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January 31, 2000

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Ms. Margalie Roman Salas, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Re: Ex Parte Comments - Two Copies filed
Docket No. 99-200

Dear Ms. Salas:

I am filing this letter with the Commission in order to comply with the FCC's *ex parte* regulations.

On January 20, 2000, an *ex parte* meeting was held between the following members of state commission staffs and FCC staff to discuss numbering issues:

Chuck Keller	FCC
Diane Harmon	FCC
Cheryl Callahan	FCC
Tejal Mehta	FCC
John Spencer	FCC
Aaron Goldberger	FCC
Jeannie Grimmes	FCC
Barry Payne	FCC

Trina Bragdon	Maine Public Utilities Commission
Helen Mickiewicz	California Public Utilities Commission
Natalie Billingsly	California Public Utilities Commission
Mary Jo Borak	California Public Utilities Commission
Robert Mundy	Connecticut Dept of Public Utilities Control
Sandra Boclair	Virginia State Corporation Commission

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Greg Pattenau	New York Public Service Commission
Gary Evenson	Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
Elsa Morris	Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
Erin Duffy	North Carolina Utilities Commission
Levent Ileri	Florida Public Service Commission
John Cutting	Florida Public Service Commission
Brad Ramsey	NARUC

The following state staff participated via conference call:

Joyce Mahan	Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
Barclay Jackson	New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
Kate Bailey	New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
Sara Buyak	Missouri Public Service Commission
Todd Kimbrough	Texas Public Utility Commission
Jennifer Fagan	Texas Public Utility Commission
Alyssa Eacono	Texas Public Utility Commission
Kevin Penders	Massachusetts Dept. of Telecom. and Energy
Robert Howley	Massachusetts Dept. of Telecom. and Energy
Becky Quintana	Colorado Public Utilities Commission
Rebecca Beaton	Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission

The meeting began with each of the 10 states who have received delegated authority from the FCC (California, New York, Florida, Maine, Massachusetts New Hampshire, Ohio, Connecticut, Wisconsin, and Texas) describing what actions they have taken pursuant to that authority. There were specific discussions regarding the use of fill rates, sequential numbering requirements, and facilities readiness standards. We discussed how states planned to transition to a national pooling platform and how long such a transition would take. The states indicated that the time needed for transition would depend upon how different the final rules are from the interim delegations of authority and how far along in the state pooling trial has progressed. The FCC staff requested that states provide them with copies of any orders implementing the delegated authority as well as any utilization data states might have.

The states then provided the FCC staff with proposed revisions to the Industry Numbering Committee's (INC) Thousand Block Pooling Administration Guidelines and went over some of the proposed changes. (A copy of the draft is attached.) We also discussed the importance of accurate reporting of utilization data on a rate center level. Several states shared their experience that once carriers were required to report their utilization, demand for new codes dropped significantly. The states advocated application of fill rates, sequential numbering, facilities readiness, and utilization reporting requirements to all segments of the industry.

There was a brief discussion regarding the problem of carriers with multiple OCNs requesting multiple codes in the same rate center. The problem has been exacerbated by the large number of mergers in the telecommunications industry. The states suggested that they will try to develop a policy to deal with this issue and will submit it to the FCC for its consideration.

The discussion turned to the topic of auditing and the development of auditing guidelines by the INC. States believe that the FCC should authorize NANPA to conduct random and for cause audits as a means for enforcing the numbering policies and rules the FCC adopts in its final order. In addition, states believe that they should be allowed to participate in the auditing process if they choose and be given access to all information gathered. In addition, the FCC should make clear that states have authority to conduct their own audits if they choose.

With regard to the INC guidelines, both for auditing as well as other issues, the states voiced their concern that important policy decisions were being made at the INC without adequate input from states and the FCC who are both charged with protecting the public interest. A suggestion was made that changes to any INC guidelines be made on semi-annual basis and that before the changes are sent to the North American Numbering Council (NANC) for approval, a panel of state and federal regulators perform a review of the changes.

There was a discussion regarding the relative roles of NANPA, state commissions, and the FCC on numbering issues. The states advocated specific delegations of authority to NANPA so that NANPA could act decisively on enforcement issues. States indicated that NANPA often appears to have split loyalties between the states and the industry, making it unwilling or unable to act in some circumstances.

States reiterated their position that authority to implement thousand block pooling should not be pre-conditioned on rate center consolidation. Further, there should not be a distinction between urban and rural areas in the application of number conservation measures. Finally, the states very strongly disagreed with the carrier choice proposal found in the NPRM. States believe it will be impossible for carriers to reach high utilization rates without pooling and that carriers will not pool (or be able to effectively pool) if all carriers are not required to pool.

The discussion then turned to the role of NANC in numbering policy development and the need for increased state participation. States voiced their concern that unless the structure of the NANC is changed to include more state representation, important numbering policy decisions will be made without sufficient input from the entities charged with implementing those policies. States also requested that a regular dialogue between the states and the FCC be established so that the FCC could hear directly from the states on important numbering issues. The FCC agreed and suggested that a series of quarterly conference calls and meetings be set up.

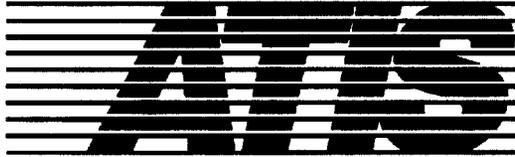
Finally, the states requested that the FCC include authority for states to pursue unassigned number porting in the final order. States explained that the current delegation orders have effectively "closed the door" on further development of this important measures. The FCC indicated that it would like to see further information regarding the feasibility and effectiveness of this measures.

The states wish to express their thanks to the FCC staff for their interest and participation in this meeting. We look forward to our continued dialogue.

Sincerely,

Trina M. Bragdon
On behalf of all of the states
participating in the meeting

cc: Chuck Keller (w/o attachment)
Diane Harmon (w/o attachment)
Cheryl Callahan (w/o attachment)
Tejal Mehta (w/o attachment)
John Spencer (w/o attachment)
Aaron Goldberger (w/o attachment)
Jeannie Grimmes (w/o attachment)
Barry Payne (w/o attachment)



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DRAFT WORKING DOCUMENT

INDUSTRY NUMBERING COMMITTEE (INC)

THOUSAND BLOCK (NXX-X) POOLING ADMINISTRATION GUIDELINES

**As revised by the State
Coordination Group and
presented to the FCC on
January 20, 2000**

This Draft represents the efforts of staff members of the following state commissions: California, Connecticut, Colorado, Florida, Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin. The staffs of these commissions generally support the proposed revisions. Please note, however, that none of the above-mentioned commissions have formally adopted or endorsed the revisions at this time.

These guidelines are reissued in connection with the resolution to INC Issues 180, 181, 188, , 200 and 203.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 Purpose and Scope 3

2.0 Assumptions and Constraints 3

3.0 Thousand Block Assignment Principles 5

4.0 Service Provider Responsibilities 6

5.0 Pool Administrator Responsibilities 8

6.0 Forecast Reporting Process 11

7.0 Reservations of Thousand Blocks for Service Providers 14

8.0 Industry Inventory Pool 15

9.0 Allocation of Thousand Blocks 22

10.0 Reclamation of Thousand Blocks 28

11.0 Jeopardy Situations 31

12.0 Auditing of Service Providers 32

13.0 Appeals Process 33

14.0 Glossary 34

Thousand Block Application Forms

Attachment 1	Part 1A	General Application Information
Attachment 2	Part 1B	NPAC Block Holder Data
Attachment 3	Part 3	Pool Administrator's Response/Confirmation
Attachment 4	Part 4	Confirmation of NXX-X Block In Service

Appendix 1	Thousand Block Forecast Report
Appendix 2	Thousand Block Forecast Report Explanation
Appendix 3	Thousand Block Months to Exhaust Certification Worksheet - TN Level
Appendix 4	Thousand Block Months to Exhaust Certification Worksheet - Thousand Block Level
Appendix 5	<i>Draft</i> User Profile Application

1.0 Purpose and Scope

This document specifies guidelines for the process of administration and assignment of thousand blocks (NXX-Xs) to Local Number Portability (LNP)-capable service providers (SPs) for use at a switching entity or point of interconnection (POI) they own or control. This document contains guidelines which are not binding on each state. When a state commission determines or a state industry planning group recommends that the unique facts or the public interest in a particular state so require, the state commission may deviate from the guidelines as it deems appropriate and consistent with FCC policies. All thousand block requests and necessary forms will be submitted to the Pooling Administrator (PA) by filling out the appropriate request and/or form provided on the PA Web Site.¹ No requests and/or form submissions will be accepted via fax, paper, voice, or email, except in extraordinary circumstances and/or if previously agreed to by the PA. All electronic submissions will be considered as an electronic signature and will be verified for authenticity utilizing criteria maintained in the PA database. In addition, these guidelines outline the processes used between the PA and:

- Code Holders
- Local Exchange Routing Guide (LERG) Assignees
- Block Holders
- The CO Code Administrator
- Number Portability Administration Centers (NPAC).

Thousand block pooling, in the context of these guidelines, allows for sharing of Central Office (CO) Codes (NXX Codes) among multiple SPs serving the same rate area. All ten thousand telephone numbers (TNs) within each NXX Code continue to be associated with the same rate area designation (i.e., V&H coordinates), but can be distributed among multiple SPs at the thousand block (NXX-X) level. Examples of uses for thousand blocks for which these guidelines apply include plain old telephone service (POTS), Centrex, Direct Inward Dialing (DID), wireless service, facsimile, and coin phones.

Where thousand block pooling has not been implemented, or is not in use by a SP, the SP shall continue to apply directly to the CO Code Administrator for numbering resources. Guidelines addressing the assignment of Central Office Codes (NXXs) are covered under the Central Office Code (NXX) Assignment Guidelines (INC 95-0407-008). Six to nine months (see Section 6.0 below) prior to thousand block pooling participation, SPs that do not currently participate in thousand block pooling, will be required to utilize these guidelines. In addition, non-pooling SPs are obliged to provide forecast and other data pursuant to regulatory request.

¹ User Profiles will be contained in the industry data base, as documented in Section 5.1.1. A User Profile for SP authorized users will be used to distinguish one user from another. (See Appendix 5)

These guidelines do not supersede appropriate North American Numbering Plan (NANP) area governmental or regulatory principles, procedures, and requirements.

2.0 Assumptions and Constraints

The development of these thousand block pooling administration guidelines is based on the following assumptions and constraints:

- 2.1 NANP resources, including those covered in these guidelines, are collectively administered by the FCC, state commissions and ~~managed by the telecommunications industry with oversight by the regulatory authorities in~~ areas served by the NANP. The decision to establish an industry inventory pool in any given location is a regulatory responsibility.
- 2.2 The PA will obtain the necessary SP documentation to establish and administer the industry inventory pool.
- 2.3 The NANP resources are considered a public resource and are not owned by the assignees or the PA. Consequently, the resources cannot be sold, brokered, bartered, or leased by the assignee for a fee or other consideration. If a resource is sold, brokered, bartered, or leased for a fee, the resource is subject to reclamation by the PA.
- 2.4 These administration guidelines apply only to the assignment of thousand blocks to Block Applicants providing service within specific rate areas:
 - a) where SP Location Routing Number (LRN) Local Number Portability (LNP) has been implemented; and
 - b) where thousand block pooling has been mandated by the appropriate regulatory body.
- 2.5 These guidelines were developed, as appropriate, around the recommendation of the North American Numbering Council (NANC)² that the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA) would perform the PA function.
- 2.6 NANP numbering resources shall be assigned to facilitate the most effective and efficient use of a finite numbering resource in order to prevent premature exhaust of an NPA and delay the need to develop and implement costly new numbering plans. Efficient resource management and code conservation are necessary to stay the industry impacts of expanding the numbering resource (e.g., expansion from 10 to 11 or 12 digits). Impacts of NANP expansion include:

² Letter dated July 30, 1999 from NANC Chairman to Chief Common Carrier Bureau, FCC.

