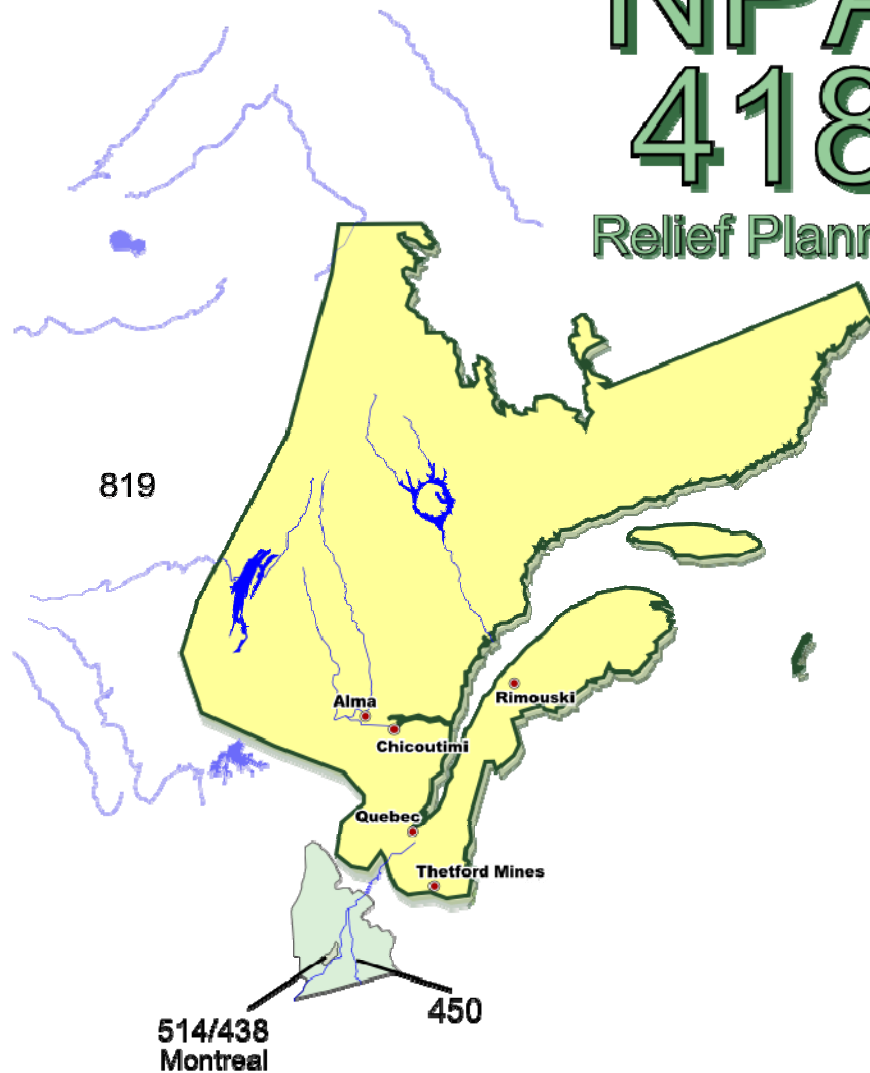


Initial Planning Document NPA 418 Numbering Relief



NPA 418 Relief Planning



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Initial Planning Document NPA 418 Relief

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

NPA 418 consists of 258 Exchange Areas, including the rapidly growing exchanges of Québec, Rimouski, Chicoutimi, Rivière-du-Loup, St-Georges-de-Beauce and Thetford Mines in the northern and eastern parts of the province of Québec in Canada.

The results of the January 2006 General Numbering Resource Utilization Forecast (G-NRUF) indicated that NPA 418 would exhaust by December 2013. At the request of Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) staff, the Canadian Numbering Administrator (CNA) conducted a Special August 2006 Wireless Number Portability (WNP) NRUF. Those results indicated that the Projected Exhaust Date had advanced to March 2012. Subsequently, the CNA conducted an initial Relief Planning Numbering Resource Utilization Forecast (R-NRUF) for NPA 418 with a due date of February 7, 2007. The January 2007 R-NRUF captured the impacts of the planned introduction of WNP and Telecom Decision CRTC 2004-46 (*Trunking arrangements for the interchanger of traffic and the point of interconnection between local exchange carriers*) and the results indicated that NPA 418 is now projected to exhaust in October 2008.

In this Initial Planning Document the CNA has identified 7 different Relief Options to ensure that an adequate quantity of telephone numbers is available for assignment in the geographic area covered by NPA 418.

The objective of the NPA Relief Planning process is to ensure that Central Office (CO) Codes and telephone numbers are always available for use by Telecommunications Service Providers (TSPs) and their customers in the geographic area requiring relief.

The roles of the various participants (e.g., CRTC, CNA, CRTC Interconnection Steering Committee (CISC), Relief Planning Committee participants, Interested Parties) for NPA Relief Planning are identified in section 6.0 of the CRTC-approved Canadian NPA Relief Planning Guidelines, dated 13 August 2003 (the Guidelines). A copy of the Guidelines can be obtained from: <http://www.crtc.gc.ca/public/cisc/n-docs/NPAGuidelines.doc>.

To increase public awareness and participation in the NPA Relief Planning process, the CRTC has determined that NPA Relief Planning Committees will be established as ad-hoc committees of the CISC. Generally, a separate ad-hoc committee is created to deal with relief in each area code. The CNA, in its function as NPA Relief Planning Coordinator, acts as chair of these ad-hoc committees. Meetings and conference calls of the ad-hoc NPA Relief Planning Committees are all open to public participation.

NPA Relief Planning shall be conducted under the regulatory oversight of the CRTC. Notwithstanding the process detailed in the Guidelines, the CRTC may exercise its authority under the Telecommunications Act to alter this process at any time. The CRTC has the authority, under the Telecommunications Act, to review, modify and give final approval to the Planning Document and the Relief Implementation Plan (RIP) developed and submitted to the CRTC by the RPC via the CISC process.

2. INTRODUCTION

NPA 418 consists of 258 exchanges, including the rapidly growing exchanges of Québec, Rimouski, Chicoutimi, Rivière-du-Loup, St-Georges-de-Beauce and Thetford Mines in the northern and eastern parts of the province of Québec in Canada.

In accordance with the Guidelines, the Canadian Numbering Administrator (CNA) is required to conduct an annual General Numbering Resource Utilization Forecast (G-NRUF) in February of each year. The input from the G-NRUF is used to estimate the Projected Exhaust Date for each Canadian NPA.

The chart and data contained in Annex A, Figure 2 provides a summary of the actual and forecast quantities of Central Office (CO) Code assignments for current and previous NRUFs for NPA 418. This information was used by the CNA to determine the Projected Exhaust Date for NPA 418.

