

**NPA 204 Relief Planning Committee
Conference Call
April 13, 2010**

Participants: Doug Birdwise – Bell Canada
Laurie Bowie – Bell Canada
Stephen Lau – MTS Allstream
Teresa Goraluk – MTS Allstream
Bob Lantz – MTS Allstream
Esther Snow – Shaw Cable
Chris Holigroski – MTS Allstream
Peter Lang – Roger Communications Inc.
Russell Ochocki – Provincial Tel
Olena Bilozerska - TELUS
Fiona Clegg – SAIC Canada (CNA)
Suresh Khare – SAIC Canada (CNA)
Glenn Pilley – SAIC Canada (CNA)

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.

March 30, 2010 Minutes & Action Items:

The minutes from the NPA 204 Relief Planning Committee conference call held on March 30, 2010 were distributed on 6 April 2010.

It was asked whether the minutes could be finalized during today's conference call.

Agreement was reached to accept the NPA 204 Relief Planning Committee March 30, 2010 conference call minutes as written.

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) To date, no additional Relief Options have been provided to the Relief Planning Committee in the form of contributions.
- 3) Participants should begin to identify the people within their respective companies who will participate in the Consumer Awareness and Network Implementation Task Forces, and be prepared to discuss the formation of these Task Forces during today's conference call.

- 4) Suresh Khare provided the January 2010 R-NRUF charts to the RPC Secretary so that they could be included in the latest version of the Annexes to the NPA 204 Planning Document. These charts replaced the July 2009 J-NRUF charts that were previously in Annex A to the NPA 204 Planning Document.
- 5) Suresh Khare and Fiona Clegg worked out and inserted the new Relief Dates in sections 5 and 6 of the Planning Document and also made the associated changes to the Annexes to the Planning Document. The updated versions were posted to the CNA website on April 6, 2010.
- 6) On April 6, 2010 the NPA 204 Relief Planning Committee Secretary updated the Table of Contents in the Planning Document to reflect the replacement of the July 2009 J-NRUF charts with the January 2010 R-NRUF charts.
- 7) On April 6, 2010 the NPA 204 Relief Planning Committee Secretary had a copy of the NPA 204 Relief Implementation Schedule and a copy of the draft NPA 204 TIF Report #1 posted to the NPA 204 Relief Planning page of the CNA website at: http://www.cnac.ca/npa_codes/relief/204/relief_204.htm.

Agenda:

It was noted that, while no agenda has been set for today's conference call, the objectives of the call are to:

- Finalize the Planning Document in light of the January 2010 R-NRUF results (including Annexes if necessary)
- Finalize TIF Report
- Formation of Consumer Awareness and Network Implementation Task Forces
- Review the Bell Canada Proposed Relief Implementation Plan contribution

Review of NPA 204 Planning Document:

The NPA 204 Relief Planning Committee reviewed and continued to edit the Planning Document. During this review, detailed minutes taking was suspended.

It was asked whether the acceptability of the proposed Relief Date could be discussed by the Relief Planning Committee.

MTS Allstream stated that they cannot meet a May 5, 2012 Relief Date. It was noted that MTS Allstream cannot establish an alternative Relief Date at this time, as internal discussions still need to take place.

It was noted that the Canadian NPA Relief Planning Guideline establishes that relief must take place between a year and 18-months prior to the Projected Exhaust Date. The Projected Exhaust Date is currently May 2013.

It was noted that the Commission had stated that the CO Code rationing measures contained in Telecom Notice of Consultation CRTC 2009-309 would delay the Projected Exhaust Date to at least January 2013. At that time, several participants in the Relief Planning Committee had indicated that a Relief Date should be set for early 2012. MTS

Allstream participated in these discussions and was therefore aware of the tight timeframes associated with the relief of NPA 204.

Bell Canada, Rogers Communications Inc., Provincial Tel and Shaw Communications all affirmed that their companies can meet the May 5, 2012 Relief Date. It was noted that MTS Allstream needs to look at what the problems are that would necessitate delaying the Relief Date.

Post Meeting Note: *Subsequent to the conference call the CNA received a message from Leslie Bester indicating that Les.Net can also meet the implementation deadline.*

It was noted that MTS Allstream would like to understand the January 2010 R-NRUF forecast better. It was asked whether the code rationing provisions contained in the Telecom Notice of Consultation are being adhered to. In response, it was noted that they are and that explanations have been provided to CNA staff and CRTC staff where variations have occurred from preceding forecasts. CRTC staff has approved the forecast based on the explanations that were provided by individual current and prospective CO Code Holders to account for deviations in their forecasts.

