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PROJECT NO. 54986

PETITION OF THE NORTH	§	PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
AMERICAN NUMBERING PLAN	§	
ADMINISTRATOR ON BEHALF OF	§	OF TEXAS
THE TEXAS TELECOMMUNICATIONS	§	
INDUSTRY FOR THE RELIEF OF THE	§	
281/346/713/832 NPA OVERLAY	§	

COMMISSION STAFF'S PROPOSED ORDER

I. INTRODUCTION

On May 11, 2023, the North American Numbering Plan Administrator ("NANPA"), in its role as the neutral third-party Numbering Plan Area ("NPA") relief planner under the North American Numbering Plan, petitioned the Public Utility Commission of Texas ("Commission") on behalf of the Texas telecommunications industry to approve an additional all-services distributed overlay NPA for relief for the greater Houston area 281/346/713/832 NPA. NANPA submitted the petition based upon its projections that, absent NPA relief, the supply of central office codes for the 281/346/713/832 NPA will exhaust during the third quarter of 2025.

On June 23, 2023, the administrative law judge (ALJ) issued Order No. 3 requiring a Commission Order prior to beginning the customer education and network preparation period. In accordance with Order No. 3, Staff submits a proposed order along with a memorandum from Ellie Breed of the Commission's Communications Division. Staff also attaches one map showing the geographic area for the overlay. The proposed order further attaches an Affidavit of Notice from Ellie Breed along with the Commission's press release (Attachment A).

Dated: August 18, 2023

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF
TEXAS LEGAL DIVISION**

Marisa Lopez Wagley
Division Director

Sneha Patel
Managing Attorney

/s/ Arnett D. Caviel
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PROJECT NO. 54986

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that, unless otherwise ordered by the presiding officer, notice of the filing of this document was provided to all parties of record via electronic mail on August 18, 2023, in accordance with the Order Suspending Rules, issued in Project No. 50664.

/s/ Arnett D. Caviel
Arnett D. Caviel

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PROPOSED ORDER

This Order addresses the petition of the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA), on behalf of the Texas telecommunications industry,¹ for authority to implement numbering plan area (NPA) relief in accordance with the recommendation in the petition. The Commission delegates to the NANPA the authority to implement an all-services distributed overlay relief plan for the 281/346/713/832 NPA as described in this Order and the petition.

I. INTRODUCTION

The 281/346/713/832 NPA currently serves the greater metropolitan area of the City of Houston and the surrounding suburbs including the counties of Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto, and Waller. The 713 NPA was established in 1947 as one of the original four NPAs assigned to Texas, located in the southeastern part of the state, from the Sabine River to the Brazos Valley. On November 2, 1996, area code 713 was split, with most of Houston's suburbs switching to area code 281. In 1998, the Commission approved the elimination of the boundary between the 713 and 281 NPAs, creating an overlay for the combined area, while simultaneously adding a third NPA, 832, to the entire region. The 832 area code was implemented on January 16, 1999. In 2013, the Commission approved the addition of a fourth NPA, 346, to the 281/713/832 NPA overlay, and it was implemented on July 1, 2014.

On May 11, 2023, the NANPA filed the petition at issue in this project in which it asks the Commission, on behalf of the Texas telecommunications industry, to approve an additional all-

¹ The Texas telecommunications industry, as described in this project, is composed of current and prospective telecommunications carriers operating in, or considering operations within, the 281/346/713/832 NPA of Texas.

services distributed overlay NPA for relief for the 281/346/713/832 NPA. The all-services distributed overlay would superimpose a new NPA over the same geographic area covered by the existing 281/346/713/832 NPA. The NANPA filed the petition because it forecast that the supply of central office codes for the 281/346/713/832 NPA will exhaust during the third quarter of 2025.² The Texas telecommunications industry participants reached consensus to recommend to the Commission a nine-month schedule for implementation of the overlay, with relief in place six months before the forecast exhaust date.

Upon consideration of the information provided including the forecast date of central office code exhaustion for the 281/346/713/832 NPA being the third quarter of 2025, the Commission recommends that the all-services overlay for the 281/346/713/832 NPA be implemented in accordance with the following Order.

II. Findings of Fact

The Commission make the following findings of fact.

Petition

1. The NANPA forecasts that the supply of central office codes for the 281/346/713/832 NPA will exhaust during the third quarter of 2025.
2. Due to the risk of exhausting the supply of central office codes, the NANPA, on behalf of the Texas telecommunications industry, filed on May 11, 2023, a petition to approve an all-services distributed overlay for relief for the 281/346/713/832 NPA.