-
- a) customer impacts (e.g., dialing, telephone number (TN) changes to advertising and stationary, security systems, etc.);
 - b) Customer Premise Equipment (CPE) modifications;
 - c) domestic and international switching hardware and software modifications;
 - d) operational support systems (OSS) modifications and/or upgrades; and
 - e) reprogramming of non-telecommunications databases that contain TNs.
- 2.7 Block Applicants requesting resources from the industry inventory pool:
- a) must be licensed or certified to operate in the rate area, if required, and must demonstrate that all applicable regulatory approvals required to provide the service for which the thousand block is required have been obtained;
 - b) shall contribute numbering resources to the industry inventory pool, in accordance with these guidelines and any regulatory directives;
 - c) shall establish internal policies and practices that provide for the efficient use and assignment of TNs to end users. These policies and practices shall balance product specifications, market strategies and customer needs with conservation principles to ensure "best practices" in TN utilization.
 - d) shall ~~should attempt to~~ assign TNs out of a given thousand block before making assignments out of another thousand block;
 - e) shall minimize the use of TNs within thousand blocks for purposes other than subscriber assignments (e.g., test codes);
 - f) shall be subject to audits to assure compliance with these guidelines, processes and principles (see Section 12.0); and
 - g) will have a choice to initiate pooled block activation through Service Order Activation (SOA) interface to NPAC Service Management System (SMS) or through NPAC personnel.
- 2.8 The schedule of holidays recognized by the PA will affect the administration of these guidelines. Holidays will not be considered a "calendar day" as a part of any timing of thousand block allocations in association with these guidelines.
- 2.9 Audits of the PA and Block Applicants/holders will be performed by a

designated neutral party, including state regulatory authorities, to:

- a) ensure uniformity in application of these guidelines by the PA to all thousand block requests received by the PA,
- b) ensure compliance with these guidelines by Block Applicants and the PA, and
- c) ensure the efficient and effective use of numbering resources by Block Applicants/ Holders and efficient and effective management of numbering resources by the PA.

3.0 Thousand Block Assignment Principles

The following assignment principles apply to all aspects of these guidelines:

- 3.1 Where thousand block pooling has been implemented, the PA will assign numbering resources in thousand block increments. Resources will be available for assignment from both contaminated and uncontaminated thousand blocks contained in the industry inventory pool. A contaminated thousand block is a thousand block of one thousand (X000-X999) TNs in which at least one TN is classified as one of the following:
 - a) Administrative Number
 - b) Aging Number
 - c) Assigned Number
 - d) Reserved Number
- 3.2 A SP requirement for an entire NXX Code (i.e., 10,000 TNs) to satisfy the numbering needs for a single customer³ shall be obtained from the PA, not the CO Code Administrator (see Section 8.5).
- 3.3 Numbering resources in the industry inventory pool shall be available and allocated to SPs in a fair and non-discriminatory manner (i.e., on a first come, first served basis).
- 3.4 The information required of applicants for thousand block assignments shall be kept to a minimum and shall be uniform for all applicants. All information provided on the Thousand Block Application Forms, Part 1A and Part 1B will be considered confidential, except for selected information made available publicly, only for those fields that must be input to the Routing Data Base System (RDBS) and/or Business Rating Input Database System (BRIDS). The information placed in RDBS and/or BRIDS becomes public upon assignment of the thousand block in the appropriate rating and/or routing data base output [e.g., LERG and/or Terminating Point Master –(TPM)].

³ Single customer is defined as one customer requiring 10,000 consecutive TNs from one NXX.

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- 3.5 The PA will allocate a thousand block to a SP's single switch. The SP will be allowed to use intra-service provider ports to share that thousand block across their multiple switches in a rate area. The actual distribution of TNs from a shared thousand block will not be captured in the LERG.
- 3.6 Thousand block assignments will be made from NXX codes assigned and utilized within a single rate area. All SP switch rate area boundaries, which cover the same geographic area, will participate in a single industry inventory pool. If a single SP has a rate area with boundaries that cover a unique geographic area different than any other SP, that SP will participate in a separate industry inventory pool.
- 3.7 Any SP that is denied the assignment of one or more thousand blocks under these guidelines has the right to appeal that decision per Section 13.0.
- 3.8 The PA should accept and fulfill requests for specific thousand blocks of TNs if they are currently available for assignment from the industry inventory pool, subject to the criteria identified in Section 9.3.4, Item c).
- 3.9 A SP may exchange a thousand block with the PA, only if the requested thousand block and the exchanged thousand block are in the same rate area, are uncontaminated, and the requested thousand block is available for assignment.
- 3.10 SPs may not trade thousand blocks between themselves.
- 3.11 Thousand block assignment may be transferred between SPs if all of the following conditions are met:
- a) all one thousand TNs are assigned and/or reserved for a single customer;
 - b) the customer has ported all one thousand TNs to another SP that is not the Block Holder; and
 - c) both SPs involved must mutually agree to the transfer of the thousand block assignment (see Section 9.4).

4.0 Service Provider Responsibilities

SPs have many responsibilities in a thousand block pooling environment. These responsibilities vary depending on whether the SP is acting as a Code Holder, a LERG Assignee, a Block Applicant, or a Block Holder. These responsibilities are outlined below:

4.1 Code Holder Responsibilities

A Central Office (CO) Code Holder is an assignee of a full NXX code. CO Code Holders can either be thousand block pool participants or not. CO Code Holders who are thousand block pool participants shall:

- a) identify eligible thousand blocks for donation to the industry inventory pool upon initial establishment of the industry inventory pool pursuant to Section 8.1;
- e)b) update the LERG with the data on the thousand blocks within pooled NXX codes that are retained in its SP inventory at the time of initial establishment of the industry inventory pool. No LERG updates are required for NXX codes that do not have thousand blocks donated to the industry inventory pool; and
- c) become a LERG Assignee at the Block Donation Date (see Section 8.1).

4.2 LERG Assignee Responsibilities

4.2.1 A LERG Assignee is the SP listed as the entity associated at the NXX code level with a pooled NXX Code in the LERG and is responsible for default routing functions associated with the pooled NXX Code. The LERG Assignee shall:

- a) submit the appropriate CO Code request forms to the PA filled out as if the LERG assignee were requesting the CO code from the CO Code Administrator, with the appropriate information populated (e.g., Tandem Homing CLLI, Route/Rate Same as Information, Switching Entity/POI, etc.);
- e)b) submit the Part 1B - NPAC Block Holder Data form to the PA as appropriate;
- e)c) verify and test that the NXX Code is open prior to the NXX Code Effective Date;
- g)d) provide blank and vacant code announcements for unallocated thousand blocks;
- i)e) maintain sufficient and auditable data to demonstrate compliance with these guidelines (see Section 12.0); and
- k)f) notify the PA if the LERG Assignee is no longer able to perform default LERG Assignee functions (e.g., the SP is no longer providing service in the area served by that NXX Code).

h) confirm, prior to donating the thousand block to the industry inventory pool, that:

- 1) all unavailable TNs within contaminated thousand blocks have been intra-service provider ported;
- 2) the associated NPA/NXX is currently available for call routing, is opened for LNP in the LERG and the NPAC, and the NPA-NXX query triggers are applied in all switches and reflected in the appropriate network databases (e.g., STP routing tables);
- 3) the NXX-assigned switch is currently LNP-capable and will process terminating traffic appropriately; and
- 4) End Office Interconnection (EOI) trunking has been established between the NXX-assigned switch and other interconnecting networks.

h) rely on the PA to fill out and submit Central Office Code (NXX) Assignment request and Confirmation Form (Part 4) in those circumstances where the LERG Assignee is not the recipient of a full NXX code.

i) be responsible for providing the CO Code Part 4 (Assignment Request and Confirmation of Code In Service) to the PA to certify that the NXX obtained to meet a SP's single customer request for a full NXX Code has been placed in service when the LERG Assignee is the recipient of a full NXX Code. (Note: in this instance, the PA will forward the CO Code Part 4 form to the CO Code Administrator).

4.2.2 LERG Assignees cannot abdicate their responsibilities unless they can demonstrate to the PA that a technical or other inability to perform this function exists.

4.3 Block Applicant Responsibilities

Block Applicants, requesting resources from the industry inventory pool, shall:

a) be licensed or certified to operate in the rate area, if required, and must demonstrate that all applicable regulatory approvals required to provide the service for which the thousand block is required have been obtained, and

and b) complete the Thousand Block Application Forms per these guidelines;

c) comply with any regulatory requirements relating to fill rates.-

4.4 Block Holder Responsibilities

A Block Holder (or selected designee) shall:

- a) enter any necessary information into RDBS and BRIDS;
- b) arrange for the entry of any information to the LIDB or other carrier-specific databases due to receipt of a new thousand block;
- c) remove records from the LIDB, or other carrier-specific databases, for thousand blocks returned/donated to the industry inventory pool upon relinquishment of the thousand block (SPs that do not currently subscribe to LIDB need not add interfaces to or arrange for access to such databases);
- d) abide by the thousand block allocation and reclamation procedures outlined in Sections 9.0 and 10.0 and all regulatory requirements;
- e) provide forecasted thousand block requirements to the PA for projecting rate area exhaust and for input to the NPA code relief planning process;
- f) maintain sufficient and auditable data to demonstrate compliance with these guidelines (see Section 12.0);
- g) verify in the NPAC which TNs are assigned in any contaminated thousand block received from the PA to avoid duplicate TN assignments; and
- h) complete and return the Part 4 (Confirmation of NXX-X Block In Service) to the PA.

4.5 User Profile Application Responsibilities

Complete a User Profile Application that will be used to distinguish one user from another while using the PA system (*e.g., a User Profile will need to be set up prior to using the PA system*). *The User will be given a Password/ID for access to the PA system to protect individual SP sensitive data. (See Appendix 5 - Draft User Profile Application)*

5.0 Pool Administrator Responsibilities

The following describes the high level responsibilities of the PA in:

- 1) General Administration Duties

- 2) Forecasting and Planning Processes
- 3) Assignment Processes
- 4) Reporting Processes
- 5) Block Reclamation Processes
- 6) Audits

Detailed PA responsibilities are described in the appropriate process sections of these guidelines. The PA's activities shall be subject to review and oversight by the appropriate federal and/or state regulatory authorities.

5.1 General Administration Duties

- 5.1.1 The PA shall produce and make available, upon request, information regarding thousand block pooling administration processes, procedures, interfaces, and services. Additionally, the PA shall provide, upon request, of the thousand block pooling participant, information on how to obtain documents related to thousand block pooling administration. This can be accomplished by either referring the SP to web sites where it will be possible to download electronic copies, or by providing electronic copies via e-mail.

