

**NPA 204 Relief Planning Committee
Meeting – Day 1
January 12-13, 2010**

Participants: Stephen Lau – MTS Allstream
Bill Barsley - TELUS
Garth Lancaster – MTS Allstream
Gerri Hupe – MTS Allstream
Patti Langlotz – MTS Allstream
Sue Leonard – MTS Allstream
Sheila Sapirstein – MTS Allstream
Wayne Murphy – MTS Allstream
Doris Maynard – MTS Allstream
Leslie Bester – Les.Net
Dalmar Matheson – MTS Allstream
Chris Holigroski – MTS Allstream
Lana Bakun – MTS Allstream
Fiona Clegg – SAIC Canada (CNA)
Suresh Khare – SAIC Canada (CNA)
Glenn Pilley – SAIC Canada (CNA)

Conference Bridge: Doug Birdwise – Bell Canada
Laurie Bowie – Bell Canada
Gerry Thompson – Rogers Communications Inc.
Deirdre Massiah-Gomes - TELUS

Note: not all participants remained in the meeting room or on the conference bridge for the entire meeting.

Welcome and Introductions:

Glenn Pilley welcomed the attendees and each of the participants introduced themselves. It was asked whether there were any administrative items that needed to be discussed before getting to the substance of the meeting.

November 10, 2009 Minutes & Action Items:

The minutes from the NPA 204 Relief Planning Committee conference call held on November 10, 2009 were distributed on November 17, 2009.

No comments were received concerning the minutes and they were finalized on December 1, 2009.

During the November 10, 2009 conference call, agreement was reached to recommend NPA 431 as the Relief NPA for NPA 204.

Action Items:

- 1) Carriers should continue investigating the capabilities of the various equipment and software in networks and systems that will be impacted by NPA 204 Relief. **(Ongoing)**
- 2) On December 30, 2009 logistics concerning the January 12 and 13 face to face NPA 204 RPC meeting were forwarded to the RPC participants.

Agenda:

It was noted that an agenda for this week's meetings had been posted on the CNA website in January 2010. At a high level, the following summarizes the agenda:

- CNA Review of Industry Guidelines
- CNA Role in the Relief Planning Process
- CRTC Staff Comments on the NPA Relief Planning Process
- Review of NPA 204 Initial Planning Document
- Review of Contributions
- Round Table Discussions of Issues and Alternatives
- Integration of Contributions into Planning Document
- Next Steps

Exhaust Date of NPA 204:

It was noted that several TSPs have either updated or submitted new forecasts and the Projected Exhaust Dates for several NPAs have changed. It was noted that the Jeopardy Condition in NPA 204 was suspended in September 2009. NPA 204 is now due to exhaust in October 2016 which is considerably different from the preceding November 2010, April 2009 J-NRUF result. In addition, it was noted that this Projected Exhaust Date still takes into account the code rationing process that was instituted by the Commission in Telecom Notice of Consultation 2009-309.

CNA Review of Industry Guidelines/CNA Role in the NPA Relief Planning Process:

Glenn Pilley reviewed the NPA relief planning process and the roles of the CRTC and CNA. This information is contained in a PowerPoint presentation, available from the CNA's website at http://www.cnac.ca/npa_codes/relief/204/relief_204.htm.

A copy of the Canadian NPA Relief Planning Guidelines is available from <http://www.crtc.gc.ca/public/cisc/cn/CNODGL0013B.doc>.

It was noted that Wireless Number portability, Telecom Decision CRTC 2004-46 (*Trunking arrangements for the interchange of traffic and the point of interconnection between local exchange carriers*) and the appearance of a number of new entrants in the region has increased demand for CO Codes in NPA 204.

CRTC Staff Comments on the NPA Relief Planning Process:

It was 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. In that Notice of Consultation the Commission announced the establishment of a CRTC Interconnection Steering Committee ad hoc relief planning committee (RPC) to examine options and make recommendations for providing relief to area code 204 in Manitoba. The Commission also invited the public and telecommunications service providers to participate in the activities of the RPC.