Description of the Overlay Relief Plan

3. The all-services distributed overlay will superimpose a new NPA over the same geographic area covered by the existing 281/346/713/832 NPA and is projected to last 9 years.
4. Central office codes in the new overlay NPA will be assigned, once all assignable CO codes from the 281/346/713/832 NPAs are allocated.

² The NANPA initially forecast the exhaust date to occur in the first quarter 2026. The NANPA issued the Delta NRUF (Numbering Resource Utilization/Forecast) on March 27, 2023 to revise the forecast exhaust date to occur in the third quarter of 2025.

5. At the exhaustion of the 281/346/713/832 NPA, all future central office code assignments will be made in the new overlay NPA code.
6. All current customers will retain their existing 281, 346, 713, and 832 area codes and will not have to change their telephone numbers.
7. All local calls within and between the 281/346/713/832 NPA and the new NPA will continue to be dialed using 10 digits.

Notice

8. On August 18, 2023, Commission Staff filed the affidavit of Ellie Breed, Press Officer in the Commission's Communication division, attesting that notice of a proposed new area code for the 281/346/713/832 NPA was provided, on July 6, 2023, by press release to the entities listed in Ms. Breed's affidavit.

Informal Disposition

9. At least 15 days have passed since the completion of notice provided in this docket.
10. No person filed a protest or motion intervene.
11. NANPA and Commission Staff are the only parties to this proceeding.
12. No party requested a hearing and no hearing is needed.
13. Commission Staff recommended approval of the petition.
14. This decision is not adverse to any party.

III. Conclusions of Law

The Commission makes the following conclusions of law.

1. The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter under the authority delegated to state commissions by the Federal Communications Commission under 47 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) § 52.19 and under PURA³ § 14.001.

³ Public Utility Regulatory Act, Tex. Util. Code §§ 11.001-66.016.

2. The Commission afforded interested persons, through issuance of public notice with a 30-day comment period, an opportunity to provide public comment and participate in this project, in satisfaction of 16 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 22.55.
3. The Commission processed this proceeding under PURA, the Administrative Procedure Act,⁴ and Commission rules.
4. The Commission has the authority to approve and implement the recommended NPA relief under PURA § 14.001 and 47 C.F.R. § 52.19.
5. The Commission has the authority to delegate to the NANPA the authority to implement the recommended NPA relief under PURA § 14.001 and 47 C.F.R. § 52.19.
6. The all-services overlay and implementation schedule for the 281/346/713/832 NPA is in the public interest.
7. The requirements for informal disposition under 16 TAC § 22.35 have been met in this proceeding.

IV. Ordering Paragraphs

In accordance with these findings of fact and conclusions of law, the Commission issues the following orders:

1. The Commission delegates to NANPA the authority to implement an all-services distributed overlay relief plan for the 281/346/713/832 NPA, as described in its petition filed on May 11, 2023.
2. The Commission approves the implementation period as follows:

EVENT	DATES (approximate)
Start of Customer Education and Network Preparation Period	2 nd quarter 2024
Overlay Relief in Place with Commission Order	By 1 st quarter 2025
Earliest Activation of CO Codes in the New NPA	At the Completion of Customer Education and Network Preparation Period and after all

⁴ Tex. Gov't Code ch. 2001.

	281/346/713/832 available CO codes are assigned
Exhaust Date	3rd Quarter 2025

3. The Commission orders the NANPA to convene and facilitate implementation meetings and conference calls of service providers, as appropriate to discuss implementation of the relief plan as described in this Order and the petition.
4. The Commission denies all other motions and any other requests for general or specific relief that have not been expressly granted.

SIGNED AT AUSTIN, TEXAS the _____ day of August 2023.