The PA shall:

- a) be responsible for activities associated with industry inventory pool establishment;
- e)b) assure the availability, based upon industry established criteria, of numbering resources within the industry inventory pool for a given rate area;
- e)c) add to the resources in the industry inventory pool when necessary by requesting additional CO Codes from the CO Code Administrator;
- g)d) work with the CO Code Administrator and state commissions in the planning and implementation of NPA code relief (e.g., update the PA's industry database to reflect any changes resulting from NPA relief activity). For specific details, see NPA Code Relief Planning & Notification Guidelines (INC 97-0404-016);
- i)e) provide copies of the Thousand Block (NXX-X) Pooling Administration Guidelines (INC 99-0127-023) when requested by Block Applicants, including timely notification of changes;
- k)f) assist the CO Code Administrator in analyzing and helping to resolve problems related to misrouted calls and calls that cannot be completed;

- m)g) track reported switch cut-overs and thousand block reassignments and perform other operational functions (e.g., thousand block reclamation);
- e)h) make available on their web site the PA-recognized holidays and distribute as necessary;
- e)i) log and track all thousand block applications using a tracking mechanism which will enable the PA and Block Applicant to identify a specific thousand block request; and
- e)j) build and maintain an industry data base which includes appropriate security for confidential data. The database will be accessible to all SPs and state commissions through an appropriate mechanism and will include:
 - 1) all pooled thousand blocks in the industry inventory pool (i.e., NPA-NXX-X level information displayed),
 - 2) status of the thousand blocks, i.e., allocated/assigned, available,
 - 3) identification of the SP to which the thousand block has been allocated whether or not a thousand block is contaminated,
 - 4) administer a User Profile Application process that will be used to distinguish one user from another while using the PA system (e.g., a User profile will need to be set up prior to using the PA system. The User Profile will contain the SP contact information, OCN.. Every SP that uses the system may need multiple unique User Profile. The User will be given a Password/ID for access to the PA system to protect individual SP sensitive data.) (See Appendix 5 - Draft User Profile Application).

5.2 Forecasting and Planning Processes

The PA shall:

- b)a) compile demand forecasts of all SPs participating in thousand block pooling and generate a total forecast based on the SPs forecasts and utilization data obtained by the PA, NANPA or the state commissions, -for the industry inventory pool;
- e)b) perform statistical analysis of the SP's forecasts to assure adequate numbering resources are available for the industry's use through timely replenishment of the industry inventory pool; and
- f)c) work cooperatively with the CO Code Administrator in determining

when the numbering resources appear to be nearing exhaust .

5.3 Assignment Processes

The PA shall:

- a) receive all request(s) for thousand blocks from SPs who have certified the need for assignment and validate the request(s) to ensure each applicant meets the criteria to be a Block Holder;
- e)b) verify that the applicant has: (i) been certified by the state commission and have the necessary interconnection arrangements in place; and (ii) completed the appropriate forms containing all of the pertinent information such as OCN (Operating Company Number), AOCN (Administrative Operating Company Number), switch ID, Effective Date and Tandem ID;
- e)c) assist industry inventory pool participants, as necessary, with the completion of all thousand block pooling forms;
- g)d) attempt to satisfy all SP requests for specific thousand block(s) whenever possible, subject to the criteria identified in Section 9.3.4, item c);
- i)e) select the specific thousand block(s) for assignment, or provide the reason to the SP why the assignment cannot be made;
- k)f) be responsible for inputting necessary information into RDBS/BRIDS;
- m)g) respond to the applicant's request(s) within 7 calendar days following receipt of the request by issuing the Part 3 - Pool Administrator's Response/Confirmation form to the applicant; and
- k)h) request new NXX Codes from the CO Code Administrator to replenish the industry inventory pool in order to meet a SP's request for a specific thousand block due to technical reasons. This includes processing of expedited requests when needed.
- h)i) return CO Code Part 4 Assignment Request and Confirmation of Code In Service, to the CO Code Administration to certify that NXXs obtained by the LERG Assignee to replenish the industry inventory pool have been placed in service. The PA will complete and forward the Part 4 form confirmation when the first Block Holder Part 4 confirmation form for that NXX is received.

5.4 Reporting Processes

The PA shall:

- a) prepare and publish reports as required by the industry, the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA), and regulatory authorities using forecast reports for projected future number resource usage;
- b) treat SP specific data submitted to them as confidential;
- c) aggregate Block Holder forecast data and submit the aggregated data to the CO Code Administrator(s) and to the NANPA for use in applicable forecast studies; and only publish data that has been aggregated.

5.5 Block Reclamation Processes

The PA is responsible for ensuring that thousand blocks are reclaimed when necessary (see Section 10.0).

5.6 Audits

In the performance of its duties and in meeting its responsibilities, the PA may encounter situations that may alert them to a possible noncompliance with the industry guidelines which warrants the need for a for cause audit. In these situations, the PA will inform and forward relevant information which contains the details of the possible infraction to the designated auditor or appropriate regulatory agency for disposition.

In addition, the PA may be required to provide SP specific data to an auditor or regulatory agency in order to facilitate the audit process.

6.0 Forecast Reporting Process

Thousand block forecast reports will be completed and submitted by SPs to the PA ~~annually~~ quarterly on January 1, April 1, July 1, and by October 1. ~~(This date coincides with the submission of utilization reports to NANPA).~~ This shall be consistent with the schedule for submission of forecast data for CO Code assignment. The data provided in these reports will allow the PA to aggregate the forecast data at the rate area level. This will also facilitate the comparison and analysis of the data by the PA.

In areas where thousand block pooling has been or is planned to be implemented, SPs that meet any one of the following criteria are not required to report CO Code forecast data at the thousand block level to the PA:

- Exempt from LNP, or

- Operate in a non-thousand block pooling area

Additionally, SPs utilizing switches incapable of participating in thousand block pooling in a thousand block pooling area do not have to report CO Code forecast data at the thousand block level for only those switches that are incapable of participating in thousand block pooling.

However, these SPs are expected to provide such data to the PA in a reasonable amount of time (e.g., 6 to 9 months) prior to when they are required to participate in thousand block pooling.

6.1 Forecast Process

- 6.1.1 All thousand block pooling participating SPs shall provide a forecast, on an quarterly ~~annual~~ basis, by rate area to the PA. The thousand block forecast is based on a 423-month interval. Forecast reports will be sent by SPs to the PA for all number resource requirements in thousand block pooling rate areas, including full NXX Codes as well as thousand blocks. The PA will adjust the Thousand Block Forecast Report (Appendix 1) during each quarterly ~~annual~~ collection period to reflect the year and quarters for which data should be submitted. The forecast is incremental above the quantity of thousand blocks already allocated in the SP inventory. The SP inventory consists of all geographic NANP TNs allocated by the CO Code Administrator/PA to the Code/Block Holder. The PA normally adjusts the industry inventory pool at the 342- month forecast schedule.
- 6.1.2 If a SP identifies a significant change in its thousand block forecast, they shall provide an updated forecast as soon as possible to the PA. The updated forecast should also identify a SP's need for an entire NXX code(s) (identified in thousand blocks) to satisfy the need of a single customer. This updated forecast will completely replace the previous thousand block forecast for a given NPA.
- 6.1.3 The PA may require SPs to submit a thousand block forecast outside of the annual schedule. For example, a separate forecast may be required to establish an industry inventory pool. It is expected that this forecast would be for a limited thousand block pooling area (e.g., a rate area). The PA will notify all SPs participating in the thousand block pooling area of the request and provide a reasonable length of time for SP responses (i.e., one month or more).
- 6.1.4 If a SP submits an application for additional thousand blocks greater than that which had been previously forecasted, the SP could be temporarily restricted to their original forecasted amount to allow the PA sufficient time to replenish the industry inventory pool, when necessary, before the SP's application can be fulfilled. If satisfying these particular requests would result in a critical

industry inventory insufficiency (see Section 11.2) in the industry inventory pool for a rate area, the PA may not meet the entire request.

- 6.1.5 A SP that has not submitted a thousand block forecast will not be provided thousand blocks from the industry inventory pool until the SP submits a forecast. In the event that the industry inventory pool has more than sufficient resources to meet the forecasts of other SPs, the PA may assign thousand blocks to a SP who has just submitted a forecast.. In the event that the industry inventory pool does not have more than sufficient resources to meet the forecasts of other SPs, the SP just now submitting the forecast will not be provided thousand blocks for a period of up to sixty-six (66) calendar days from the time the SP submitted the forecast. This 66 calendar day interval will allow the PA sufficient time to replenish the industry inventory pool when necessary. This process for addressing a SP that has not submitted a forecast is different in NPA jeopardy situations (see Section 11.0).

Information furnished by Block Holders shall be submitted on the Thousand Block Forecast Report form (Appendix 1) to the PA. Block Holder data will be used by the PA to develop a composite forecast for the thousand block pooling area. The PA will utilize the composite forecast to determine when additional thousand blocks are required for the industry inventory pool. The composite forecast will be used in determining the critical industry inventory insufficiency within a specific rate area and will also be submitted by the PA to the CO Code Administrator for use by the NANPA in annual COCUS studies for projecting NPA exhaust. All forecast data will be treated by the PA in a confidential manner.

When the industry inventory pool is not adequate to meet participating SPs' forecasted thousand block demands, the PA will request additional NXX codes from the CO Code Administrator as outlined in Section 8.4.

6.2. Service Provider Reporting Requirements

The following are the SP reporting requirements⁴ for thousand block pooling:

- a) use the Thousand Block Forecast Report (proposed form in Appendix 1,) that will be available electronically on the PA Web site and will be populated with the rate area name as it appears in the LERG;
 - b) SPs providing service in multiple NPAs must submit a separate electronic Thousand Block Forecast Report for each NPA; and
 - c) submit the appropriate Thousand Block Months to Exhaust Certification Worksheet – TN Level (Appendix 3) and/or Thousand Block Months to
-

Exhaust Certification Worksheet - Thousand Block Level (Appendix 4) with the Thousand Block Application Forms for thousand block requests.

- d) Block Holders to whom numbering resources are assigned shall be responsible to report the name and contact information to NANPA of any reseller/type 1 wireless carriers who have obtained numbering resources of more than 1,000 numbers per NXX. The reseller/type 1 wireless carriers shall then be responsible to report their forecast data to the NANPA directly unless otherwise specified in an interconnection agreement, business agreement, contract or tariff.⁵

6.3 Penalties

Any SP which forecasts demand 30 percent or more above its actual utilization for three or more quarters may be subject to penalties, including restricted access to numbering resources, as determined by the appropriate state commission.

7.0 Reservations of Thousand Blocks for Service Providers

SPs may have reason to reserve thousand blocks for their future use. This section outlines the processes for thousand block reservations.

7.1 Criteria for Approval

To reserve a thousand block, the applicant must demonstrate that the thousand block is essential to accommodate a technical (e.g., switch, network element) limitation, planning constraint, or pending regulatory approval of a tariff and/or certification/registration. When the applicant has provided a proposed use date within 6 months, if regulatory approval is pending, the applicant must certify and provide, if requested, appropriate documentation that a request for regulatory certification/registration has been submitted to the appropriate regulatory body to provide service. The applicant must also meet other applicable requirements for thousand block assignment as outlined in Sections 2.0, 3.0, 4.0 and 9.0.

Specific thousand blocks cannot be reserved to satisfy applicant requests for vanity numbers.

7.2 Time Frames and Extensions

If a reserved thousand block is not assigned within six months, the thousand

⁵ Per GS-161, memo from NANC Chairman to INC Moderator, logged in on November 8, 1999.

block will be released from reservation by the PA and returned to the industry inventory pool. Reservations may be extended when either of the following circumstances occurs:

- a) the proposed thousand block Effective Date will be missed due to extenuating circumstances (e.g., hardware/software provision delays, regulatory delays, etc.). Upon written request to the PA, one reservation extension of 3 months may be granted, or
- b) the reservation extension requirement was due solely to technical constraints (e.g., equipment limitations). Upon written request to the PA, the reservation may be extended until the constraint is no longer present.

8.0 Industry Inventory Pool

The objective of the industry inventory pool is to maintain sufficient thousand blocks for a 60-month inventory. The quantity of these thousand blocks should be determined by the PA based upon:

- a) the number of SPs participating in a given rate area;
- b) the individual forecasts provided by each of the thousand block pooling participants;
- c) the anticipated rate of assignment of the thousand blocks within the industry inventory pool; and
- d) a minimum inventory of at least sixthree months in the industry inventory pool at all times.

8.1 Outline of the Process for Establishment of Thousand Block Pooling Implementation Timeline (Figure 1).

Upon regulatory direction, the PA will obtain a list of SPs that have LNP capable switches in the geographic area where thousand block pooling is to be implemented. The PA will then schedule a First Implementation Meeting and assure that the SPs are aware of their requirement to participate in thousand block pooling and encourage their attendance and participation.