A representative from MTS Allstream noted that during the first year of operations a new carrier could have up to twenty CO Codes assigned. However, it was suggested that there are only one or two carriers that would be classified as new entrants, the majority of current CO Code Holders would only be able to have 10 CO Codes assigned, which is the same number as MTS Allstream landline could have assigned to them. There were questions as to how the demand could have increased to the point that the Projected Exhaust Date moved in by three years and five months from the July 2009 J-NRUF October 2016 Projected Exhaust Date.

MTS Allstream would like some assurances that the forecast is valid and that this is what the competitive carriers are prepared to do. In response, it was noted that CRTC staff is satisfied with the numbers that have been forecast. It was suggested that MTS Allstream should take the R-NRUF results seriously.

It was noted that the Relief Implementation Schedule should not be adjusted during the teleconference, although it had to be completed before the recommended relief plan could be forwarded to the CISC and CRTC, and a request was made for what the next steps should be.

It was reiterated that MTS Allstream needs to take the exhaust date seriously. It was noted that the Commission's CO Code assignment restrictions slowed things down. Unfortunately, the CO Code sharing negotiations appear to have failed. It was further noted that MTS Allstream needs to determine how soon a reasonable Relief Date can be identified. With no established Relief Date, the Relief Planning Committee cannot put the Relief Implementation Schedule together and send the Planning Document to the Commission, even though the document is final in every other respect.

It was noted that the Commission may consider altering the Relief Date to something less than 12 to 18 months prior to exhaust but this is not guaranteed. MTS Allstream has to determine how soon beyond May 5, 2012 they can implement relief, since the Guideline and the Decision that approved it are federal law. Right now the Guideline specifies that relief must take place no less than 12 months prior to the Projected

Exhaust Date. It was also noted that only MTS Allstream has a problem with the Relief Date, while all other Carriers have said that they can meet the Relief Date.

It was asked when MTS Allstream can establish an achievable date to implement the new NPA. In response, MTS Allstream indicated that they cannot commit to an arbitrary date and that MTS Allstream's executive has to be consulted to establish a date. It was noted that until MTS Allstream has provided an achievable date, the Planning Document cannot be submitted to the Commission. It was noted that MTS Allstream will go to their executive and will get back to the CNA with the results of their meetings. It was made clear that a Relief Date would probably not be established by MTS Allstream by the time MTS Allstream lets the CNA know what the outcome of discussions with their executive is. It was noted that not knowing the proposed Relief Date which MTS Allstream can meet is creating a problem for the rest of the industry.

MTS Allstream noted that they have not changed their forecast and have not shown any increase in the number of CO Codes that would be requested by it. In response it was noted that the results released last March indicated that relief would have to be implemented sooner rather than later. It was stated that the May 5, 2012 Relief Date should not have come as a surprise to the industry.

It was recommended that Commission staff be specifically invited to attend the next NPA 204 RPC meeting. The CNA will ask whether CRTC staff can attend the next NPA 204 Relief Planning Committee conference call.

Post Meeting Note: *The CNA has invited Commission staff to attend the May 3, 2010 NPA 204 Relief Planning Committee conference call.*

It was made clear that the CNA's role in the relief planning process is merely to facilitate the meetings.

It was noted that a consensus cannot be reached on the NPA 204 Planning Document because MTS Allstream cannot meet the Relief Date.

It was noted that CRTC staff should be asked to speak with MTS Allstream privately about the issue of the Relief Date before the next conference call. It was noted that this issue should be of concern to CRTC staff since the rest of the industry can meet the current Relief Date. It was also noted that a delay of any length of time will put other Carriers in an untenable situation because the CNA will declare a Jeopardy Condition in NPA 204 on May 5, 2010.

A representative from Bell Canada indicated that Bell Canada does not have an issue with delaying the implementation date by six months but that would be the outside limit because a delay will impact other Carriers' ability to obtain the CO Codes they require. MTS Allstream noted that they will take Bell Canada's statement into account.

Formation of Consumer Awareness and Network Implementation Task Forces:

It was noted that the Canadian NPA Relief Planning Guideline requires that two sub-committees be formed which subtend the Relief Planning Committee.