When an NPA is projected to exhaust within 72 months, the CNA initiates relief planning for that NPA with the objective of implementing relief 12 to 18 months in advance of the then Projected Exhaust Date. Over time, the Projected Exhaust Date may change as the forecast requirement for CO Codes and telephone numbers changes in response to customer demand for existing and new telecommunications services and the requirements of existing and new Telecommunications Service Providers (TSPs). The objective is to ensure that users and TSPs always have access to telephone numbers and CO Codes so that their needs and requirements can be satisfied.

NPA 418 relief must be in place well before 764 CO Codes are assigned, to allow for changes in the CO Code forecast.

The January 2006 G-NRUF indicated that NPA 418 would exhaust by December 2013. At the request of Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) staff, the Canadian Numbering Administrator (CNA) conducted a Special August 2006 Wireless Number Portability (WNP) NRUF. Those results indicated that the Projected Exhaust Date had advanced to March 2012. Subsequently, the CNA conducted an initial Relief Planning Numbering Resource Utilization Forecast (R-NRUF) for NPA 418 with a due date of February 7, 2007. The January 2007 R-NRUF captured the impacts of the planned introduction of WNP and Telecom Decision CRTC 2004-46 (*Trunking arrangements for the interchanger of traffic and the point of interconnection between local exchange carriers*) and the results indicated that NPA 418 is now projected to exhaust in October 2008. The February 2007 R-NRUF results indicated that the majority of the projected CO Code growth in NPA 418 is limited to the first two years of the forecast. The results of that R-NRUF showed the CO Code growth is spread over a large number of Exchange Areas. See Annex A, Figure 14 for a diagram showing major cities, highways and rivers.

It is very important to closely monitor the future CO Code requirements of all existing and emerging TSPs to ensure that relief is provided in advance of exhaust so that CO Codes and telephone numbers are always available for TSPs and their customers. Due to the significant advance in the Projected Exhaust Date described above, the CNA declared a Jeopardy Condition in NPA 418 on March 23, 2007. Special Conservation Procedures for the existing Jeopardy Condition in NPA 418 are already in place as per section 8.3 of the Guidelines. A

Jeopardy Condition exists when the forecast and/or actual demand for CO Codes exceeds the quantity of CO Codes available for assignment within the NPA before it is expected that relief can be implemented.

3. NPA RELIEF PLANNING PROCESS

The roles of the various participants (e.g., CRTC, CNA, CISC, RPC participants, Interested Parties) for NPA Relief Planning, are identified in section 6.0 of the CRTC-approved Canadian NPA Relief Planning Guidelines, dated 13 August 2003. A copy of the Guidelines can be obtained from: <http://www.crtc.gc.ca/public/cisc/n-docs/NPAGuidelines.doc>.

To increase public awareness and participation in the NPA Relief Planning process, the CRTC has determined that NPA Relief Planning Committees will be established as ad-hoc committees of the CISC. Generally, a separate ad-hoc committee is created to deal with relief in each area code. The CNA, in its function as NPA Relief Planning Coordinator, acts as chair of these ad-hoc committees. Meetings and conference calls of the ad-hoc NPA Relief Planning Committees are all open to public participation and are conducted in accordance with the CISC Administrative Guidelines. A copy of the CISC Administrative Guidelines can be obtained from:

<http://www.crtc.gc.ca/cisc/eng/ciscmanu.htm>

NPA Relief Planning shall be conducted under the regulatory oversight of the CRTC. Notwithstanding the process detailed in the Guidelines, the CRTC may exercise its authority under the Telecommunications Act to alter this process at any time. The CRTC has the authority, under the Telecommunications Act, to review, modify and give final approval to the Planning Document and the Relief Implementation Plan (RIP) developed and submitted by the RPC to the CRTC via the CISC process.

Any person wishing to participate in the NPA Relief Planning process can contact the CNA and request to be added to NPA-specific distribution lists. In addition, individuals can also register with the CRTC as interested parties to any proceedings that result from the NPA Relief Planning process. More information on how to participate in CRTC public processes is available at: <http://www.crtc.gc.ca/eng/publicpar.htm>.

4. NPA RELIEF METHODS

Once the necessity for NPA code relief was established, all NPA code relief methods were considered. The following paragraphs provide definitions and general attributes of the Geographic Split, Overlay Method, Boundary Realignment and a brief description of the Technology-specific Overlay.

4.1 *Geographic Split*

4.1.1 *Definition*

By this method, the exhausting NPA is split into two or more geographic areas, with one area retaining the existing NPA code, and the other(s) being assigned a new NPA code(s). To minimise the quantity of number changes, the area with the largest number of customers usually retains the existing NPA. Boundaries between old and new NPA(s) are usually determined by natural, physical or jurisdictional boundaries based on geographical features.

NPA splits have occurred with enough frequency so that technical aspects have been addressed and established implementation procedures are generally understood. Public education and acceptance of the process has been made easier because of the numerous NPA splits that have occurred throughout North America. This method generally provides long-term relief for an area.

4.1.2 *General Attributes*

- A known method of NPA relief, last implemented in Canada in 1999.
- 7-digit dialling is retained for local calls within NPAs.
- If CO Code protection is not implemented, 10-digit dialling is required for local calls between different NPAs.
- Number changes required within new NPA boundaries.
- Reprogramming or replacement of equipment (switches, PBXs, cellular phones, etc.).
- Some existing customers inconvenienced.
- More economic burden (businesses, public costs, stationery, etc.).
- Not as expensive to display in telephone directory.
- Requires a permissive dialling period.
- Possible boundary disputes.

4.2 *Overlay*

4.2.1 *Definition*

An NPA overlay occurs when more than one NPA code serves the same geographic area. Opening up a new NPA code provides code relief when the existing NPA is exhausted. Numbers from the new NPA are assigned for new growth on a carrier neutral basis, i.e., first-come first-served. This method necessitates 10-digit dialling of local calls between the old and new NPAs coincident with NXX codes being implemented in the new NPA (universal 10-digit

dialling for all local calls eliminates customer confusion). It has also been established that any 7-digit local calling from adjacent areas into the overlay area must be converted to 10-digit dialling at the time of relief. Exceptions to this policy may be considered if there is a need for continued code protection (i.e., for 7-digit local dialling across an NPA boundary).

The Distributed Overlay strategy may be considered in situations when growth in telephone numbers is expected to be more or less evenly distributed throughout the existing NPA requiring relief. The new NPA is "overlaid" on top of the NPA requiring relief and covers exactly the same geographic boundaries.

