



ATIS-0300099

Network Interconnection Interoperability (NIIF)

Mergers and/or Acquisitions Document



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INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE

This document is intended to serve as a reference for many of the steps and data flows involved with reflecting company mergers, acquisitions, and name changes, once all appropriate governmental and regulatory approvals have been granted.

It is primarily directed for use by telecommunications service providers (SPs) as a source for understanding mergers, acquisitions, and company name changes in relation to national databases and processes.

SCOPE

This document has been designed to provide an overview of the various processes and procedures that an SP should acknowledge and understand. References are made to other sources where additional, more specific, information may be obtained. This document is not inclusive of all processes and procedures that may need to be followed or nationwide databases that interface with this process. Variations and/or alternative processes to those documented herein may exist due to reasons such as interpretation issues, company-specific requirements, and regulatory variations (e.g., by state). This document does not supersede any regulatory mandates or decisions.

BACKGROUND/OVERVIEW OF PROCESSES

Due to a number of mergers, acquisitions, and company name changes over the years, a need existed to address the proper procedures and processes to follow related to these activities. The need to develop guidelines, provide information, and provide a means for efficient intercompany integration has become a major factor in maintaining an operable network and keeping national databases synchronized. The Network Routing Resources Information Committee (NRRIC) determined the need for, and has prepared this document as an aid for all SPs.

In general, most SPs are involved in providing services to a “subscriber” (business or residence). These companies may own, lease, and/or resell various components of the network that support these services. The impact of mergers, acquisitions and company name changes is becoming increasingly important and complicated, as the number of these transactions increase.

***Note Regarding Bankruptcy**

This document does not cover the legal aspects involved in the acquisition of a company that is bankrupt. The contributors of this document suggest that a company involved in the acquisition of a bankrupt company seek the appropriate legal counsel.

COMPANY CODES

Under the ATIS-0300251.2007, Codes for Identification of Service Providers for Information Exchange, Company Codes are assigned to service providers for unique identification. As Maintenance Agent, National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA) assigns all Company Codes according to ATIS-0300251.2007 and the North American Company Code Assignment Procedures. Company Codes assigned by NECA are referred to as Operating Company Number (OCN) in Telcordia's Business Integrated Rating and Routing Database System (BIRRD).

As stated in ATIS-0300251.2007, a Company Code is a unique four-character alphanumeric code that identifies a service provider. The code format is NXXX, where N is numeric, 0-9 and X is numeric, 0-9 or alpha, A-Z. The code set is used in mechanized systems and documents throughout the industry to facilitate the exchange of information. Applications of the Company Code may include, but are not limited to:

- Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Numbering Resource Utilization Forecast (NRUF) Form 502
- Industry recognized guidelines, including Access/Local Service Requests (ASR/LSR), Multiple Exchange Carrier Access Billing (MECAB), Small Exchange Carrier Access Billing (SECAB), Carrier Access Billing System (CABS) and Exchange Message Record (EMR)
- Interexchange Carrier systems to audit Exchange Access bills
- NECA FCC Tariff No. 4
- Numbering Assignments
- Routing and Rating Practices

Based on company operations, more than one Company Code may be required for each entity. State specific Company Codes are assigned to SPs. This includes Regional Bell Operating Companies (RBOCs), Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers (ILECs), Competitive Local Exchange Carriers (CLECs), and Unbundled Local Exchange Carriers (ULECs). Wireless, PCS Carriers, and Internet Protocol Enabled Services (IPES) companies are issued one Company Code for operating nationwide¹.

Business entities requiring a Company Code(s) can request a NECA code assignment online at www.neca.org

Mergers, Acquisitions, and Company Name Changes

As stated in the ATIS-0300251.2007, companies are responsible for notifying NECA of all mergers, acquisitions,

¹ Prior to 2002, Wireless and PCS Carriers were able to obtain state specific company codes, which are still valid.

corporate re-organizations, and name changes that affect Company Codes. Due to an acquisition, merger or re-organization, a company may operate in more than one state or change its name. To determine how the Company Codes will be assigned after a merger or acquisition, NECA requires a letter from the companies outlining the transaction, a copy of state and/or FCC approval, if necessary, and a copy of the Acquisition or Merger Agreement. NECA may require additional information on the company's corporate structure.

For new companies or legal entities, NECA requires a copy of the Articles of Incorporation or Partnership Agreement, in order to reflect the entity's legal name and a copy of the state and/or FCC approval, if necessary. For companies wishing to retain the Company Code(s) of non-surviving legal entities post-merger, may consider requesting that these Company Code(s) be identified as 'Combined Entity Company Codes (CECCs)', which will allow them to be linked to the surviving entity's legal name. In order to request a CECC, a company must complete a 'Combined Entity Company Code (CECC)' request form, and submit the form along with appropriate documentation to NECA. NECA requires a completed 'Combined Entity Company Code' request form, along with appropriate documentation.

NECA is responsible for assigning new Company Codes and coordinating the Company Code changes and name changes, including the assignment of CECCs. NECA will notify the company and Telcordia Routing Administration (TRA) in writing regarding new code assignments, mergers, acquisitions, and name changes.

Contact Name Changes

As stated in the North American Company Code Procedures available at www.neca.org, companies are responsible for notifying NECA in writing of all contact name, address, and telephone number changes. Company Code contact changes should be documented in a signed letter on company letterhead and faxed to the NECA Company Code Administrator at 973-884-8082. Questions should be directed to the Company Code Administrator via e-mail at ccfees@neca.org or via telephone at 973-884-8249. NECA will notify the company and Telcordia Routing Administration (TRA) in writing regarding the contact name, address and telephone number changes.

TELCORDIA TECHNOLOGIES, INC./TELCORDIA ROUTING ADMINISTRATION (TRA) BUSINESS INTEGRATED ROUTING AND RATING DATABASE SYSTEM (BIRRDS) ACTIVITIES FOR PROPERTY SALES/ACQUISITIONS

There are numerous data elements communicated through BIRRDS that are used by telecommunications companies in their internal systems. Extensive preparation and communication of changes are critical to successful telecommunications' property sales/acquisitions. Because of this, coordination and timing of BIRRDS updates are essential.

