



**ATIS-0300048**

## **555 NXX ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES**

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## **1.0 Purpose and Scope of This Document**

This document specifies guidelines for the assignment of line numbers within the 555 NXX code, hereafter referred to as '555 numbers' within these guidelines. The intended use for 555 numbers for which these guidelines apply include the provisioning of information services but may include a broad range of existing and future services as well. While these guidelines were developed by the telecommunications industry by consensus process at the Industry Numbering Committee (INC), they do not supersede controlling appropriate NANP area governmental or regulatory principles, procedures and requirements. These industry consensus guidelines are expected to apply throughout the NANP area subject to procedures and constraints of the NANP area administrations.

These guidelines apply only to the assignment of 555 numbers in geographic NPAs. This does not preclude a future effort to address non-geographic NPAs in the same guidelines.

These guidelines do not apply for the assignment of 555 numbers in N00 SACs.

## **2.0 Assumptions and Constraints**

The development of the 555 number assignment guidelines include the following assumptions and constraints:

- 2.1** NANP resources, including those covered in these guidelines, are collectively managed by the North American Telecommunications industry with oversight of the North American federal regulatory authorities. The NANP and the NANP resources are developed in conformance with the International Telecommunication Union Telecommunications Standardization Sector (ITU-T) recommendations including E.164 "The international public telecommunication numbering plan."<sup>1</sup>

The NANP resources are considered a public resource and are not owned by the assignees. Consequently, the resources cannot be sold, brokered, bartered or leased by the assignee for a fee or other consideration.

If a resource is sold, brokered, bartered, or leased for a fee, the resource is subject to reclamation by the Administrator.

- 2.2** The 555 NXX Guidelines have been established as the result of an industry consensus that a unique number set (NPA-555-XXXX) is a solution to identified industry needs. The 555 NXX provides for types of public information service needs which may not be met by current numbering solutions, e.g., 976 and 900.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.itu.int/rec/T-REC-E.164/en>

- 2.3** These guidelines are intended to apply until superseded by the appropriate industry or regulatory authority.
- 2.4** NANP numbering resources shall be assigned to permit the most effective and efficient use of a finite numbering resource in order to prevent premature exhaust of the 555 number resource and to delay the need to develop and implement a new number resource. Efficient resource management and 555 number conservation is necessary due to the industry impacts of expanding any numbering resource (e.g., finding an equivalent resource to supplement 555 numbers).
- 2.5** These guidelines treat only the assignment of 555 numbers. Implementation of the 555 number assignments is beyond the scope of these guidelines. These guidelines are not intended to address local dialing arrangements for 555 numbers.
- 2.6** The applicant must be licensed or certified to operate in the area, if required, and must demonstrate that all applicable regulatory authority required to provide the service for which the 555 number is necessary has been obtained.
- 2.7** The guidelines should provide the greatest latitude in the provision of telecommunications services while effectively managing a finite resource.
- 2.8** These guidelines do not address the issue of who will fulfill the role of Administrator(s) of the 555 number resource. The guidelines described herein were developed by the industry without any assumption on who should be the Administrator(s).
- 2.9** The assignment and management of 555 numbers will be administered in accordance with these guidelines by the 555 number Administrator(s). At the direction of the Administrator(s), the number holders/entities who are assigned 555 numbers will be requested to provide service activation information to the Administrator(s) on a periodic basis to ensure effective management of the 555 number resource. The Administrator(s) will use this information to effectively manage the use of 555 numbers and to advise the industry as to the level of assignments and to alert the industry to any concerns such as the potential for number exhaust.
- 2.10** Administrative assignment of the 555 numbers by an entity does not imply ownership of the resource by the entity performing the administrative function, nor does it imply ownership by the entity to which it is assigned. The assignee has the right to use an assigned number in accordance with these guidelines.
- 2.11** The assignment of 555 numbers remains in effect as long as the assignee is in compliance with the criteria set forth in these guidelines.

- 2.12** SPs and numbering resource administrators are responsible for managing numbering resources in accordance with these guidelines and the orders of applicable regulatory authorities. Both SPs and numbering resource administrators are subject to audits. Further information may be found in FCC 00-104 ¶62, FCC 00-429 ¶81-99, FCC 01-362 ¶95-111, and 47CFR§52.15(k).

