

Decision No. C23-0480-I

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 23V-0274T

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF THE NORTH AMERICAN NUMBERING PLAN ADMINISTRATION ON BEHALF OF THE COLORADO TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY FOR RELIEF FOR THE 970 AREA CODE.

**INTERIM COMMISSION DECISION JOINING PARTIES
AND REFERRING THE PROCEEDING TO AN
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE**

Mailed Date: August 1, 2023
Adopted Date: July 19, 2023

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement, Findings, and Conclusions

1. On May 31, 2023, the North American Numbering Planning Administrator (NANPA), filed this Petition on behalf of the Colorado telecommunications industry for the approval of an overlay relief plan to address the anticipated exhaustion of available telephone numbers in the 970 NPA (Numbering Plan Area).

B. The Petition

2. Based on a recent report of the utilization of telephone numbers, the 970 area code numbering resources are projected to exhaust in the 1st calendar quarter of 2026. Through this Petition, NANPA is requesting that the Commission approve a 9-month implementation schedule

that allows a new NPA (area code) to be implemented 6 months prior to the projected exhaustion date and that the Commission issue its decision no later than June 30, 2024.

3. The Petition recommends that customer education about the new area code be undertaken during the proposed 9-month implementation period. The Petition states NANPA will assign Central Office (CO) codes from the new overlay NPA once all available CO codes from the 970 NPA are allocated.

C. UCA’s Intervention and Joinder of Current Number Holders

4. On June 12, 2023, the Office of Utility Consumer Advocate (UCA) filed its Notice of Intervention of Right and Entry of Appearance.

5. Additionally, all providers that are currently assigned telephone numbers in the 970 NPA will be impacted by the addition of a new area code. It is important that we can hear from those providers as to how the proposed overlay will affect them and to ensure that this Proceeding addresses any other issues that may arise from the proposed overlay. Therefore, we join those providers as parties to this proceeding under Commission Rule 1200(a)(VI). The list of joined providers is attached to this Decision as Appendix A.

D. Referral to an Administrative Law Judge and Public Involvement

6. We refer this proceeding to an Administrative Law Judge to oversee the development of the relief plan and to ultimately make a recommendation as to whether the plan should be approved, and the petition granted.

7. As all providers that are currently assigned telephone numbers in the 970 area will be impacted by the addition of a new area code, we direct that all of these entities be brought into

the proceeding as parties under Commission Rule 1200(a)(VI). The petition includes a list of these companies attached to the filing and Staff has prepared a service list that includes these providers.

II. ORDER

A. It Is Ordered That:

1. Current providers that are assigned telephone numbers in the 970 NPA are joined as parties to this proceeding (see list in Appendix A).

2. The Petition is referred to an Administrative Law Judge.

3. This Decision is effective on its Mailed Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
July 19, 2023.**

(S E A L)



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

Rebecca E. White,
Director

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

ERIC BLANK

MEGAN M. GILMAN

TOM PLANT

Commissioners