

Number: PL-407
Date: July 6, 2010
Subject: Implementation of the NPA 855 for Toll Free Services
Related Previous Planning Letters: PL-197

In November 1999, the Industry Numbering Committee directed NANPA to assign the 855 NPA code for toll-free service.

On June 25, 2010, the Wireline Competition Bureau of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) authorized the opening of the 855 toll free code commencing at 12:00 p.m., Eastern Time, Friday, October 1, 2010.

General History

On November 29, 1999, the Industry Numbering Committee (INC) directed NANPA to assign the 866 and 855 NPA codes for toll-free service, supplementing the 800, 888 and 877 NPAs. (See Planning Letter 197). The 866 NPA code went into service in July 2000, but implementation of the 855 NPA was deferred until further notice.

On March 10, 2010, DSMI (Database Service Management Inc.), the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) designated Toll Free Number Administrator, notified the FCC of the pending shortage of Toll Free numbers. Specially, DSMI forecasted that the current supply of toll free numbers was expected to reach the 90% threshold in the 4Q2011. As a result, DSMI requested the FCC to approve the release of the 855 NPA for implementation no later than the 4Q2011.

On May 27, 2010, the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS), on behalf of the SMS/800 Number Administration Committee (SNAC), informed the FCC the most recent toll free number assignment data suggested that exhaust may occur by January 2011, if not sooner. Due to the importance of this resource to the industry, ATIS urged the FCC to inform the industry of the anticipated schedule for the release of the new 855 code so that appropriate steps could be taken to ensure an orderly rollout.

On June 25, 2010, the FCC, based upon the most recent exhaust analysis, which indicated that the supply of current toll free numbers was expected to last until November 21, 2010, authorized DMSI to open the 855 toll free NPA on October 1, 2010.

Contact Information

General questions regarding this planning letter should be directed to John Manning, Senior Director, NANPA on 571-434-5770.