The NANP Resources assigned in this guideline are expected to be used in conformance with this guideline and the related ITU-T recommendations. Misuse of a resource either as defined in this guideline or as defined in ITU-T E.156 “Guidelines for ITU-T action on reported misuse of E.164 number resources” should be reported to the NANPA.<sup>2</sup> See Section 9 for contact information.

### **3.0 Assignment Principles**

The following assignment principles apply to the 555 NXX Assignment Guidelines:

- 3.1** All number assignments are for 10-digit 555 numbers in the format NPA-555-XXXX. When a number is requested from the available resource and assigned, the 4-digit line number will be designated as either a national or a non-national number.

**3.1.1** A national number is a unique line number in the 555 NXX assigned to an entity for use in all or most of the geographic NPAs in the NANP area. A number will be designated as a national number if it is to be used in at least 30% of all NPAs or states or provinces in the NANP area. National numbers cannot be assigned by the Administrator to any other entity.

**3.1.2** A non-national number is a line number in the 555 NXX assigned to an entity for use in a specific geographic area or areas (NPAs, states, or provinces). A number will be designated non-national if it is to be used in fewer than 30% of NPAs or states or provinces. Non-national numbers are available for assignment to multiple entities, assuming those entities wish to use the non-national number in different geographic NPAs.

- 3.2** In order to meet customer needs for the 555-XXXX resource and to ensure that entities served by both geographically large and small areas can have maximum access to the 555 resource, numbers will be available for assignment on a random basis. The criteria for administration of the 555 line numbers available for either national or non-national assignment will be as follows:

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.itu.int/rec/T-REC-E.156/en>

**National numbers** - The industry will be informed by the Administrator 24 months prior to the time the resource is projected to reach its 3000th line number so that the industry may determine what steps, if any, need to be taken.

**Non-national numbers** - When 70% of the first 1000 individual line numbers are in-service in a single NPA, an additional 1000 individual line numbers will be made available for assignment. When 1700 of the 2000 individual line numbers available for assignment have an appearance in a single NPA, an additional 1000 individual line numbers will be made available for assignment. Non-national number availability will be capped at 3000 individual line numbers pending review of the utilization of the resource by the appropriate industry body.

To conserve the 555 resource in a reasonable manner that also encourages maximum utilization of the resource, when 3000 individual 555 line numbers are projected to exhaust within 24 months in either category, the Administrator(s) will advise the industry with the purpose of convening the appropriate industry body to reevaluate the above guidelines. If it is determined at that time that the assignment guidelines do not meet the needs of the market, or conserve the resource in a reasonable manner, the appropriate industry body will determine what changes are necessary and change these guidelines accordingly.

- 3.3** 555 numbers, as part of NANP numbers, are to be assigned only to identify initial destination addresses in the public switched telephone network (PSTN), not addresses within private networks.
- 3.4** 555 numbers are a finite resource that should be used in the most effective and efficient manner possible. All applicants requesting 555 numbers will be required to provide the information as specified on the forms of these guidelines (See attached 555 NXX Request and Confirmation Forms).
- 3.5** A 555 number assigned in accordance with these guidelines must be activated, i.e., placed into service and remain in service, within the time limits specified herein. Otherwise, the 555 number will be subject to reclamation and/or reclassification (See Sections 5.4 and Section 7).
- 3.6** Information that is requested of applicants in support of 555 number assignment shall be kept to a minimum and shall be uniform for all applicants. Information received by the Administrator(s) shall be treated as confidential and adequately safeguarded.
- 3.7** 555 numbers shall be assigned in a fair and impartial manner to any applicant which meets the criteria for assignment as detailed in Section 4.0.
- 3.8** Applicants for 555 numbers must comply with applicable local, state, federal and World Zone 1 governmental regulations relative to the services they wish to provide.

**3.9** Any entity that is denied the assignment of one or more 555 numbers under these guidelines has the right to appeal that decision per Section 10.

**3.10** Assignments will be made on a first come, first served basis and there will be no reservation of 555 numbers. 555 numbers will be assigned from the available unassigned numbers. The Administrator(s) will attempt to match a number assignment with a specific number request.

**3.11** In situations of geographic NPA relief activity accomplished by either NPA splits, overlays, or boundary realignments, the holders of a national number will retain the right to request activation of the same number in the newly created NPA. Non-national numbers shall be assigned in the new or realigned NPAs as follows:

(a) For NPA splits, an entity holding a non-national 555 number in an existing geographic NPA will be given the opportunity to request assignment of the same 555 number in the new NPA. If this opportunity is declined, the 555 number in the new NPA will be available for assignment to another entity.

