

**June 8, 2009**  
**NPA 204 Relief Planning Committee Conference Call**

**Participants:** Doug Birdwise – Bell Canada  
Allan Trafford – MTS Allstream  
Jeanne Lacombe – CRTC  
Laurie Bowie – Bell Canada  
Leslie Bester – Les.Net  
Bob Gowenloch – First Networks  
Russell Ochocki – Provincial Tel  
Rob Bazilewich – Westman Media Cooperative  
Tracy Keough – ADT  
Anne Gertzbein – MTS Allstream  
Stephen Lau – MTS Allstream  
Olena Bilozerska – TELUS  
Mark Cuccia – Interested Party  
Frank Norman – SAIC Canada (CNA)  
Glenn Pilley – SAIC Canada (CNA)  
Suresh Khare – SAIC Canada (CNA)  
Fiona Clegg – SAIC Canada (CNA)

**Welcome:**

The Chair of the NPA 204 Relief Planning Committee welcomed the attendees and the participants introduced themselves.

**Agenda:**

It was noted that no formal agenda had been provided for today's conference call.

It was also noted that the Commission released Telecom Notice of Consultation CRTC 2009-309, *Establishment of a CISC ad hoc committee for area code relief planning for area code 204 in Manitoba*, on 28 May 2009.

It was noted that the NPA 204 Initial Planning Document had been issued on June 5, 2009.

It was noted that Telecom Decision CRTC 2007-49, *Central office code obligations for competitive local exchange carriers*, should also be discussed during today's teleconference since in this Decision the Commission determined that a competitive local exchange carrier can meet its obligation to obtain central office codes by using the central office codes of the local exchange carrier from whom it also obtains its switching and/or local interconnection facilities to the PSTN.

**April 16, 2009 Conference Call & Action Items:**

It was noted that the April 16, 2009 NPA 204 Industry Stakeholder conference call minutes were distributed on May 7, 2009. It was asked whether the minutes could be finalized today.

Agreement was reached to accept the April 16, 2009 NPA 204 Industry Stakeholder conference call minutes, as written.

**Action Item:**

Carriers should immediately begin investigating the capabilities of the various equipment and software in networks and systems that will be impacted by NPA 204 relief.

**(Ongoing)**

**Telecom Notice of Consultation CRTC 2009-309:**

Glenn Pilley reviewed the contents of the Telecom Notice of Consultation.

It was noted that in the TNC, the Commission considered that the Projected Exhaust Date could be extended until at least 1 January 2013 with the use of CO Code rationing measures, which are described in paragraph 10 of the TNC.

It was also noted that Interested Parties were to register with the Commission by June 19, 2009.

**Initial Planning Document:**

It was noted that the CNA keeps a website where all the NPA 204 relief planning material is located ([http://www.cnac.ca/npa\\_codes/relief/204/relief\\_204.htm](http://www.cnac.ca/npa_codes/relief/204/relief_204.htm)). The webpage for NPA 204 relief planning is broken down into the following sections:

- Meetings
- Documents
- NRUF
- CRTC
- Schedule

It was noted that Appendix F of the IPD contains a distribution list. Participants were asked to verify their contact information.

It was explained that this list will be updated on request. Additionally, once the CRTC's Interested Parties list is complete, the contact information for those individuals will be added to the distribution list.

**Telecom Decision CRTC 2007-49:**

It was noted that NPA 204 contains about 8 million telephone numbers but that the population is only around 1 million. Consequently, MTS Allstream believes that the telephone numbers are being underutilized. It was also noted that about 600 of the possible 800 CO Codes available in NPA 204 are assigned.

A representative from MTS suggested that it may be possible to bilaterally arrange with other carriers a way of utilizing the available telephone numbers so that there is no, or a limited, necessity for assigning entire CO Codes to individual carriers. MTS is hoping that, if bilateral arrangements could be made, the demand for CO Codes would decelerate and the Projected Exhaust Date for NPA 204 would move back out.

It was noted that paragraph 16 of Telecom Decision CRTC 2007-49 states, in part:

*... the Commission determines that a CLEC that relies on an underlying LEC for switching and/or interconnection can meet its CLEC obligation to obtain a CO code per ILEC exchange or per LIR by using a CO code of the underlying LEC from whom it obtains its switching and/or local interconnection facilities to the PSTN.*

It was noted that if bilateral discussions do occur and arrangements can be made for other carriers to use telephone number resources from CO Codes assigned to MTS Allstream, a new J-NRUF would have to be conducted to establish a new Projected Exhaust Date for NPA 204.

It was noted that even if the Projected Exhaust Date is deferred there is still a necessity, to arrange for an Initial Planning meeting at some point in the not too distant future.

It was suggested that instead of each carrier applying for their own CO Codes, there may be some form of code sharing that could be instituted. It may be possible for MTS Allstream to port out a block of numbers from one of their CO Codes in a given Exchange Area to other carriers. It was noted that, in the event such an arrangement were made, Commission staff would probably have to be involved.

It was suggested that many of the areas where the capacity of an entire CO Code has not been used, are high cost serving areas and contribution would need to be considered. Several other process issues were raised during the discussion, including the fact that confidentiality would have to be taken into account.

It was asked whether the CNA had conducted an analysis on telephone utilization in NPA 204. In response, it was noted that a telephone number utilization report is part of the CO Code application process in a Jeopardy Condition.

It was also noted that at the time CO Codes were assigned by the ILECs, it was expedient to issue a CO Code to every small little town within the ILEC's licensed area. In area code 204, the initial assignments would probably have been approximately 200 CO Codes.

It was noted that in some regions of NPA 204 there are several wireless carriers, each with their own CO Code. It was noted that implementation of Wireless Number Portability caused increased demand for CO Codes since the wireless carriers needed LRNs. Additionally, with the Local Interconnection Region provisions, carriers can go into a number of Exchange Areas at a relatively low cost.

It was noted that 184 Exchange Areas in NPA 204 have only one CO Code, and that

these CO Codes are probably only about 25% utilized. Some discussion took place concerning exchange consolidation. In response, it was noted that this topic had been unsuccessfully discussed by the industry about 10 years ago, mainly because such consolidation was proposed for metropolitan areas as opposed to sparsely populated (underutilized) areas.

In response to a question, it was noted that there are approximately two and a half years, using the current forecast, before relief can be implemented.

**Next Steps:**

Some discussion took place with respect to the date of the Initial Planning Meeting. Originally it had been the CNA's intention to schedule a face-to-face meeting in late July. However, with the release of Telecom Notice of Consultation CRTC 2009-309 the meeting date can be pushed back into the August or September timeframe.

The Chair of the NPA 204 Relief Planning Committee did caution the participants that commencing the planning document/relief implementation plan phase of relief planning should not be deferred too long since no one can be certain whether some form of CO Code sharing arrangement can be implemented or what impact such an arrangement would have on the Projected Exhaust Date.

The Chair of the NPA 204 Relief Planning Committee thanked the attendees for their participation on today's conference call.

**Summary of Agreements Reached:**

- 1) Agreement was reached to accept the April 16, 2009 NPA 204 Industry Stakeholder conference call minutes, as written.

**Summary of Action Items:**

- 1) Carriers should immediately begin investigating the capabilities of the various equipment and software in networks and systems that will be impacted by NPA 204 relief. **(Ongoing)**
- 2) NPA 204 Relief Planning Committee participants were asked to verify their contact information which appears in Appendix F to the IPD.