A Concentrated Overlay strategy may be considered in situations where the majority of the demand for new telephone numbers is expected to be concentrated in one section of an existing NPA. For example, a fast growing metropolitan area and a sparsely populated rural area could be covered by the same NPA. The new NPA would be assigned initially to the section of the original NPA experiencing the greatest growth (e.g., the metropolitan area), and any need for new CO Codes in that section would be met by the assignment of CO Codes from the new NPA. In the area not covered by the new NPA, any future need for new CO Codes would be met by the assignment of CO Codes from the original NPA. In order to ensure that sufficient CO Codes are available for assignment from the original NPA to that section not covered by the new concentrated overlay, it is important for the new concentrated overlay to be implemented sooner than with other solutions.

In some cases CO Code assignment monitoring and CO Code conservation measures may have to be implemented prior to the introduction of the new Concentrated Overlay in order to ensure that sufficient CO Codes in the original NPA are available. When relief is required in other sections of the original NPA, the geographic coverage area of the new NPA could be expanded. In some cases, more than one Concentrated Overlay could be implemented to cover different sections of a single existing NPA.

Since 1995 the majority of NPA Reliefs have used the Overlay Method (concentrated or distributed).

4.2.2 General Attributes

- A known method of NPA relief most recently implemented in Canada in parts of Ontario and Quebec in 2006.
- Requires universal mandatory 10-digit dialling within and from NPAs being relieved, and generally to NPAs being relieved, usually at the time of relief.
- No number changes are required for existing customers.
- Least disruptive to end-users.
- Less economic burden for existing business.
- Same location, two or more NPAs in residence/business.
- Increased directory costs.

4.3 Boundary Realignment

4.3.1 Definition

A Boundary Realignment is when the geographic boundaries of an existing neighbouring NPA or NPAs are expanded to merge with either all or part of the NPA requiring relief. This method may be used to defer adding a new NPA where excess capacity is available in the neighbouring NPA(s).

4.3.2 General Attributes

- Requires universal 10-digit dialling within and between NPAs.
- No number changes are required for existing customers.
- Less disruptive to end-users.
- Less economic burden for existing business.
- Same location, two or more NPAs in residence/business.
- Increased directory costs.
- Advances exhaust of neighbouring NPA(s).

4.4 Technology-specific Overlay

4.4.1 Definition

A Technology-specific Overlay is an overlay of a new NPA that is assigned specifically to one or more types of service or technology. An example of a Technology-specific Overlay is a new NPA dedicated only to wireless services.

With the introduction of WNP in Canada this method is no longer viable

4.4.2 General Attributes

For the following reasons, this type of overlay has generally not been accepted as a preferred method:

- Would be inconsistent with regulatory practice of seeking technology-neutral solutions.
- Favours certain types of service provider, i.e. not competitively neutral.
- Inconsistent with implementation of Local Number Portability between types of service provider or technology.
- Inconsistent with service providers' changes of type of service provider, e.g. migration from Wireless Service Provider to Local Exchange Carrier.
- Numbers in the existing NPA currently used for the service or technology to be moved to the new Technology-specific NPA would need to be changed; otherwise the new NPA would only provide relief for growth in the service or technology to which the new NPA is assigned. When existing CO Codes in the old NPA are shared between services needing a number change and services that do not need a number change, then these number changes would require that initial CO Codes be assigned in the new NPA, without freeing up any CO Codes in the old NPA, resulting in less efficient use of numbering resources and a requirement for earlier subsequent NPA Relief.

- Has not been implemented in Canada, and may cause confusion and additional costs for customers and service providers.

5. NPA EXHAUST INFORMATION

NPA 418 contains 258 Exchange Areas. The exchanges in NPA 418 are listed in Annex B Table 1.

As indicated in the following table, NRUFs for NPA 418 were used to determine Projected Exhaust Date, i.e. the dates when CO Codes in NPA 418 would be expected to exhaust.

NRUF	Projected Exhaust Date
G-NRUF January 2006	December 2013
August 2006 Special WNP-NRUF	March 2012
R-NRUF January 2007	October 2008
J-NRUF April 2007	October 2008

Refer to Annex A, Figures 3, 4, 5 and 6 for graphs that represent the rate of CO Code utilization in NPA 418.

Currently 7-digit local dialling is permitted within NPA 418. There is 7-digit local dialling between NPA 418 and adjacent NPAs 506 and 709, and 10-digit local dialling between NPA 418 and NPA 819. Currently no CO Codes are protected to permit 7-digit local dialling between NPA 418 and NPAs 506 and 709. Dialling changes may be required in adjacent NPAs 506 and 709 (Campbellton, NB and Labrador City – Wabush, NF) or CO Code protection may be required.

6. RELIEF OPTIONS IDENTIFIED BY THE CNA IN THE INITIAL PLANNING DOCUMENT

The four NPA relief methods previously described in this Initial Planning Document (IPD) are the Geographic Split, the Overlay, the Boundary Realignment, and the Technology-specific Overlay.

Based on the first three of the above methods used alone and in combination, the following 7 relief options were identified and examined in detail:

- Geographic Split - 6 options (Plans 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 3a and 3b)
- Distributed Overlay - 1 option (Plan 4)

In March 2007, the CNA declared a Jeopardy Condition in NPA 418 and established the Projected Exhaust Date as October 2008. Relief Options using the Concentrated Overlay and the Technology-specific Overlay methods were examined in less detail by the CNA as the timeframe before relief must be implemented is too short to permit a Concentrated Overlay and implementation of WNP eliminates the Technology-specific Overlay method. Consequently, analysis of both these methods has been excluded from the IPD.

Future Projected Exhaust Dates were developed for all Relief Options using the assumption that the future Projected Exhaust Dates will not be significantly affected by any CO Code protection that would be required if there is any 7-digit local dialling across NPA boundaries after relief.

In some small communities, local exchange carriers may provide service using equipment that can provide 10-digit local dialling and announcements e.g. a mandatory 10-digit dialling announcement. However this equipment may not be capable of providing automatic call completion after the end of a network announcement, as would normally be required during a transition period from 7- to 10-digit local dialling (permissive dialling period) leading up to an overlay. Investments that would be required to upgrade or replace network elements in small communities would be significant relative to their size, and such investments would be for the provision of a capability that would only be used for a short time, i.e. the duration of the permissive dialling period. It is therefore suggested that if the relief method that is adopted includes an overlay, then where a TSP's network does not support permissive dialling in a small community, the TSP would not be required to provide permissive dialling in that small community, but must use additional alternative methods of educating customers in that community. Such methods of education could include, but may not be limited to, advertisements in local newspapers (in areas where local newspapers are published), notices provided to customer using their billing notification method (e.g. paper mail or email), and information on websites.

See Annex A, Figures 7 through 13 for diagrams of the Relief Options identified by the CNA.

