



## **Filing Receipt**

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## *Public Utility Commission of Texas*

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TO: Stephen Journeay  
Commission Counsel

All Parties of Record

FROM: Susan E. Goodson   
Administrative Law Judge

RE: **Project No. 54986** – *Petition of the North American Numbering Plan Administrator on Behalf of the Texas Telecommunications Industry for Relief of the 281/346/713/832 NPA Overlay*

DATE: August 25, 2023

Enclosed is the Proposed Order in the above-referenced case. By copy of this memo, the parties to this proceeding are being served with the Proposed Order.

Please place this project on an open meeting agenda for the Commissioners' consideration. Please notify me and the parties of the open meeting date. The parties must file corrections or exceptions to the Proposed Order by August 31, 2023.

**If a party proposes a correction or exception, the party must fully explain the correction or exception and must provide a citation to the record to support the correction or exception.**

**If there are no corrections or exceptions, no response is necessary.**

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**PROJECT NO. 54986**

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

**PROPOSED ORDER**

This Order addresses the petition of the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA), on behalf of the Texas telecommunications industry,<sup>1</sup> for authority to implement numbering plan area (NPA) relief in accordance with the recommendation in the petition. 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 this Order and the petition.

**I. Background**

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, NANPA filed the petition at issue in this project in which it asks the Commission to approve another all-services distributed overlay for relief for the 281/346/713/832 NPA because it forecasts that the supply of central office codes for the 281/346/713/832 NPA will

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

exhaust during the third quarter of 2025.<sup>2</sup> The proposed all-services distributed overlay would superimpose a new NPA over the same geographic area covered by the existing 281/346/713/832 NPA. 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 an all-services distributed overlay for the 281/346/713/832 NPA be implemented in accordance with this Order.

## **II. Findings of Fact**

The Commission makes the following findings of fact.

### **Petition**

1. 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. NANPA filed this petition on May 11, 2023, seeking approval of an all-services distributed overlay for relief for the 281/346/713/832 NPA.

### **Description of the Overlay Relief Plan**

3. The new 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 nine years.
4. Central office codes in the new NPA will not be assigned until all assignable central office codes from the 281/346/713/832 NPA are allocated.
5. At exhaustion of the central office codes in the 281/346/713/832 NPA, all future central office code assignments will be made from 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.

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

7. All local calls within and between the 281/346/713/832 NPA and the new NPA will continue to be dialed using ten 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 to 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 authority 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 PURA<sup>3</sup> § 14.001.
2. The Commission afforded interested persons 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,<sup>4</sup> and Commission rules.
4. The Commission has the authority to delegate to NANPA the authority to implement the recommended NPA relief under PURA § 14.001 and 47 C.F.R. § 52.19.

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<sup>3</sup> Public Utility Regulatory Act, Tex. Util. Code §§ 11.001–66.016.

<sup>4</sup> Tex. Gov't Code ch. 2001.

5. The all-services distributed overlay and implementation schedule proposed by NANPA for the 281/346/713/832 NPA is in the public interest.
6. 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 this Order and the petition.
2. The Commission approves the implementation period as follows:

<b>EVENT</b>	<b>DATES</b>
Start of customer education and network preparation period	2nd quarter 2024
Overlay relief in place with Commission Order	By 1st quarter 2025
Earliest activation of central office codes in the new NPA	At completion of the customer education and network preparation period and after all 281/346/713/832 available central office codes are fully assigned
Exhaust Date	3rd Quarter 2025

3. The Commission orders NANPA to convene and facilitate implementation meetings and conference calls with service providers and Commission Staff, 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**

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**KATHLEEN JACKSON, INTERIM CHAIR**

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**WILL MCADAMS, COMMISSIONER**

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**LORI COBOS, COMMISSIONER**

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**JIMMY GLOTFELTY, COMMISSIONER**

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