



# NEWS

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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## **STATEMENT OF FCC CHAIRMAN MICHAEL K. POWELL COMMENDING THE NORTH AMERICAN NUMBERING COUNCIL**

Washington, DC – The North American Numbering Council (NANC), as the body charged with oversight of the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA), plays an instrumental role in collecting data from industry, state regulatory commissions and consumer groups. This data is used to evaluate NANPA’s performance on an annual basis, and it is vitally important that this information is complete and reliable, so that essential assets of the telecommunications industry – telephone numbers – are distributed fairly, efficiently and in a competitively neutral manner.

To help with this mission, NANC recently instituted an innovative survey “challenge” to boost participation in the survey. And for the second straight year, NARUC has come out on top and deserves congratulations for its repeat championship. The other industry trade association participants, CTIA, USTA, ALTS, CompTel, OPASTCO, and NCTA also deserve mention for their members’ greatly improved participation in the survey this year.

NANC has been innovative and proactive in other contexts as well. For example, NANC devised the Thousand Block Pooling System that allows phone numbers to be assigned 1,000 at a time rather than blocks of 10,000. This has substantially reduced the threat of number exhaust and has slowed down the need for contentious, time-consuming and confusing area code splits.

In addition, since 1998, the NANC has prepared three in-depth reports on the integration of wireless and wireline number portability. The observations and conclusions in these reports have formed the foundations for the Commission’s critical decisions in the Numbering Resource Optimization Orders. As we approach the November 24, 2003 deadline for wireless Local Number Portability, the NANC is continuing to play a pivotal role by helping the industry prepare for the porting of telephone numbers between wireless and wireline platforms. We look forward to continuing this fruitful partnership.

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