

NPA 204

Commission Directives

On 28 May 2009, the CRTC issued Telecom Notice of Consultation CRTC 2009-309, *Establishment of a CISC ad hoc committee for area code relief planning for area code 204 in Manitoba*, in which it established a CRTC Interconnection Steering Committee ad hoc relief planning committee (RPC) to examine options for providing relief to area code 204 in Manitoba. The Notice of Consultation also directed the introduction of CO Code rationing measures that will be in place until 66 days before area code relief is implemented. The Commission believes that the measures will extend the Projected Exhaust Date to at least 1 January 2013.

On 28 July 2010, the CRTC released Telecom Decision CRTC 2010-526, *Code relief for area code 204 in Manitoba*. In the Decision, the Commission determined that relief for area code 204 is to be provided by overlaying the area served by area code 204 with new area code 431, starting on 3 November 2012.

With respect to the transition to 10-digit dialing for area code 204, the Commission determined that:

- a) the permissive dialing period is to take place between 29 July and 20 October 2012, with industry-standard recorded announcements and automatic call completion for calls made using 7 digits phased-in between 29 July and 5 August 2012;
- b) mandatory 10-digit local dialing, with recorded announcements stating that callers who used 7 digits must hang up and use 10 digits phased-in between 20 and 27 October 2012, and ending on 1 February 2013; and
- c) standard recorded announcements stating that calls made using 7 digits cannot be completed as dialed are to be phased in between 1 February and 3 March 2013.

The Commission also determined that retaining 7-digit local dialing from the Creighton area in Saskatchewan to Flin Flon, Manitoba would result in the least confusion and disruption to Creighton residents and therefore approved the Relief Planning Committee's recommendation.

In addition, the CRTC approved the Relief Planning Committee's recommendation that CO Code 584 could be made available for assignment as a last resort due to the current Jeopardy Condition.

On 24 September 2010, in Telecom Decision CRTC 2010-711 (*CISC consensus report – Change to the relief implementation plan for area code 204 in Manitoba*) the Commission also approved the NPA 204 Relief Implementation Plan.

Status Report

In December 2008 the CNA initiated its January 2009 G-NRUF. The draft aggregate results of this G-NRUF, compiled on 23 March 2009, indicated that the Projected Exhaust Date for NPA 204 had moved in from December 2021 to October 2010. Because the Projected Exhaust Date was less than 72 months in the future, it was necessary to start relief planning, and the CNA notified the CRTC of the situation and asked the CRTC to issue a Telecom Notice of Consultation for the establishment of a CISC ad hoc committee for area code relief planning in area code 204 for Manitoba. On 23 March 2009, the CNA declared that NPA 204 was in a Jeopardy Condition. Revised forecasts subsequently received from some LECs indicated that

Projected Exhaust Date had moved from October 2010 to February 2011. To gather detailed forecast data for Relief Planning purposes, the CNA initiated a J-NRUF on 29 March 2009. The results of that J-NRUF, released on 14 May 2009, indicated NPA 204 would exhaust in January 2011.

During an April 3, 2009 CSCN conference call, the CNA was requested to convene an NPA 204 industry stakeholder conference call for current and prospective CO Code Holders to discuss the situation in NPA 204. A conference call was held on April 16, 2009 for industry stakeholders to address relief planning in NPA 204.

On June 5, 2009 the CNA released the Initial Planning Document for NPA 204.

Another conference call was held on June 8, 2009 where the Chair of the RPC discussed the Telecom Notice of Consultation and the fact that the Initial Planning Document had been posted. MTS Allstream expressed a willingness to negotiate bilateral agreements with respect to code sharing to alleviate the severe Jeopardy Condition in NPA 204. The CNA noted that in paragraph 16 of Telecom Decision CRTC 2007-049 the Commission determined that "a CLEC that relies on an underlying LEC for switching and/or interconnection can meet its CLEC obligation to obtain a CO Code per ILEC exchange or per LIR by using a CO Code of the underlying LEC from whom it obtains its switching and/or local interconnection facilities to the PSTN". During the conference call it was noted that there are some regulatory issues that may need to be addressed if code sharing is to take place.

Conference calls took place on September 16 and September 30, 2009. On September 22, 2009 the CNA suspended the Jeopardy Condition in NPA 204.

Since the CNA's Initial Planning Document was released, contributions from Bell Canada and an additional contribution from the CNA have been received.

A conference call was held on November 10, 2009. During that conference call agreement was reached to recommend NPA 431 as the Relief NPA for NPA 204.

The Initial NPA 204 Relief Planning Meeting was held on January 12-13, 2010 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The Relief Planning Committee began to develop a Planning Document based on the IPD and the contributions that had been received. During the meeting agreement was reached not to recommend setting aside CO Codes for new entrants only and for initial code assignments for applicants in general since code rationing is in place in NPA 204.

A conference call was held on February 18, 2010 to continue developing the Planning Document and to begin reviewing the proposed relief implementation schedule.