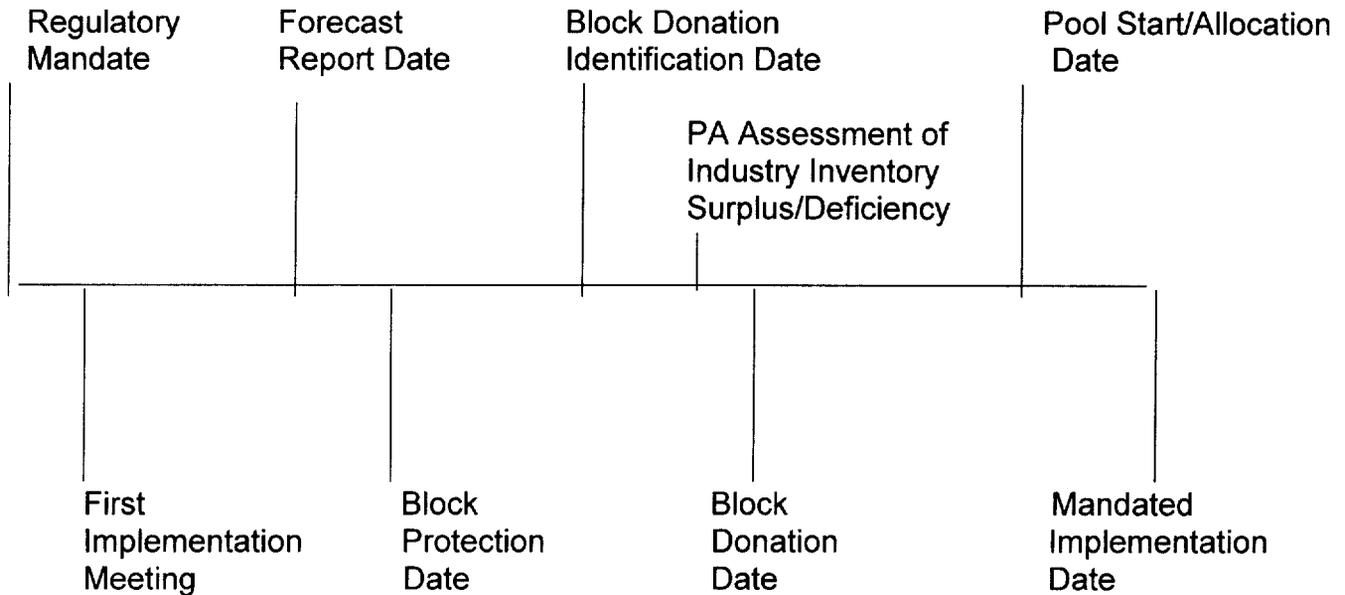
The PA will then draft the Thousand Block Pooling Implementation Timeline, with input from the state commission, identifying the milestones that SPs will be required to meet in order to implement thousand block pooling by the Mandated Implementation Date.

The PA and state commission, with input from participating SPs, will determine the dates of the milestones on a timeline for thousand block pooling implementation. ~~These dates should be based on the directives provided by the regulatory body and input from participating SPs.~~ The timeline should include the following, as depicted in Figure 1:

- a) Regulatory Mandate - The date of regulatory notification that thousand block pooling is to be implemented.
- b) First Implementation Meeting - The meeting held by the PA for all participating SPs to develop the time intervals between the milestones.
- c) Forecast Report Date - The deadline for SPs to report their forecasted thousand block demand.
- d) Block Protection Date - The deadline for SPs to "protect" specified thousand blocks (those with up to 10% contamination) from further contamination.
- e) Block Donation Identification Date - The deadline for SPs to report their surplus/deficiency of thousand blocks to the PA.
- f) PA Assessment of Industry Inventory Pool Surplus/Deficiency - The deadline for the PA to aggregate and evaluate SP thousand block donation information and determine, on a rate area basis, whether there is a surplus of thousand blocks or whether an additional NXX code(s) is required to establish the 69 month inventory. The time interval for this activity should be established at the First Implementation Meeting.
- g) Block Donation Date - The deadline for SPs to donate their thousand blocks.
- h) Pool Start/Allocation Date - The date the PA may start allocating thousand blocks from the industry inventory pool to SPs. This is also the start date for SPs to send requests for thousand blocks to the PA.
- i) Mandated Implementation Date - The date identified by the appropriate regulatory body by which thousand block pooling is to be implemented.

Figure 1

PROCESS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF THE THOUSAND BLOCK POOLING IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE



8.2 Details of Thousand Block Pooling Timeline Milestones

8.2.1 Regulatory Mandate

The date of regulatory notification that thousand block pooling is to be implemented.

8.2.2. First Implementation Meeting

The PA is required to hold one public meeting with all SPs expected to participate in thousand block pooling. Additional meetings may be scheduled if necessary. The purpose of this meeting is to develop, by industry consensus, the intervals between the milestones of the timeline in order to finalize the Establishment of the Thousand Block Implementation Timeline (Figure 1). SPs will be informed of the requirements for thousand block pooling (including both initial and subsequent forecast reports, thousand block protection, thousand block donation, etc.) and will have the opportunity to ask clarification questions regarding this process.

When scheduling the First Implementation Meetings, the PA should give priority to: ~~are to be scheduled by the PA with the understanding that the~~

~~dates should be consistent with the yet to be established national thousand block pooling implementation roll out process. First Implementation Meetings could be scheduled, for example, on the following basis:~~

- multiple NPAs/multiple industry inventory pools with the same rollout schedule,
- multiple NPAs/single industry inventory pool,
- single NPA/multiple industry inventory pools with the same rollout schedule,
- single NPA/single industry inventory pool.

The PA will arrange for the First Implementation Meeting location and date, and notify potential attendees of the arrangements. This notification will also include the required meeting fee, if necessary, to cover meeting costs. If a SP in the designated area wishes to host the meeting, they should contact the PA and meeting costs may be optional. The PA will be exempt from paying meeting fees to attend First Implementation Meetings, but will be responsible for meeting notification, arrangements, facilitation, and documenting and distribution of meeting summaries.

8.2.3 Forecast Report Date

The deadline for SPs to report their forecasted thousand block demand. In addition to the standard schedule for reporting annual forecast data, an interim submission may be required in order to establish the industry inventory pool.

8.2.4 Block Protection Date

SPs are required to protect thousand blocks with 0% to 10% contamination from further contamination after the Block Protection Date, unless the SP does not have adequate supply in their inventory to fill customer requests (this does not include a request by a customer for a vanity number). The time interval from when SPs protect thousand blocks (Block Protection Date) to when they identify thousand blocks for donation to the PA (Block Donation Identification Date) requires considerable verification work by SPs so that all available TNs are identified (see Section 8.2.6). The length of this interval should depend upon the quantity of contaminated thousand blocks to be donated.

8.2.5 Block Donation Identification Date

SPs will identify to the PA which thousand blocks, if any, have no more than 10% contamination (including zero percent). The SP should also provide a summary, by rate area, whether they will have a surplus or deficiency of thousand blocks in their inventory, so the PA can determine the aggregate supply or deficiency of the industry inventory pool. At this point, the SP will specify which thousand blocks will be donated. The summary should also include the thousand block donor contact information, NPA-NXX-X range, and whether or not the donated thousand block is contaminated.

SPs may retain thousand blocks if they can certify that:

- a) the thousand blocks are required to meet the SP's 69-month projected forecast beyond the Pool Start /Allocation Date, or
- b) if it is technically impossible to provide service without the block ~~there are technical reasons which justify retaining the thousand blocks.~~

Retention of these thousand blocks is subject to an audit(s) by the designated auditor (see Section 12.0) and to appropriate appeal procedures (see Section 13.0).

8.2.6 PA Assessment of Industry Inventory Surplus/Deficiency

For each thousand block pooling area, the PA will evaluate whether there will be enough thousand blocks donated to create an industry inventory pool with enough supply to meet the aggregate forecasted demand for TNs for 69 months beyond the Pool Start/Allocation Date. If the PA believes there will be insufficient supply to meet this demand, the PA will request additional NXX codes from the CO Code Administrator in an expedited manner to assure adequate supply exists prior to the Pool Start/Allocation Date (see Section 8.3.2, Step 2 for the process to select a LERG Assignee). If the PA determines there is an excess supply beyond the 69-month inventory level, any full NXX Codes in excess will be returned to the CO Code Administrator. Any excess individual thousand blocks will be kept in the industry inventory pool.

SPs are required to verify available TNs in thousand blocks which they intend to donate to assure they are not assigned in switches, billing systems, etc. The SP will complete intra-service provider ports on unavailable TNs in contaminated blocks which they are donating, including TNs assigned to resellers, Type 1 providers, etc., by the Block Donation Date. The porting of unavailable TNs in contaminated blocks in advance of the Pool Start/Allocation Date will allow the recipient Block Holder the ability to determine which TNs are unavailable upon allocation of the thousand block.

In addition, SPs will ensure that all donated thousand blocks are within NXXs that have been opened for LNP in the LERG and the NPAC, and that the

associated (donor) switch(es) are LNP-capable and ready to process terminating traffic. The donated thousand blocks shall be ready for allocation and use on the Pool Start/Allocation Date.

8.2.7 Block Donation Date

SPs are required to donate protected thousand blocks (see Section 8.2.4) at the Block Donation Date. Intra-SP porting of all unavailable TNs within all thousand blocks that are being donated to the industry inventory pool by SPs is to be completed by the Block Donation Date. SPs will document to the PA that activities required in the thousand block donation phase have occurred. SPs should not donate any thousand blocks which will be required to maintain their inventory for 69 months beyond the Pool Start/Allocation Date. Additionally, SPs are required to have updated the LERG with information on thousand blocks within pooled NXX Codes which are not donated (i.e., those thousand blocks within pooled NXX Codes that will be retained by the donating SP). The PA shall notify the CO Code Administrator of the NXX Codes for which the thousand block pooling indicator must be set on the Assigned Code Record (ACD) record in RDBS/BRIDS.

Prior to donating the thousand block(s)/NXX code(s) to the industry inventory pool, SPs must confirm that:

- a) all unavailable TNs within contaminated thousand block(s)/NXX(s) have been intra-service provider ported;
- b) the associated NPA/NXX is currently available for call routing and is opened for LNP in the LERG and the NPAC, and the NPA-NXX query triggers are applied in all switches and reflected in the appropriate network databases (e.g., STP routing tables);
- c) the NXX-assigned switch is currently LNP-capable and will process terminating traffic appropriately; and
- d) End Office Interconnection (EOI) trunking has been established between the NXX-assigned switch and other interconnecting networks.

The normal interval between the Block Donation Identification Date and the Block Donation Date is 66 days which allows for CO Code activation to populate the industry inventory pool if needed. Any deviation from the 66 days will be determined by the state commission with input from the industry consensus; under most circumstances ~~in no case will~~ the interval will not be less than 30 days.

If a pending LNP port exists for an unavailable TN(s) within a contaminated thousand block that is being donated, the two SPs involved in the LNP port

must work cooperatively to resolve the pending port. This process could be accomplished by having the recipient SP of the LNP port, cancel the pending LNP port so that the donating SP can perform the intra-SP port for thousand block donation purposes. Afterwards, the recipient SP of the LNP port, would then re-establish the pending LNP port. Another alternative would be to have the SPs involved attempt to advance the pending LNP port through contact with the NPAC.

The quantity of pending LNP ports (not intra-SP ports) that must be addressed should be considered by the industry when establishing the overall schedule for thousand block donation. A large quantity of pending LNP ports may require a longer interval between the Block Donation Identification Date and Block Donation Date. This information may not be available at the First Implementation Meeting.

