

***Resolution Concerning Adherence to Numbering Rules by Voice over Internet  
Protocol and IP-enabled Services Providers***

**WHEREAS**, Telephone numbering resources are a limited resource that must be utilized in the most efficient way possible while maintaining the flexibility to accommodate the needs of new entrants and new technologies free from unnecessary regulation or interference; *and*

**WHEREAS**, The North American Numbering Plan (NANP) is currently administered by the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA) and thousand block number pooling is administered by the National Pooling Administrator (NPA); *and*

**WHEREAS**, Pursuant to Section 251(e) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, the ultimate responsibility for the NANP and NANPA rests with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC); *and*

**WHEREAS**, Only carriers with FCC licenses, waivers, or State certifications may apply directly to NANPA or the NPA for access to telephone numbers; *and*

**WHEREAS**, All eligible parties seeking numbering resources directly from the NANPA or the NPA are subject to the Part 52 numbering rules, including the filing of Number Resources Utilization and Forecast (NRUF) information, as well as meeting the requisite number utilization requirements; *and*

**WHEREAS**, The number of consumers using new emerging technologies including Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) and other IP-enabled services has increased substantially causing greater demand for numbers; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Many of the VoIP and other IP-enabled service providers have not obtained FCC licenses, waivers or become State certificated; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Non-certificated service providers are being allocated numbering resources by eligible FCC-licensed or State-certificated telecommunications carriers; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Neither the NANPA nor the NPA have a mechanism for directly monitoring actual utilization of numbers by non-certificated voice service providers, and those providers lack the incentive to efficiently utilize numbering resources under the current regime; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Without the data provided via the NANPA or the NPA, the FCC and the States have no current means to accurately monitor the number utilization of service providers obtaining numbering resources from certificated carriers; *and*

**WHEREAS**, The manner in which the underlying carriers report on number utilization by non-certificated service providers may allow for inefficient usage of numbers; *and*

**WHEREAS,** There is currently no consistent or stated policy regarding the assignment of numbers to non-certificated service providers; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Inefficient use of numbering resources is one factor contributing to costly area code relief proceedings; *now, therefore, be it*

**RESOLVED,** That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), convened in its July 2007 Summer Meetings in New York, New York, recognizes that there is a need for a national policy regarding the assignment of numbering resources by the NANPA and the NPA to certificated carriers who obtain numbering resources on behalf of non-certificated service providers to ensure that they are used in the most efficient manner possible, without limiting competition or the development of new technologies and services that benefit consumers; *and be it further*

**RESOLVED,** That NARUC urges the FCC to act expeditiously to address numbering issues attributed to non-certificated service providers to stem the tide of inefficient number assignment such that area codes are not prematurely exhausted; *and be it further*

**RESOLVED,** That NARUC urges the FCC to promote efficient number conservation and utilization by requiring that all providers using numbering resources comply with all requirements of Part 52 of the FCC's regulations; *and be it further*

**RESOLVED,** That NARUC urges the FCC to require that numbers provided to non-certificated service providers be treated as intermediate numbers until such time as they are actually assigned to end user customers and that such providers be treated as "reporting carriers" for NRUF purposes; *and be it further*

**RESOLVED,** That should the FCC decide to permit non-certificated service providers direct access to phone numbers, it not do so unless it also requires them to directly report number utilization and comply with the FCC's Part 52 numbering rules; *and be it further*

**RESOLVED,** That NARUC directs its General Counsel to communicate this resolution to all relevant policymakers, including federal and State agencies and Congress.

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*Sponsored by the Committee on Telecommunications*

*Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors July 18, 2007*