(b) For an overlay over a single NPA, the entity holding the 555 line number assignment will be given the opportunity to request the assignment of the same 555 number in the new NPA. If the opportunity is declined, the number in the new NPA will be available for assignment to another entity.

(c) For an overlay over more than one existing NPA, and where two or more entities each hold the same 555 number in the affected existing NPAs, the entity first assigned the 555 number will be given the opportunity to request assignment of the same 555 number in the overlay. If the opportunity is declined, then the entity next assigned the 555 number will be offered the assignment. If declined, the number will be available for assignment to another entity.”

**3.11.1** For NPA splits or overlays, an entity holding a non-national 555 number in an existing geographic NPA will be given the opportunity to request assignment of the same 555 number in the new NPA. If this opportunity is declined, the 555 number in the new NPA will be available for assignment to another entity.

**3.11.2** For NPA boundary realignment, an entity holding a non-national 555 number in the NPA affected by the realignment (i.e., the boundary shift reduces the serving area) will be given the opportunity to request assignment of the same 555 number in order to provide service in the newly aligned serving area that is part of the realignment, if the number is available. If the number is already assigned, then the entity must request the assignment of a new 555 line number in order to provide service in the newly aligned serving area.

## **4.0 Criteria for the Assignment And Retention of 555 Numbers**

The assignment criteria in the following sections shall be used by the Administrator(s) in reviewing a 555 number assignment request for an initial and/or additional number.

**4.1** In order to obtain a 555 number, the entity must complete the 555 NXX Request and Confirmation Form. The first five 555 line number assignments are classified as "initial" assignments. Entities may use single or multiple forms to apply for any or all of these first five 555 numbers. Requests for 555 number assignments beyond the first five 555 initial numbers are classified as "additional" assignments and should be requested on a separate form.

**4.1.1** The entity must certify a need for NANP numbers, e.g., provision of local or cellular service in the Public Switched Telephone Network. The assignment of 555 numbers will not apply for use in private networks.

**4.1.2** The entity must submit the 555 NXX Request and Confirmation Forms certifying that a need exists for a 555 number in order to provide services. In addition, the entity must certify a plan for activation within twelve (12) months from the date of number assignment.

**4.1.3** The entity must be licensed or certified to operate in the area, if required, and must demonstrate that all applicable regulatory authority required to provide the service for which the 555 number is required has been obtained.

**4.2** The requirement in Section 4.1.3 is met if certification is required for activation of a 555 line number, and at the time of application the requestor attests that appropriate certification has been applied for and is expected to be granted in a timely fashion that will allow the applicant to activate the 555 line number before the expiration of the twelve (12) month initial activation period.

**4.3** The intended use of 555 numbers include the provisioning of information services but may include a broad range of existing and future services as well.

**4.4** Requests for number assignments beyond the first five (5) numbers must meet the following criteria:

(a) The request may be for up to a maximum of five (5) national and/or non-national numbers.

(b) For a national number an entity must have placed each previously assigned national number in service within 10% of the NANP area geographic NPAs or states or provinces.

- (c) For a non-national number, an entity must have placed all previously assigned non-national numbers in service in the NPA in which they were requested or, if they were requested in multiple NPAs, in at least 10% of the NPAs in which they were requested.
- 4.5** The applicant's preference for a specific 555 number will be honored to the extent possible. In the event the applicant's preferred number is unavailable, the applicant may specify up to three alternative numbers in order of preference. If the preferred and alternative numbers are not available or the applicant does not indicate a preference for another specific number, the Administrator(s) will assign one.
- 4.6** A block of one hundred (100) 555 line numbers will be reserved as fictitious non-working numbers for use by the entertainment and advertising industries. These specific numbers are 555-01XX, i.e., numbers between and including 555-0100 and 555-0199.
- 4.7** If two or more applicants request the same 555 line number simultaneously, (i.e., their written requests are received by the Administrator on the same date), one of the applicants will be randomly selected to receive the requested 555 number.
- 4.8** In order to qualify for retention of a national number, the entity must meet the criteria for assignment as follows.