A copy of the Public Notice is available from <http://www.crtc.gc.ca/eng/archive/2009/2009-309.htm>.

It was noted that Commission staff is unable to attend this meeting so there are no direct staff comments. In a discussion with the CNA, CRTC staff did request that the CNA impress on RPC participants the urgency of implementing NPA relief.

It was noted that the NPA 204 Relief Planning Committee is now a sanctioned sub-committee of the CISC.

It was noted that the Notice of Consultation introduced the concept of CO Code rationing. The CO Code rationing measures will be in place until 66 day before area code relief is implemented. These measures will permit CO Code Holders in NPA 204 to obtain the number of CO Codes identified in their 30 April 2009 Jeopardy-Numbering Resource Utilization Forecasts (J-NRUFs) or in future J-NRUFs, the applicable J-NRUF to be determined in consultation with Commission staff, up to a maximum of 10 CO Codes per year. New entrants who do not have any CO Codes in area code 204 will be permitted, within the first year of entering the Manitoba market, to obtain up to 20 CO Codes as identified in their J-NRUFs. Thereafter, these new entrants will be subject to the above-noted code rationing measures. At that time, the Commission believed that these measures would extend the Projected Exhaust Date to at least 1 January 2013.

Review of NPA 204 Initial Planning Document:

Suresh Khare presented some slides that picture the various forecasts and relief options that the CNA identified in the Initial Planning Document (IPD). In addition, he presented some of the statistics associated with execution of any of these options concerning the quantities of CO Codes affected by telephone number changes and the dates for subsequent exhausts using these options.

In response to a question, it was noted that the projected future average growth between 2011 and 2015 is about 21 CO Codes per year and the projected dates for subsequent exhausts were developed using this average growth.

It was noted that the NPA 204 CO Code Inventory Chart contained in the Power Point presentation will be updated on a regular basis during the course of the relief planning process. It was also noted that, according to the CO Code Inventory Chart, 6 additional CO Codes can be made available for assignment if there is an announcement of a Jeopardy Condition.

It was noted that the CNA did not consider a Technology-specific Overlay since the introduction of WNP in Canada does not permit this Relief Option to be implemented.

The question was asked why the CNA did not consider a Concentrated Overlay. In response, it was noted that Plan 1a) or b) could have been adapted to suit a Concentrated Overlay, however growth is spread fairly evenly throughout the NPA and the CNA discarded the notion. It was noted that the reasons for not considering a Concentrated Overlay in the Initial Planning Document should be included in the Planning Document that is developed by the Relief Planning Committee and is submitted to the Commission for approval.

Relief options using a Boundary Extension Overlay were not examined by the CNA because such options would create area codes that cross provincial boundaries which is not allowed by the Canadian NPA Relief Planning Guidelines, and would create geographic confusion for customers and technical difficulties for Telecommunications Service Providers.

It was noted that additional Relief Options can be provided to the Relief Planning Committee in the form of contributions.

It was noted that the Exchange Areas contained in the Local Interconnection Regions shown in the various relief options proposed by the CNA in the IPD are based on MTS Allstream's Exchange Areas.

It was noted that one of the main advantages of an NPA split is that 7-digit local dialling can be retained. Conversely, it was noted that by creating an NPA split and retaining 7-digit local dialling, CO Code Protection must be implemented to avoid dialling conflicts.

Nine Relief Options were contained in the CNA's IPD:

- Plan 1a: Split – Winnipeg Local Interconnection Region (LIR) retains NPA 204, remaining LIRs change to new NPA
- Plan 1b: Split - Winnipeg LIR changes to new NPA, remaining LIRs retain NPA 204
- Plan 2a: Split – Melita, Morris, Steinbach & Winnipeg LIRs retain NPA 204, remaining LIRs change to new NPA
- Plan 2b: Split – Melita, Morris, Steinbach & Winnipeg LIRs change to new NPA, remaining LIRs retain NPA 204
- Plan 3a: Split – Selkirk, Thompson & Winnipeg LIRs retain NPA 204, remaining LIRs change to new NPA
- Plan 3b: Split – Selkirk, Thompson & Winnipeg LIRs change to new NPA, remaining LIRs retain NPA 204
- Plan 4a: Split – Brandon, Melita & Winnipeg LIRs retain NPA 204, remaining LIRs change to new NPA
- Plan 4b: Split – Brandon, Melita & Winnipeg LIRs change to new NPA, remaining LIRs retain NPA 204
- Plan 5: Distributed Overlay of New NPA on NPA 204

