



Telecom Notice of Consultation CRTC 2009-309

Ottawa, 28 May 2009

Establishment of a CISC ad hoc committee for area code relief planning for area code 204 in Manitoba

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With this notice, the Commission announces the establishment of a CRTC Interconnection Steering Committee ad hoc relief planning committee (RPC) to examine options for providing relief to area code 204 in Manitoba. The Commission invites the public and telecommunications service providers to participate in the activities of the RPC.

Due to the jeopardy situation in area code 204 the Commission introduces the rationing of central office codes in order to extend the projected exhaust to at least 1 January 2013.

Introduction

1. On 30 April 2009, the Canadian Numbering Administrator (CNA) advised the Commission that based on the results of the latest numbering resource utilization forecasts¹ area code 204 is now projected to exhaust in January 2011. Area code 204 covers the entire province of Manitoba.
2. The Commission-approved Canadian NPA Relief Planning Guidelines (the Guidelines) provide the framework for addressing area code exhaust in Canada. The Guidelines establish a step-by-step process to be followed by the CNA and relief planning committees (RPCs). The Guidelines require that code relief planning activities commence if the projected exhaust date is within 72 months.
3. In accordance with the Guidelines, the CNA has declared a jeopardy condition for area code 204 since the projected exhaust date (PED) is within 36 months and the Commission has not yet established and approved a relief measure and implementation date. Since area code 204 is projected to exhaust within 19 months, the Commission considers that there is a need for relief planning activity to commence immediately and to be completed as quickly as possible.
4. The telecommunications industry conducts area code relief planning in a public manner through an ad hoc RPC within the CRTC Interconnection Steering Committee (CISC) in accordance with the Guidelines. Part of the role of an RPC is to encourage public awareness and participation. Members of the public are encouraged to participate in the RPC's work activities. The CNA, in its role as area code relief planning coordinator, acts as the chair of the RPC.

¹ The numbering resource utilization forecast activities were commenced in January 2009 by the CNA in accordance with the Commission-approved Canadian Numbering Resource Utilization Forecast Guidelines.

Area code 204 RPC

5. With this notice, the Commission establishes the area code 204 ad hoc RPC (the 204 RPC) under CISC and directs the CNA to chair this committee.
6. The scope of the relief planning activities of the 204 RPC is limited to the consideration of solutions for introducing new numbering resources within the geographical area currently served by area code 204. Since area code relief planning does not affect local and long distance calling patterns or rates, these issues are outside the scope of this proceeding.
7. All relief options contemplated by the 204 RPC, as well as its recommendations, will be considered by the Commission in rendering its decision on the relief measures to be adopted.
8. The Commission considers that the 204 RPC may consider relief measures that would require some customers to change their telephone numbers and/or the number of digits to be dialed for local calls. The Commission therefore encourages members of the public to participate in the activities of the 204 RPC.

Jeopardy condition

9. The Commission considers that the PED of January 2011 does not provide sufficient time for carriers, other service providers, and some customers to implement area code relief activities such as network and customer equipment upgrades, the potential introduction of 10-digit dialing, and customer education and awareness programs. Accordingly, the Commission considers it necessary to extend the projected exhaust to a date that provides enough time to examine relief options and for all parties to make the requisite changes to their systems and equipment. The Commission considers that the projected exhaust can be extended through the use of central office (CO) code rationing measures, as outlined below.
10. The CO code rationing measures will be in place until 66 days² before the code relief is implemented. These measures will permit CO code holders in area code 204 to obtain the number of CO codes identified in their 30 April 2009 Jeopardy-Numbering Resource Utilization Forecasts (J-NRUFs) or in future J-NRUFs, the applicable J-NRUF to be determined in consultation with Commission staff, up to a maximum of 10 CO codes per year. New entrants who do not have any CO codes in area code 204 will be permitted, within the first year of entering the Manitoba market, to obtain up to 20 CO codes as identified in their J-NRUFs. Thereafter, these new entrants will be subject to the above-noted code rationing measures. The Commission believes that these measures will extend the projected exhaust to at least 1 January 2013.

² The 66-day period is the time required to activate a newly-assigned CO code in the Public Switched Telephone Network, in accordance with the Canadian Central Office Code (NXX) Assignment Guidelines.

Procedure

11. The CNA will announce the location and time of the 204 RPC's meetings and will make available all related documentation. In addition, information concerning area code 204 relief planning activities will be available from the CNA through its website, www.cnac.ca, or by telephone, at 613-563-7242.
12. Parties interested in participating in the activities of the 204 RPC (including receiving copies of all submissions) must notify the Commission of their intention to do so by filling out the online form; or by writing to the Secretary General, CRTC, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0N2; or by faxing to: 819-994-0218 by **19 June 2009** (the registration date). Parties are to provide their contact information, including their email address, where available. If parties do not have access to the Internet, they are to indicate in their notice whether they wish to receive disk versions of hard-copy filings.
13. The Commission will post on its website, as soon as possible after the registration date, a complete list of interested parties and their mailing addresses (including their email addresses, if available) identifying those parties who wish to receive disk versions.

Important notice

14. Note that all information that you provide as part of this public process, except information for which you request and are granted confidentiality, whether sent by postal mail, facsimile, email, or through the Commission's website at www.crtc.gc.ca, becomes part of a publicly accessible file and will be posted on the Commission's website. This information includes any personal information such as your personal email address, postal/street address, and telephone number(s) that you may provide.
15. The personal information you provide will be used and may be disclosed for the purpose for which the information was obtained or compiled by the Commission, or for a use consistent with that purpose.
16. Documents received electronically or otherwise will be posted on the Commission's website in their entirety exactly as you send them, including any personal information contained therein, in the official language and format in which they are received. Documents not received electronically will be available in PDF format.
17. Please note that the information you provide to the Commission as part of this public process is entered into an unsearchable database dedicated to this specific public process. This database is accessible only from the webpage of this particular public process. As a result, a general search of our website with the help of either our own search engine or a third-party search engine will not link directly to the information that was provided as part of this public process.

Location of CRTC offices

18. Submissions may be examined or will be made available promptly upon request at the Commission offices during normal business hours:

Toll-free telephone: 1-877-249-2782

Toll-free TDD: 1-877-909-2782

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Les Terrasses de la Chaudière

1 Promenade du Portage, Room 206

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Secretary General

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