To retain national 555 number status:

1. The requesting entity will certify that its intent in obtaining a national 555 number is to deploy service on a national basis.
2. An entity, within eighteen (18) months of assignment, must have activated the 555 number in 30% of active the NANP area geographic NPAs or states or provinces as selected by the applicant.

For a non-national number assignment:

1. The requesting entity will certify that its intent in obtaining a non-national 555 number is to deploy service in a NPAs for which assignment was requested.
2. Within eighteen (18) months of assignment the entity must have activated the 555 number in all NPAs for which it has the assignment.

If an entity cannot meet the above criteria within the established time frames due to circumstances beyond its control, e.g., equipment delays, shortage of required facilities, the inability of the carriers to provide service, etc., the entity may request a 6-month extension from the Administrator. The extension will be

granted to the entity to resolve any of these issues that constrain it from meeting the deployment criteria. If the entity has not resolved the issues that constrain it from meeting the deployment criteria outlined above, but has shown good faith in attempting to resolve those issues, the entity may request, and the Administrator may grant, a second 6-month extension.

If the entity still has not resolved the issues that constrain it from meeting the deployment guidelines (with the exception of technical and/or business constraints outside its control), the Administrator will initiate a process for national numbers to reclassify the 555 number as a non-national number and place it in the non-national number pool as available for assignment in NPAs where it is inactive; and for non-national numbers to release all inactive assignments for assignment availability. See Section 7.

- 4.9** If the number of NPA(s), states or provinces where an entity's national number has been activated falls below the 30% threshold described in Section 4.8, excluding NPA relief activity, the Administrator shall notify the entity in writing of this fact and indicate the entity has sixty (60) days in which to satisfy the activation criteria or to demonstrate to the Administrator that a plan is in place to comply with the guidelines. Otherwise the number will be reclassified by the Administrator to a non-national number as outlined in Section 5.4.
- 4.10** If the assigned non-national number is not activated or does not remain activated in the NPAs for which originally requested, the Administrator shall notify the entity in writing of this fact and indicate the entity has sixty (60) days in which to satisfy the activation criteria or to demonstrate to the Administrator that a plan is in place to activate the number in the assigned NPAs. Otherwise the number should be voluntarily returned by the entity to the Administrator in those NPA(s) where the number was assigned but not activated and made available for future assignment. See Section 7.

## **5.0 Responsibilities of 555 Number Administrator**

The Administrator(s) shall:

- 5.1** Provide copies of the 555 number assignment guidelines when requested and timely notification of changes to the industry.
- 5.2** The receipt of 555 number requests shall be tracked and assignments will be made on a first come, first served basis, except as noted in Section 4.7.
- 5.3** Upon receipt of the signed 555 NXX Request and Confirmation Form, the Administrator(s) shall process applications for a 555 number in the following manner:

- 5.3.1** Determine if the request is in compliance with 555 number assignment policies and guidelines contained herein.
- 5.3.2** Respond within 10 working days from the date of receipt of a 555 NXX Request and Confirmation Form by completing the response portion that is part of these guidelines.
- 5.3.3** The Administrator(s) will attempt to assign the preferred 555 number as listed on the 555 NXX Request and Confirmation Form. If the requested number is unavailable, the Administrator(s) will discuss with the applicant the assignment of an alternative number.
- 5.3.4** Maintain records on 555 numbers assigned plus those available, and publish the assignments on an annual basis or make available upon request.
- 5.3.5** If the application is approved and a 555 number is assigned, the Administrator(s) will complete the 555 NXX Request and Confirmation Form and forward to the applicant.
- 5.3.6** In cases where a 555 number application is denied, provide specific reasons for the denial to the applicant on the form and refer the applicant to Section 9 of the guidelines, Appeals Process, for details on how and where to make an appeal of the decision.
- 5.4** It is expected that 555 numbers, when assigned, will be placed in service within twelve (12) months. Absent compliance with Section 4.8, reclassification process will be initiated by the Administrator(s) consistent with the following<sup>3</sup>.
- 5.4.1** When reclassification is appropriate, the Administrator(s) will inquire from the entity regarding the status of the 555 number(s) and, a certified letter will be sent to the entity stating the reclassification process has been initiated and requesting the voluntary return of the number(s) from the NPAs in which they have not been activated. The letter will state that the Administrator(s) intends to reclassify the 555 number(s) as a non-national number(s) at the end of a sixty (60) day period if activation of the number has not been established in accordance with these guidelines. The entity will be notified by letter if the 555 number(s) assignment is subsequently reclassified.

