

BEFORE THE MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**NORTH AMERICAN NUMBERING
PLAN ADMINISTRATOR**

DOCKET NO. 2023-AD-0149

**IN RE: PETITION OF THE NORTH AMERICAN NUMBERING PLAN
ADMINISTRATOR ON BEHALF OF THE MISSISSIPPI
TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY FOR RELIEF OF THE 662
NUMBERING PLAN AREA**

ORDER

This matter is before the Mississippi Public Service Commission (“Commission”) ¹for consideration of the *Petition of the North American Numbering Plan Administrator on Behalf of the Mississippi Telecommunications Industry for Relief of the 662 Numbering Plan Area* (“*Petition*”) filed by the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (“NANPA” or “Petitioner”) on November 16, 2023. In its *Petition*, NANPA requests the Commission’s approval for relief for the expected exhaustion of the 662-numbering plan area (“NPA”).

BACKGROUND AND PETITION

NANPA is the neutral third-party administrator of the NPA (also referred to as “area code”) numbering plan in North America and serves as the numbering plan area relief planner for the State of Mississippi. By and through its *Petition*, filed on behalf of the Mississippi telecommunications industry (“Industry”) which is comprised of current and prospective telecommunications carriers operating or considering operating in the 662 NPA, NANPA notified the Commission that the 662 NPA is projected to exhaust its central office codes (often referred to as “CO” or “NXX” codes) during the third quarter of 2026 and needs relief. This means that absent

¹ The Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) delegated authority to the states to review and approve NPA relief plans. *See* 47 C.F.R. §52.19.

NPA relief, the supply of CO codes in the 662 NPA is projected to run out during the projected exhaust quarter.²

The 662 NPA was introduced in 1999 when it was split from the 601 NPA, the original area code for the entire state of Mississippi. The creation of the 662 NPA was the second geographic split of the 601 NPA, the first being to establish the 228 NPA in 1997. The 662 NPA services the northern portions of Mississippi. The 662 NPA borders the Tennessee 731 and 901 NPAs to the north, the Alabama 205/659 and 256/938 NPAs to the east, the Arkansas 870 NPA and the Louisiana 318 NPA to the west, and the Mississippi 601/769 NPA to the south.³

NANPA states that two (2) alternatives were studied to provide relief to the 662 NPA. The first alternative is an all-services distributed overlay of the 662 NPA wherein a new NPA is assigned to the same geographic area presently occupied by the 662 NPA. Customers would retain current telephone numbers and 10-digit local dialing by all customers within and between NPAs would be required. Ten-digit local dialing for the 662 NPA has already been in place since July 2022 as a result of the implementation of the 988 abbreviated dialing code for the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. CO codes in the new NPA will not be assigned until all available CO codes in the 662 NPA have been allocated. NANPA states that there are a total of 122 rate centers in the 662 NPA and the projected life of the all-services distributed overlay alternative would be 47 years.⁴

The second alternative studied was a boundary elimination overlay. This alternative would remove the boundaries existing between 662, 601/769 and 228 NPAs and all four NPAs would be assigned to the same geographic areas occupied by the presently distinct 662, 601/769 and 228 NPAs, thereby encompassing the entire state. The 662, 601/769 and 228 NPA customers would

² *Petition*, p. 2-3. (November 16, 2023)

³ *Id.* at 3.

⁴ *Id.* at 5.

retain their current telephone numbers; however, 10-digit dialing would be required for all calls within and between the 662, 601/769 and 228 NPAs. The 228 NPA which currently uses seven-digit local dialing would be required to transition to 10-digit dialing. Available CO codes in the 601/769 and 228 NPAs would be assigned upon request in the 662 area and available 662 NPA CO codes would be assigned upon request in the 601/769 and 228 NPAs. The boundary elimination alternative would have a life of 17 years and create a single statewide overlay with 239 rate centers.⁵

The *Petition* states that NANPA convened an Industry NPA relief planning meeting via web conference on October 12, 2023. During this meeting, NANPA, the Industry and Public Utilities Staff reviewed the Initial Planning Document (“IPD”) describing the two (2) alternatives for relief for the 662 NPA; the all-services overlay alternative and the boundary elimination alternative. Industry reached a consensus at the meeting to recommend to the Commission the all-services distributed overlay of the 662 NPA.⁶ The Industry reached consensus to implement the new overlay NPA, if approved by the Commission, in accordance with a 9-month schedule which would require a total of 15 months to complete a 9-month implementation schedule at least 6 months prior to the exhaust of the 662 NPA.⁷

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Commission, being fully apprised in the premises and having considered the documents, testimony, and record before it, as authorized by law and the Commission's Public Utilities Rules of Practice and Procedure, and upon recommendation of the Mississippi Public Utilities Staff ("Staff"), finds as follows:

⁵ *Id.* at 4-6.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Id.* at 7-10.

1. The Commission has jurisdiction to enter this Order and the entry hereof is in the public interest.

2. Due and proper notice of the Application was given to all interested parties as required by law and the Commission's Public Utilities Rules of Practice and Procedure.

3. No protest, objection or other pleading contesting the granting of the requested relief is before the Commission.

4. The recommended all-services distributed overlay is recommended by the Industry for the 662 NPA because it is the most consumer-friendly and simple method of relief, and it does not impact the 601/769 and 228 NPA customers in the rest of the state. Further, this relief plan is projected to last approximately 47 years.

5. The recommended all-services distributed overlay relief plan does not require a change of geographical boundaries nor a change in dialing pattern as 10-digit local dialing has been in place in the 662 NPA since July 2022.

6. The *Petition* for approval of the all-services distributed overlay relief plan for the 662 NPA along with the 9-month implementation schedule is well-taken and hereby granted.

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IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED by the Commission that:

1. The *Petition of the North American Numbering Plan Administrator on Behalf of the Mississippi Telecommunications Industry* for the relief of the 662 Numbering Plan Area in the above styled matter is approved, and the all-services distributed overlay method of relief for the 662 numbering plan area and 9-month implementation schedule proposed therein are adopted.

COMMISSION VOTE

Chairman Chris Bown voted Aye X Nay

Commissioner De'Keither Stamps voted Aye X Nay

Commissioner Wayne Carr voted Aye X Nay

DATED, this the 13th day of June 2024.



MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Chris Brown
CHRIS BROWN, CHAIRMAN

De'Keither Stamps
DE'KEITHER STAMPS, COMMISSIONER

Wayne Carr
WAYNE CARR, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST: A True Copy

Katherine Collier
KATHERINE COLLIER
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Effective this the 13th day of June 2024.