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FCC ANNOUNCES GSA APPROVES RENEWAL OF NORTH AMERICAN NUMBERING COUNCIL CHARTER THROUGH OCTOBER 4, 1999

(CC Docket No. 92-237)

The North American Numbering Council (Council) charter has been renewed, through October 4, 1999, by the General Services Administration (GSA) to allow it to continue advising the Federal Communications Commission on evolving and competitively significant numbering issues facing the telecommunications industry. The Council's original charter was filed with Congress on October 5, 1995, and is scheduled to expire on October 4, 1997. The amended charter and current membership list are attached below.

Since its first meeting held on October 1, 1996, the Council has provided the Commission with critically important recommendations regarding numbering administration. On May 1, 1997, the Council issued recommendations regarding the implementation of telephone number portability. Specifically, the Council issued recommendations in the following areas: (1) what party or parties should be selected as Local Number Portability Administrators (LNPAs); (2) whether one or multiple LNPA(s) should be selected; (3) how the LNPA(s) should be selected; (4) specific duties of the LNPA(s); (5) geographic coverage of the regional databases; (6) technical standards, including interoperability standards, network interfaces standards, and technical specifications for regional databases; (7) the sharing of numbering information between the North American Numbering Plan Administrator and the LNPA(s); and (8) the future role of the Council with respect to local number portability issues. On May 15, 1997, the Council issued recommendations regarding neutral entities to serve as North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA) and NANPA Billing and Collection Agent, and recommended a mechanism for recovering the costs of numbering administration in the United States.

The continuation of the Council and its future recommendations to the Commission will facilitate establishment of a new foundation for numbering administration in North America that will ensure that numbering resources are provided to all telecommunications service providers on an equitable basis consistent with the requirements of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marian Gordon, Designated Federal Official at (202) 418-2320 or via the Internet at mgordon@fcc.gov. The address is: Network Services Division, Common Carrier Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, 2000 M Street, NW, Suite 235, Washington, D.C. 20054. The fax number is: (202) 418-2345. The TTY number is: (202) 418-0484.

AMENDED CHARTER FOR THE NORTH AMERICAN NUMBERING COUNCIL:

- A. The Committee's Official Designation
The official designation of the advisory committee will be the "North American Numbering Council" (NANC or Council).
- B. The Committee's Objectives and Scope of its Activity
The purpose of the Council is to advise the Federal Communications Commission and to make recommendations, reached through industry consensus, that foster efficient and impartial number administration. The Council will continue to develop recommendations on numbering policy issues, initially resolve disputes, provide oversight guidance to the North American Numbering Plan (NANP) Administrator and the Local Number Portability Administrator(s) (LNPAs) to ensure fair and equitable access to numbering resources, and facilitate number conservation including identification of technical solutions to numbering exhaust. The Council will further provide recommendations to the Commission on toll free database administration.

In carrying out its responsibilities, the Council shall assure that NANP administration supports the following policy objectives: (1) that the NANP facilitates entry into the communications marketplace by making numbering resources available on an efficient, timely basis to communications service providers; (2) that the NANP does not unduly favor or disfavor any particular industry segment or group of consumers; (3) that the NANP does not unduly favor one technology over another; (4) that the NANP gives consumers easy access to the public switched telephone network; and (5) that the NANP ensures that the interests of all NANP member countries are addressed fairly and efficiently, fostering continued integration of the NANP across NANP member countries.

- C. Period of Time Necessary for the Committee to Carry Out its Purposes
The Commission will seek advice from the Council regarding whether the NANC, after two years, should again renew this charter to continue as a Federal Advisory Committee.
- D. Agency or Official to Whom the Committee Reports
The Council will report to the Chief, Common Carrier Bureau, Federal Communications Commission.

- E. Agency Responsible for Providing Necessary Support
The Federal Communications Commission will provide the necessary staff support for the Council. The Federal Communications Commission will provide facilities needed to conduct the meetings, if the Commission has meeting facilities available. Otherwise, private sector members will provide facilities. Private sector members of the Council will serve without any government compensation, and will not be entitled to travel expenses or per diem subsistence allowances.
- F. Description of the Duties for Which the Committee is Responsible
The duties of the Council are to gather and discuss information necessary to develop recommendations to the FCC related to the attainment of the objectives listed under (B). The Council will also advise the Commission on the following, which are not exclusive to its portfolio of duties: a plan to transfer responsibility for administering central office codes to the NANP Administrator; a plan to promote conservation of numbering resources, including examination of ways to ensure efficient use of number resources, and a recommendation for the management of toll free database administration. The Council will also prepare for the Commission periodic and final reports to aid the Commission in its oversight responsibilities.
- G. Estimated Annual Operating Costs in Dollars and Staff Years
Estimated staff years that will be expended by the Council are 3 for the Federal Communications Commission staff and 5 for private sector and other governmental representatives. The estimated annual cost to the FCC of operating the Committee is \$200,000. The FCC will not pay for private sector staff.
- H. Estimated Number and Frequency of Committee Meetings
We expect that there will be approximately 12 Council meetings per year.
- I. Charter's Termination Date
This charter will terminate on October 4, 1999, prior to which the Commission may seek its renewal.
- J. Date Original Charter Filed
October 5, 1995

**North American Numbering Council (NANC)
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