Failure to address all pending ports at the time of thousand block donation will result in a rejection of the NPAC activation when that thousand block is subsequently allocated to an SP following industry inventory pool establishment.

8.2.8 Pool Start/Allocation Date

The date the PA may start allocating thousand blocks from the industry inventory pool to SPs. This is also the start date for SPs to send requests for thousand blocks to the PA. The Pool Start/Allocation Date may be as few as 2 days following the Block Donation Date. The 2 days is necessary to allow the NPAC download of intra-SP ports to occur. The Pool Start/Allocation Date may also be established beyond 2 days, depending on local circumstances.

8.2.9 Mandated Implementation Date

The date identified by the appropriate regulatory body by which thousand block pooling is to be implemented.

8.3 Ongoing Industry Inventory Pool Administration

Should a rate area be altered (e.g., consolidated, boundary change) after a thousand block pooling environment has been established, the PA will select the necessary implementation milestones from those outlined in the Establishment of the Thousand Block Pooling Implementation Timeline (see Section 8.1) to effect the required change to the industry inventory pool.

The size of the industry inventory pool will be a 60-month supply for each rate area. The SP's inventory for each rate area may be up to a 60-month supply.

Examples:

- If an NPA Overlay conforms exactly to the existing NPAs geographic area, the existing industry inventory pools should not require that any additional thousand block pooling implementation milestones be identified by the PA, nor should it be treated as a separate industry inventory pool from the existing industry inventory pool.
- Rate Center Consolidation (RCC) may require that some milestones outlined in Section 8.1 be identified to re-size the industry inventory pool. The necessary milestones for the PA to identify will be dependent on the specific characteristics of each thousand block pooling area and the requirements needed to modify the existing industry inventory pool.

8.4 Replenishment of the Industry Inventory Pool

8.4.1 The PA shall monitor the supply of available thousand blocks in the industry inventory pool for each of the rate areas being administered. This includes, but is not limited to, anticipating the demand upon the industry inventory pool, replenishing the supply based on thousand block forecasts, and meeting SP requests for thousand blocks that cannot be filled from available thousand blocks in the industry inventory pool.

SPs will not be required to donate contaminated thousand blocks for ongoing replenishment of the industry inventory pool.

8.4.2 New NXX codes will be used to replenish the industry inventory pool after the initial industry inventory pool has been established. Thousand blocks reclaimed by the PA will also be used to replenish the industry inventory pool. SPs may also voluntarily return any resources to assist in the replenishment of the industry inventory pool, including any resources in SP's inventory within thousand block pooling rate areas, from both embedded resources as well as thousand blocks allocated to an SP by the PA. SPs should first return all uncontaminated thousand blocks before returning any contaminated thousand blocks for industry inventory pool replenishment. For reclamation procedures, see Section 10.0.

8.4.3 Prior to requesting a new NXX code(s) from the CO Code Administrator to replenish the industry inventory pool, the PA could request SPs to voluntarily return any uncontaminated thousand blocks or uncontaminated NXX Codes within their SP inventories which are not required based on their 69 month inventory forecast.

Prior to donating the thousand block(s)/NXX code(s) to the industry inventory pool, SPs must confirm that:

- a) all unavailable TNs within contaminated thousand block(s)/NXX(s) have been intra-service provider ported;
- b) the associated NPA/NXX is currently available for call routing and is opened for LNP in the LERG and the NPAC, and the NPA-NXX query triggers are applied in all switches and reflected in the appropriate network databases (e.g., STP routing tables);
- c) the NXX-assigned switch is currently LNP-capable and will process terminating traffic appropriately; and
- d) End Office Interconnection (EOI) trunking has been established between the NXX-assigned switch and other interconnecting networks.

8.4.4 The following steps provide the process flow and activation procedures for the addition of central office codes in order to provide additional thousand blocks to the industry inventory pool to meet immediate or forecast demand:

Step 1 - The PA utilizes SPs' forecasts to determine that additional thousand blocks are required to maintain a 69-month supply for the industry inventory pool for a specific rate area. Additionally, the PA may require new NXX Codes to replenish the industry inventory pool to meet an SP's request that cannot be filled from thousand blocks available in the industry inventory pool.

Step 2 - The PA selects a LERG Assignee for growth codes to be added to the industry inventory pool. The LERG Assignee receives a thousand block(s) from the NXX assigned. If the LERG Assignee requires the assignment of an LRN, the LERG Assignee shall select the LRN from its assigned thousand block(s). If a request is for a customer dedicated NXX code, the requesting SP will be the LERG Assignee. The PA will follow the order below to select a LERG Assignee:

1. A SP requiring an LRN.
- 3-2. A SP volunteering to be the LERG Assignee.
- 5-3. A SP on a rotating basis, until all participating SPs are the LERG Assignee for at least one NXX Code residing within the industry inventory pool.
- 7-4. After each participating SP is a LERG Assignee for at least one NXX Code, participating SPs with a forecasted need will be selected on a rotational basis. An SP with a forecasted need cannot refuse to become a LERG Assignee, except for technical limitations, or if any SP is a LERG Assignee for greater than 50% of the pooled NXX Codes

within that rate area.

Step 3 - The LERG Assignee, designated in Step 2, is responsible for completing the Central Office Code (NXX) Assignment Request - Part 1 form and submitting it to the PA. The PA will then forward the Part 1 to the CO Code Administrator. The LERG Assignee is also responsible for submitting the Thousand Block Application Forms - Part 1B to the PA for those thousand blocks which will be assigned to them.

The LERG Assignee shall also include the names of both the PA and the LERG Assignee on the Central Office Code (NXX) Assignment Request - Part 1 form (Code Applicant section) so that the CO Code Administrator can provide a Part 3 response directly to both the PA and the LERG Assignee. Where the LERG Assignee has requested a dedicated NXX Code to meet a specific customer request, the LERG Assignee is responsible for completing the Thousand Block Months to Exhaust Certification Worksheet - TN Level (Appendix 3) and submitting it to the PA. The LERG Assignee, or its designate, is also responsible for inputting the RDBS/BRIDS information for the NXX Code assigned.

When the PA is unable to fill a SP thousand block application, the PA will select a LERG Assignee per Step 2, request the LERG Assignee to fill out a Central Office Code (NXX) Assignment Request - Part 1 form and return it to the PA who will forward it to the CO Code Administrator. This must be initiated within two business days. Included in the request will be the selected LERG Assignee and Effective Date.

Step 4 - The CO Code Administrator reviews the Central Office Code (NXX) Assignment Request - Part 1 form and, within 14 calendar days, notifies the PA of the NXX Code(s) assignment.

Step 5 - The CO Code Administrator inputs LERG Assignee information into the ACD record of RDBS, using Central Office Code (NXX) Assignment Request - Part 1 form data (NPA, NXX, OCN, and Effective Date.).

Step 6 - Within seven (7) calendar days upon receipt of the NXX Code assignment from the CO Code Administrator, the PA informs the LERG Assignee of the NXX Code and thousand block(s) assigned using the Thousand Block Application Forms, Part 3 – Pool Administrator's Response/Confirmation. During this step, the PA will also build the BCD record for thousand block(s) being allocated to the LERG Assignee. The information entered on the BCD record will include OCN of the Block Holder, AOCN, the thousand block range, switch ID and thousand block Effective Date. The Effective Date for all thousand block(s) assigned to the LERG

Assignee will be the same as the Effective Date of the CO Code.

Step 7 - Within seven (7) calendar days of notification by the CO Code Administrator, the LERG Assignee, or its designee, inputs Part 2 information from the Central Office Code (NXX) Assignment Request into RDBS and BRIDS.

8.5 Pool Administrator's Responsibilities When Requesting CO Codes

- 8.5.1 The PA, when applying to the CO Code Administrator for additional NXX Codes for industry inventory pool growth, will certify that existing thousand blocks for the rate area will exhaust within 69 months and will have documented and supply supporting data. The PA, when applying to the CO Code Administrator to meet a SP's request for a specific thousand block due to technical reasons, will provide supporting documentation as to the technical constraint as provided by the SP.
- 8.5.2 The PA, when forwarding the LERG Assignee's application to the CO Code Administrator for additional NXX Codes for the industry inventory pool, will attach aggregated industry inventory pool data supporting the application in order to meet the Months to Exhaust Worksheet requirement for a CO Code assignment. The aggregated data should include:
- growth history of thousand blocks, or equivalent information, for the past 69 months,
 - thousand blocks available for assignment, and
 - projected demand for thousand blocks in the next 69 months
- 8.5.3 The PA, when applying to the CO Code Administrator for an NXX Code to a) satisfy the needs of a SP's single customer requiring 10,000 consecutive TNs or b) be assigned for LRN purposes, will forward the Thousand Block Months To Exhaust Certification Worksheet - TN Level (Appendix 3) that is supplied to the PA by the requesting SP and covers:
- a) TNs available for assignment;
 - b) incremental growth history of new TNs for the past 69 months (does not include ported-in TNs); and
 - c) projected incremental demand for TNs in the next 69-months.

The PA must forward this Thousand Block Months to Exhaust Certification Worksheet – TN Level (Appendix 3) information to the CO Code Administrator.

The PA will forward the CO Code Part 4 form to the CO Code Administrator. The SP to whom the NXX has been assigned is responsible for providing the CO Code Part 4 (Assignment Request and Confirmation of Code In Service) to the PA to certify that the NXX obtained to meet a SP's single customer request for a full NXX Code has been placed in service.

9.0 Allocation of Thousand Blocks

9.1 Criteria for Thousand Block Allocation

The following criteria shall be used by the PA in reviewing a thousand block request from a SP:

- a) requests for thousand block assignments shall not be made more than 69 months prior to the requested Effective Date;
- b) the applicant must be licensed or certified to operate in the rate area, if required, and must demonstrate that all applicable regulatory approvals required to provide the service for which the thousand block is required have been obtained;
- c) the applicant must certify a need for a thousand block(s);
- d) multiple thousand blocks may be requested on one Thousand Block Applications Forms - Part 1A - General Application Information form. The Part 1A application form is structured per switch, per rate area;
- e) a separate Thousand Block Applications Form - Part 1B - NPAC Block Holder Data form must be submitted for each thousand block requested;
- f) the applicant should have requested their own contaminated thousand block from the industry inventory pool;
- g) the SP could have refused the assignment of a thousand block when it did not meet their technical limitations and/or administrative constraints;
- h) thousand blocks shall not be allocated to satisfy requests for vanity TNs; and
- i) the applicant has provided the required forecast information in order to be assigned a thousand block (see Section 6.0).

9.2 Application Process

9.2.1 The applicants for thousand block assignments shall submit their requests to

the PA using the electronic Thousand Block Application Forms found on the PA Web site or via an interface by Electronic File Transfer (EFT) . No requests and/or form submission will be accepted via fax, paper, voice, or e-mail, except in extraordinary circumstances and/or previously agreed to by the PA. Where the applicant requires the assignment of a full NXX code, the applicant should so indicate on the Thousand Block Application Forms, Part 1A. Electronic transfer or e-mail will be accepted as "official signature."

- 9.2.2 The applicant should indicate on the Thousand Block Application Forms – Part 1A – General Application Information form, if any thousand block (i.e., 0-9) is acceptable or whether for technical limitations and/or administrative reasons, only certain thousand blocks may be assigned to them. Specific thousand blocks may be requested on the application. The applicant may also indicate a requirement, or a preference, for sequential numbering resources.
- 9.2.3 The PA receives the thousand block request (Thousand Block Application Forms, Parts 1A and 1B) from the SP and the Thousand Block Months to Exhaust Certification Worksheet – TN Level (Appendix 3). Additional information and/or dialogue may be required by the PA with the applicant to facilitate application processing. The PA is required to respond to the applicant within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of the request.
- 9.2.4 Applicants requiring an Effective Date more than 28 days after the date the PA receives the application should specify their desired Effective Date. An application without an Effective Date will be assigned the standard PA-assigned minimum Effective Date of 19 days after the Allocation Date. The PA shall always assure a minimum of 19 days between the Allocation Date and the Effective Date, unless requested otherwise through the expedite process (see Section 9.6).

