



“CO” or “NXX” codes) for the 541 numbering plan area (NPA) will exhaust during the first quarter of 2011 (1Q2011).

The industry, under the guidance of NANPA introduced and evaluated four alternatives for number relief. The alternatives are an all-services overlay, a concentrated overlay, an expanded overlay, and a geographical split. The industry’s selection, and evaluation of the alternatives, is discussed in the Petition.

The industry’s preferred method for providing number relief is an all-services overlay. A new NPA code would be assigned to the same geographic area as the existing 541 NPA. Customers would retain their current telephone numbers. Overlays require customers to dial ten digits within and between NPAs. Codes in the new overlay NPA will be assigned upon request upon the effective date of the new area code.

At this point, staff is in agreement with the industry that the preferred method for providing number relief is an all-services overlay. However, staff proposes an investigation to discuss the number relief challenges, to review alternatives, and to solicit comments from the public concerning the industry’s preferred method. At the end of the investigation period, staff will analyze the various relief methods, including all input from the public, and make a final recommendation to the Commission.

Staff is in agreement with the industry-proposed implementation time frame of 14 months and an implementation date six months prior to the projected number exhaust date. With a forecasted exhaust date of 1Q2011, a number relief plan should be fully implemented by 3Q2010. With a 14-month implementation time frame, this would mean that we should start the implementation plan no later than 2Q2009. There is sufficient time to do an investigation and not affect the implementation deadline.

#### **PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:**

Staff’s recommendation be adopted, to:

- Open an investigation to seek public comment on the appropriate method of providing number relief for the 541 area code.
- Direct staff to participate with industry representatives in the generation of media releases and customer education, community involvement, and public forums to solicit comments concerning the appropriate number relief method.
- Direct staff to report to the Commission in the fall of 2008 with the results of its investigation and make a recommendation for the appropriate method of providing number relief.