Several data elements within the Telcordia Technologies Business Integrated Routing and Rating Database System (BIRRDS) may require updates in the event of property sales/acquisitions. These include:

- Administrative Operating Company Number (AOCN)
- Operating Company Number (OCN) (traditionally a NECA assigned Company Code)
- Revenue Accounting Office (RAO)
- Special Calling Cards (RAO code based calling cards)
- Business Office (BO) contact information
- Telcordia Line Information Database (LIDB) Access Support System (LASS) data and Telcordia Calling Name Support System (CNSS) data. Telcordia LERG Routing Guide Contact names in LERG 1 CON

Related services/systems/databases that are impacted:

- Line Information Database (LIDB) used by the service provider
- Telcordia LIDB Administrative Routing Guide (LARG)
- Calling Name Support Services (CNSS) used by the service provider
- Telcordia Calling Name Access Routing Guide (CNARG)
- Telcordia's Centralized Message Distribution System (CMDMS) host/routing
- NECA Tariff FCC No. 4 (See section on "NECA Procedures for Mergers/Acquisitions")

To avoid confusion and discrepancies among industry databases, especially Central Location On-Line Entry Systems (CLONES), BIRRDS and NECA Tariff FCC No. 4, all changes must be coordinated appropriately with involved parties.

Changes in a Company Code/OCN or RAO code may impact communications service providers billing systems. Identification of changes and notification to the various billing groups, both internal and external to the companies involved, is important to avoid billing problems, including potential loss of revenue.

Administrative Operating Company Number (AOCN)/Operating Company Number (OCN)

The buyer and seller must communicate their intentions to TRA in writing, including an effective date, for any AOCN modifications as well as any requests for TRA-run global updates to effect AOCN and/or OCN changes to BIRRDs records. The buyer and seller must work together to identify assets being sold/acquired such as switching entity/POI, NPA NXX, and/or NPA NXX-X, LRN, and OCN.

If the seller has no future need for its OCN/Company Code, it may be relinquished to the buyer. It is the responsibility of the buyer to change the Company Code Name with NECA, the Company Code Administrator. This will subsequently change the OCN Name in BIRRDs. This OCN/Company Code transfer is only possible when the seller is relinquishing all NPA NXXs, NPA NXX-Xs, and/or switching entities/POIs for an OCN. If the seller plans to retain its OCN, the buyer can either use one of its existing OCNs/Company Codes or work with NECA to establish a new Company Code.

An AOCN and OCN are associated with each NPA NXX, NPA NXX-X, LRN, and switching entity/POI record in BIRRDs. TRA is responsible for changing the AOCN for the buyer. When requested, TRA will perform global updates for the buyer if changes are to 100 or more BIRRDs records.

“If the merger/acquisition should entail having AOCN responsibilities transferred, TRA has an AOCN Transfer Procedures reference guide available for AOCNs. An AOCN, working on behalf of an OCN, should contact the TRA Customer Care Center (tra@telcordia.com) to receive a copy of the reference guide. Note: Only AOCNs are authorized by TRA to request AOCN transfers in BIRRDs.”

Operating Company Number (OCN) Contact Name

The LERG1 file of the Telcordia LERG Routing Guide contains the name, address and phone number of the “Routing Contact”. This name is usually the person in the operating company responsible for administering Telcordia LERG Routing Guide data. The Routing Contact information for the acquired OCNs should be reviewed and updated if necessary.

OCN Changes Relative to Cross-Boundary Tributaries

Cross-Boundary Tributaries, aka X-Boundary Tribs, may present a problem if not addressed early in the negotiation process between the seller and the buyer. Cross-Boundary Tributaries are generally small or rural geographic franchise Exchange/Rate Center areas that are part of a Local Access Transport Area (LATA) of an adjacent state. In other words, the adjacent state’s LATA boundary extends across a state line to include an Exchange/Rate Center that is physically located in another state.

The Cross-Boundary end users are assigned telephone numbers from NPA-NXX codes that are unique to their Exchange/Rate Center area in the state in which the end users live. The Cross-Boundary Tributary end users may be served by a switching entity located in their own state or by a switching entity located in the adjacent state. For those LECs bound by the Department of Justice – Modified Final Judgment the Cross-Boundary Tributary franchise Exchange/Rate Center, assigned NPA-NXX, switching entity and homing tandems must all be in the same LATA, i.e., the LATA of the adjacent state.

1. If the Cross-Boundary Tributary NPA-NXX code(s) is served by a switching entity located in the tributary’s state the seller and buyer must determine early in the negotiation process if that property is included in the sale.

- If the Cross-Boundary Tributary is included in the sale the seller and buyer must reach an agreement as to how the OCN for the Cross-Boundary Tributary NPA-NXX code(s) and switching entity will be handled.

If the seller is retaining the OCN of the NPA-NXX and/or the OCN of the switching entity then the buyer must use their own OCN(s) or acquire an OCN to be used for the Cross-Boundary Tributary assets.

If the seller is not retaining the OCN of the NPA-NXX and/or the OCN of the switching entity then the buyer may use their own OCN(s), make arrangements for the reassignment of the seller’s

OCN to them, or acquire a new OCN for the Cross-Boundary Tributary assets. (Note: Companies frequently use different OCNs dependent upon which state they are providing service in.)

- If the Cross-Boundary Tributary is not included in the sale then it is assumed the seller will retain their OCN for the Cross-Boundary Tributary NPA-NXX code(s) and/or switching entity.

Note: There is also the possibility that the switching entity located in the tributary's state provides service to the end users in the adjacent state. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that the seller and buyer determine early in the negotiation process exactly what is being sold and what serving arrangements will be in place after the sale. Limited information such as OCNs, switching entity CLLIs, LATA numbers, and Rate Center names can be used to extract useful information from the Telcordia BIRRDs database or from the Telcordia LERG Routing Guide. Such information can be used by the buyer to determine where the seller's assets are located and the serving arrangements of those assets.

