

April 15, 2009
Joint NPA 289/905 Industry Stakeholder, NPA 705 Relief Planning Committee,
NPA 819 Industry Stakeholder Conference Call

Participants:

- Doug Birdwise – Bell Canada
- Laurie Bowie – Bell Canada
- Jeanne Lacombe – CRTC
- Bill Mason – CRTC
- Kim Wardle - CRTC
- Gerry McLaughlin – O.N. Tel
- Eric Berger – O.N. Tel
- Jean-Marc D'Aoust – Cogeco
- Rob Bazilwich – Westman Media Cooperative
- Tracy Cant - Ontera
- Peter Lang – Rogers Cable Communications Inc.
- Olena Bilozerska – TELUS
- Diane Dolan – Distributel
- Frank Norman – Interested Party
- Mark Cuccia – Interested Party
- Glenn Pilley – SAIC Canada (CNA)
- Suresh Khare – SAIC Canada (CNA)
- Fiona Clegg – SAIC Canada (CNA)

Welcome:

The Director, Canadian Numbering Administrator (CNA), welcomed the attendees and the participants introduced themselves. It was noted that Telecom Notice of Consultation CRTC 2009-179 established a CISC Ad Hoc Committee (Relief Planning Committee) for area code relief planning for area code 705; however, no Relief Planning Committees have been created for NPAs 289/905 and 819 and, therefore, only industry stakeholders have been invited to participate in this conference call.

Agenda:

It was noted that no formal agenda had been provided for today's conference call, but that this conference call is a result of a CSCN conference call that was held on April 3, 2009 during which the CNA was requested to convene a joint industry conference call for current and prospective CO Code Holders to discuss the situation in NPAs 289/905, 705 and 819, to recommend approaches to address the volatility of the forecasts in these areas and to consider Bell Canada's proposal to accelerate relief planning for those NPAs to make recommendations to the CRTC regarding the relief methods and new NPA Codes.

January 2009 NRUF Results:

Glenn Pilley provided the 2009 NRUF Results for NPAs 289/905, 705 and 819 as follows:

NPA	Growth Average	Exhaust 2009	Exhaust 2008 ¹	Remarks
204	5 years	Sep-2010	Dec-2021	Need to start planning (in Jeopardy Condition)
289-905	5 years	May-2015	Aug-2014	Just entering relief planning window
		Sep-2028	Mar-2027	
705	5 years	Oct-2012	Sep-2014	Need to start planning
819	5 years	Feb-2015	Jun-2017	In relief planning window

1. As reported in 2008 Final Aggregate General results.

It was noted that after the July 2008 R-NRUF the Projected Exhaust Date for NPA 289/905 had moved out to August 2024 and the January 2009 R-NRUF results indicate it has now moved back in by 9 years and 3 months to May 2015.

It was also noted that the Projected Exhaust Date for NPA 705 has moved in since the July 2008 R-NRUF was conducted by 2 years and 4 months. It was also noted that the Projected Exhaust Date for NPA 819 has moved in by 2 years and 4 months since the January 2008 G-NRUF was conducted.

It was noted that relief planning for NPA 705 has already commenced and that a face-to-face meeting has been scheduled for May 13-14, 2009 in North Bay to begin developing a Planning Document. It was recommended by Bell Canada that the industry should also immediately launch relief planning for NPAs 289/905 and NPA 819 as these NPAs are near or within the relief planning window.

It was noted that NPA 705 is nearing a Jeopardy Condition, which will probably be declared in June.

Bell Canada Contribution:

During the April 3, 2009 CSCN conference call, Bell Canada volunteered to submit a contribution to the CNA containing proposals for accelerating the relief planning process prior to today's conference call. It was noted that the contribution has not yet been submitted to the CNA.

It was noted that the industry is being required to implement NPA relief planning for more NPAs and in shorter timeframes. Bell Canada advocated implementing relief for several NPAs simultaneously to achieve economies of scales, especially with respect to ISIT work. Bell Canada indicated that they believe it would be beneficial for the industry to know the relief method(s) and the relief area code(s) in NPAs 289/905, 705 and 819 as soon as possible in order to begin changing software and internal systems. It was noted that network costs probably would not change regardless of whether the relief method and relief area code were known.

It was requested that the relief method(s) and the relief NPA Code(s) for NPAs 289/905, 705 and 819 be provided to the industry as soon as possible, preferably by July, so that IT systems etc. can be updated at the same time as NPA 450 IT work is done.

