area code, also known as the 603 numbering plan area (NPA). NPAs represent a large, but finite, amount of seven digit telephone numbers, which are assigned by the NANPA in individual number blocks known as Central Office codes or NXXs. When all of the NXXs have been assigned, a new NPA must be opened. According to the petition, based upon the NANPA's projections, without NPA relief the supply of NXX codes in the 603 NPA will be exhausted during the third quarter of 2012. The NANPA's petition and subsequent filings in this docket may be obtained at:

<http://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2010/10-211.htm>.

Relief planning for the 603 NPA was first undertaken in 1999 based upon projections that the codes would be exhausted in late 2000. *See generally* Docket DT 99-603. Rather than adopt a new NPA, however, the Commission implemented number conservation measures and ultimately dismissed the 1999 petition for relief. *See Petition for Approval of Area Code Numbering Relief Plan*, Order No. 24,350 (July 13, 2004).

Since the time of the prior petition, the Commission has undertaken various measures meant to extend the life of the existing NPA. Specifically, the Commission has, among other things: requested, received and exercised authority from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to do thousand-block number pooling, whereby carriers are granted blocks of 1000 numbers, rather than complete codes of 10,000 numbers; requested, received, and exercised authority from the FCC to require carriers to demonstrate that they will have the necessary facilities to serve a specific area within 6 months of receiving new numbers as a means of ensuring that carriers will not be obtaining numbers well in advance of when they will actually be providing service; requested, received, and exercised authority from the FCC to require carriers to demonstrate that they have met certain thresholds for assigning numbers before they are permitted to obtain new numbers; and received additional authority from the FCC to reclaim numbers, subject to various conditions, if they have not been activated in a timely manner.

Based upon current projections for exhaustion of the 603 NPA, the NANPA conducted an industry conference call on June 30, 2010, during which the consensus decision was reached to file a new petition for relief with the Commission. The current petition contains various analyses of the projected lives of different relief plans based upon updated experiences and expectations. The industry consensus and recommendation for relief is an all-services distributed overlay for the 603 NPA. Under this type of relief, a new NPA would be super-imposed over the same geographic area covered by the existing 603 NPA. All existing customers would retain the 603 area code and would not have to change their telephone numbers. The projected life of the new overlay NPA using current data is 35 years. Consistent with FCC regulations, the relief plan would require 10-digit dialing for all calls within and between the 603 NPA and the new NPA. The industry recommends that all local and toll calls between the 603

NPA and the new NPA be dialed using 10-digits, or permissively as 1 + 10 digits at each service provider's discretion. All local and toll calls originating in the 603 NPA or new NPA and terminating in other NPAs (NPAs other than the 603 or new NPA) must be dialed as 1 + 10 digits. Operator services calls would require customers to dial 0 + 10 digits. Finally, the industry consensus and recommendation is for a 17-month schedule for implementation of the all-services distributed overlay.

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to the extent and causes of impending exhaust, options to prevent exhaust and the costs and competitive consequences of such options, and the type of NPA relief that would be appropriate for New Hampshire. Each party has the right to have an attorney represent them at their own expense.

**Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby**

**ORDERED**, that a Prehearing Conference, pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 203.15, be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on October 27, 2010 at 1:30 p.m., at which each party will provide a preliminary statement of its position with regard to the petition and any of the issues set forth in N.H. Admin. Rule Puc 203.15 shall be considered; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that, immediately following the Prehearing Conference, the Staff of the Commission and any Intervenors hold a Technical Session to review the petition; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, the Executive Director shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than October 20, 2010, in a newspaper with statewide

circulation, publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before October 27, 2010; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 203.17, any party seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall submit to the Commission seven copies of a Petition to Intervene with copies sent to NeuStar and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before October 22, 2010, such Petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interest may be affected by the proceeding, as required by N.H. Admin. Rule Puc 203.17 and RSA 541-A:32,I(b); and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that any party objecting to a Petition to Intervene make said Objection on or before October 27, 2010.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this fifteenth day of October, 2010.

  
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Debra A. Howland  
Executive Director

Individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication aids due to sensory impairment or other disability, should contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, NHPUC, 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429; 603-271-2431; TDD Access: Relay N.H. 1-800-735-2964. Notification of the need for assistance should be made one week prior to the scheduled event.