SPs must allow at least two days beyond the Effective Date prior to activating TNs within the assigned thousand block. For example, if the Effective Date is October 28, XXXX, a SP can start assigning TNs on October 30, XXXX. This is necessary in order to allow for NPAC processing and downloading to occur.

This 21 calendar day interval (i.e., from thousand block allocation through completion of NPAC processing) is necessary because of some SP's internal company notification processes, etc. It should be noted that interconnection arrangements and facilities need to be in place prior to activation of a thousand block. Such arrangements are outside the scope of these guidelines.

9.3 Process for Allocation of Thousand Blocks

- 9.3.1 One process involves the initial allocation of thousand block(s) to a SP without numbering resources in a rate area.

A SP entering an established industry inventory pool with no numbering resources within the rate area is required to provide the PA a thousand block forecast prior to the allocation of a thousand block(s) as detailed in Section 6.0. The PA will allocate the appropriate quantity of thousand blocks to the new SP based on its request as detailed in Section 5.2 and Section 5.3. The PA shall review the application for reasonableness and request additional information from the applicant as necessary.

- 9.3.2 Another process involves the initial allocation of thousand blocks from the industry inventory pool to a SP with numbering resources in a rate area

A SP entering an established industry inventory pool, who has numbering resources within the rate area will, prior to requesting numbering resources from the industry inventory pool:

- a) provide a thousand block forecast, and
- b) donate thousand blocks to the industry inventory pool as outlined in Section 8.0.

- 9.3.3 The start-up need for an initial thousand block assignment will be based upon one of the following:

- a) identification of a new switching entity, or
- b) identification of a new physical point of interconnection (POI), or
- c) a specific business requirement.

If the applicant is deploying a new switching entity/POI that requires the assignment of an LRN, the Block Applicant will indicate on the Thousand Block Application Forms - Part 1A - General Application Information form, the need for assignment of a new NXX Code. In this case, the requesting SP becomes the LERG Assignee. In instances where the applicant does not designate a particular rate area for LRN assignment purposes, the PA should recommend and gain the SP's concurrence regarding which rate area should be used for assignment of an NXX Code and ensure efficient utilization of numbering resources.

- 9.3.4 For growth thousand block allocations, the following applicable criteria shall

be used by the PA in reviewing a thousand block request from a SP:

- a) The applicant must certify that existing numbering resources for the switching entity/POI will exhaust within 69 months. The quantitative information required for a growth thousand block(s) request is on the Thousand Blocks Months to Exhaust Certification Worksheet - TN Level (Appendix 3). The thousand block applicant should retain a copy in the event of an audit or regulatory initiative. In addition, the applicant must supply the Thousand Block Months to Exhaust Certification Worksheet and additional supporting information to the PA including:
 - 2)1) TNs available for assignment,
 - 4)2) incremental growth history of new TNs for the past 69 months, and
 - 6)3) projected incremental demand for new TNs in the next 69 months.
- b) The applicant certifies that an additional thousand block(s) is necessary when currently allocated TNs/thousand blocks cannot be utilized because of a technical limitation or administrative constraint. Some examples of the technical limitation or constraint are limitations on Customer Premise Equipment (CPE), SP internal thousand block administration restrictions (e.g., administration of a thousand block across multiple switches within a rate area), and potential situations such as unique AIN triggers. The applicant must specify the specific limitation and provide supporting documentation.
- c) Unless the applicant requests a specific thousand block, the PA should select the thousand block for assignment based upon the following order:
 - 1) the SP's donated contaminated thousand blocks,
 - 2) other contaminated blocks,
 - 3) SP donated, uncontaminated thousand blocks (first attempting to use the 0,1,8, and 9 thousand block),
 - 4) other available uncontaminated thousand blocks (first attempting to use the 0,1,8, and 9 thousand block).
- d) When the applicant requests a specific thousand block (NXX-X), the PA should assign the requested thousand block if available in the industry inventory pool. If not, the PA should follow the procedure outlined in c) above.

9.3.5 The PA is responsible for creating the BCD record in RDBS/BRIDS with the

required thousand block information. Required thousand block information includes the following data elements: OCN of the Block Holder, AOCN, the thousand block line range, switch ID and block Effective Date. The BCD record will also display the rate area of the assigned NXX code as shown on the NXX ACD record. The rate area information is for informational purposes only for the PA .

- 9.3.6 The PA issues the Part 3 - Pool Administrator's Response/Confirmation form to the SP and issues the Part 1B, NPAC Block Holder Data form, to the NPAC as confirmation of thousand block allocation, except when the thousand block is being allocated back to the LERG Assignee and is going back to the donating switch. The NPAC will create the NPA-NXX-X Holder Information Table within seven (7) calendar days of notification for all thousand blocks allocated to SPs, except when the thousand block is being allocated back to the LERG Assignee and it is going back to the donating switch.
- 9.3.7 When a contaminated thousand block is allocated, the PA will notify the thousand block applicant that the allocated thousand block(s) is contaminated. The thousand block applicant is responsible for obtaining a list from the LNP data bases of unavailable TNs within the contaminated thousand block that are not available for the thousand block applicant's use.
- 9.3.8 Should the NPAC experience any problem with the initial activation of an allocated thousand block (e.g., if all pending ports have not been addressed), the NPAC will notify the PA before attempting to perform subsequent thousand block creation. In the event all pending ports have not been addressed and is the cause for rejection, the PA will contact the LERG Assignee (i.e., the Block Donor) to take steps to resolve any pending ports that were not addressed during thousand block donation. The LERG Assignee will resolve the issue and provide notification back to the PA within five (5) business days of being contacted by the PA.
- 9.3.9 In instances where a pooled unavailable TN is assigned to more than one customer served by different SPs (i.e., Block Holder and LERG Assignee) due to an error made by the LERG Assignee in the population of unavailable TNs in the LNP data base at the time of donation, the customer of the original SP (i.e., the customer to whom the TN was originally assigned) shall retain assignment of the TN. The Block Holder shall assign their customer a new TN.
- 9.3.10 A thousand block assigned to a SP shall should be placed in service within 69 months after the date the thousand block was allocated by the PA to the SP. Certification of in service will be required. If the PA does not receive the Part 4 - Confirmation of NXX-X Block In Service within the 69 month interval, the PA should begin the reclamation process (see Section 10.0). If the SP

identifies that they will not meet the 69 month deadline due to circumstances beyond their control, the SP may request an extension as defined in Section 10.3.

9.4 Thousand Block Transfer Process

Assignment criteria can be used by the PA when reviewing a request from a SP to transfer a thousand block from the current Block Holder to the SP making the transfer request. These criteria will apply when the transfer of a thousand block has been made from one SP to another SP and the full thousand block is assigned and/or reserved to a single end user customer.

All time intervals applicable to the assignment of a new thousand block apply in the case of a thousand block transfer. These intervals do not address the time intervals needed to perform the network and other rearrangements associated with the thousand block transfer.

9.4.1 The following criteria will be used by the PA in reviewing a thousand block transfer request:

- a) The applicant (SP receiving the thousand block to be transferred) must submit a complete Thousand Block Application Forms - Part 1A and Part 1B. In addition, the applicant requesting the thousand block transfer must also provide written certification in which the current Block Holder agrees to the transfer.
- b) Upon confirmation from both parties, the PA will modify the BCD record in RDBS/BRIDS for the thousand block to be transferred to reflect the OCN, Effective Date and AOCN of the SP to which the thousand block will be transferred. To the extent necessary, the PA will coordinate the change with Traffic Routing Administration (TRA).
- c) The PA will notify the recipient SP when the BCD record has been successfully modified. It is the responsibility of the SP receiving the thousand block to enter, or arrange for the entry of, any changes to RDBS and BRIDS data (e.g., switch ID) associated with transferring the thousand block.

9.5 Ongoing Administration of Allocated Thousand Blocks and Notification of LERG Changes

9.5.1 The information associated with a thousand block assignment may change over time. The PA must be notified of an OCN or Block Effective Date change for thousand blocks which have already been assigned. Changes should be made as submitted by SPs on the Thousand Block Application Forms, Part 1A & Part 1B, to indicate the information to be updated. For

data integrity reasons, the PA must be informed of these types of changes to ensure that the record of the entity responsible for the thousand block and the data associated with the thousand block is accurate.

- 9.5.2 After the PA has created the thousand block record on the BCD screen, but prior to the thousand block Effective Date, the PA, upon notification by the SP, as noted in 9.5.1, is responsible for making changes to any fields on the BCD screen, including Switch ID. If changes are made to the Switch ID field after the thousand block Effective Date, it is the Block Holder's option whether or not to update the Switch ID in the LERG.
- 9.5.3 The resulting SP in a merger/acquisition must revise and provide a new, consolidated forecast for numbering resources. The holder of a thousand block assigned by the PA or acquired by other means such as transfer (e.g., by merger or acquisition), must use the thousand block consistent with these guidelines. Additionally, the new Block Holder must participate in an audit process as necessary.
- 9.6 Expedite Process for Thousand Block Allocation

A SP request for an expedited thousand block allocation will occur on an exception basis. The following procedures enable a SP to request an expedited allocation of a thousand block(s). The expedite procedures below do not eliminate the Block Holder and PA responsibilities described in Section 9.5.

- a) A SP may send a request to the PA requesting an expedited allocation of a thousand block(s).
- b) The requesting SP will indicate on the Thousand Block Application Forms – Part 1A that this is an expedited request for an allocation with its desired Effective Date.
- c) The PA will process the application if the request meets the criteria for the allocation of the thousand block(s) and will make every effort to process the application in fewer than the current maximum 7 calendar days. The PA will expedite such requests when it can do so without failing to meet its 7 calendar day allocation interval for other SPs. The PA will determine the minimum Effective Date for an expedited request based upon the following considerations:
 - 1) If the thousand block applicant is the LERG Assignee, the Effective Date must be at least two business days after the Allocation Date. This allows for the PA to update RDBS/BRIDS and for LERG daily update.

- 3)2) If the thousand block allocated requires NPAC notification and is the first "port" within the NXX code, the Effective Date will be no earlier than twelve (12) days after allocation (5 days to build the thousand block ownership table, 5 days for a first "port" and 2 days for LSMS downloads).
 - 5)3) If the thousand block allocated requires NPAC notification but is not the first "port", then the Effective Date will be at least two business days after the Allocation Date. This allows for the PA to update RDBS/BRIDS and for LERG daily update.
- d) The SP will activate the thousand block and can begin customer assignments as soon as all NPAC processing and notification has occurred.

NOTE: SPs requesting an expedited assignment of thousand block(s) should be aware that there are potential impacts to other SPs and customers. This may affect customer service to the extent that a SP is unable to identify the SP to whom a thousand block has been assigned when responding to a customer trouble report.

10.0 Reclamation and Return of Thousand Blocks

This section outlines the various responsibilities of the Block Holder and the PA with respect to the reclamation and return of thousand blocks under a thousand block pooling arrangement. In addition, the various circumstances under which reclamation and return of thousand blocks can be initiated are enumerated in this section.

Nothing in this section limits in any way a state's authority to order NANPA or the PA to reclaim codes or blocks pursuant to any authority delegated to the state by the FCC.