2. If the Cross-Boundary Tributary NPA-NXX code(s) is served by a switching entity located in the adjacent state the seller and buyer must determine early in the negotiation process if the Cross-Boundary Tributary property is included in the sale.

- If the Cross-Boundary Tributary is included in the sale the seller and buyer must reach an agreement as to how the OCN for the Cross-Boundary Tributary NPA-NXX code(s) will be handled.

If the seller is retaining the OCN of the NPA-NXX then the buyer must use their own OCN(s) or acquire an OCN to be used for the Cross-Boundary Tributary assets.

If the seller is not retaining the OCN of the NPA-NXX then the buyer may use their own OCN(s), make arrangements for the reassignment of the seller's OCN to them, or acquire a new OCN for the Cross-Boundary Tributary assets. (Note: Companies frequently use different OCNs dependent upon which state they are providing service in.)

- If the Cross-Boundary Tributary is not included in the sale then it is assumed the seller will retain their OCN for the Cross-Boundary Tributary NPA-NXX code(s) and the buyer will use their own OCN or acquire a new OCN for the switching entity and assets in the adjacent state.

Revenue Accounting Office (RAO) and Special Calling Card (SCC)

Written communication to TRA must also include the RAO(s) assigned to affected NPA-NXXs or NPA-NXX-Xs. Three position numeric or alphanumeric RAO codes appear in BIRRDs and are used to designate which Company's accounting office is responsible for the billing of charges incurred by customers. The RAO codes are used in the exchange of messages over CMDS for the computation of settlements for Calling Card, Third Number calls, Collect Calls, and in day-to-day telephone company operations such as message investigation, processing of customer billing claims, etc.

Companies not providing CMDS services may, in some instances, be hosted by a CMDS provider whereby they acquire or are assigned a hosted RAO Code. Companies which do not contract with a CMDS provider for an RAO Code must apply to Telcordia's RAO administrator for a non-hosted RAO Code. All RAO questions should be directed to the RAO Administrator in Telcordia.

An RAO may also be associated with Special Calling Cards (SCCs) that are administered in BIRRDs. SCCs are RAO based cards as opposed to telephone number based calling cards. When a merger or acquisition occurs, the RAO associated with the SCC may or may not change based on the discretion of the surviving entity. If the RAO associated with the SCC(s) changes, all SCCs must be reissued with the new or changed RAO.

Call processing validation of RAO based calling cards and many telephone number based calling cards are performed via LIDB. If the LIDB provider is changed during the sales process, the purchasing company and the old and new LIDB providers must jointly advise TRA in writing of the change. In addition, the Telcordia LASS database contains OCN and RAO associations relative to SCCs and must be updated as well.

As with the OCN, the RAO can be consigned to the purchaser or retained by the seller. Appropriate coordination must occur in either scenario.

Business Office (BO)

Within BIRRDs, each NXX and NXX-X is associated with a Business Office (BO). The BO information includes address and phone number, which can be used for communication between companies for billing issues. The significance of this information has become less critical through the years due to consolidation of such functions within companies. However, this contact information is still used in some instances and must be kept current. TRA can provide NXX and BO associations that exist in BIRRDs. Additionally, the BO records can be viewed at the Numbering Plan Area (NPA) level on a screen by screen basis in the database. These associations should be reviewed and updated if necessary.

Timing of Changes in BIRRDs for Output Products

With a merger or acquisition, TRA can assist in the coordination of timing for changes in the BIRRDs database relative to their appearance in the LERG™ Routing Guide and TPM™ Data Source.

Using Telcordia's Emergency Notification (EN)

The EN is a Telcordia product that is distributed weekly to service providers who subscribe to the EN product. The EN can be used as a communication vehicle to report activity outside of the industry standard timeframe. Service providers also use the EN to emphasize specific activity such as property sales/acquisitions.

Notification To The Industry

The BIRRDs output products are used extensively throughout the telecommunications industry to report network changes. Changes in the TRA systems should coincide with ownership changes. It has proven beneficial to communicate the old and new information affected in the repositioning activity.

RAO PROCEDURES FOR MERGERS AND/OR ACQUISITIONS

The following are provided for a general understanding of the Revenue Accounting Office (RAO) processes. For complete RAO procedures and guidelines, please refer to the RAO Code Guidelines at www.trainfo.com.

A Revenue Accounting Office (RAO) code is a three-position alphanumeric code utilized in the telecommunications industry for the following four functions:

- Message routing (ensure message billing record is sent to the proper Centralized Message Distribution System (CMDS) billing location)
- Intercompany Settlements
- NPA-NXX and/or NPA-NXX-X activation (s) (added to rating table on the Telcordia® TPM™ Data Source product)
- Special Calling Card number

Every Exchange Carrier (EC) must have an RAO code. The following comes into play during a merger, acquisition or name change:

Name Change:

- State approved documentation of company name changes must be provided to NECA
- NECA notifies Telcordia Routing Administration (TRA)
- TRA revises Business Information Routing and Rating Data System (BIRRDs) with the name change information

Non-Hosted Companies

These RAO codes are for companies that do not want to exchange messages over CMDS.

- If a company terminates business or changes ownership due to sale or merger/acquisition, the existing RAO code must be returned to Telcordia
- If the purchasing company is a “new” company, the purchasing company must obtain a new RAO code
- If the purchasing company is an established company, the purchasing company may use their existing RAO code
- Telcordia BIRRDs must be updated to reflect the correct company name, OCN and RAO code

Hosted Companies

A hosted assignment is an RAO code that has been assigned to a company that is operating solely within one of the former Bell Operating Company’s (BOC’s) region or territory (Full Status RAO). This type of code requires that the company requesting the RAO code, either negotiate 1) an agreement with Telcordia Technologies to become a CMDS Direct Participant or 2) an agreement with a CMDS Direct Participant who will act as a hosting agent.