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<sup>3</sup> The reclassification process is defined as the procedure whereby the Administrator(s) as maintenance agent for the 555 number resource, reclassifies numbers which do not meet the requirements specified in the guidelines. Note: The Administrator(s) has the responsibility to attempt to reclassify the 555 number resource, especially numbering resources not activated, as the situation requires. These guidelines confer no enforcement authority. Actual enforcement authority resides with the appropriate governmental or regulatory body.

Any 555 number reclassified will be placed in the non-national number pool and will be made available for assignment as a non-national number by the Administrator(s) after an idle period of six months.

**5.4.2** The reclassification process will entail the following:

**5.4.2.1** The Administrator will inform the assignee that the unused number is now subject to assignment to another entity.

**5.4.2.2** The Administrator will, if necessary, inform the involved regulator(s) of this action.

**5.5** Return of 555 numbers which have been assigned but have not been activated in conformance with these guidelines, will be subject to the reclamation procedures outlined in Section 7.

**5.6** In situations of geographic NPA relief activity accomplished by either NPA splits, overlays, or boundary realignments, the holders of a national number will retain the right to request assignment of the same number in the newly created NPA. For entities holding non-national numbers, the Administrator will provide written notification within three (3) months after industry notification (e.g., NANPA Information Letter) to the entities in the affected NPAs concerning their opportunities to request the same 555 number(s) in the new or adjacent NPAs as follows:

**5.6.1** For NPA splits or overlays, advise the entities of the opportunity to apply for the same 555 number in the new NPA by submitting a 555 NXX Request and Confirmation Form no later than three (3) months after the receipt of the notification letter.

**5.6.2** For NPA boundary realignment, advise the entities of the opportunity to apply for the same 555 number in the NPA adjacent to the realigned boundary, if this number is available, no later than three (3) months after receipt of notification. For those situations where the numbers are not available, the entities will be advised to request new 555 numbers in the adjacent NPAs.

**5.7** In all situations of NPA relief activity, the 555 numbers existing in the affected NPA(s) will not be assigned to entities in the new NPA(s) until the existing 555 number holders have been given the response opportunity stated in Section 5.6 above.

**6.0 Responsibilities of 555 Number Applicants and Holders**

Entities requesting new 555 number assignments as well as entities already assigned 555 numbers shall comply with the following:

**6.1** Complete the following:

- 6.1.1** 555 number applicants for initial and/or additional number assignments shall submit their requests to the appropriate Administrator(s) using the 555 Number Assignment Request and Confirmation Form. Separate request forms shall be submitted for initial and additional 555 numbers. The applicant will complete all required entries on the 555 NXX Request and Confirmation Form to the best of his/her knowledge. Applicants who choose to submit their 555 NXX Assignment Request Form - Part 1 and or 555 NXX Assignment Request - Part 3 forms via facsimile or mailed copies will be charged a fee. See the NANPA website at [www.nanpa.com](http://www.nanpa.com) for specific details regarding the associated fee structure.
- 6.1.2** Certify on the 555 NXX Request and Confirmation Form that to the best of his/her knowledge that necessary governmental/regulatory authorization has been obtained to provide the service(s) for which the 555 number is being requested.
- 6.2** The applicant shall agree to abide by the numbering conservation criteria and reclamation procedures described in Section 7 and 8.
- 6.3** The number assignment holder should provide, upon request of the access provider from which activation has been requested, confirmation of line number(s) and the NPA assignment(s).
- 6.4** The information associated with a 555 number assignment may change over time. Such changes may occur, for example, because of the transfer of a 555 number -- through merger or acquisition -- to a different company. These changes may include not only a change in company name, but also a change in the location to which calls made with a given 555 number are to be routed. Accordingly, the Administrator(s) must be informed using the 555 NXX Request and Confirmation Form, of these changes to ensure that an accurate record of the entity responsible for the 555 number and the data associated with the 555 number is maintained.
- 6.5** The holder of a 555 number acquired by merger or acquisition, must use the number consistent with these guidelines. The assignment of a 555 number does not imply ownership of the number. However, a 555 assignment may be transferred to another entity through merger or acquisition. NANPA must be informed of such transfers to ensure that an accurate record of the entity responsible for the 555 assignment can be maintained, and that the guideline requirements are satisfied.

