

## **NPA 250**

### **Commission Directives**

On October 7, 2004, the Commission released Telecom Public Notice CRTC 2004-4, Establishment of a new CISC ad hoc committee for area code relief planning in British Columbia area code 250. In this public notice, the Commission announced the establishment of a CRTC Interconnection Steering Committee ad hoc relief planning committee to examine options for providing relief to area code 250 in British Columbia. The Commission invited the public and telecommunications service providers to participate in the activities of the ad hoc committee.

On October 2, 2006 the Commission issued a letter noting that the CNA will declare a Jeopardy Condition when a NPA Relief Method and Date have not yet been established and approved by the CRTC and the CNA projects an NPA will exhaust within 36 months. It was noted that the CNA had informed Commission staff that NPA 250 would exhaust in January 2008 and that NPA 250 was, therefore in a Jeopardy Condition. The Commission indicated that the industry had been required to submit several forecasts over a very short period of time and believed that little additional information would be gained by having the industry complete another forecast so soon after the other forecasts had been completed. Therefore, the Jeopardy Numbering Resource Utilization Forecast (J-NRUF) for NPA 250 was deferred until January 2007.

On January 11, 2007 the Commission released Telecom Public Notice 2007-2, *Relief planning for numbering plan area 250 in British Columbia*, which invited comments on:

- the options and recommendations developed by the 250 RPC and described in the initial relief planning document;
- the effects of the various relief options developed by the 250 RPC on consumers, telecommunications service providers and all other affected parties;
- the most appropriate relief option(s) to alleviate the exhaust of area code 250;
- an appropriate relief date for area code 250; and
- any other matter that parties consider relevant to the implementation of relief measures.

On June 7, 2007 the Commission issued Telecom Decision CRTC 2007-38, *Code relief for area code 250 – British Columbia*. In the Decision, the Commission approved the area code relief measures proposed by the RPC for area code 250, namely that the boundary of area code 778 be extended to cover all of British Columbia and that the CNA be permitted to assign area code 604 CO codes in the area served by area code 778.

The Commission directed that the introduction of mandatory 10-digit local dialing in area code 250 be coordinated with the area code relief measures for Alberta, and instructed the CNA to use SCOCAP measures until mandatory 10-digit local dialing is implemented in the area served by area code 250.

With respect to the dates for area code 250 relief, the Commission determined the following:

- a) The implementation of the boundary realignment for area code 778 and the use of CO codes from area code 604 in the area presently served by area code 778 will commence 4 July 2007;
- b) The introduction of permissive 10-digit local dialing will commence 23 June 2008, and carriers are permitted to phase in this change from that date until 27 June 2008; and
- c) The requirement for mandatory 10-digit local dialing will commence 8 September 2008, and carriers are permitted to phase in this change from that date until 12 September 2008.

The Commission noted that the first phase of relief implementation will begin within 60 days of the date of the Decision and, therefore, considered that the end of the Jeopardy Condition should be set coincident with the date of the Decision (i.e., 7 June 2007).

The Commission also directed that the normally unassignable area code 250 CO Codes that correspond to the projected future and neighbouring Canadian geographic area codes remain assignable by the CNA after the end of the area code 250 Jeopardy Condition.

It was noted in the Decision that reserving three CO Codes from area code 250 will have no impact on the exhaust dates for area codes 250 and 778. Accordingly, the Commission directed the CNA to reserve three CO Codes from area code 250 for Northwestel's growth requirements in its northern British Columbia exchanges.

The Commission acknowledged that certain Telecommunications Service Providers (TSPs) including small TSPs and NorthwTel have network limitations that prevent them from providing automatic call completion with a recorded announcement and directed those small TSPs in British Columbia that cannot complete calls after a recorded announcement to take the following measures during the permissive dialing period for area code 250:

- a) monthly bill inserts are to be sent to all affected customers during July 2008 and August 2008;
- b) two notices are to be placed in local newspapers, one during August 2008 and the other during September 2008, before the beginning of mandatory 10-digit local dialing;
- c) each affected customer is to be sent a personal letter, to be received 10 days prior to the beginning of mandatory 10-digit local dialing;
- d) information is to be placed on the TSP's website in a prominent, highly visible location for the minimum period of July 2008 to the end of September 2008 inclusive; and
- e) the text to be included in the bill inserts and personal letters is to be filed with the Commission at least 30 days prior to the inserts or letters being sent.

Lastly, the Commission directed the CNA to reserve area code 236 for future area code relief in British Columbia and that area code 236 not be assigned as a CO Code in area code 250, 604 or 778.

## Status Report

The 2004 G-NRUF aggregate results indicate that the Projected Exhaust Date of NPA 250 has advanced from April 2012 to May 2009. Consequently, the CNA requested an R-NRUF, due to be returned to the CNA by July 1, 2004, to begin relief planning activities in this NPA. The R-NRUF results showed the Projected Exhaust Date to be June 2009.

The CNA developed an Initial Planning Document for NPA 250 that was discussed by the NPA 250 Relief Planning Committee during a meeting held on October 20 and 21, 2004.