Rogers is of the view that the Guidelines should be changed, as opposed to requesting exceptions on specific relief planning efforts for these three NPAs. In response, it was noted that specific sections of the latest version of the Guidelines, submitted to the CISC and CRTC on March 4, 2009, would make it possible to deviate from the timelines contained in the current Guidelines. Specific sections were quoted as follows:

Section 4.4:

An RPC may be established for a single NPA, or for more than one NPA. An RPC that deals with more than one NPA may be established if more than one NPA is approaching exhaust within a similar time period, or if the relief of one NPA is likely to significantly affect another NPA, or if addressing relief on a wider scale than one NPA will provide cost efficiencies in planning and implementation.

Section 4.7:

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 Code(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 Code(s) into systems and tables at the same time as adding any relief NPA Codes required for the immediate NPA relief. If recommendations for NPA Codes for future relief are not being made by an RPC, then the CSCN may submit such recommendations to the CRTC if the CSCN determines that it would be beneficial. If approved by the CRTC, such NPA Code(s) shall be reserved by the NANPA and the NANPA website shall be updated to show the location for which the NPA Code has been reserved.

And Section 4.19:

To ensure relief planning and implementation is conducted in a cost-efficient and effective manner, it may be necessary to vary the relief planning process from that specified in this guideline. Depending on the specific situation, a different level of detail and frequency of R-NRUFs may be appropriate, the planning and implementation times may be different than the Guideline currently specifies, and other steps in the planning and implementation processes may need to change. To accommodate this, an RPC and/or the CSCN may, before or during relief planning, recommend relief planning and implementation steps that are different from those specified in this Guideline. Such recommendations shall require CRTC approval before they are adopted. Requests to change this Guideline to modify the standard relief planning processes may be made per Section 10 (Maintenance of this Guideline).

It was noted by Rogers Cable Communications Inc. that the proposed Guidelines have not yet been approved by the Commission. Bell Canada responded that these provisions could be used to support a request for an expedited timeframe for introducing the relief area code(s) into various internal systems as opposed to waiting for CRTC approval of

the revised Guideline.

Bell Canada also indicated that the current Guidelines allow for an RPC to be established for concurrent relief planning for more than one NPA, as was done in Alberta.

It was also noted that area code reservations for Canada have been made in advance with NANPA, although specific relief NPAs have only been assigned after a Commission Decision (e.g. for future relief in BC and Alberta). It was noted that a CO Code reservation had been made for a specific Exchange Area and for the 2010 Olympics in British Columbia, with Commission approval that did not comply completely with CO Code Assignment Guidelines. Specifically, the application was made although provision for such a request did not exist at the time, and it was suggested that the Commission could make similar accommodations with respect to geographic area codes.

Bell Canada stated that cost efficiencies would be realized by Bell Canada and, possibly, by the entire Canadian telecommunications industry, if the relief area code(s) and relief method(s) were known well in advance. Again, the July 2009 timeframe was mentioned.

Rogers Cable Communications Inc. indicated that, regardless of knowing the relief method(s) and relief area code(s), their systems would have to be revisited at the time of relief implementation and were uncertain whether the cost efficiencies Bell Canada believes would occur are possible.

It was noted that there are smaller companies that may not be in a position to update their IT systems in advance. Bell Canada responded that they are not suggesting that all industry participants need to advance relief implementation activities other than to meet the "official" relief implementation schedule.

Bell Canada reiterated that Bell Canada is not advocating that carriers must implement relief right away but, it may be beneficial to know the relief method(s) and the relief NPA Code(s), so that systems can be changed well in advance of relief implementation if a carrier chooses to do so.

It was noted that a relief date would also have to be part of a decision from the Commission. In response, it was noted that Bell Canada is not opposed to having the relief date established at the same time, but that this is not a necessity. Bell Canada is not asking for the relief date to be cast in concrete and would not object if the Commission establishes a relief date which may be subject to change depending on an increase or decrease in demand.

Bell Canada proposed that the relief method(s) and relief NPA (s) for NPAs 204, 289/905, 705 and 819 should be determined, preferably by the end of July 2009 (i.e., have a Commission Decision by then).

Bell Canada's suggestion is to submit industry recommendations regarding relief methods and relief NPAs to the Commission by the end of May. In addition Bell Canada noted that, generally, most carriers would probably support overlays and not recommend a split.

It was noted that the current relief planning Guideline assures that there is public input

into the relief planning process. CRTC staff stated that public input is a requirement in the process and the Commission would be very concerned if this requirement appeared to be circumvented.

It was asked whether it is Bell Canada's intention that RPCs be set up for each of these NPAs and that all public meetings be held, all input be collected and all reports be issued by the end of May. It was noted that this is an extremely aggressive schedule and could be detrimental to the health of CNA staff. It was noted that NPA 204 has never undergone relief planning and NPA 705 would probably not be used to the 10-digit dialling process which would require consumer education, etc. which normally requires considerable planning and time.