The entity requesting the transfer of a 555 assignment from the assignee of record must provide written documentation that supports the transfer of a 555 number assignment (i.e., written agreement from the assignee of record or evidence of merger or acquisition).

**6.6** A 555 number holder must participate in any audits conducted by the Administrator. Items that may be audited:

1. Proof of certification or license to operate in the assigned area, if applicable.
2. Proof that the number is accessible through the PSTN.
3. Proof that the number is being used in accordance with the guidelines.
4. Verification of NPAs where the number is activated and the date of activation.
5. Validation of Company name and address.

**6.7** A 555 number assigned to an entity, either directly by the Administrator or through merger or acquisition, should be placed in service within 12 months after assignment. Certification of in-service status will be required (see 555 NXX Request and Confirmation Form). If the assignee no longer has need for the 555 number, the number should be voluntarily returned to the Administrator(s) for reassignment. See Section 7.

**6.8** In-service certification (See Part 3 of the 555 NXX Request and Confirmation Form) should be provided by the entity either immediately upon the achievement of activation levels as identified in Section 4.8 for number retention entitlement, or within eighteen (18) months after assignment.

## **7.0 Reclamation Procedures**

### **7.1 Assignee Responsibility**

The entity to which a 555 number(s) has been assigned shall return the 555 number(s) to its administrator if:

- It is no longer needed by the entity for the purpose for which it was originally assigned
- The service it was assigned for is discontinued, or
- The 555 number(s) was not activated within 12 months of initial assignment.

In the latter case, the assignee may apply to the administrator for an extension date. Such an extension request must include the reason for the delay and a new activation time commitment.

## 7.2 Administrator Responsibility

- The 555 number administrator will contact any 555 number assignee(s) identified as not having returned to the administrator for reassignment of any 555 number:
  - Assigned, but no longer in use by the assignee(s),
  - Assigned to a service no longer offered,
  - Assigned, but not activated within 12 months of initial assignment, or
  - Assigned but not used in conformance with these assignment guidelines.

The administrator will seek clarification from the assignee(s) regarding the alleged non-use or misuse. If the assignee(s) provides an explanation satisfactory to the administrator, and in conformance with these assignment guidelines the 555 number(s) will remain assigned. If no satisfactory explanation is provided, the administrator will request a letter from the assignee(s) returning the assigned 555 number(s). If a direct contact can not be made with the assignee(s) to effect the above process a registered letter will be sent to the assignee(s) address of record requesting that they contact the administrator within 30 days regarding the alleged 555 number(s) non-use or misuse. If the letter is returned as non-delivered the administrator will seek direction from the appropriate regulatory authority (e.g. in the United States the FCC, in Canada the CRTC).

- The 555 number administrator will refer to the appropriate regulatory authority for resolution any instance where a NANP-assigned 555 number has not been returned for reassignment by the assignee if:
  - The resource has not been activated within 12 months of initial assignment.
  - A previously activated 555 number(s) is not now in use.
  - An activated 555 number(s) is not being used in accordance with these assignment guidelines.
- If a 555 number is not activated within 12 months of the initial assignment date and the administrator determines, by discussion with the 555 number assignee(s), that the reason for the non-activation is not within the control of the assignee(s), the administrator may extend the activation date by up to 90 days.
- The 555 number administrator will receive, process and refer to the appropriate regulatory authority for resolution any application from 555 number assignees for an extension on a 555 number activation date when the:
  - Activation has not occurred within the 90-day extension,
  - Administrator believes that the activation has not occurred due to reason within the assignee's control, or
  - Assignee requests an extension in excess of 90 days.

This referral to the appropriate regulatory authority will include the offered reason why the extension is requested, a new proposed activation date, and the administrator's

recommended action. The appropriate regulatory authority will attempt to resolve the referral and direct the 555 number administrator regarding any action to be taken.

The 555 number administrator will make all returned resources available for assignment following the established idle time of 6 months.

## **8.0 555 Number Conservation**

Assignment of NANP area numbering resources is undertaken with the following objectives: to efficiently and effectively administer/manage a limited NANP resource through sound conservation practices. In meeting these objectives the following are conservation measures to be taken by the Administrator(s).