CO Codes 431 and 581 are the only 2 NXXs in the current list of Projected Future Canadian Geographic NPAs that do not correspond to any CO Codes assigned in NPAs 418, 506, 709 and 819. It is therefore recommended that NPAs 431 and 581 be identified as the most suitable NPAs for this relief. See Annex B Table 2 for details of the status in NPA 418 and Adjacent NPAs of NXXs that correspond to Projected Future Canadian Geographic NPAs.

6.1 Geographic Split

Six different Relief Options were evaluated to introduce a new NPA in the NPA 418 area using the Geographic Split method of providing CO Code relief. With each of these options, number changes are required in the area that does not retain NPA 418.

In two of the geographic split options (Plans 1a and 1b), NPA 418 is split into a northern portion and a southern portion along a boundary which starts in the West in the unserved area between the Riviere-a-Pierre Exchange Area and the NPA 819 Exchange Area Lac Edouard, lies north of Parc-des-Laurentides below Hébertville and Laterrière, then down to and east along the north boundary of St-Tite-des-Caps, across the St Lawrence, between St-Roch-des-Aulnaies and La Pocatière, then across the unserved area to the US border. The only existing wireline local calling between these northern and southern assignment areas is between La Pocatière (with 2 CO Codes) and St-Roch-des-Aulnaies (1 CO Code).

With this boundary, the NPA 418 population and assigned CO Codes would split as follows:

<i>NPA and Area</i>	<i>Estimated Population (Note 1)</i>		<i>Assigned CO Codes in NPA 418 (01-01-07)</i>
	<i>No. of People</i>	<i>% of Total NPA 418</i>	<i>% of Total NPA 418 CO Codes</i>
418 Northern Region	667,700	38.4%	48%
418 Southern Region	1,069,300	61.6%	52%

Note:

1. Populations based on 2006 estimates from http://www.stat.gouv.qc.ca/regions/profils/region_00/region_00.htm, and lists of exchanges by NPA.

With these two options (Plans 1a and 1b), number changes would be required either in the northern or southern region (as defined above).

Two of the geographic split options (Plans 2a and 2b) use the existing Local Interconnection Regions (LIRs) to define the split regions. The Exchange Areas within the LIRs in TELUS Quebec's territory are included in one region and the remaining Exchange Areas are included in the second region.

With this boundary, the NPA 418 population and assigned CO Codes would split as follows:

<i>NPA and Area</i>	<i>Estimated Population (Note 1)</i>		<i>Assigned CO Codes in NPA 418 (01-01-07)</i>
	<i>No. of People</i>	<i>% of Total NPA 418</i>	<i>% of Total NPA 418 CO Codes</i>
418 TQ LIR Region	642,700	37%	39%
418 non-TQ LIR Region	1,094,300	63%	61%

Note:

1. Population estimates based on 2006 estimates from http://www.stat.gouv.qc.ca/regions/profils/region_00/region_00.htm, and lists of exchanges by NPA and quantity of CO Codes assigned.

With these two options (Plans 2a and 2b), number changes would be required either in the TELUS Quebec LIR region or the non-TELUS Quebec LIR region (as defined above).

In the remaining geographic split options (Plans 3a and 3b), an existing physical feature easily lends itself for use as a boundary to split NPA 418. In this option, the St. Lawrence River would be used as the boundary to separate NPA 418 Exchange Areas located to the north of the river and NPA 418 Exchange Areas located to the south of the river. If the St. Lawrence River is used as the split boundary, the Îles de la Madeleine would be grouped with the southern Exchange Areas and Port Menier, Îles aux Coudres, and Îles d'Orléans would be grouped with the northern Exchange Areas. With this boundary, the NPA 418 population and assigned CO Codes would split as follows:

<i>NPA and Area</i>	<i>Estimated Population (Note 1)</i>		<i>Assigned CO Codes in NPA 418 (01-01-07)</i>
	<i>No. of People</i>	<i>% of Total NPA 418</i>	<i>% of Total NPA 418 CO Codes</i>
418 North of St Lawrence	1,041,500	60.0%	60%
418 South of St Lawrence	695,400	40.0%	40%

Note:

1. Populations based on 2006 estimates from http://www.stat.gouv.qc.ca/regions/profils/region_00/region_00.htm, and lists of exchanges by NPA.

With these two options (Plans 3a and 3b), number changes would be required either in NPA 418 either north of or south of the St. Lawrence (as defined above).

The main attribute of a split is that the local dialling plan does not have to be changed either in the old NPA or in the new NPA, and users in both NPAs could continue with 7-digit local dialling.

With all Split Plans there is some local calling between Exchange Areas in NPA 418 and the new NPA hence CO Code protection would have to be considered to maintain 7-digit local dialling.

6.1.1. Southern region changes to New NPA (Plan 1a):

Description:

The northern portion of NPA 418, with 153 Exchange Areas, would retain NPA 418, and the southern portion of NPA 418, with 105 Exchange Areas, would be reassigned to a new NPA. The area that would retain NPA 418 contains the rapidly growing exchanges of Québec, St-Georges-de-Beauce, and Thetford Mines while the new NPA would contain the rapidly growing exchanges of Chicoutimi, Rivière-du-Loup and Rimouski. Using this option, approximately 1,069,300 people would be affected by a telephone number change to the new NPA.

After the split, NPA 418 and the new NPA would be expected to exhaust in 2037 and 2041 respectively.

Assessment:

To be completed by RPC

6.1.2. Northern region changes to New NPA (Plan 1b):Description:

The southern portion of NPA 418, with 105 exchanges, would retain NPA 418, and the northern portion of NPA 418, with 153 exchanges, would be reassigned to a new NPA. There would be around 667,700 people in NPA 418 that would be affected by a telephone number change to the new NPA. The quantity of number changes required by this option is slightly better than the quantity of number changes required by Plan 1a.

After this split, NPA 418 and the new NPA would be expected to exhaust in 2041 and 2037 respectively.

Assessment:

To be completed by RPC

6.1.3. Non-TELUS Quebec LIR region changes to New NPA (Plan 2a):Description:

The portion of NPA 418 consisting of TELUS Quebec LIR Exchange Areas, with 135 exchanges, would retain NPA 418, and the portion of NPA 418 consisting of Bell, Sogetel, and Telebec LIR Exchange Areas and Independent Exchange Areas, with 123 exchanges, would be reassigned to a new NPA. The area that would retain NPA 418 contains the rapidly growing exchanges of Baie Comeau, Donnacona, Montamgny, Rimouski, Sept-Îles, and St-Georges-de-Beauce while the new NPA would contain the rapidly growing exchanges of Québec, Chicoutimi, Rivière-du-Loup and Thetford Mines. Using this option, approximately 1,094,300 people would be affected by a telephone number change to the new NPA.