10.1 LERG Assignee/Block Holder Responsibility

- 10.1.1 If the LERG Assignee no longer provides service (nor has an LRN) in the rate area associated with the NXX code, they must notify the PA to select a new LERG Assignee.
- 10.1.2 Upon receipt of the reclamation request from the PA, the Block Holder must return the thousand block within 30 calendar days.
- 10.1.3 The Block Holder to which a thousand block(s) has been assigned from the industry inventory pool shall return the thousand block(s) to the PA if:

- a) it is no longer needed by the entity for the purpose for which it was originally assigned;
- e)b) the service it was assigned for is disconnected; or
- e)c) the thousand block(s) was not placed in service within the timeframe specified in these guidelines.

10.1.4 If the thousand block(s) was not placed in service within the timeframe specified in these guidelines, the assignee may apply to the PA for an extension date of up to 90 days. Such an extension request must include the reason for the delay and a new in service time commitment.

10.2 Pool Administrator Responsibility

10.2.1 The PA has the authority to reclaim resources in the inventory of pool participants from both embedded resources as well as thousand blocks allocated to a SP by the PA.

10.2.2 The PA will contact any thousand block assignee identified as not having returned to the administrator for reassignment any thousand block(s) that were:

- a) allocated, but no longer in use by the assignee(s);
- b) allocated for a service no longer offered;
- c) allocated, but not placed in service within the timeframe specified in these guidelines;
- d) allocated, but not used in conformance with these guidelines; or

10.2.3 The PA will seek clarification from the assignee(s) regarding the alleged non-use or misuse. If appropriate, the PA will extend the in service date up to 90 days. If no satisfactory explanation is provided, the PA will request a letter from the assignee(s) returning the assigned thousand block(s). If a direct contact can not be made with the assignee(s) to effect the above process, a registered letter will be sent to the assignee(s) address of record and copied to the appropriate state regulatory agency. The letter will request that they contact the PA within 1030 days regarding the alleged resource non-use or misuse.

10.2.4 The PA must also notify and coordinate with the LERG Assignee in advance of the thousand block return Effective Date to allow sufficient time for the LERG Assignee to update switch translations in order to provide blank

number treatment for the returned thousand block(s). The thousand block will be made available by the PA for re-assignment after 90 days.

10.2.5 Whether a thousand block is reclaimed or voluntarily returned, the PA is responsible for entering a disconnect in the RDBS/BRIDS data base (BCD record). This information includes the following data elements: OCN of the Block Holder, AOCN, the thousand block line range, switch ID and thousand block reclamation Effective Date.

10.2.6 If the reclaimed or returned thousand blocks have been entered into the NPAC, the PA must also notify the NPAC of those thousand blocks by completing the NPAC Thousand Block Reclamation form, Sections A and B (***Issue 168, contribution LNPA-238 will be worked to provide this form to the guidelines***). Notification should include the thousand block range and the effective date of the return. Upon completion of reclamation at the NPAC, the NPAC will notify the PA, LERG Assignee and Block Holder that the thousand block has been removed from the NPAC by completing Section C of the NPAC Thousand Block Reclamation form.

11.0 Jeopardy Situations

11.1 NPA Jeopardy Situations

When it is determined by the CO Code Administrator(s) based on the NPA Code Relief Planning & Notification Guidelines (INC 97-0404-016) that an NPA is in jeopardy⁶, the PA will participate in the NPA jeopardy activities. The industry inventory pool participants are encouraged to also participate.

11.1.1 The following are special conservation procedures that will be invoked by the PA in the situation of a jeopardy NPA.

- a) During the special conservation period, the PA will treat all thousand block requests in a fair and impartial manner, consistent with the special conservation provisions.
- b) Upon receipt of the notice of the jeopardy situation from the CO Code Administrator and/or PA, each Block Holder will review their forecast and demand data and provide the information to the PA within 30 days using the Thousand Block Forecast Report (Appendix 1) unless the Block Holder has already provided such information to the PA within the past 30-day period.

⁶ A jeopardy NPA condition exists when the forecasted and/or actual demand for NXX resources will exceed the known supply during the planning/implementation interval for relief.

c) For additional growth thousand blocks, each Block Holder will certify that existing thousand blocks for the switching entity/POI, per service provided by that switching entity or POI, will exhaust within 36 months. Block Holders will have documented and must provide the Thousand Blocks Months to Exhaust Certification Worksheet - TN Level (Appendix 3) containing:

- 1) TNs available for assignment,
- 2) growth history of thousand blocks, or equivalent information, for the past 36 months, and
- 3) projected demand for thousand blocks in the next 36 months.

The PA, when applying to the CO Code Administrator for additional NXX Codes for industry inventory pool growth will certify that existing thousand blocks for the rate area will exhaust within 36 months and will have documented and be prepared to supply supporting data.

The PA, when forwarding the LERG Assignee's application to the CO Code Administrator for additional NXX codes for the industry inventory pool, will attach aggregated industry pool data supporting the application in order to meet the Months to Exhaust Certification Worksheet – TN Level requirement for a CO Code assignment. The aggregated data should include:

- 1) growth history of thousand blocks, or equivalent information, for the past six months,
- 2) thousand blocks available for assignment, and
- 3) projected demand for thousand blocks in the next six months.

The PA will forward to the CO Code Administrator the "Thousand Blocks Months To Exhaust Certification Worksheet – TN Level" that is supplied to the PA by the requesting SP, when applying for an NXX Code to:

- 1) satisfy the needs of a SP's single customer requirement for 10,000 consecutive TNs, or
- 2) be assigned for LRN purposes.

Requests for assignment of new NXX Codes for other than growth, or to serve a new switching entity/POI, should be minimized.

d) For thousand blocks reserved for SPs per Section 7.0:

- 1) SPs with reserved thousand blocks will be asked to voluntarily release the thousand blocks or confirm their proposed use date.
 - 2) Reservations with a proposed use date beyond the NPA Relief Date will be reviewed and filled, with resources made available as a result of NPA relief.
 - 3) Reservations with a proposed use date prior to the NPA Relief Date will not be honored if doing so would preclude the assignment of a thousand block resource for which a certified request has been processed.
 - 4) Reservations with the latest proposed use date will be the first thousand blocks to be used for assignment, and the reservation will be canceled.
- e) Requests for assignment of thousand blocks for other than growth, or to serve a new switching entity/POI, should be minimized. However, applications for such purposes can be submitted to the appropriate regulatory authority, or their designate. If the appropriate regulatory authority, or their designate, decides that a special purpose thousand block is warranted, the PA will make the assignment. The decision to postpone or withdraw a thousand block request is the Block Applicant's responsibility and must be submitted in writing to the PA.

11.1.2 Unique circumstances within a given jeopardy NPA may require extraordinary NPA-specific thousand block pooling conservation procedures. In this event, the following activities shall apply:

- a) The PA shall work in conjunction with the state regulatory commission, CO Code Administrator, and the affected parties to develop:
 - 1) NPA-specific CO Code conservation procedures; and
 - 2) NPA-specific thousand block pooling conservation procedures.
- b) The PA will monitor changes in the jeopardy situation using the forecast forms. Based upon the results of the analysis, the PA, in conjunction with the state regulatory commission and/or its consultants, will:
 - 1) implement each thousand block pooling conservation procedure as required, and
 - 2) notify the affected parties and the CO Code Administrator of the implementation.

11.2 Critical Industry Inventory Insufficiency

A critical industry inventory insufficiency exists for a rate area when the available resources in the industry inventory pool for a particular rate area fall below the actual and/or forecasted demand for the next 66 calendar days. The PA:

- a) will continue to assign thousand blocks on a first come, first served basis;
- e)b) will allow existing thousand block reservations to continue;
- e)c) will not allow new thousand block reservations to be made;
- f)d) should request that SPs voluntarily return thousand block(s); and
- h)e) should not reduce SP inventories to replenish the industry inventory pool.

- 11.3 In situations where lottery procedures are in place, the PA will be afforded priority treatment and assigned a code out of the lottery process upon request.

12.0 Auditing of Service Providers

The INC is working Issue #194 – Audit Guidelines – that will develop the audit guidelines for all NANP resources. The appropriate text on auditing will be inserted in this document upon resolution of that Issue.

Any audit guidelines adopted or referenced herein will in no way impede a state's ability to conduct its own for cause or random audits of SPs.

13.0 Appeals Process

Disagreements may arise between the PA and Block Holders/Applicants in the context of the administration of these guidelines. In all cases, the PA and Block Holders/Applicants will make reasonable, good faith efforts to resolve such disagreements amongst themselves, consistent with these guidelines, prior to pursuing any appeal. Appeals may include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following options:

- a) The Block Holder/Applicant will have the opportunity to resubmit the matter to the PA for reconsideration with or without additional input.

- b) Guidelines interpretation/clarification questions may be referred to the body responsible for maintenance of these guidelines, currently the INC. Unless otherwise mutually agreed to by the parties, these questions will be submitted in a generic manner protecting the identity of the appellant.
- c) The PA and Block Holders/Applicant may pursue the disagreement with the appropriate regulatory authorities or their designate.

14.0 Glossary

Active Block	A thousand block assigned by the Pool Administrator(s) and implemented by the block holder in the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN), in accordance with the block activation data and effective date.
Administrative Constraint, Reason	A limitation of the Point of Interconnection or Switching Entity where an existing block and/or TNs cannot be used for designated network routing and/or rating of PSTN calls. An example of a constraint would be the limitation in the administration of a thousand block across multiple switches in a rate area.
Administrative Number	An administrative number is one which is not, or should not be, assigned to a customer because it is in one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Internal Business Purpose/Official Number• Identical to a Location Routing Number (LRN)• Test Number• Temporary Local Directory Number (TLDN)• Wireless E911 ESRD/ESRK
Administrative Operating Company Number (AOCN)	A four character numeric or alphanumeric that identifies the administrator of one (or more) data record contained in the Routing DataBase System (RDBS). Numeric/alphanumeric AOCNs are determined by Operating Company Number (OCN) assignment. The AOCN further identifies the entity authorized by the code holder to input and maintain data into RDBS and BRIDS.
Affected Parties	Affected parties are a) those entities that have applied for and/or received central office block (NXX-X) assignments or reservations within the NXX code b) administrative entities involved in number administration, number portability or number pooling.

Aging Number	An aging number is a number in the aging process. Aging is the process of making a disconnected telephone number unavailable for re-assignment to another subscriber for a specified period of time. An aging interval includes any announcement treatment period, as well as the vacant telephone number intercept period. A number is disconnected when it is no longer used to route calls to equipment owned or leased by the disconnecting subscriber of record.
Allocated/Assigned Block	A thousand block is allocated/assigned to an SP when the block information has been entered into RDBS/BRIDS by the PA.
Allocation Date	The Allocation Date is the date established by the PA when the PA officially makes the block assignment to an SP.
Applicant	SPs who submit a block request to the PA for the purpose of being assigned a thousand block for their use.
Assigned Number	An assigned number is (a) working in the PSTN under an agreement (e.g., tariff, contract) at the request of a specific customer for that customer's use, or (b) not yet working but has a customer service order pending.
Authorized Representative of an Applicant	A person from an applicant's organization or its agent that has the legal authority to take action on behalf of the applicant.
Block Applicant	See "Applicant."
Blocks Available for Assignment	Thousand blocks (NXX-X) within the industry inventory pool rate area which are within an NPA/NXX that is opened for LNP in the LERG and the NPAC, and which are available for assignment within the SP's rate area.

