**CSCN**

**CRTC INDUSTRY STEERING COMMITTEE**

**TIF REPORT**

**Date Submitted:** 2023-10-30

**WORKING GROUP:** Canadian Steering Committee on Numbering (CSCN)

**REPORT #:** 137 **File ID:** CNRE137B.docx

**REPORT TITLE**: Setting aside of 3 remaining reserved Canadian Geographic NPA Codes for relief of exhausting NPA complexes

**OUTCOME:** CONSENSUS

**RELATED TASK(s) #:** None

**BACKGROUND:**

On June 7, 2016, the CSCN agreed to accept TIF 98, Future Canadian Geographic NPA Codes to be used for relief of existing Canadian NPAs forecast to exhaust in next ten years. The purpose of the TIF was for the CSCN to identify the Future Canadian Geographic NPA Codes to be used to provide relief for existing Canadian NPAs forecast to exhaust in the next ten years and request CRTC approval to set them aside. As explained below, this approach is similar to that followed in the past and is consistent with the principles contained in Section 4.8 of the Canadian NPA Relief Planning Guideline.

4.8 When the RPC submits recommendations for current relief, it may also submit recommendations for subsequent relief. In such circumstances, the RPC may recommend that an NPA(s) be reserved for use in the future subsequent relief of the NPA(s) currently being relieved. Such reservations may be beneficial as they would provide Carriers, TSPs and customers with the opportunity to add the subsequent relief NPA(s) into systems and tables at the same time as adding any relief NPAs required for the immediate NPA relief. If approved by the CRTC, such NPA(s) shall be reserved by the NANPA and the NANPA website shall be updated to show the location for which the NPA has been reserved.

In 2010 the CSCN proposed that certain NPAs be reserved for future code relief. At the time, the CSCN had filed a report (CNRE087A) noting that the benefits of reserving NPAs would permit telecommunications service providers (TSPs) and customers to include them in their operational support systems and information technology systems at the same time they modify these systems for nearer-term area code relief activities. It was also noted that reserving codes would also provide the CNA a clear understanding of the central office codes that cannot be assigned within each area code, which would help prevent dialing issues when the future relief area codes are put into service.

Telecom Decision CRTC 2010-784 states, “the Commission directs the CNA to set aside the area codes noted in the Appendix for the relief of Canadian in-service area codes. If these area codes are required for other purposes before they are used as the CSCN has proposed, the CNA may request that the Commission approve their use for alternative assignments.”.

In its Decision, the Commission noted the main benefits that the CSCN had listed in its report. Firstly, reserving NPAs would permit TSPs and customers to include them in their operational support systems and information technology systems at the same time they modify these systems for nearer-term area code relief activities. Secondly, reserving codes would also provide the CNA a clear understanding of the central office codes that cannot be assigned within each area code, which would help prevent dialing issues when the future relief area codes are put into service.

The Commission’s decision to formally set aside NPA codes did indeed prove to be beneficial to TSPs who were able to pre-build these future NPAs in their systems at the same time as they were making other changes, thus resulting in cost savings.

Notwithstanding the benefits that have been achieved to date, the NPAs that were previously set aside have almost all been implemented or are now in the process of being implemented. In addition, the most recent Canadian Numbering Resource Utilization Forecast (July 2023 R- & S-NRUF) indicates that the Projected Exhaust Dates (PED) for the majority of Canadian NPAs have advanced significantly and are now within a ten year timeframe. CRTC Decisions have approved, reserved or set aside future NPAs for some of these as indicated in the table below.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NPA Complex** | **Most Recent PED** | **Approved/Set aside NPA** | **Telecom Decisions** | **Notes** |
| 204/431/584 | 2032 |  | CRTC 2017-38 | NPA 584 has been implemented on October 2022 |
| 226/382/519/548 | 2030 |  | CRTC 2013-575 | NPA 382 has been implemented on June 2023 |
| 236/250/604/672/778 | 2025 | 257 | CRTC 2022-308 | NPA 257 approved in-service 24 May 2025 |
| 249/683/705 | 2029 | 460 | CRTC 2017-38  CRTC 2022-308 | NPA 683 has been implemented on June 2022 |
| 263/438/514 | 2033 |  | CRTC 2017-38 | NPA 263 has been implemented on October 2022 |
| 289/365/742/905 | 2028 | 537 | CRTC 2022-308 |  |
| 306/474/639 | 2032 |  |  |  |
| 343/613/753 | 2029 |  | CRTC 2017-38 | NPA 753 has been implemented on March 2022 |
| 354/450/579 | 2037 |  | CRTC 2017-38 | NPA 354 has been implemented on October 2022 |
| 367/418/581 | 2027 |  |  | In Relief Planning Window |
| 368/403/587/780/825 | 2028 | 568 | CRTC 2013-574  CRTC 2022-308 | NPA 368 has been implemented on April 2022 |
| 416/437/647 | 2025 | 387  942 | CRTC 2017-38 | NPA 942 approved in-service 26 April 2025  NPA 387 is set aside for future relief. |
| 428/506 | 2044 |  | CRTC 2010-784 | NPA 428 has been implemented on April 2023 |
| 468/819/873 | 2032 |  | CRTC 2017-38 | NPA 468 has been implemented on October 2022 |
| 709 | 2024 | 879 | CRTC 2010-784 | In Relief Planning Window |
| 782/902 | 2028 | 851 | CRTC 2022-308 |  |
| 807 | 2040 |  |  | Beyond 10 years |
| 867 | 2072 |  |  | Beyond 10 years |

The setting aside of future NPAs for relief in specific regions would allow TSPs and customers to incur significant cost savings by pre-building future NPAs at the same time as they are making other changes.

The CSCN has assessed the situation and concluded that the three remaining NPA Codes (reserved by NANP for Canada) should be set aside for the next three NPAs that will require a Proposal for Relief of an Overlay NPA Complex (PROC) where NPA Relief Planning Committees do not currently exist.

The recommended NPAs were selected using the criteria contained in the Canadian NPA Relief Planning Guideline, Section 4.10 and the current NPA Code Selection Tool. The NPA Code Selection Tool is used in determining which of the NPA Codes currently available for assignment in Canada are most suitable for relief of an exhausting NPA.

An additional factor considered in the analysis was the selection of NPAs that would limit new capital investments in legacy switching equipment. This is mainly a factor for the Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers who are required to implement additional switch software to support local dialing across NPA boundaries where the new NPA assignment conflicts with the equivalent CO Code in the neighboring NPA.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Accordingly, the CSCN recommends that the CRTC directs the Canadian Numbering Administrator (CNA) to set aside the three remaining NPA Codes (reserved by NANP for Canada) identified in the table below for future relief in those Numbering Plan Areas:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| NPA Complexes | Proposed Relief NPA Code | PED |
| 367/418/581 | 273 | Jun-2027 |
| 343/613/753 | 871 | Mar-2029 |
| 226/382/519/548 | 487 | Jun-2030 |

The CSCN also recommends, contingent on approval of the report by the CRTC, that TIF 116 be closed.