After the split, NPA 418 and the new NPA would be expected to exhaust in 2044 and 2034 respectively.

Assessment:

To be completed by RPC

6.1.4. TELUS Quebec LIR changes to New NPA (Plan 2b):Description:

The portion of NPA 418 consisting of Bell, Sogetel, and Telebec LIR Exchange Areas and Independent Exchange Areas, with 123 exchanges, would retain NPA 418, and the portion of NPA 418 consisting of TELUS Quebec LIR Exchange Areas, with 135 exchanges, would be

reassigned to a new NPA. There would be around 642,700 people in NPA 418 that would be affected by a telephone number change to the new NPA. The quantity of number changes required by this option is slightly better than the quantity of number changes required by Plan 2a.

After this split, NPA 418 and the new NPA would be expected to exhaust in 2033 and 2045 respectively.

Assessment:

To be completed by RPC

6.1.5. South of St. Lawrence changes to New NPA (Plan 3a):

Description:

The northern portion of NPA 418, with 114 exchanges, would retain NPA 418, and the southern portion of NPA 418, with 144 exchanges, would be reassigned to a new NPA. The area that would retain NPA 418 contains the rapidly growing exchanges of Québec, Baie Comeau Chicoutimi, La Baie, and Sept-Îles while the new NPA would contain the rapidly growing exchanges of Levis, Rivière-du-Loup, Rimouski, St-Georges-de-Beauce, St-Nicolas, and Thetford Mines. Using this option, approximately 695,400 people would be affected by a telephone number change to the new NPA.

After the split, NPA 418 and the new NPA would be expected to exhaust in 2032 and 2046 respectively.

Assessment:

To be completed by RPC

6.1.6. North of St. Lawrence changes to New NPA (Plan 3b):

Description:

The southern portion of NPA 418, with 144 exchanges, would retain NPA 418, and the northern portion of NPA 418, with 114 exchanges, would be reassigned to a new NPA. There would be around 1,041,500 people in the NPA 418 that would be affected by a telephone number change to the new NPA. The larger quantity of number changes required by this option is a drawback compared to the quantity of number changes required by Plan 3a.

After this split, NPA 418 and the new NPA would be expected to exhaust in 2046 and 2032 respectively.

Assessment:

To be completed by RPC

6.2 Distributed Overlay

One Relief Option was evaluated to introduce the new NPA using the Distributed Overlay method of providing NPA relief.

6.2.1. Distributed Overlay (Plan 4):Description:

This Relief Option would introduce a new NPA to overlay NPA 418. NPA 418 and the new NPA would be expected to exhaust in 2008 and 2041 respectively.

Assessment:

To be completed by RPC

7. SUMMARY OF RELIEF OPTIONS

The following table summarizes alternative options.

Plan	Description	Exhaust Dates		Relief - Timing & Type		Popula- tion affected by number changes	Local Dial # of D
		NPA 418	New NPA	Dates (area) [for the next relief only]	Type		
1a	Southern region changes to New NPA	2041	2037	2039 (418) 2035 (new NPA)	S	1.069m ?	7 7
1b	Northern region changes to New NPA	2037	2041	2035 (418) 2039 (new NPA)	S	.668m ?	7 7
2a	Non-TELUS Quebec LIR region changes to New NPA	2044	2034	2042 (418) 2032 (new NPA)	S	? ?	7 7
2b	TELUS Quebec LIR changes to New NPA	2033	2045	2031 (418) 2043 (new NPA)	S	? ?	7 7
3a	South of St. Lawrence changes to New NPA	2032	2046	2031 (418) 2044 (new NPA)	S	.695m ?	7 7
3b	North of St. Lawrence changes to New NPA	2046	2032	2044 (418) 2031 (new NPA)	S	1.042m ?	7 7
4	Distributed Overlay	2008	2041	2039 (new NPA)	O	Nil Nil	10 10
Key	D = Digit, Bold = Dates of new NPAs, O = Overlay, S= Split, * = Options, > = conversion ? = Unknown population affected by number changes						

8. IDENTIFICATION & ASSESSMENT OF RELIEF OPTIONS CONSIDERED BY THE RELIEF PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Relief Planning Committee considered the Initial Planning Document (IPD) developed by the CNA and, based upon discussion, identified a total of 7 Relief Options for consideration. A Pro, Neutral or Con (P, N or C) rating was established for each Relief Option for each of the following attributes. The results are listed in the table below the list of attributes.

- A. NPA Code Conservation – quantity of new NPAs required in NPA 418 within the 20 year planning cycle (P = 2 or less new NPAs; N = 3 new NPAs; C = 4 or more new NPAs)
- B. Number of separate Relief Planning areas in Québec in the long term (P = decrease; N = stays same; C = increase)
- C. Quantity of Number Changes for existing customers' numbers
- D. Level of Carrier Costs – e.g., including implementation, customer awareness, rate of return (P = Low; N = Medium; C = High)
- E. Deferral of Implementation – how long before customers have to make a change (P = deferral of relief implementation; N = no advance or deferral of relief implementation; C = advance of relief implementation)
- F. Longevity – the length of time between the first relief and subsequent relief activity in Quebec (e.g., a new area code) (P = 15 or more years; N = 8 through 14 years; C = within 7 years)
- G. Geographic Identity – known areas or identifiable geographical features or NPA border identification (N = Medium; C = Low)
- H. Customer Confusion about dialling plan changes (P = low; N = medium; C = high)
- I. Reprogram Mobile Phones – requirement to reprogram wireless devices to accommodate the number changes (P = low; N = Medium; C = High)
- J. The extent to which resources in the original NPA will be used in the future (P = High; N = Medium; C = Low)
- K. Does the option consider the potential direction for future reliefs in Québec? (P = Yes; C = No)

Plan	Description of NPA 418 Relief Option	Pro, Neutral or Con for each Attribute											Rating
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	
1a	Southern region changes to New NPA												
1b	Northern region changes to New NPA												
2a	Non-TELUS Quebec LIR region changes to New NPA												
2b	TELUS Quebec LIR changes to New NPA												
3a	South of St. Lawrence changes to New NPA												
3b	North of St. Lawrence changes to New NPA												
4	Distributed Overlay												

Notes:

1. None of the options require Exchange Area boundary changes.
2. For the purposes of this matrix, it is assumed that Plans 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 3a and 3c will retain 7-digit local dialling.

If P, N and C are assigned a weighting of +1, 0 and -1, respectively, then analysis of the above table gives the highest rating of X points to Plan X, and the next highest rating of x points to Plans X, X, ...

9. DIALLING CHANGES FOR LOCAL CALLS

The following tables reflect the dialling arrangement for Local calls only for Splits and Overlays.