It was noted that there is an advantage to implementing 10-digit local dialling, since it reduces customer confusion in areas where there may be 7-digit local dialling in some

places and 10-digit local dialling in others. It was also noted that customers are already inured to dialling 1+10-digits to make long distance calls, so 10-digit local dialling is not a significant change to certain dialling patterns.

Review of Contributions:

It was noted that there is a Bell Canada contribution which was distributed to the NPA 204 RPC participants on July 27, 2009. The contribution proposes a number of changes to the original Initial Planning Document (IPD), which was posted to the CNA website on June 5, 2009. The Relief Planning Committee was advised that the document and associated annexes had been posted on the same date.

Doug Birdwise briefly presented the Bell Canada contribution. It was noted that contribution is based on the CNA's original IPD and the NPA 705 Planning Document. Changes were made to section 3, NPA Relief Methods, to eliminate the text that had been extracted from the Canadian NPA Relief Planning Guideline and, instead, to provide a summary of the types of NPA Relief Methods (i.e., split, overlay, boundary realignment). The Bell Canada contribution also contained assessments of the nine Relief Options, a new section 9, Implementation of Mandatory 10-digit Local Dialling Prior to Overlays and a new section 10, CO Codes for Initial Code Assignments and CO Codes for Initial Code Assignments for New Entrants Only.

It was also noted that subsequent contributions, which build on both the CNA's IPD and the Bell Canada contribution were submitted by the CNA on September 17, October 2, and October 16, 2009. Suresh Khare briefly presented the CNA's October 16, 2009 contribution, noted that the Summary of Relief Options table in section 6 had been redone, as several of the Relief Dates required updating.

It was suggested that since the most recent CNA contribution left all the revision marks in place from the previous contributions, it could be used as a straw model document for developing the NPA 204 Planning Document.

Agreement was reached to use the October 16, 2009 CNA version of the Planning Document as a straw model for developing the NPA 204 Planning Document.

Development of Planning Document:

The Relief Planning Committee began to review and edit the contribution. During this process, detailed minutes taking was suspended.

While discussing the assessments of the Relief Options contained in section 5, Description and Assessment of Relief Options, it was noted that considerable time had been spent during the NPA 289/905 Initial Planning meeting to streamline the assessments and to remove recommendations from the descriptions.

Doug Birdwise volunteered to compare the language in the assessments contained in the NPA 289/905 Planning Document with the draft NPA 204 Planning Document to see if the assessments in the draft NPA 204 Planning Document should be further edited.

In response to a question, it was noted that the CNA had not considered a concentrated overlay Relief Option since overall growth is spread throughout the NPA and previous

Numbering Resource Utilization Forecasts (NRUFs) indicated that there would be as much growth in some rural Exchange Areas as there will be in the Winnipeg LIR. It was also concluded that most growth will be generated by new service providers outside the metropolitan areas. These factors make it virtually impossible to establish contiguous areas that would lend themselves to a concentrated overlay.

The meeting was adjourned at 16:30 Central Time.

**NPA 204 Relief Planning Committee
Meeting – Day 2
January 13, 2010**

Participants: Stephen Lau – MTS Allstream
Bill Barsley - TELUS
Garth Lancaster – MTS Allstream
Gerri Hupe – MTS Allstream
Patti Langlotz – MTS Allstream
Sue Leonard – MTS Allstream
Sheila Sapirstein – MTS Allstream
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Conference Bridge: Doug Birdwise – Bell Canada
Laurie Bowie – Bell Canada
Gerry Thompson – Rogers Communications Inc.
Deirdre Massiah-Gomes - TELUS

Note: not all participants remained in the meeting room or on the conference bridge for the entire meeting.