A nationwide RAO code is an RAO code that has been assigned to a company that has operations in more than one BOC’s region or territory or has plans to expand into multiple BOC regions and is requesting one RAO code to apply to all of its operations. As with the Full Status RAO code, the company requesting the Nationwide RAO code must negotiate an agreement regarding CMDS processing and related settlement systems with either Telcordia Technologies or a CMDS Direct Participant. These codes are obtained through a CMDS Direct Participant. *Nationwide RAO Codes may not be shared.*

A shared RAO Code is an RAO code that has been assigned to a company that is operating within a specific region or territory. Companies that wish to share the RAO code of another company **MUST** negotiate an RAO-sharing agreement with the CMDS Direct Participant RAO code assignee. RAO codes can never be shared in the absence of such an agreement.

-
- The host company must be notified when a company terminates business or changes ownership due to sale or merger/acquisition
 - The host company then notifies Telcordia RAO Code Administration
 - In a sale or merger/acquisition of a hosted company with an existing RAO(s), change of RAO ownership is permitted. The new or merged company name (and OCN) must reflect the appropriate RAO ownership in BIRRDs
 - In a sale or merger/acquisition of a hosted company with existing RAO(s) where there is also a **change in host**, change of RAO ownership is permitted. The new or merged company name (and OCN) must reflect the appropriate RAO ownership in BIRRDs
 - Changes are coordinated among the hosts and Telcordia RAO Administration

For further information regarding RAOs, please refer to the RAO guidelines located on www.trainfo.com/.

NECA PROCEDURES FOR MERGERS AND/OR ACQUISITIONS

GENERAL

The National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc.'s (NECA) Tariff FCC No. 4 is the national database that carriers reference for the ordering, billing, and provisioning of interstate access services in North America. NECA Tariff FCC No. 4 contains information on telecommunications service providers that describes the location and technical capabilities of the wire centers which provide interstate access service. Incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs) are required to participate in NECA's Tariff FCC No. 4. Other telecommunications service providers authorized to provide access services can enter their data in NECA Tariff FCC No. 4 for a nominal fee.

This procedure identifies the documents telecommunications service providers are required to submit to NECA, in order to reflect the following transactions in NECA's Tariff FCC No. 4:

- Mergers
- Acquisitions of controlling interest in Exchange Carriers (EC) (stock acquisitions)
- Major sales of EC operating property, such as sales of exchanges for sales of all, or substantially all of an EC's assets (major asset sales)
- Formation of new companies
- Corporate name changes

Proper documentation supporting the above mentioned legal actions is necessary for NECA to ensure companies' data is identified and listed correctly in NECA Tariff FCC No. 4. This procedure should be utilized in conjunction with NECA's Industry Relation's (IR) Internal Procedures on Mergers and/or Acquisitions for incumbent local exchange carriers.

As a general guideline, NECA Tariff FCC No. 4 recognizes mergers, acquisitions, and major asset sales, etc., on the 1st of the month following the effective date (date legally effective) of the transaction, except as specified by the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC's) rules. The NECA Tariff Organization is responsible for accurately reflecting how the company will legally operate. NECA-IR is responsible for reflecting how the incumbent local exchange carrier will pool with NECA and operate as a study area.

All telecommunications service providers are encouraged to notify NECA of proposed transactions and to provide the supporting legal documents as early as possible. At a minimum, NECA requires 6 weeks notice of a transaction and 30 days following receipt of all documents, before a transaction will be effective in the tariffs. In cases where FCC approval is required, additional time may be required.

ISSUING CARRIERS

NECA Tariffs FCC No. 4 contains Issuing Carrier contact information. An Issuing Carrier is defined as an officer of the company. Issuing Carriers are listed in NECA Tariffs FCC No. 4 as primary contacts for their companies should any legal questions arise regarding the information listed in the tariff. Issuing Carrier contact name and address changes, additions and deletions must be reflected in NECA Tariffs FCC No. 4.

Each merger and/or acquisition is unique. Required documents may include:

- Letter signed by an officer of each telecommunications service provider detailing the merger/acquisition, stating the effective date of the transaction, and requesting that NECA amend its records to reflect the transaction.
- List of company names and Company Codes involved in the transaction
- Purchase Acquisition or Merger agreement or legal description of the transaction.
- State Public Utility Commission (PUC) Approval
- FCC Approval, if applicable
- Revised Articles of Incorporation filed with the Secretary of State
- NECA Tariff FCC No. 4 Wire Center Information changes (including all affected CLLI Codes and who will have online update authority)
- Letter from company detailing the merger/acquisition
- Issuing Carrier contact name and address information
- Updater information

NECA non-member companies participating in NECA Tariff FCC No. 4 should contact the Product Manager – Tariff No. 4 at 973-884-8494 to determine what documentation is required to reflect the transaction in the tariff. Tariff No. 4 participants can go to www.NECA.org for current contact information.

If all the required legal documentation is received by NECA, the NECA Tariff FCC No. 4 Headquarters group will make the necessary company name changes, and update the Company Code(s) on the appropriate Wire Center (Vertical & Horizontal (V&H) and Billing Percent (BP) records by Tariff 4 Lock date prior to the targeted Tariff 4 effective date. The Tariff 4 effective date will be on the 1st of the month following when the merger or acquisition will legally transpire. Additional changes to the actual percentages on the BP records should be made by the individual companies after the Company Code change(s) has been made. NECA will make every effort to work closely with the updaters involved to ensure a smooth transition of data from one company to another.

NECA member companies involved in a merger or acquisition should contact their NECA Regional Manager. The following is a list of the Regional Offices and their toll-free numbers:

NECA Regional Office	Telephone Number
Eastern (Whippany, NJ)	1-800-228-8398
Southern (Atlanta, GA)	1-800-223-7751
Midwest (Chicago, IL)	1-800-323-4953
Southwestern (St. Louis, MO)	1-800-351-9033
North Central (Omaha, NE)	1-800-228-0180
Western (Denver, CO)	1-800-892-3322
Pacific (Concord, CA)	1-800-223-8495

Member companies can go to www.NECA.org for current contact information

TIMELINE EXAMPLE FOR MERGER AND/OR ACQUISITION

Effective Date of Sale May 1, XXXX
(NECA requires 6 weeks Notice)

March 1, XXXX – NECA receives a letter from a telecommunications service provider that a merger and/or acquisition will occur on April 30, XXXX.

