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DOCKET NO. 54986

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

JOINT RESPONSE TO ORDER NO. 1

I. BACKGROUND

On May 11, 2023, the North American Numbering Plan Administrator, 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.

The 281/346/713/832 NPA currently serves 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. The 713 NPA is one of the original four area codes assigned to Texas with the North American Numbering Plan in 1947. In 1996, the 713 NPA was split into the 713 and the 281 NPAs. In 1998, the NPA split line between the 713 and 281 NPAs was eliminated and the 832 NPA was introduced as an overlay area code covering the same geographic area as the combined 713 and 281 NPAs. In 2013, the Commission approved the addition of a fourth NPA, 346, to the greater Houston overlay as of July 1, 2014.

On May 15, 2023, the Administrative Law Judge (“ALJ”) issued Order No. 1, which required Staff and NANPA to file a Joint Response to Order No. 1 by June 1, 2023. Therefore, this pleading is timely filed.

II. PROPOSED METHOD FOR PROCESSING THIS PROCEEDING

Staff believes that since the 281/346/713/832 NPA already has four preexisting NPAs, and customers will not need to change their current dialing methods, a public hearing is unnecessary in this case. Staff instead proposes a 30-day public comment period after appropriate notification where interested parties may file their comments into the docket. Staff proposes that affected customers be informed by a notice in their bill and that the Commission will issue a press release to major regional news organizations.

Staff proposes the following procedural schedule:

Event	Timeframe
Public Comment	30 days
Commission Order	Prior to commencement of customer education and network preparation period
Customer education and network preparation period ¹	Second quarter 2024 ²
Earliest activation of Central Office (“CO”) codes in the new NPA	At completion of Customer Education and Network Preparation Period and after all 281/346/713/832 available CO codes are assigned.
Projected Exhaust Date	Third quarter 2025

III. CONCLUSION

After an opportunity for input and review, NANPA has no objections to the above method for processing this proceeding. Staff respectfully requests that an order be issued consistent with this Response.

¹ There is no requirement for a permissive dialing period nor a public meeting because mandatory 10-digit dialing is already in place.

² The Industry participants reached consensus to recommend to the Commission a nine-month schedule for implementation of the overlay with relief in place six months prior to the forecasted exhaust date of 3rd quarter 2025.

Dated: June 1, 2023

Respectfully Submitted,

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS
LEGAL DIVISION**

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/s/ Arnett D. Caviel

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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 June 1, 2023, in accordance with the Second Order Suspending Rules, issued in Project No. 50664.

/s/ Arnett D. Caviel

Arnett D. Caviel