Block Exhaust	<p>a) When used by the block holder in applying for additional thousand blocks, a point in time at which the quantity of TN's within existing thousand block(s) which have been assigned to the block holder equals zero for a switching entity/POI.</p> <p>b) When used by the PA in applying for additional NXX codes, block exhaust is defined as a point in time at which the quantity of thousand blocks within the rate area which are "available for assignment" equals zero.</p>
Block Holder	The entity to which a thousand block (NXX-X) has been assigned for use.
BRIDS	The Business Rating Input Data Base System (BRIDS) contains data in the rating of calls. Data supports all CO Codes assigned through these guidelines, as well as all CO Codes in place prior to the existence of these guidelines, and covers all Numbering Plan Areas (NPAs) administered under the North American Numbering Plan (NANP). BRIDS is a replacement database for BRADS.
Central Office (CO) Code	The sub-NPA code in a TN, i.e., digits D-E-F of a 10-digit NANP Area address. Central office codes are in the form "NXX", where N is a number from 2 to 9 and X is a number from 0 to 9. Central office codes may also be referred to as "NXX codes."
CLLI®	An eleven-character descriptor of a switch and is used for routing calls.
Certify	<p>(When used by the applicant): As part of the Central Office Block (NXX-X) or the Central Office Code (NXX) Assignment Request, to attest, through a formal statement, information contained within the assignment request is true, accurate, and complete to the best of his/her knowledge.</p> <p>(When used by a regulator): Where applicable, to authorize, in writing, an entity to provide a telecommunications service in the relevant geographic area. Such authorization is the responsibility of the appropriate regulatory agency.</p>

COCUS (Central Office Code Utilization Survey)	A survey conducted in order to monitor use of central office codes, projected exhaust of NPAs and demand for new CO Codes from new NPAs to provide code relief. The purpose of COCUS is to provide an overall view of both present and projected CO Code (NPA/NXX) utilization for each NPA in the NANP.
CO Code Administrator	Entity(ies) responsible for the administration of the NXX codes within an NPA.
Code Holder	An assignee of a full NXX code which was allocated by the CO Code Administrator. Where the Code Holder is participating in thousand block pooling, the Code Holder becomes a LERG Assignee at the block donation date.
Conservation	Consideration given to the efficient and effective use of a finite numbering resource in order to minimize the cost and need to expand its availability in the introduction of new services, capabilities and features.
Contaminated Block	A contaminated block is a block of one thousand (X000-X999) TNs in which at least one TN is in any of the following categories: Administrative Number Aging Number Assigned Number Reserved Number
Critical Industry Inventory Insufficiency	Critical industry inventory insufficiency exists for a rate area when the available resources in the industry inventory pool for a particular rate area fall below the actual and/or forecasted demand for the next 66 calendar days.
Dealer Numbering Pools	Numbers allocated by a service provider to a retail dealer for use in the sale and establishment of service on behalf of that service provider.
Employee/Official Number	A number assigned by a service provider for its own internal business purposes.

Effective Date	The date by which routing and rating changes within the PSTN must be complete for the assigned thousand block or the assigned CO Code. Also, the date by which the thousand block becomes an active block.
INC (Industry Numbering Committee)	A standing forum of the Carrier Liaison Committee (CLC) that provides an open forum to address and resolve industry-wide issues associated with the planning, administration, allocation, assignment and use of numbering resources and related dialing considerations for public telecommunications within the North American Numbering Plan (NANP) area.
Industry Inventory Pool	Used in Thousand Block Pooling to describe a reservoir of unallocated thousand blocks administered by the PA for purposes of assignment to certified SPs participating in Thousand Block Pooling.
Initial Block	The first NXX-X block assigned at a unique switching entity or point of interconnection.
In Service	An active thousand block in which specific subscribers or services are utilizing TNs.
Intra-service provider Port	An Intra-service provider Port allows an SP to retain unavailable TNs in contaminated blocks that are being donated to the industry inventory pool. An intra-service provider port can also be used to move a TN(s) from one switch within a rate area to another switch within the rate area where LRN-LNP technology is in use.
Jeopardy	A jeopardy condition exists when the forecasted and/or actual demand for NXX code resources will exceed the known supply during the planning/implementation interval for relief.
LATA (Local Access and Transport Area)	Also referred to as service areas by some BOCs, a LATA serves two basic purposes: to provide a method for delineating the area within which the BOCs may offer services and, to provide a basis for determining how the assets of the former Bell System were to be divided between the BOCs and AT&T at divestiture.

LERG (Local Exchange Routing Guide)	Contains information about the local routing data obtained from the Routing Data Base System (RDBS). This information reflects the current network configuration and scheduled network changes for all entities originating or terminating PSTN calls within the NANP.
LERG Assignee	The SP responsible for default routing functions associated with a pooled NXX code.
LIDB	Line Information Data Base
LNP Port	The ability to move a TN from one SP to another SP using LRN-LNP technology.
Location Routing Number (LRN)	The ten-digit (NPA-NXX-XXXX) number assigned to a switch/POI used for routing in a permanent local number portability environment.
Months to Exhaust	<p>When used by SPs to certify the need for an additional block:</p> $= \frac{\text{TNs Available for Assignment}}{\text{Average Monthly Growth Rate}}$ <p>When used by the PA to certify the need for an additional CO Code:</p> $= \frac{\text{Blocks Available for Assignment}}{\text{Average Monthly Growth Rate}}$
NANP (North American Numbering Plan)	A numbering architecture in which every station in the NANP Area is identified by a unique ten-digit address consisting of a three-digit NPA code, a three digit central office code of the form NXX, and a four-digit line number of the form XXXX.

NANPA (North American Numbering Plan Administration)	With divestiture, key responsibilities for coordination and administration of the North American Numbering/Dialing Plans were assigned to NANPA. These central administration functions are exercised in an impartial manner toward all industry segments while balancing the utilization of a limited resource.
NANP Area	Consists of the United States, Canada and the Caribbean countries currently in NPA code 809.
NPA	<p>Numbering Plan Area, also called area code. An NPA is the 3-digit code that occupies the A, B, and C positions in the 10-digit NANP format that applies throughout the NANP Area. NPAs are of the form NXX, where N represents the digits 2-9 and X represents any digit 0-9. In the NANP, NPAs are classified as either geographic or non-geographic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Geographic NPAs are NPAs which correspond to discrete geographic areas within the NANP Area.b) Non-geographic NPAs are NPAs that do not correspond to discrete geographic areas, but which are instead assigned for services with attributes, functionalities, or requirements that transcend specific geographic boundaries. The common examples are NPAs in the N00 format, e.g., 800.
NPAC	Number Portability Administration Center.
NPAC SMS	The NPAC Service Management System is a database which contains all necessary routing information on ported TNs and facilitates the updating of the routing databases of all subtending SPs in the portability area.
NPA Code Relief	NPA code relief refers to an activity that must be performed when an NPA nears exhaust of its 792 NXX capacity. Options for relief are described in Section 6.0 of the NPA Code Relief Planning & Notification Guidelines.
NPA Relief Date	The date by which the NPA is introduced and routing of normal commercial traffic begins.

OCN (Operating Company Number)	Operating Company Number (OCN) assignments must uniquely identify the applicant. Relative to CO Code assignments, NECA-assigned Company Codes may be used as OCNs. Companies with no prior CO Code or Company Code assignments contact NECA (973-884-8355) to be assigned a Company Code(s). Since multiple OCNs and/or Company Codes may be associated with a given company, companies with prior assignments should direct questions regarding appropriate OCN usage to the Traffic Routing Administration (TRA) on 732-699-6700.
Point of Interconnection (POI)	The physical location where an SP's connecting circuits interconnect for the purpose of interchanging traffic on the PSTN.
Pool Administrator	Entity responsible for the administration of the NXX-X blocks within an area that has implemented thousand block pooling.
Premature Exhaust	When referring to NANP : Premature exhaust means the exhaust of NANP resources (i.e., requires expansion beyond the 10-digit format) much sooner than the best industry projections. The NANP is expected to meet the numbering needs of the telecommunications industry well into the 21 st century (i.e., a minimum of 25 years). (When referring to NPA): Premature exhaust is when a specific date for NPA relief has been established and the NPA is projected to exhaust prior to that date.
Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN)	Public Switched Telephone Network. The PSTN is composed of all transmission and switching facilities and signal processors supplied and operated by all telecommunications common carriers for use by the public. Every station on the PSTN is capable of being accessed from every other station on the PSTN via the use of NANP E.164 numbers.
Rate Area	Denotes the smallest geographic area used to distinguish rate boundaries.

RDBS (Routing Data Base System)	Contains a complete description of all Local Exchange Companies' networks in the NANP Area and pertinent information relating to the networks of other code holders. This provides information for: (1) message routing, (2) common channel signaling call setup routing, and (3) operator service access routing.
Reassignment	The process of reestablishing the assignment of a thousand block, which was previously assigned to another SP or to a new SP.
Reseller	An SP which purchases facilities and/or services from another SP for resale.
Reserved Blocks	A thousand block that has been set aside by the PA for some specific future use or purpose.
Reserved Number	Definition to be provided by the NANC.
Service Providers (SPs)	Any entity that is authorized, as appropriate, by local governmental, state, federal or the NANP Area governmental authorities to provide telecommunications services to the public.
Service Provider Inventory	The inventory of all geographic NANP TNs allocated by the CO Code Administrator/PA to a code/block holder.
Soft Dial Tone	A number temporarily assigned to line equipment and facilities which permits restricted dialing (e.g., Operator, 911, service provider business office).
Switching Entity	An electromechanical or electronic system for connecting lines to lines, lines to trunks, or trunks to trunks for the purpose of originating/terminating PSTN calls. A single switching system may handle several central office codes.
Technical Requirement, Reason, Limitation or Constraint	A limitation of the Point of Interconnection or Switching Entity where an existing thousand block and/or TNs cannot be used for designated network routing and/or rating of PSTN calls. Examples that constitute "technical constraint" include limitations on a switch, network element or planning constraint, CPE limitations or unique AIN Triggers.

Test Number	A TN(s) assigned for inter- and intra-network testing purposes.
TN	Telephone Number
Temporary Local Directory Number (TLDN)	A number dynamically assigned on a per call basis by the serving wireless service provider to a roaming subscriber for the purpose of incoming call setup.
Thousand Block	A range of one thousand TNs within an NPA-NXX beginning with N000 and ending with N999, where N is a value from 0 to 9.
Thousand Block (NXX-X) Pooling	A number administration and assignment process which allocates thousand blocks to an industry inventory pool associated with a rate area.
TNs Available for Assignment	Numbers within existing codes (NXX) or blocks (NXX-X) which are available for assignment to subscriber access lines or their equivalents within a switching entity/POI, and are not categorized as Assigned Numbers, Administrative Numbers, Aging Numbers or Reserved Numbers. Vacant, Soft Dial Tone and Dealer Number Pool numbers are considered "TNs Available for Assignment. [Iss 200]
TNs Unavailable for Assignment	TNs that are categorized as Administrative Numbers, Aging Numbers, Assigned Numbers or Reserved Numbers.
Type 1 Interconnection Service Provider	A wireless SP that utilizes Type 1 (line side) interconnection with another SP's end office switch.
Unallocated Block	A thousand block which is currently in the Industry Inventory Pool which has not been assigned.
Uncontaminated Block	A thousand block(s) in which all 1,000 TNs within that block are available for assignment.
Vacant Number	A number available for assignment.

Wireless E911 ESRD/ESRK Number	A 10-digit number used for the purpose of routing an E911 call to the appropriate Public Service Answering Point (PSAP) when that call is originating from wireless equipment. The ESRD identifies the cell site and sector of the call origination in a wireless call scenario. The Emergency Services Routing Key (ESRK) uniquely identifies the call in a given cell site/sector and correlates data that is provided to a PSAP by different paths, such as the voice path and the Automatic Location Identification (ALI) data path. Both the ESRD and ESRK define a route to the proper PSAP. The ESRK alone, or the ESRD and/or Mobile Identification Number (MIN), is signaled to the PSAP where it can be used to retrieve from the ALI database, the mobile caller's call-back number, position and the emergency service agencies (e.g., police, fire, medical, etc.) associated with the caller's location. If a NANPA TN is used as an ESRD or ESRK, this number cannot be assigned to a customer.
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