The purpose of the Consumer Awareness Task Force is to ensure that the population affected by the transition to 10-digit local dialling and the introduction of a new NPA are made well aware of the change.

It was noted that there is a need for one, two or even three co-chairs for each Task Force. It was noted that the ILEC generally volunteers to be one of the co-chairs and MTS Allstream volunteered to provide one. For now, Chris Holigroski will be the MTS Allstream co-chair for the Consumer Awareness Task Force. It was asked if anyone else would care to volunteer to act as a co-chair.

MTS Allstream extended an invitation to other Carriers to assist, since this is the first time MTS Allstream had undertaken NPA relief planning. It was noted that someone from the Public Relations side of MTS Allstream should also participate in the Consumer Awareness Task Force. It was suggested that a Telecommunications Alliance be formed, as opposed to having a spearhead approach using representatives from the various types of Carriers (i.e., ILEC, CLEC and WSP).

It was noted that Jacqueline Michelis would be the Bell Canada (CLEC) representative for the Consumer Awareness Task Force.

It was noted by the Relief Planning Committee Chair that other people within MTS Allstream have been involved in relief implementation in other areas of Canada and may be able to provide some assistance.

The Chair of the Relief Planning Committee asked if there were any volunteers to co-chair the Network Implementation Task Force. Stephen Lau volunteered to be the single point of contact for MTS Allstream.

Doug Birdwise noted that he would be willing to represent Bell Canada (CLEC) on the Network Implementation Task Force.

Esther Snow will provide the CNA or the co-chairs of the Consumer Awareness and Network Implementation Task Forces with contact information for the representatives from Shaw Cable.

It was asked how the co-chairs of the Task Forces are to solicit participants from other Carriers in NPA 204. In response, it was noted that the CNA typically sends out an e-mail message to all Relief Planning Committee members requesting other Carriers to join the Task Forces. It was also noted that the response to the CNA's message is usually underwhelming and that Commission staff may have to become involved to get representatives to step up for each company.

It was requested that other Carriers consider becoming co-chairs on the Task Forces.

The contact information for Chris Holigroski (Consumer Awareness Task Force) and Stephen Lau (Network Implementation Task Force) is chris.holigroski@mtsallstream.com and stephen.lau@mtsallstream.com.

Review of the Annexes associated with the Planning Document:

It was noted that the Annexes had been reviewed during the February 18, 2010 conference call but did require some updating as a result of the R-NRUF results. Figures 9 and 10 in Annex A were updated to show the January 2010 R-NRUF results. Previously, the document had contained the July 2009 J-NRUF charts.

A question was asked concerning the consumer awareness process in areas where networks cannot do call-through on the network announcements. In response, it was noted that typically the Commission provides instruction as to their expectations in the Decision which approves the Planning Document. It was noted that section 9 of the Planning Document also addresses this point.

Next Steps:

A conference call has been scheduled as follows:

- Monday, May 3, 2010 15:00 – 17:00 Eastern Time (14:00 – 16:00 Central Time)

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

The objectives of this Relief Planning Committee conference call will be to:

- MTS Allstream should establish a potential Relief Date by this time. The date should ideally be no less than 6 months prior to the Projected Exhaust Date
- Finalize the Planning Document
- Review the Bell Canada Proposed Relief Implementation Plan contribution

The NPA 204 RPC Chair thanked the participants for attending today's NPA 204 Relief Planning Committee conference call.

Summary of Agreements Reached:

- 1) Agreement was reached to accept the NPA 204 Relief Planning Committee March 30, 2010 conference call minutes as written.

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) MTS Allstream will go to their executive and will get back to the CNA with the results of their meetings.
- 3) The CNA will ask whether CRTC staff can attend the next NPA 204 Relief Planning Committee conference call.

Post Meeting Note: *The CNA has invited Commission staff to attend the May 3, 2010 NPA 204 Relief Planning Committee conference call.*

- 4) Esther Snow will provide the CNA or the co-chairs of the Consumer Awareness and Network Implementation Task Forces with contact information for the representatives from Shaw Cable.
- 5) The CNA will send out an e-mail message to all Relief Planning Committee members requesting other Carriers to join the Task Forces.
- 6) Volunteers for additional co-chairs for the Consumer Awareness and Network Implementation Task Forces are requested.