



For Immediate Release

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**Maryland Selects NeuStar As Pooling Administrator
For 240/301 and 443/410 Area Codes**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (May 04, 2001) – Clearinghouse services

provider NeuStar, Inc. announced today that it has been selected as Maryland's interim pooling administrator for the state's first mandatory thousands-block number pooling trials in the 240/301 and 443/410 area codes. The expected implementation dates for the pooling trials are August 15 and September 15 of this year, respectively.

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 number blocks, which has been in place since 1947. Pooling provides efficient management of numbering resources and proves to extend the life of area codes.

According to the Public Service Commission of Maryland Staff Report, the implementation of the thousands-block number pooling trials will "significantly advance Maryland toward number sufficiency."

"NeuStar is pleased to serve as Maryland's interim number pooling administrator and looks forward to working with the Public Service Commission of Maryland and its staff to successfully administer number pooling trials," said Barry Bishop, Director of Numbering Services for NeuStar. "We have conducted pooling trials since 1998, for more than a 15 states and in over 61 area codes now. We are extremely pleased with the efficient conservation that thousand block pooling provides," Bishop noted.

NeuStar is also conducting number pooling trials in the following states (see chart below, which includes Maryland). Some trials are underway, while others are expected to start later this year.

STATES	AREA CODES UNDERGOING POOLING TRIALS	POOLING TRIALS EXPECTED IN 2001
California	310, 415, 714, 818 and 909	408, 650, 510, 619, 562, and 858
Colorado		303 and 720
Connecticut	860 and 203	
Florida	954, 561 and 904	305
Illinois	708, 847, 630, 312, and 773	
Maine	207	
Maryland		240/301 and 443/410
Massachusetts		774, 857, 339, 351, 413, 781, 978, 508 and 617
Nebraska		402
New Hampshire	603	
New York	212, 516, 518, 718, 716 and 315	914, 845, 646, 347, 607, 631 and 917
Oregon		541 and 503/971
Pennsylvania		610 /484
Texas	512	
Utah	801/385	

NeuStar serves the entire telecommunications industry as a key partner in its neutral, third party role as the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA) and manages the Number Portability Administration Center (NPAC) for Local Number Portability (LNP).

As the NANPA, NeuStar assigns area codes, central office codes, and other numbering resources, and coordinates the development of industry plans for the introduction of new area codes, in the United States and its territories.

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As the LNP Administrator, NeuStar manages the database that is a critical component for the routing of all telephone calls in North America. Hundreds of telecommunications carriers in the United States and Canada connect to NeuStar's 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., is committed to administering high-quality, evenhanded and competitively neutral services to the communications industry. Visit NeuStar's web sites at www.neustar.com, www.nanpa.com, www.npac.com and www.numberpool.com.

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