- 8.1** Review the annual Report of 555 Line Number Active Status as shown in Appendix B. The results of these reviews will be used to determine if the 555 numbers are being used in accordance with these guidelines and could be used to advise applicants in which NPAs 555 numbers are available. This information will be available from the Administrator(s) upon request.
- 8.2** When 555 number resource assignments has reached 70% of the total 555 resource of assignable numbers, the following actions will be taken.
  - (a) The Administrator(s) will notify the industry that the 555 number resource has reached the 70% level and based on the current assignment rate will provide a projection when the numbers will exhaust. Special conservation measures will be invoked immediately (if appropriate).
  - (b) Special conservation measure limiting new 555 line number request assignments to one line number per entity per application.
  - (c) Form an industry workshop to consider alternatives, etc.

## **9.0 Maintenance of These Guidelines**

It may be necessary to modify these assignment guidelines periodically to meet changing circumstances. The Industry Numbering Committee (INC) is currently the group responsible for reviewing and concurring on any modifications to these guidelines.

Questions regarding the 555 line number application process should be directed to:

**Nancy Fears**  
46000 Center Oak Plaza, Building 10  
Sterling, VA 20166  
Phone: 830-632-5979

Fax: 208-694-5329  
E-Mail: [nancy.fears@neustar.biz](mailto:nancy.fears@neustar.biz)  
Web Site: <http://www.nanpa.com>

## 10.0 Appeals Process

**10.1** Disagreements may arise between the Administrator(s) and 555 number holders/applicants in the context of the administration of these guidelines. In all cases, the Administrator(s) and 555 number holders/applicants will make reasonable, good faith efforts to resolve such disagreements among themselves consistent with the guidelines prior to pursuing any appeal. Appeals may include but are not limited to one or more of the following options:

- The 555 number holder/applicant will have the opportunity to resubmit the matter to the Administrator(s) for reconsideration with or without additional input.
- The Administrator(s) and 555 number holders/applicant may pursue the disagreement with the appropriate governmental/regulatory body.

**10.2** Requests for clarification or modification of the guidelines can be pursued as described in Section 9 of the guidelines.

**10.3** Reports on any resolution resulting from the above options, the content of which will be mutually agreed upon by the involved parties, will be forwarded to the body responsible for the maintenance of the guidelines. At minimum the report will contain the final disposition of the appeal, e.g., whether or not a 555 number was assigned.

## 11.0 Glossary

**Administrator** The organization responsible for assignment and overall administration of the 555 line number resource in accordance with these guidelines. The Administrator is North American Numbering Plan administration.

**Auditor** The FCC Common Carrier Bureau's Audits Branch of the Accounting Safeguards Division or its other designated agents perform audits of US numbering resources. (FCC 00-429 ¶ 90)<sup>4</sup>. State Commissions also may conduct audits. (FCC 01-362 ¶101).

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<sup>4</sup> The Common Carrier Bureau is now the Wireline Competition Bureau.

## Certify

(When used by the applicant): As part of the 555 Number Assignment request, to confirm, through a formal statement signed by the applicant or an authorized representative, that the information contained within the assignment request is true, accurate, and complete to the best of his/her knowledge.

(When used by the regulator): Where applicable, to authorize, in writing, an entity to provide a telecommunications service in the relevant geographic area. Such authorization is the responsibility of the appropriate regulatory agency.

## 555 Number Holder

The entity to whom a 555 number has been assigned.

## CPCN

Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity - A regulatory certificate allowing an entity the ability to conduct business in a specific jurisdiction.

## Confidential Information

Information given by any means or methods to the 555 line number Administrator in the course of administering the guidelines, that in the opinion of the line number requester, should only be revealed to parties who have a need to know in order to carry out the administration of the guidelines.

## Conservation

Consideration given to the efficient and effective use of a finite numbering resource in order to minimize the cost and need to expand its availability, while at the same time allowing the maximum flexibility in the introduction of new services, capabilities and features.

## Entity

For the purposes of obtaining a 555 number, an entity is an applicant that meets the criteria of the guidelines and, as a business, purchases telecommunication interconnection arrangements.

## Fictitious Numbers

A 555 line number in the range between and including 555-0100 to 555-0199. These numbers will not be assigned to be placed in service. They, therefore, may be used by the entertainment/advertising industries in advertisements, publications, radio, television, movies, etc. Calls to these numbers placed accidentally or by curiosity seekers will not complete.

## INC

The mission of the Industry Numbering Committee (INC) is to provide an open forum to address and resolve industry-wide issues associated with the planning, administration, allocation, assignment and use of numbering resources and related dialing considerations for public telecommunications.