The Toll call dialling arrangement is not impacted due to the NPA relief. The tables below identify recommended modifications to the local dialling plans in NPA 418, the NPA 418 Relief NPA, as well as in neighbouring NPAs 506,709 and 819.

Local Dialling Plan for Customers in NPA 418

Dial Plan Scenarios	Today	After 418 Split	After 418 Overlay
Landline to Wireless within NPA 418	7-digits	7-digits	10-digits
Landline to Wireless from NPA 418 to adjacent NPAs	10-digits	10-digits	10-digits
Landline to Landline within NPA	7-digits	7-digits	10-digits
Landline to Landline from NPA 418 to NPAs 506 and 709	7-digits	7/10-digits	10-digits
Landline to Landline from NPA 418 to NPA 819	10-digits	10-digits	10-digits
Wireless to Wireless within NPA	7/10/11-digits	7/10/11-digits	10/11-digits
Wireless to Wireless from NPA 418 to adjacent NPAs	10/11-digits	10/11-digits	10/11-digits

Local Dialling Plan for Customers in Neighbouring Exchange Areas of Cambellton NB in NPA 506 and Labrador City – Wabush NF in NPA 709

Dial Plan Scenarios	Today	After 418 Split	After 418 Overlay
Landline to Wireless from NPA 506 and 709 to NPA 418	10-digits	10-digits	10-digits
Landline to Landline from NPAs 506 and 709 to NPA 418	7-digits	7/10-digits	10-digits
Wireless to Wireless from NPAs 506 and 709 to NPA 418	10/11-digits	10/11-digits	10/11-digits

Local Dialling Plan for Customers in Neighbouring NPA 819

Dial Plan Scenarios	Today	After 418 Split	After 418 Overlay
Landline to Wireless from NPA 819 to NPA 418	10-digits	10-digits	10-digits
Landline to Landline from NPA 819 to NPA 418	10-digits	10-digits	10-digits
Wireless to Wireless from NPA 819 to NPA 418	10/11-digits	10/11-digits	10/11-digits

10. PROPOSED SCHEDULE

The Relief Planning Committee developed the following proposed schedule using the best available information at this time. A number of assumptions were made with respect to the timeframes for certain events. Depending upon the Relief Option that is approved by the CRTC, the following proposed schedule will be modified accordingly.

NPA 418 Relief Planning Timeline		Start	End
		Date	Date
Number	Task or Event	MM-YYYY	MM-YYYY
1	CNA identifies NPA exhaust and notifies by e-mail CRTC staff, CSCN, NANPA & CISC that the NPA will exhaust*	03-2006	04-2006
2	CNA conducts R-NRUF	12-2006	02-2007
3	CNA identifies and declares Jeopardy Condition and conducts J-NRUF	03-2007	05-2007
4	CNA begins preparation of IPD	04-2007	
5	CRTC issues Public Notice to establish RPC and Interested Parties list. CNA announces the date for the initial NPA Relief Planning meeting, requests contributions and issues the initial press release.		
6	CNA completes and distributes IPD to RPC		
7	RPC participants review IPD		
8	CNA chairs initial RPC meeting to present, explain and discuss the NPA Relief Planning process and the IPD. RPC schedules next meeting/conference call		
9	CNA distributes revised IPD based upon initial meeting discussions		
10	RPC participants provide comments on revised IPD as contributions to the RPC		
11	RPC participants review contributions, if any, prior to subsequent meetings/conference calls		
12	CNA chairs subsequent RPC meetings/conference calls to finalize Planning Document		
13	CNA revises and forwards Planning Document (PD) to the CISC and CRTC		
14	CISC reviews and forwards PD to the CRTC for approval		
15	CRTC initiates a process to approve/revise the PD and establish the Relief Option and Relief Date		
16	Interested Parties submit comments and reply comments to CRTC		
17	CRTC issues Decision & directs RPC to develop an NPA Relief Implementation Plan (RIP)		
18	CNA schedules meeting of RPC to develop a consensus RIP and Planning Letter (PL)		
19	CNA chairs RPC meeting to create Task Forces		

NPA 418 Relief Planning Timeline		Start	End
		Date	Date
Number	Task or Event	MM-YYYY	MM-YYYY
20	RPC and its Task Forces develop and obtain consensus on the various components of the RIP and PL (a series of meetings/conference calls might be required)		
21	CNA forwards consensus RIP to CISC and the PL to NANPA		
22	CISC reviews and forwards RIP to the CRTC for approval		
23	CRTC approves RIP and notifies Interested Parties		
24	CNA issues second media release and sends approved RIP to NANPA, TRA, LNP Consortium and RPC members		
25	Task Forces, Telecommunications Service Providers and users execute the RIP		
26	Permissive Dialling Period in the event of a Split / 7- to 10- digit Dialling Transition Period in the event of an Overlay (To be determined based upon CRTC approved Relief Option)		
27	Relief Date (Phase 1)		
28	Projected Exhaust Date		

* When an NPA is projected to exhaust within a 72 months period, the CNA must commence the Relief Planning process.

** In the event that a new R-NRUF or actual demand indicates that the exhaust date will change significantly, the CNA may convene a meeting of the NPA Relief Planning Committee to review the issue and make a recommendation to the CISC and CRTC.

11. SPECIAL OVERLAY POOL FOR INITIAL CODE ASSIGNMENTS

The following text is only applicable in an overlay situation.

In CRTC Decision 2001-365 *Assignment of central office codes following relief of an area code*, the Commission directed that a pool of CO Codes be made accessible to any carrier applying for an initial code in a particular Exchange Area following the introduction of a new area code using the overlay method (called the "Pool for Initial Code Assignments").

Specifically, the CRTC directed that:

- a) a pool of CO codes be set aside for assignment to any carrier requesting an initial code, as described by the Canadian Central Office (NXX) Code Assignment Guidelines, for a particular exchange. CO codes assigned from this pool should not be replaced. This pool will be maintained for a period of only two years following the introduction of a new area code to avoid an undue impact on the exhaust of the new area code. Where such a pool exists, all initial code assignments shall be made from the pool. In cases where the Commission has not established the number of CO codes for this special pool, the appropriate CISC Ad Hoc Relief Planning Committee may make a recommendation to the Commission via the CISC process with regard to the number of CO codes for the pool; and
- b) all other CO codes remaining in the original area code and that are not part of the pool set aside for use as initial codes may be assigned using the normal administrative procedures set out in the Canadian Central Office (NXX) Code Assignment Guidelines.

The Canadian NPA Relief Planning Guidelines state in paragraph 2 of section 7.2, Overlay Method, that:

Following the implementation of an overlay, an appropriate number of CO Codes are set aside for Initial Code Applicants for a period of two years after the Relief Date (Letter Decision CRTC 2001-365). The quantity of CO Codes set aside following relief should be equivalent to the quantity set aside for this purpose in the case of a Jeopardy Condition as per section 9.1 of these guidelines.