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS

KATHLEEN JACKSON, INTERIM CHAIR

WILL MCADAMS, COMMISSIONER

LORI COBOS, COMMISSIONER

JIMMY GLOTFELTY, COMMISSIONER

PUC DOCKET NO. 54986

**Petition of the North American Numbering Plan Administrator on Behalf of the Texas
Telecommunications Industry for the Relief of the 281/346/713/832 NPA Overlay**

AFFIDAVIT OF ELLIE BREED

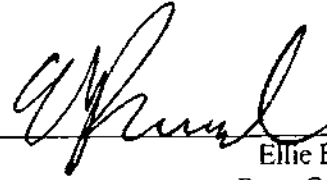
STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TRAVIS

ON THIS DAY, before me, the undersigned authority, personally appeared Ellie Breed
who on her oath stated as follows:

1. My name is Ellie Breed. I am employed as a Press Officer in the
Communications Division of the Public Utility Commission of Texas ("PUCT").
2. I am at least 21 years of age, fully competent and authorized to make the statements
herein. Additionally, I have personal knowledge of the facts stated herein, and they are
true and correct to the best of my knowledge.
3. On June 23, 2023, Order No. 3 required the Commission issue a press release to
major regional news organizations.
4. On July 6, 2023, Ellie Breed, Press Officer at the PUCT, issued a press release in accordance with 16
Texas Administrative Code § 22.55 via email to the following Texas media: Houston Chronicle, Texas
Tribune, Houston Public Media, KTRK-TV, KHOU-TV, KPRC-TV, KRIV-TV, Community Impact,
The Courier, High Tech Texan, Fort Bend Independent, Galveston County News, Jewish Herald-Voice,
The Leader, Wall Street Journal, South Belt Leader, Alvin Sun. Additionally, Ms. Breed mailed the
press release to internal PUCT media lists that include: Major Texas Print News Outlets, Texas Business
Reporters, Texas News Radio Stations, Houston Spanish Language Outlets, Texas Talk Radio, and
Utility Reporters.

A copy of the press release is provided as Attachment A.



Ellie Breed

Press Officer

Communications Division

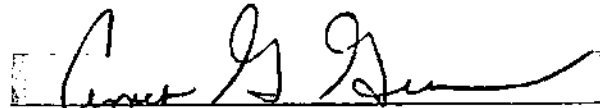
Public Utility Commission of Texas

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME

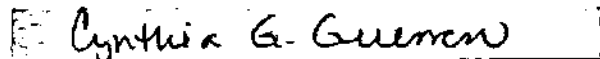
this the 3rd day of August, 20 23, to certify which witness my hand and
seal of office.



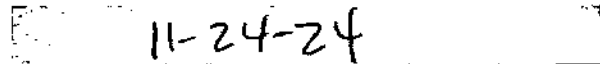
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES



NOTARY PUBLIC IN AND FOR THE
STATE OF TEXAS



PRINT OR TYPE NAME OF NOTARY



11-24-24

935 NPA

281/346/713/832 NPA



409 NPA

979 NPA

NANPA

**Texas 281/346/713/832 NPA
Rate Center Map**

— NPA Boundary
— Rate Center Boundary

September 2009

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Public Utility Commission of Texas

1701 N. Congress, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, TX 78711-3326

Press Release
July 6, 2023

Contact: Ellie Breed
Media@PUC.Texas.Gov

New Area Code Proposed for Greater Houston Area

PUCT Accepting Public Comments on Proposal Until Aug. 5

Austin, Texas - The Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) is accepting public comments on a petition by the North American Number Planning Administrator (NANPA) for the addition of a new area code to accommodate continuing growth in the greater Houston area. Comments must be submitted by Aug. 5.

NANPA projects the four existing area codes (281/346/713/832) will run out of numbers by the third quarter of 2025.

The new area code would overlay existing area codes, which currently serve the greater metropolitan area of the City of Houston and smaller cities including Alvin, Baytown, Cleveland, Cypress, Dickinson, Friendswood, Humble, Katy, Kemah, League City, Richmond, Rosenberg, Rosharon, Spring, Sugarland, and Tomball, within the counties of Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto, and Waller. [Click here to view a map of the affected region.](#)

Adding a new area code to the region would not affect the phone numbers of existing customers. Since the greater Houston area is currently served by four area codes, customers are already required to dial a 10-digit phone number to place calls locally. The addition of the proposed fifth area code would not change that requirement.

The PUCT is accepting public comments regarding the proposed new area code in PUCT docket number [54986](#). Instructions for filing a public comment with the PUCT are [available here](#).

About the Public Utility Commission

Our mission is to serve Texans by regulating the state's electric, telecommunication, and water and sewer utilities, implementing respective legislation, and offering customer assistance in resolving



consumer complaints. Since its founding in 1975, the Commission has a long and proud history of service to Texas, protecting customers, fostering competition, and promoting high quality infrastructure. To learn more, please visit <https://www.puc.texas.gov>.