## Information Services

Information services means the offering of capability for generating, acquiring, storing, transforming, processing, retrieving, utilizing, or making available information via telecommunications.

## In-service

An active 555 line number in which a specific subscriber, service or market trial is utilizing the assigned number.

## Geographic NPA

A Numbering Plan Area (NPA), also called an area code, is the 3-digit code that occupies the A, B, and C positions in the 10-digit NANP format that applies throughout the NANP area. NPAs are of the form N0/1X, where N represents the digits 2-9 and X represents any digit 0-9. After 1/1/95, NPAs will be of the form NXX. In the NANP, NPAs are classified as either geographic or non-geographic. Geographic NPAs correspond to discrete geographic areas within the NANP area.

## NANP (North American Numbering Plan)

A numbering architecture in which every station in the NANP area is identified by a unique ten-digit address consisting of a three-digit NPA code, a three digit central office code of the form NNX/NXX, and a four-digit line number of the form XXXX, where N represents the digits 2-9 and X represents the digits 0-9.

It is the basic numbering scheme for the telecommunications networks located in American Samoa, Anguilla, Antigua, Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Canada, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Turks & Caicos Islands, Trinidad & Tobago, and the United States (including Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) [47 CFR 52.5 (c)].

**NANPA (North  
American Numbering  
Plan Administration)**

The NANPA is responsible for the neutral administration of NANP numbering resources, subject to directives from regulatory authorities in the NANP member countries. The NANPA is an impartial non-governmental entity that is not aligned with any particular telecommunications industry segment.<sup>5</sup> Under contract to the FCC, NANPA's responsibilities include assignment of NANP resources, and, in the U.S. and its territories, coordination of area code relief planning and collection of utilization and forecast data. See also 47 CFR 52.13.

**National number**

A national number is a unique line number in the 555 NXX assigned to an entity for use in all or most of the geographic NPAs in the NANP area. A number will be designated as a national number if it is to be used in at least 30% of all NPAs or states or provinces in the NANP area. National numbers cannot be assigned by the Administrator to any other entity.

**Non-national number**

A non-national number is a line number in the 555 NXX assigned to an entity for use in a specific geographic area or areas (NPAs, states, or provinces). A number will be designated non-national if it is to be used in fewer than 30% of NPAs or states or provinces. Non-national numbers are available for assignment to multiple entities, assuming those entities wish to use the non-national number in different geographic NPAs.

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<sup>5</sup> Administration of the North American Numbering Plan, Report and Order, CC Docket No. 92-237, 11 FCC Rcd 2588, 2608 (1995) (NANP Order).

## Numbering Plan Area (NPA)

Numbering Plan Area (NPA), also called area code. An NPA is the 3-digit code that occupies the A, B, and C positions in the 10-digit North American Numbering Plan (NANP) format that applies throughout the NANP area. NPAs are of the form NXX, where N represents the digits 2-9 and X represents any digit 0-9. In the NANP, NPAs are classified as either geographic or non-geographic.

- A) Geographic NPAs are NPAs which correspond to discrete geographic areas within the NANP area.
- B) Non-geographic NPAs are NPAs that do not correspond to discrete geographic areas, but which are instead assigned for services with attributes, functionalities, or requirements that transcend specific geographic boundaries. The common examples are NPAs in the N00 format, e.g., 800.

## Private Networks

Private networks are composed of stations which are not directly accessible from all PSTN stations via the use of NANP E.164 numbers.

## PSTN

Public Switched Telephone Network. The PSTN is composed of all transmission and switching facilities and signal processors supplied and operated by all telecommunications common carriers for use by the public. Every station on the PSTN is capable of being accessed from every other station on the PSTN via the use of NANP E.164 numbers.

## Reclamation

Reclamation refers to the process by which Service Providers are required to return numbering resources to the North American Numbering Plan Administration (NANPA) or Pooling Administrator (PA). (FCC 00-104, § 52.15 (i) (1))

## Reclassification

A process in which a national number is changed to a non-national number. At the time of reclassification, an entity may be permitted to retain the use of the 555 line numbers in specific NPAs, provided the requirements of these guidelines are met.

## Service Providers

Any entity that is authorized, as appropriate, by local, state, federal or NANP area governmental authorities to provide communications services to the public.