Welcome and Introductions:

Glenn Pilley welcomed the attendees and each of the participants introduced themselves.

Planning Document:

The Relief Planning Committee continued to review and edit the October 16, 2009 contribution from the CNA. During this process, detailed minutes taking was suspended.

It was suggested, while discussing section 10, CO Codes for Initial Code Assignments and CO Codes for Initial Code Assignments for New Entrants Only, that a definition for "New Entrant" be added into the section.

Doug Birdwise noted that the code rationing measures contained in 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*, preclude the need to set aside CO Codes in the exhausting NPA after relief via an overlay for initial code assignments for new entrants only and for initial code assignments for applicants in general.

It was noted that if, for example, 17 CO Codes were set aside for initial code assignments for new entrants only and for initial code assignments for applicants in general, then the Projected Exhaust Date for NPA 204 would move inward by about nine months, which would mean moving the Relief Date in by a corresponding amount. MTS Allstream expressed concern about moving the Relief Date in any closer than necessary.

Agreement was reached not to recommend setting aside CO Codes for new entrants only and for initial code assignments for applicants in general.

It was noted that most of the Start and End dates in the Proposed NPA Relief Implementation Schedule have not been completed, since it was not clear what the Projected Exhaust Date would be at the time the contributions were developed. It was further noted that the most recent results indicate the Projected Exhaust Date is presently October 2016, but that the CNA is now waiting for the results of the January 2010 R-NRUF for NPA 204. The results will be released somewhere between March 25 and March 29, 2010.

Doug Birdwise recommended completing the schedule using the October 2016 Projected Exhaust Date. The RPC did not have sufficient time to begin working on the Proposed Relief Implementation Schedule.

Doug Birdwise volunteered to complete the Start and End date fields in the Proposed Relief Implementation Schedule using the October 2016 Projected Exhaust Date. He indicated that the dates contained in the schedule would be colour-coded to facilitate revising the table if the January 2010 R-NRUF results for NPA 204 significantly impact the Projected Exhaust Date.

Next Steps:

Future conference calls have been scheduled as follows:

- Thursday, February 18, 2010 11:00 – 14:00 Eastern Time (10:00 – 13:00 Central Time)
- Sometime after the NPA 204 January 2010 R-NRUF results are released

Post Meeting Note: *The second conference call will probably be scheduled for March 30, 2010 14:00 - 16:00 Eastern (13:00 – 15:00 Central)*

The call in number for these conference calls will be 1-800-366-7242 and the access number will be 7091039#.

The objectives of these Relief Planning Committee conference calls will be to:

- Review the Bell Canada Proposed Relief Implementation Schedule contribution
- Finalize the Planning Document
- Review and approve the Annexes associated with the Planning Document
- Form a Consumer Awareness Task Force and a Network Implementation Task Force
- Develop a Relief Implementation Plan
- Develop a Planning Letter

The meeting was adjourned at 16:00 Central Time.

The NPA 204 RPC Chair thanked the participants for attending this week's NPA 204 Relief Planning Committee meetings.

Summary of Agreements Reached:

- 1) Agreement was reached to use the October 16, 2009 CNA version of the Planning Document as a straw model for developing the NPA 204 Planning Document.
- 2) Agreement was reached not to recommend setting aside CO Codes for new entrants only and for initial code assignments for applicants in general.

Summary of Action Items:

- 1) Carriers should continue investigating the capabilities of the various equipment and software in networks and systems that will be impacted by NPA 204 Relief.
(Ongoing)
- 2) Additional Relief Options can be provided to the Relief Planning Committee in the form of contributions.
- 3) Doug Birdwise volunteered to compare the language in the assessments contained in the NPA 289/905 Planning Document with the draft NPA 204 Planning Document to see if the assessments in the draft NPA 204 Planning Document should be further edited.
- 4) Doug Birdwise volunteered to complete the Start and End date fields in the Proposed Relief Implementation Schedule using the October 2016 Projected Exhaust Date. The dates contained in the schedule will be colour-coded to facilitate revising the table if the January 2010 R-NRUF results for NPA 204 significantly impact the Projected Exhaust Date.