



For Immediate Release

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NeuStar, Inc.

NeuStar Administers Mandatory Pooling Trial For New Hampshire's 603 Area Code, Beginning Today

Washington, D.C. (May 1, 2000) – New Hampshire's single area code 603 begins a mandatory pooling trial today, according to NeuStar, Inc., the state's pooling administrator. Last summer, the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission faced running out of prefixes in the 603 area code and adopted a plan to add a second area code; this trial is expected to further delay that plan.

Number pooling is the technology that allows phone numbers to be assigned in blocks of 1,000, instead of the telephone network-mandated structure of 10,000 numbers blocks, which has been in place since 1947. Pooling provides efficient management of numbering resources and extends the time before new area codes must be added.

"Pooling trials, particularly in Illinois' 847 area code, have demonstrated to us and to the industry that this is a very effective solution to the country's depleting number resources," said Barry Bishop, Director of Numbering Services for NeuStar. "We are extremely pleased with the efficient conservation that thousand block number pooling provides, and we are confident that this will prove again with 603 area code."

Several states have been actively seeking number conservation measures that include number pooling. NeuStar has already been serving as the pool administrator in number pooling trials, both voluntary and mandatory, for area codes in Illinois (708, 847, 630, 312, and 773), New York (212, 718 and 716 -- which will begin soon), and California (310, 714, 415 and 909). Texas has also selected NeuStar as the pool administrator for upcoming pooling trials in the 512 area code, slated to begin later this year.

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NeuStar is a key partner to the telecommunications industry in its role as the neutral administrator of the North American Numbering Plan (NANPA) and Local Number Portability (LNPA).

As the NANPA, NeuStar is the sole administrator of all area codes and central office codes (or exchanges) in North America.

As the LNPA, NeuStar manages the database that is a critical component for the routing of all telephone calls in North America. All telecommunications carriers in the United States and Canada connect to NeuStar's Number Portability Administration Center (NPAC) in Chicago. There, advanced LNP technology enables customers to keep their same phone numbers if they switch local telephone service providers. The LNP system also conserves numbers and facilitates competition within the industry.

NeuStar, based in Washington, D.C., was formed as an independent company committed to administering high-quality, evenhanded and competitively neutral services to the telecommunications industry. Visit NeuStar online at www.neustar.com. Pooling FAQs and other background information can also be found on www.nanpa.com, another NeuStar web site. Data on the number pooling trials throughout the country can be found on www.numberpool.com.

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