If new Company Codes are needed, upon receipt of required documentation, NECA will assign the new codes. See NECA's website at www.neca.org for more information.

Between the notification date and the actual date of the sale, the companies are required to send copies of all the relevant documents to NECA.

April 30, XXXX – The companies sign the final bill of sale documents and complete the merger and/or acquisition. NECA receives all the documentation required to reflect the transaction in Tariff No. 4.

May 1, XXXX – New company takes possession of exchanges, etc., begins providing interstate access service and notifies NECA of the completion of the sale. NECA makes the appropriate changes to the Wire Center and Billing Percent data in NECA Tariff FCC No. 4 to reflect the merger and/or acquisition. This includes filing any new Company Code(s) in the tariff, and expiring any Company Code(s) for the companies that cease to exist and no longer provide telecommunications services, as a result of the merger and/or acquisition.

May 6, XXXX – NECA Tariff FCC No. 4 cutoff date – all information must be entered for the May filing.

May 17, XXXX – NECA files Tariff No. 4 with the FCC

June 1, XXXX – NECA's Tariff No. 4 becomes effective with the FCC

CARRIER IDENTIFICATION CODES (CIC), ACCESS CUSTOMER NAME ABBREVIATIONS (ACNA) (AKA INTEREXCHANGE ACCESS CUSTOMER (IAC)), AND EXCHANGE CARRIER (EC) CODE

Carrier Identification Code (CIC) Administration during a Merger and/or Acquisition

Carrier Identification Codes (CICs) may be transferable from one company to another as long as the CIC Assignment Guideline (INC Document ATIS-0300050) criteria have been met. This would include presentation of legal documentation of the merger/acquisition to the CIC Administrator (NANPA), and subsequent verification proof that all CIC codes have been activated and are currently in use. CIC codes, which have NOT been activated, are subject to reclamation by the CIC Administrator.

The section entitled "Transfer of CICs", Paragraph 5.2 of the CIC Assignment Guidelines, which is located at www.atis.org through the Industry Numbering Committee (INC), summarizes requirements for CIC transfers. Mandated by the FCC more than two years ago, but not yet in the Guidelines is the limit set on quantity of CICs available to companies. Only five FGB CICs and two FGD CICs are permitted to be assigned per entity. Transfers of CICs due to Mergers and/or Acquisitions may result in exceeding the CIC maximums allotted, which would be permissible as long as the CICs were active (direct FGD trunk access and/or usage, if appropriate, must be current) at time of transfer.

Access Customer Name Abbreviations (ACNA) (aka Interexchange Access Carrier (IAC) Code)

Under ATIS-0300251.2007 IAC Codes are assigned to identify customers receiving services offered by local exchange carriers. IAC Codes are used by local exchange carrier customer service centers to identify customers. A unique three-character alphabetic code (AAA) that identifies the legal company name shall be assigned, as appropriate, to represent each customer.

Legal documentation is required to substantiate the company name.

As Maintenance Agent, Telcordia Technologies, Inc COMMON LANGUAGE® Information Services assigns all IAC Codes according to ATIS-0300251.2007. IAC codes assigned by COMMON LANGUAGE® Information Services are also referred to as Access Customer Name Abbreviations (ACNA).

Mergers, Acquisitions and Company Name Changes

Refer to ATIS-0300251.2007 for the most recent guidelines on mergers, acquisitions and company name changes for IAC Codes.

Contact Information

Companies that are subscribers of COMMON LANGUAGE® Information Services can refer questions to their company's Coordinator of COMMON LANGUAGE® Information Services. If you do not know if you are a subscriber, do not know your Coordinator, or are a subscriber with questions regarding IAC Codes, contact the COMMON LANGUAGE® Information Services Customer Support Center at 877-699-5577, or at csc@commonlanguage.com. Alternatively, or if you are not a subscriber, you can obtain further information about IAC Codes and how to obtain them at www.commonlanguage.com.

Exchange Carrier (EC) Code²

Under ATIS-0300251.2007, EC Codes are assigned to exchange carriers to facilitate the exchange of information between communications industry trading partners. A unique four-character alphabetic code (AAAA) that identifies the legal company name shall be assigned, as appropriate, to represent each exchange carrier. An exception is where 24 two-character codes representing companies of the former Bell System have already been assigned.

As Maintenance Agent, Telcordia Technologies, Inc COMMON LANGUAGE® Information Services assigns all EC Codes according to ATIS-0300251.2007.

Mergers, Acquisitions and Company Name Changes

Refer to ATIS-0300251.2007 for the most recent guidelines on mergers, acquisitions and company name changes for EC codes.

Contact Information

Companies that are subscribers of COMMON LANGUAGE® Information Services can refer questions to their company's Coordinator of COMMON LANGUAGE® Information Services. If you do not know if you are a subscriber, do not know your Coordinator, or are a subscriber with questions regarding EC Codes, contact the COMMON LANGUAGE® Information Services Customer Support Center at 877-699-5577, or at csc@commonlanguage.com. Alternatively, or if you are not a subscriber, you can obtain further information about EC Codes and how to obtain them at www.commonlanguage.com.

² Although ECC is not included in this document some companies use the term ECC when referencing and/or ordering an Exchange Carrier (EC) Code.

NANPA MERGER/ACQUISITION PROCEDURES

The North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA) currently follows the procedures outlined in the Central Office Code (NXX) Assignment Guidelines (COCAG) for Information Changes related to central office code (NXX) assignments. When an NXX and OCN association changes due to a merger or acquisition, the surviving or acquiring company/ Code Holder must request an OCN change for a non-pooled code through the NANP Administration System (NAS). If the NXX is a pooled code, the surviving or acquiring company/ Code Holder must submit a Central Office Code (NXX) Assignment request - Part 1 to the Pooling Administrator, through the Pooling Administration System (PAS). For non-pooled requests submitted via NAS and pooled request submitted through PAS, the applicant must pick the "INTRA-COMPANY OCN CHANGE" as the type of change, and identify "Merger/Acquisition" as the reason in the drop down list. The applicant must ensure that the surviving or acquiring company's OCN has been added to the applicant's PAS and NAS profiles prior to requesting the OCN change.