Subsequently, contributions were received from TELUS and the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine. These contributions were discussed during a meeting held on January 26 and 27, 2005 and the recommendations contained therein were incorporated into the Planning Document being developed by the RPC.

Further meetings were held on April 12 and 13, 2005 and June 6, 2005 to continue developing the NPA 250 Planning Document.

On December 15, 2005 the CNA requested an R-NRUF for NPA 250 that was due to the CNA by February 7, 2006. The R-NRUF results were released on April 7, 2006 and were discussed during a conference call held on April 18, 2006.

During the April 18, 2006 conference call it was recommended that an NPA 250 Relief Planning meeting be scheduled for October 2006, assuming that the July 2006 R-NRUF results do not move the Projected Exhaust Date out beyond the relief planning window.

The CNA conducted a July 2006 R-NRUF for NPA 250 and released the results on September 22, 2006. At that time, the CNA declared a Jeopardy Condition for NPA 250.

An NPA 250 Relief Planning Committee meeting was held in Nanaimo, BC on October 2 and 3, 2006 where the Relief Planning Committee completed development of a Relief Implementation Plan for NPA 250. This Relief Implementation Plan was to be distributed to the Relief Planning Committee for comment and submitted to the Commission shortly thereafter.

On October 27, 2006 the CNA submitted NPA 250 TIF Report 1 to the Commission. This TIF Report contained the Relief Planning Committee's Recommendation for a NPA 250 Relief. In the Relief Planning Document, the RPC made several recommendations including:

- 1) Implementation of a Boundary Realignment of NPAs 604 and 778 at NPA 250 relief (referred to in the Relief Planning Document as Relief Option 2c) with a two-phased implementation. The first phase consists of a Boundary Realignment of NPA 778 to include all of BC, and unassigned NPA 604 CO Codes being made available for assignment throughout NPA 604. The second phase consists of implementation of mandatory 10-digit dialling in the NPA 250 area.
- 2) Introduction of Special Central Office Code Assignment Practices (SCOCAPS) for NPA 778 CO Codes to accommodate delayed implementation of mandatory 10-digit dialling in the NPA 250 area.

- 3) If the approved Relief Option includes an overlay, then in a small community where a Telecommunication Service Provider's (TSP's) network does not support automatic call completion after the end of a network announcement, the TSP not be required to provide the transition announcement in that small community, but must use additional alternative methods of educating customers in that community. Such methods of education could include, but may not be limited to, advertisements in local newspapers (in areas where local newspapers are published), notices provided to customers using their billing notification method (e.g. paper mail or email), and information on websites.
- 4) NPA 236 be set aside as the most suitable NPA for the next relief in BC that requires a new NPA.
- 5) The Jeopardy Condition in NPA 250 be revoked 60 days prior to phase one of the NPA relief being implemented.
- 6) The normally unassignable NPA 250 CO Codes corresponding to Projected Future and Neighbouring Canadian Geographic NPAs that become assignable in a Jeopardy Condition should remain assignable when the Jeopardy Condition ends.

On July 26, 2007 the NPA 250 and NPA 403/780 Relief Planning Committees filed a Joint Relief Implementation Plan with the Commission that addresses the consumer awareness and network implementation activities for all three NPAs, in accordance with the Commission's Decisions (Telecom Decisions CRTC 2007-38 (British Columbia) and 2007-42 (Alberta)).

The Joint NPA 250, 403 and 780 Relief Planning Committee held a conference call on November 5, 2007 to review and approve the Network Implementation and Consumer Awareness Task Force Progress Reports. On November 9, 2007 Progress Report #1 from each of the Task Forces was filed with the Commission.

Regularly scheduled Consumer Awareness and Network Implementation Task Force conference calls have been taking place to monitor adherence to their respective objectives and schedules.

The Joint NPA 250, 403 and 780 Relief Planning Committee held a conference call on 31 July 2008 to review and approve the Network Implementation and Consumer Awareness Task Force Progress Reports. On 12 August 2008 Progress Report #2 from each of the Task Forces was filed with the Commission.

Mandatory 10-digit local dialing commenced 8 September 2008, and carriers phased in this change from that date until 12 September 2008.

The Joint NPA 250, 403 and 780 Relief Planning Committee will hold a conference call sometime between 3 November and 17 November 2008 to review and approve the Final Progress Report prior to sending it to Commission.

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

### Summary of Projected Exhaust Dates

<b>NPA</b>	<b>Type of C-NRUF</b>	<b>Date of Publication</b>	<b>Projected Exhaust Date</b>
250	G – NRUF	15 April 2004	May 2009
250	R – NRUF	27 August 2004	June 2009
250	R – NRUF	14 April 2005	November 2009
250	R – NRUF	5 October 2005	March 2010
250	R - NRUF	7 April 2006	April 2010
250	R - NRUF	22 September 2006	January 2008
250	J – NRUF	14 March 2007	January 2008
250	J – NRUF	25 May 2007	November 2007
Since Phase 1 NPA 250 Relief (i.e., NPA 778 boundary extension) was implemented on July 4, 2007 there is no longer a need for J-NRUFs and updating this chart.			