A Relief Planning Committee conference call was held on March 30, 2010 to discuss the January 2010 R-NRUF results for NPA 204 and to continue working on the Planning Document. The PED had moved back in to May 2013. The CNA re-declared a Jeopardy condition on May 5, 2010.

Relief Planning conference calls were held on April 13 May 13 and 25, 2010 to finalize the Relief Plan and the Relief Implementation Plan. The Planning Document and Annexes, recommending the overlay of the NPA 204 area with NPA Code 431 starting July 29, 2012, were forwarded to the CISC and CRTC, along with TIF Report 1, for approval on May 26, 2010. The next teleconference to finalize the RIP will be held on June 11, 2010.

On 9 July 2010, after several additional conference calls, the Relief Planning Committee submitted a Relief Implementation Plan for NPA 204 to the Commission. On 24 September 2010, in Telecom Decision CRTC 2010-711 (*CISC consensus report – Change to the relief implementation plan for area code 204 in Manitoba*) the Commission approved the NPA 204 Relief Implementation Plan.

Conference calls have since been held by both the Network Implementation and Consumer Awareness Task Forces to facilitate the introduction of 10-digit dialling in Manitoba and the new area code.

On December 7, 2010 the CSCN held a conference call to discuss the October 2010 NPA 204 J-NRUF results. At that time, it was noted that the NPA 204 Projected Exhaust Date was now forecast for November 2012; an advance of four to five months. The July 2010 J-NRUF results had indicated that the Projected Exhaust Date was April 2013. It was noted that the timeframe has become very unyielding since the Relief Date is also November 2012. It was also noted that after discussions between the CNA and CRTC staff, the Relief Date will remain at 3 November 2012.

During an NPA 204 Relief Planning Committee conference call held on December 8, 2010 it was asked whether the J-NRUF format could be changed to a monthly as opposed to quarterly basis. Assuming a contribution is received on this topic a conference call has been tentatively scheduled for the afternoon of February 17, 2011.

A number of NPA 204 RPC conference calls have been held to discuss J-NRUF results. In addition, conference calls for the NPA 204 NITF and CATF (Telecommunications Alliance) have been held to discuss their progress.

MTS Allstream has submitted contributions for posting on the CNA website which indicate which CO Codes and Exchange Areas have been converted to permissive 10-digit local dialling. This contribution is being updated on a regular basis and is available from the CNA website at: <http://www.cnac.ca> under NPA 204 Relief Planning.

The area served by NPA 204 was successfully overlaid with new area code 431 on 3 November 2012.

Historical NRUF data, including the most recent results, is summarized in the following chart.

Summary of Projected Exhaust Dates

NPA	Type of C-NRUF	Date of Publication	Projected Exhaust Date
204	G – NRUF (January 2008)	13 March 2008	December 2021
204	G – NRUF (January 2009)	23 March 2009	October 2010
204	J – NRUF (April 2009)	14 May 2009	January 2011
204	CRTC TNC 2009-309 estimated PED with	28 May 2009	> January 2013

NPA	Type of C-NRUF	Date of Publication	Projected Exhaust Date
	code rationing		
204	J - NRUF (April 2009) (includes code rationing per CRTC TNC 2009-309)	5 June 2009	March 2015
204	J - NRUF (July 2009) (includes code rationing per CRTC TNC 2009-309)	4 September 2009	October 2016
204	R-NRUF (Feb 2010) (includes code Rationing per CRTC TNC 2009 -309)	1 April 2010	May 2013
204	J - NRUF (July 2010) (includes code rationing per CRTC TNC 2009-309)	25 August 2010	April 2013
204	J - NRUF (October 29, 2010) (includes code rationing per CRTC TNC 2009-309)	29 November 2010	November 2012
204	J – NRUF (January 2011) (includes code rationing per CRTC TNC 2009-309)	5 April 2011	September 2012 (V1) December 2011 (V2)
204	J – NRUF (April 2011) (includes code rationing per CRTC TNC 2009-309)	3 June 2011	October 2012 (V1) November 2011 (V2)
204	J – NRUF (July 2011) (includes code rationing per CRTC TNC 2009-309)	2 September 2011	October 2012 (V1) February 2012 (V2)

NPA	Type of C-NRUF	Date of Publication	Projected Exhaust Date
204	J-NRUF (October 2011) (includes code rationing per CRTC TNC 2009-309)	5 December 2011	September 2012 (V1) May 2012 (V2)
204	J-NRUF (January 2012) (includes code rationing per CRTC TNC 2009-309)	10 April 2012	November 2012 (V1) June 2012 (V2)
204	J-NRUF (April 2012) (includes code rationing per CRTC TNC 2009-309)	1 June 2012	November 2012 (V1) May 2012 (V2)
204	J-NRUF (July 2012) (includes code rationing per CRTC TNC 2009-309)	12 August 2012	November 2012 (V1) August 2012 (V2)