The surviving or acquiring OCN company may need to revise and provide a new, consolidated thousands block forecast in PAS for numbering resources.

If a merger and/or acquisition occurred after the most recent Form 502 submission, the surviving or acquiring OCN company must submit a new Form 502 forecast if the surviving or acquiring OCN company does not have a forecast on file for the current cycle and plans to request blocks or codes prior to the next Form 502 submission deadline. Form 502 must contain the surviving or acquiring company's OCN in the company information and must complete the appropriate forecast form. The carrier must submit the new forecast prior to submitting a thousands-block (Part 1A) or central office code (Part 1) application using the surviving or acquiring company's OCN.

The surviving or acquiring company/Code Holder must use the acquired numbering resources consistent with the INC guidelines and must be prepared to participate in an audit in order to effectively assess code utilization.

The most recent version of the COCAG and forms may be found at <http://www.atis.org/inc/> on the page(s) that refer to the INC committee's documentation. Please check the ATIS web site periodically to download the most current version of the COCAG.

To contact the appropriate NANPA Code Administrator, please refer to the NANPA web site at www.nanpa.com. The NANPA Code Administrators are listed by state and NPA. For those who have online access to Telcordia Technologies' (TRA) BIRRDs database, the appropriate NANPA Code Administrator contact may also be found by NPA on the CAD (Code Administration Record) screen.

POOLING ADMINISTRATION MERGER/ACQUISITION PROCEDURES

Thousands-block number pooling is a process by which the 10,000 numbers in a central office code (NXX) are separated into ten sequential blocks of 1,000 numbers each (thousands-blocks or NXX-X), and allocated separately within a specific rate center. (For example, thousands blocks are assigned in the format: 0000-0999, 1000-1999, etc.)

The Pooling Administrator (PA) currently follows the procedures outlined in the Thousands Block Pooling Administration Guidelines (TBPAG) for changes related to thousands-block (NXX-X) assignments. When an NXX-X and OCN association changes due to a merger or acquisition, the surviving or acquiring company/block holder must submit an OCN change per the TBPAG. Please refer to the PAS User Guide for Service Providers for further information on how to submit OCN changes, which can be found at www.nationalpooling.com. The applicant must ensure that the surviving or acquiring company's OCN has been added to the applicant's PAS profile prior to requesting the OCN change.

If the NXX is a pooled code, the surviving or acquiring company/Code Holder must submit a Central Office Code (NXX) Assignment request - Part 1 to the Pooling Administrator. Please see the NANPA section in this document and the Central Office Code (NXX) Assignment Guidelines (COCAG) Appendix C for more details.

The surviving or acquiring OCN company may need to revise and provide a new, consolidated thousands block forecast in PAS for numbering resources.

If a merger and/or acquisition occurred after the most recent Form 502 submission, the surviving or acquiring OCN company must submit a new Form 502 forecast if the surviving or acquiring OCN company does not have a forecast on file for the current cycle and plans to request blocks or codes prior to the next Form 502 submission deadline. Form 502 must contain the surviving or acquiring company's OCN in the company information and must complete the appropriate forecast form. The carrier must submit the new forecast prior to submitting a thousands-block (Part 1A) or central office code (Part 1) application using the surviving or acquiring company's OCN.

The surviving or acquiring company/ block holder must use the acquired numbering resources consistent with the INC guidelines and must be prepared to participate in an audit in order to effectively assess block utilization,

The most recent version of the TBPAG and forms may be found at <http://www.atis.org/inc/> on the page(s) that refer to the INC committee's documentation. Please check the ATIS web site periodically to download the most current version of the TBPAG.

To contact the appropriate Pooling Administrator, please refer to the Pooling web site at www.nationalpooling.com. The Pooling Administrators are listed by state or NPA. For those who have online access to Telcordia Technologies' (TRA) BIRRDS database, the appropriate Pooling Administrator contact may also be found by NPA on the PAD (TB Pool Administration Record) screen.

COMMON LANGUAGE® INFORMATION SERVICES

Each of the COMMON LANGUAGE® Location Codes (CLLI™ Codes) are associated in CLONES with a specific Creator Code. The Creator Code identifies the company that has created that record. When there are mergers and/or acquisitions, the Creator Code of specific CLLI Codes may need to be changed to allow the new company to have creatorship access privileges.

A CLLI Code Creator Change Request Form must be dated and signed by the Requesting Company and mailed to the Coordinator of the CLLI Codes of the Record Creator company and to the COMMON LANGUAGE® Information Services Customer Support Center. If Telcordia does not receive notification of a conflict from the Record Creator Company, Telcordia will wait 45 days and make the necessary CLLI record changes within 15 additional days.

As an alternative, if a company does not want to change the Creator Code of the CLLI Codes, special arrangements for login access to the CLLI Codes using the original Creator Code can sometimes be appropriate.

Changes in contact information, i.e., personnel, e-mail addresses, phone numbers, etc., may also need to be made.

Contact Information

Companies that are subscribers of COMMON LANGUAGE® Information Services can refer questions to their company's Coordinator of COMMON LANGUAGE® Information Services. If you do not know if you are a subscriber, do not know your Coordinator, or are a subscriber with questions regarding CLLI Codes, contact the COMMON LANGUAGE® Information Services Customer Support Center at 877-699-5577, or at csc@commonlanguage.com. Alternatively, or if you are not a subscriber, you can obtain further information about CLLI Codes and how to obtain them at www.commonlanguage.com/clli.

TRANSFER/CHANGE OF OCN IN CANADA

The Canadian Numbering Administrator (CNA) currently follows the procedures outlined in the Canadian Central Office Code (NXX) Assignment Guidelines (Canadian COCAG) for the criteria for the transfer of Central Office Codes. The criteria for the transfer of Central Office Codes can be found in the Information Changes section of the Canadian COCAG.

The most recent version of the Canadian COCAG and forms may be found at http://www.cnac.ca/coca_guidelines/co_codes.htm . Please check the CNA web site periodically to download the most current version of the Canadian COCAG.

