



Control Number: 54986



Item Number: 18

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 §

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PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
OF TEXAS

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 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

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.

exhaust during the third quarter of 2025.² 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.

² 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.
8. 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.

Notice

9. 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

10. At least 15 days have passed since the completion of notice provided in this docket.
11. No person filed a protest or motion to intervene.
12. NANPA and Commission Staff are the only parties to this proceeding.
13. No party requested a hearing, and no hearing is needed.
14. Commission Staff recommended approval of the petition.
15. 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 PURA³ § 14.001.
2. The Commission afforded interested persons opportunity to provide public comment and participate in this project in accordance with 16 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 22.55.

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

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 NANPA the authority to implement the recommended NPA relief under PURA § 14.001 and 47 C.F.R. § 52.19.
6. The all-services distributed overlay and implementation schedule proposed by NANPA 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 this Order and the petition.
2. The Commission approves the implementation period as follows:

EVENT	DATES
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 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	3 rd quarter 2025

⁴ Tex. Gov't Code ch. 2001.

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 10th day of October 2023.

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS


KATHLEEN JACKSON, INTERIM CHAIR


WILL MCADAMS, COMMISSIONER


LORI COBOS, COMMISSIONER


JIMMY GLOTFELTY, COMMISSIONER