In paragraph 5 of section 9.1 of those guidelines, it states:

The RPC shall recommend a quantity of CO Codes to be set aside, on the NPA CO Code Inventory Chart, for Initial Code Applicants whose requirements were not considered in the first J-COCUS. The quantity to be set aside for such Initial Code Applicants shall be based upon an assessment of the quantity of exchange areas in the NPA and the potential for Initial Code Applicants to enter the market in those exchange areas. The quantity of set aside Codes for FNEs [stet] should be recommended by the CNA in the IPD and approved or modified by the Relief Planning Committee (RPC), CISC and CRTC. This pool of CO Codes for Initial Code Applicants shall be used for initial Code assignments to [stet] until relief is provided.

In the Glossary of those guidelines, the term Initial Code Applicant is defined as follows:

Any entity making an application for an initial code in an exchange within the exhausting NPA as per section 4 of the Central Office Code Assignment Guidelines.

In establishing the "Pool for Initial Code Assignments", the RPC considered that NPA 418 consists of 258 Exchange Areas. In the Initial Planning Document (IPD), the CNA indicated that the majority of the projected growth in NPA 418 is mainly limited to 6 Exchange Areas, and that in the remaining Exchange Areas there is virtually no projected growth. Those 6 Exchange Areas are: Québec, Rimouski, Chicoutimi, Rivière-du-Loup, St-Georges-de-Beauce and Thetford Mines. Using the April 2007 J-NRUF results, the annual growth in CO Codes projected to be assigned during the next 5 years varies significantly, with an average of 23 per year. A significant quantity of the annual growth is expected to be in the 6 Exchange Areas identified above for TSPs that already have CO Code assignments in those 6 Exchange Areas. Given the recent experience with new entrants in the CLEC and wireless sectors, it is expected that there will be few new entrants requesting initial code assignments in the 2 year period after the implementation of the overlay. It is also expected that there will be only a small quantity of requests from existing TSPs for initial code assignments in the 6 growing exchange areas and the no/low growth Exchange Areas during the two year period. On the www.cnac.ca web site, the CNA has identified 3 CO Codes in NPA 418 as status of "New Entrants Reserved" with remarks "Reserved New Entrants - Can be made available upon request".

Given these factors, the RPC agreed to recommend that X CO Codes should be set-aside in the "Pool for Initial Code Assignments for the two year period following the implementation of the overlay XXX area code. The RPC expects that this quantity of CO Codes would be sufficient to accommodate the need for initial code requests for the two-year period following the introduction of a new area code via the overlay method.

12. RECOMMENDATIONS

The RPC reviewed all Relief Options and gave the highest rating to Relief Plan X.

Some of the advantages that Relief Plan X has over some or all of the options listed above are:

To be completed by the RPC.

13. JEOPARDY CONTINGENCY PLAN – NPA 418

The following measures shall be implemented by all CO Code Holders in NPA 418 once approved by the CRTC.

- 1) During a Jeopardy Condition, Code Applicants shall submit all code applications and related correspondence for the jeopardy NPA to CRTC staff in addition to the CNA. The CNA will work closely with CRTC staff in the analysis of these applications.
- 2) Telecommunications Service Providers (TSPs) will implement the following conservation methods when this Jeopardy Contingency Plan is approved:
 - a) age disconnected residential telephone numbers for a maximum of two months;
 - b) age disconnected wireless telephone numbers for a maximum of three months;
 - c) age disconnected business telephone numbers for a maximum of six months. Under special circumstances, the six month aging limit for business telephone numbers may be extended to twelve months if required to accommodate local directory publishing dates for high volume call-in applications (e.g., heavily advertised local business numbers such as radio talk shows, food ordering services, ticket sales, chat lines), or for numbers associated with public service emergency applications or for numbers advertised in directories for which customers have requested reference of calls;
 - d) return all CO Codes that are not being used nor intended to be used to directly serve customers to the assignment pool within two months (e.g., plant test codes);
 - e) all CO Code Holders should work towards, and encourage existing customers, to either activate or return the reserved numbers in order to bring the reserved quantity down to a maximum of 10% of the quantity of numbers In-Service for that customer;
 - f) the quantity of reserved numbers shall not be increased by new reservation requests by existing customers to more than 10% of the quantity of numbers in service for that customer. In the case of new customers, number reservations shall be limited to 10% of the total quantity of telephone numbers being placed into service for that customer;
 - g) within 45 days from the date the CRTC approves this Jeopardy Contingency Plan, CO Code Holders shall submit a Part 1 Form for each remaining reserved CO Code either returning the reserved CO Code to the CNA or requesting assignment of the reserved CO Code, as per these Special Conservation Procedures. Once the 45-day period has elapsed, the CNA shall make any reserved CO Code that has not been assigned and for which it has not received a Part 1 Form available for general assignment. Within 60 days from the date that this Jeopardy Contingency Plan becomes effective, the CNA shall report to CRTC staff and the RPC as to how many of these codes have been assigned or made available for general assignment;
 - h) reservations of CO Codes will not be permitted until NPA relief is provided;
 - i) for all CO Codes that were assigned prior to the date this Jeopardy Contingency Plan becomes effective, the CO Codes must be placed In-Service within three months of the effective date for CO Code activation in the network, or within three months of the date that the Jeopardy Condition was declared. The CNA