For those who have online access to Telcordia Technologies' (TRA) BIRRDs database, the contact may also be found by NPA on the CAD (Code Administration Record) screen.

LOCAL NUMBER PORTABILITY (LNP)

The following areas need to be addressed by companies participating in Local Number Portability who are in the process of a merger/acquisition.

NUMBER PORTABILITY ADMINISTRATION CENTER (NPAC)

LOCATION ROUTING NUMBER (LRN)

With mergers and acquisitions, switch utilization and requirements are traditionally reviewed between the companies to determine which facilities are required and which can be retired. In this process, consideration should be given to ported numbers, which may currently reside on any of these switches. In eliminating switching facilities with ported numbers, it will be necessary to not only move these numbers to the new switch, but to also update the NPAC to reflect any modifications to the ported number/LRN association.

Thousands-Block Pooling utilizes LNP technology. For service providers assigned thousands-blocks for which their company is not the LERG-assignee of that NPA-NXX, that thousands-block requires activation in the NPAC for LRN routing. For mergers and acquisitions, review of the thousands-block assignments and the proper LRNs is recommended. In the case of switch retirements in the Merger/Acquisitions process LRNs may change, affecting LRN assignments in the NPAC for each thousands-block.

Location Routing Number is a 10-digit telephone number used to identify an LNP-capable switch. Calls to numbers ported or pooled to that switch are routed based on that switch's LRN. The first 6 digits of the LRN (NPA-NXX) for a switch must be derived from an NPA-NXX code that is assigned to that switch. For calls to ported or pooled numbers, post-query call routing is based on the NPA-NXX of the LRN rather than the NPA-NXX of the telephone number. The last 4 digits of the LRN may be any combination of the LERG-assignee/Code Holder's choosing. In order to prevent potential trouble conditions, it is recommended that the Code Holder avoid any number which may already be assigned to an active customer or any test function at the company.

POINT CODES

Point Codes are important to the Merger & Acquisition LNP process as they exist in the number records in the NPAC. Any merger and/or acquisition could affect SS7 routing and Point Codes should be considered. For further information, please see the SS7 Message Relay Services section in this document.

SIGNALING SYSTEM 7 (SS7) MESSAGE RELAY SERVICES

In the LNP environment, there are several supplemental services supporting subscriber numbers that must be taken into consideration when mergers and/or acquisitions occur. These services are *also referred to as NP GTT Functions (Number Portability Global Title Translation Functions)*, and currently include LIDB (Line Information DataBase), CNAM (Calling Name), ISVM (Integrated Switch Voice Messaging), and Tier 2 CLASS (Custom Local Area Support Service).

LIDB AND CNAM

Line Information DataBases (LIDBs) store information about how to treat specific NPA NXXs at the group, down to the individual level. Companies using LIDB to store customer information need to consider whether a merger and acquisition involves moving customer records from one LIDB provider to another.

The CNAM Database may be accessed by a SS7 Transaction Capability Application Part (TCAP) query using global title as the address (the STP databases may need to be updated accordingly). If the merger and/or acquisition results in the calling name database having a different destination point code then there is a need to know so that the STP Global Title Translation Database will be updated.

In general, any line level detail processes and databases (e.g. no LIDB based calling cards) should be assessed to address continued customer service. This would involve consideration of where data will reside, review/update of vendor specific agreements, etc.

Coordination between separate LIDB providers involved in the merger or acquisition activity is critical to ensure that customer calls placed during any transition period are not blocked (refer to section entitled “SS7 Traffic Re-home Considerations” for more information).

For companies participating in Local Number Portability (LNP) and thousands-block number pooling where a merger and/or acquisition occurs, consideration must be taken for reviewing all subscription versions in the Number Portability Administration Center (NPAC) that are part of this merger and/or acquisition to ensure that these records are updated with the proper SS7 point codes.

CLASSSM AND ISVM

CLASS and ISVM are switch-based services. Depending upon the specifics of a merger or acquisition, the SS7 routing for CLASS and ISVM services may be impacted. Close attention should be given to how the primary network in the merger or acquisition handles the SS7 routing for these services (refer to section entitled “SS7 Traffic Re-home Considerations” for more information).

For companies participating in Local Number Portability (LNP) and thousands-block number pooling where a merger and/or acquisition occurs, consideration must be taken for reviewing all subscription versions in the Number Portability Administration Center (NPAC) that are part of this merger and/or acquisition to ensure that these records are updated with the proper SS7 point codes.

POINT CODES, GLOBAL TITLE TRANSLATION AND ROUTING OF MESSAGE RELAY SERVICES

Network elements [Service Switching Point (SSP), Signal Transfer Point (STP), Service Control Point (SCP), Home Location Register (HLR), etc.] are addressed in the SS7 Network with a point code.

SS7 TRAFFIC RE-HOME CONSIDERATIONS

Anytime a merger or an acquisition occurs, the carrier(s) involved need to address several different areas regarding their SS7 traffic.

SS7 Routing Changes and Impacts

An overall traffic re-home plan is essential. All networks supporting SS7 translations in the signaling path for each service that each switch supports must be identified. Assumptions should never be made in this area. Research must be done to determine the full path that supports both query and response in the current environment, and what the new signaling path should be upon completion of the merger and acquisition. Thorough research is a must in this area to avoid any network or customer impacts.

Some areas to consider when looking at your SS7 network and the upcoming changes:

The LNP Database may be accessed by a SS7 Transaction Capability Application Part (TCAP) query using global title as the address (the STP databases may need to be updated accordingly). If the merger and/or acquisition results in the calling name database having a different destination point code address then there is a need to know so that the STP Global Title Translation (GTT) Database will be updated.

All STPs performing the GTTs to these functions, whether in your network or another network, need to be updated with the new translation in order to point to the correct Destination Point Code (DPC). Any updates made due to changes in the network may be governed by individual company-to-company service level agreements and/or interconnection agreements.