It was noted that the CNA may have to take on temporary extra staff that are familiar with the NPA Relief Planning process.

The question was asked whether the issue of accelerated relief planning is because Bell Canada would like to determine the relief method in the four aforementioned NPAs this year as opposed to next year. In response Bell Canada again noted the July timeframe but did accede that a slip from the July target date by a month or two might be acceptable depending upon the relief date to be established by the CRTC for NPA 450.

Bell Canada suggested that the industry favours the overlay relief method and agreed that the opportunity needs to be provided to the public to participate. It was also noted that a media release would have to be issued. It was noted that the Commission could probably release Public Notices in short order to alert the public that relief planning in NPAs 204, 289/905, and 819 is about to commence.

Commission staff noted that relief planning Public Notices are typically about a page and a half in length and it is simply a matter of getting translation done and obtaining a schedule of the Commissioners' meetings.

It was noted that there is some regional disparity between the four geographic areas under discussion, and it was suggested that Manitoba would need its own Relief Planning Committee. It was suggested that the possibility exists for concurrent relief planning in NPAs 289/905, 705 and 819.

It was noted by Commission staff that due process/public input should not be circumvented. It was also noted that joint NPA RPCs have been formed previously (i.e., Alberta), so the Commission is not opposed to having some consolidation of the relief planning process.

It was noted that the CNA has a contractual requirement to adhere to any Commission-approved Guidelines. If the NPA relief planning process and timeline is to be changed, it was also noted that the CNA would need a written release or order from the Commission to authorize any deviation from the Commission-approved Guidelines. In addition, it was noted that there may need to be a contractual release from the CNAC so that the CNA is able to compress the timeframe for relief planning.

Bell Canada noted that a contribution will be submitted prior to the next NPA 289/905, 819 industry stakeholder/NPA 705 RPC conference call, containing the recommendations and reasoning that were voiced by Bell Canada during today's

conference call.

It was noted that the NPA 204 Projected Exhaust Date has moved back to December 2011 based on the April 2009 J-NRUF inputs, however it was also noted that not everyone has submitted inputs for this J-NRUF so the December 2011 date is not official and will not be made official until the results have been analysed after the April 30, 2009 due date for the NPA 204 April J-NRUF. January 2009 G-NRUF results will be released today and currently the Projected Exhaust Date from these results is February 2011 for NPA 204. No other PED for any NPA has changed since the January results were released. It was noted that the format of the NPA 204 J-NRUF (i.e., by Exchange Area), has caused some CO Code Holders to change their projections.

Post Meeting Note: *Since the time of this conference call further analysis for NPA 204 has been conducted and the PED has moved in to March 2011.*

It was noted that when a J-NRUF is done in NPA 705 the PED may also back out a bit further then. It was noted that NPA 705 is likely to enter a Jeopardy Condition in June 2009 and the CNA will be requesting a J-NRUF as soon as Jeopardy is declared.

Bell Canada reiterated that the matter of relief method(s) and relief NPAs for NPAs 204, 289/905, 705 and 819 should be addressed very quickly.

In response to a question, it was noted that a decision regarding the latest CSCN recommended version of the Canadian NPA Relief Planning Guideline may be made by the Commission within a month (i.e., mid-May).

Bell Canada indicated that the contribution mentioned above will be submitted by Friday, April 17, 2009.

It was noted that, in accordance with the Canadian C-NRUF Guidelines, R-NRUFs will be required for NPAs 289/905, 613, 705 and 819 in July 2009. With respect to NPAs 289-905 and 819, it was noted by Bell Canada that the industry could advise the CNA as to whether the R-NRUFs should be conducted in July, at some other time, or not at all.

Next Steps:

A conference call is scheduled for Friday, May 1, 2009 – 11:00 through 13:00 Eastern Time. The conference call logistics are:

Participant Conference Access code: 5849469 #

Dial-in Numbers:

Vancouver: 604-899-4310

Calgary: 403-269-5197

Edmonton: 780-429-6157

Toronto: 416-883-8981

Ottawa: 613-212-0153

Montreal: 514-798-1230

The Director of the CNA thanked the attendees for their participation on today's conference call.

Summary of Agreements Reached:

None.

Summary of Action Items:

- 1) Bell Canada will submit a contribution prior to the next NPA 289/905, 819 industry stakeholder/NPA 705 RPC conference call, containing the recommendations and reasoning that were voiced by Bell Canada during today's conference call. It was later stated that this contribution will be submitted by Friday, April 17, 2009 for distribution to the NPA 289/905, 819 industry stakeholder/NPA 705 RPC participants.