- shall initiate reclamation procedures for all CO Codes that have not been placed In-Service within this timeframe;
- j) reclaimed CO Codes will be made available for general assignment after a three-month aging period.
- 3) For new applications for Initial Codes, each CO Code Holder shall certify that the CO Code will be activated in the network and placed in service within four months of the date of application for the Code. If the CNA does not receive a Part 4 Form within this timeframe confirming that the CO Code has been placed in service, the CNA will initiate reclamation measures. If the Code Holder can demonstrate that, due to circumstances beyond its control, the In-Service date has been delayed not more than six months from the original application date, then the CNA may grant an extension to the In-Service date, so long as the In-Service date is not more than six months beyond the original application date. If the In-Service date has been delayed more than six months from the original application date, then the CNA shall reclaim the Code.
- 4) When applying for a CO Code for growth for the switching entity/POI serving an Exchange Area, CO Code Holders shall:
- a) complete and submit the attached Telephone Number Utilization Report Form;
 - b) certify that all held telephone numbers have been released;
 - c) certify that reserved numbers do not exceed ten percent of the total quantity of numbers;
 - d) certify that all existing CO Codes per service provided in that exchange by that switching entity or POI, are projected to exhaust within four months and provide supporting documentation (i.e., complete Appendix B Months to Exhaust Certification Worksheet); and,
 - e) certify that each reseller's/dealer's inventory has been reduced to an amount equal to two times the highest month's end customer number assignment rate from the previous year for that reseller/dealer. This certification must be provided at the time of applying for a CO Code for growth or within 60 days from the date the Jeopardy Contingency Plan becomes effective, whichever is later. In the event that the Code Applicant does not submit the certification within 60 days of the date the Jeopardy Contingency Plan becomes effective, then the CNA shall advise Commission staff. Exceptional issues (e.g., inventory provision for start-up resellers/dealers, inventory provision for resellers/dealers that anticipate activations in excess of historical trends, and resellers/dealers that refuse to cooperate in reducing their inventories) may be referred to the Commission for resolution.
- 5) Any CO Codes for growth assigned after the implementation of this JCP must be activated in the network and placed In-Service within four months of the date of application. In the event that a CO Code Holder is unable to place the CO Code In-Service within four months of the date of application, the CO Code Holder must submit a written request for extension to the CNA. Such written requests must include documentation explaining the reason(s) for the missed date and proposing the new In-Service date. If the explanation includes reasons beyond the control of the CO Code Holder, the CNA may extend the In-Service date a maximum of one month. If the CO Code Holder does not place the CO Code In-Service within the one-month extension, the CNA shall reclaim the CO Code immediately at the end of the one-month extension.

- 6) A TSP that has multiple switching entities within an Exchange Area shall examine the possibility of, and implement where feasible, number sharing between those switches as a potential method to delay requirements for additional CO Codes.
- 7) The CNA will compare subsequent NRUF inputs with the January 2007 R-NRUF inputs, in order to assess forecasting trends. The CNA shall monitor all inputs and shall test them for reasonableness in consultation with the Telecommunications Service Provider. If the CNA is dissatisfied with the reasonableness, or the rationale provided for the deviations, then the matter will be referred to Commission staff.
- 8) The CNA will request J-NRUF input from all potential and current CO Code Holders quarterly starting in June 2007, until 4 months before relief is provided. The January 2007 R-NRUF input will be used as a baseline for comparison of subsequent J-NRUF inputs as well as to evaluate the effectiveness of the JCP. The CNA shall monitor all J-NRUF inputs and shall test them for reasonableness in consultation with the Telecommunications Service Provider. If the CNA is dissatisfied with the reasonableness, or the rationale provided for the deviations, then the matter will be referred to the Commission.
- 9) In the absence of the most recently required NPA 418 NRUF from a Code Holder or proposed Competitive Local Exchange Carrier (CLEC), the CNA will request a completed NRUF from that entity prior to the assignment of a CO Code.
- 10) When a CO Code Applicant requests more CO Codes than it identified in its January 2007 R-NRUF or most recent subsequent NPA 418 J-NRUF, the CNA will discuss the matter with the Code Applicant and if the Code Applicant wishes to proceed with the request, the CNA will forward the request to CRTC staff for consideration.
- 11) The CO Codes identified in the NPA CO Code Inventory Chart as "Assignable CO Codes in a Jeopardy Condition" will be assigned in the order determined by the RPC after all CO Codes which are "Available for Assignment as of [the date identified on the NPA CO Code Inventory Chart]" have been assigned.
- 12) After each J-NRUF, the CNA shall provide Commission staff and the RPC participants with a report providing an updated NPA CO Code Inventory Chart for the NPA in jeopardy as well as the aggregate results of the most recent J-NRUF.
- 13) This JCP shall remain in effect until 66 days before NPA Relief will be implemented. This period of time is specified since a CO Code Applicant needing to activate a new CO Code in the minimum amount of time and applying for a CO Code 66 days prior to the Relief Date can receive a CO Code in the post-Relief NPA.
- 14) Exceptional issues or concerns may be referred by the CNA, or by individual entities (with a courtesy copy to the CNA), to Commission staff for resolution.
- 15) If the CNA determines that the implementation of the JCP has not extended the Projected Exhaust Date of the NPA beyond the Relief Date, the CNA will consult with Commission staff and further CO Code conservation and assignment procedures may be ordered by the Commission (e.g., rationing, lottery, etc.).

NPA 418 CO Code Inventory Chart

The following chart and the instructions it contains will apply in NPA 418 in a Jeopardy Condition.

The chart shown below lists quantities of CO Codes unassignable prior to a Jeopardy Condition, CO Codes that become assignable in a Jeopardy Condition, and CO Codes in NPA 418 assigned and in-service as at 2007-05-16. It identifies 36 CO Codes that are unassignable prior to a Jeopardy Condition, 16 of which become assignable in a Jeopardy Condition. The CO Codes that become assignable in a Jeopardy Condition shall only be made available for assignment when all other available CO Codes have been assigned. The types of CO Codes that become assignable in a Jeopardy Condition should be made available in the same order as listed in the chart.

A	Total CO Codes In an NPA (NXX format)	800
B	CO Codes unassignable prior to a Jeopardy Condition:	
	N11 Service Codes (211, 311, 411, 511, 611, 711, 811, 911)	8
	Special Use Codes (555, 950 & 976)	2
	Protected Codes	0
	Home NPA(s) (418)	1
	Current Neighbouring NPAs (506, 709, 819)	3
	Future Canadian Geographic NPAs (see Note 1)	12
	Plant Test Codes (958 & 959)	2
	Special 7-digit Dialling Codes (610 & 810)	2
	911 Misdial Codes (912, 914 & 915)	3
	CO Codes set aside for assignment to Future New Entrants after Relief	3
	Subtotal	36
C	Assignable CO Codes prior to Jeopardy (C=A-B)	764
D	CO Codes unassignable prior to Jeopardy that become assignable in a Jeopardy Condition:	
	Future Canadian Geographic NPAs - assign 273, 367, 437, 460, 468, 474, 537, 579, 753, 942; do not assign 431 & 581 (potential future PQ or NF NPAs)	10
	911 Misdial Codes (912, 914 & 915)	3
	Current Neighbouring NPAs (assign 506 in northern portion of NPA 418 only, 709 in western portion only, and 819 in eastern portion only)	3
	Subtotal	16
E	Assignable CO Codes in a Jeopardy Condition (E=C+D)	780
F	Assigned CO Codes as of 2007-05-16	706
G	Net CO Codes available for assignment as of 2007-05-16 without Jeopardy Condition (H=C-F)	58
H	Net CO Codes available for assignment as of 2007-05-16 in a Jeopardy Condition (I=E-F)	74

Note 1: 25 out of a total 37 Future Canadian Geographic NPAs are already assigned as CO Codes in NPA 418

**NPA 418
PLANNING DOCUMENT
ANNEXES**