Network Administration and Coordination of the Re-home

Each SS7 network affected by the merger and acquisition will have its own administrative requirements and timeframes to make the necessary changes in their network and need to be included in the overall re-home planning process.

Some of the administrative requirements to make necessary changes would include: processes for new link deployment, re-home schedules, and LIDB and CNAM database records. Some of these processes would include the use of a variety of different service order types. If the result of the merger and/or acquisition is that data would be transferred from one database to another then:

- **LIDB DB Records** – The transfer of LIDB records from one Database owner to another impacts routing for the entire industry, and appropriate coordination between the Database owners is needed. When LIDB owners change, there are necessary modifications that must be made to Global Title Translation at the STPs that route various queries. Likewise, changes possibly may occur to the networks and destination point codes involved in the SS7 environment. The LIDB Access Routing Guide (LARG) is the product that is recognized by the industry supporting the most current routing for LIDB DB and their records (refer to www.trainfo.com for more information on the LARG).
- **CNAM DB Records** – The transfer of CNAM records from one Database owner to another impacts routing for the entire industry, and appropriate coordination between the DB owners is needed. When CNAM owners change, there are necessary modifications that must be made to Global Title Translation at the STPs that route various queries. Likewise, changes possibly may occur to the networks and destination point codes involved in the SS7 environment. The Calling Name Access Routing Guide (CNARG) is the product that is recognized by the industry supporting the most current routing for CNAM DB and their

records (refer to www.trainfo.com for more information on the CNARG).

Each re-home is unique and must be thoroughly researched, coordinated, and communicated with all parties involved to insure a smooth transition to the new network infrastructure.

RELATED INDUSTRY GUIDELINES

9YY NXX CODE ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES

9YY numbers are in the format of 9YY-NXX-XXXX. The 9YY NXX Code Assignment Guidelines are developed by the ATIS-sponsored Industry Numbering Committee (INC) and provide information regarding the use, format, and assignment of 9YY numbers. The 9YY NXX Code Assignment Guidelines may be found through the INC home page at: <http://www.atis.org/inc/index.asp>

Codes for Identification of Service Providers for Information Exchange ATIS-0300251.2007, Codes for Identification of Service Providers for Information Exchange, is the standard that provides the specifications and characteristics of certain codes used to represent service providers. This standard facilitates data information exchange. ATIS-0300251.2007, Codes for Identification of Service Providers for Information Exchange, may be found through the ATIS Document Center at: <https://www.atis.org/docstore/default.aspx>

CENTRAL OFFICE CODE (NXX) ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES (COCAG)

This document specifies guidelines for the assignment of central office codes (also referred to as CO codes in this document). The term CO code or NXX refers to sub-NPA destination codes for addressing. Sub-NPA refers to digits D-E-F of a 10-digit NANP Area address, e.g., 740 is the CO code (NXX) in (201) 740-1111. Examples of uses for CO codes (NXX) for which these guidelines apply include Plain Old Telephone Service (POTS), Centrex, Direct Inward Dialing (DID), Commercial Mobile Radio Service (CMRS), data lines, facsimile, coin phones, and customer owned pay phones. While these guidelines were developed at the direction of the FCC, they do not supersede controlling appropriate NANP Area governmental or regulatory principles, guidelines and requirements. These industry consensus guidelines are expected to apply throughout the NANP Area subject to guidelines and constraints of the NANP Area administrations unless the affected administrations direct otherwise.

These guidelines apply only to the assignment of CO codes (NXX) within geographic Numbering Plan Areas (NPAs). This does not preclude a future effort to address non-geographic NPAs in the same guidelines. CO codes (NXXs) are assigned for use at a Switching Entity or Point of Interconnection they own or control. Entities assigned CO codes are termed "Code Holders" in areas where thousands-block number pooling has not been implemented or for those entities who are not participating in thousands-block number pooling. Where thousands-block number pooling has been implemented, an entity assigned a CO code is designated as the "LERG Assignee." While the ultimate delivery of any call to a CO code (NXX) need not be geographically identified, by necessity initial routing is geographically defined. Therefore, for assignment and routing purposes, the CO code (NXX) is normally associated with a specific geographic location within an NPA, from which it is assigned. For some companies this is also used for billing purposes. The Central Office Code (NXX) Assignment Guidelines (COCAG) may be found through the INC home page at: <http://www.atis.org/inc/index.asp>

LOCATION ROUTING NUMBER (LRN) ASSIGNMENT PRACTICES

This is an INC document that outlines the criteria for assigning an LRN to a switch. This reference document includes information on when an LRN should be assigned and/or modified in the Telcordia LERG Routing Guide. This document also includes a list of "Do's and Don'ts" for LRN assignments. The Location Routing Number (LRN) Assignment Practices may be found through the INC home page at: <http://www.atis.org/inc/index.asp>

PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES (PCS) 5YY NXX CODE ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES

This document specifies guidelines for the assignment of NXX codes within a 5YY NXX non-geographic Service Access Code (SAC) used for personal communications services.

For the purpose of these assignment guidelines, personal communication service is a set of capabilities that allows some combination of personal mobility, terminal mobility, and service profile management. It enables each personal communication service user to participate in a user-defined set of subscribed services, and to initiate and/or receive calls on the basis of some combination of a personal number, terminal number, and a service profile across multiple networks at any terminal, fixed or mobile, irrespective of geographic location. Service is limited only by terminal and network capabilities and restrictions imposed by the personal communication service provider. The Personal Communications Services (PCS) 5YY NXX Code Assignment Guidelines may be found through the INC home page at: <http://www.atis.org/inc/index.asp>

THOUSANDS-BLOCK NUMBER (NXX-X) POOLING ADMINISTRATION GUIDELINES (TBPAG)

This document specifies guidelines for the administration and assignment of thousands-blocks (NXX-Xs) to Local Number Portability (LNP)-capable service providers (SPs) in rate areas where thousands-block number pooling has been ordered or implemented. All thousands-block requests and necessary forms will be submitted by SPs to the Pooling Administrator (PA) by filling out the appropriate request and/or form provided on the PA Web Site. No requests and/or form submissions will be accepted via fax, paper, voice, or email, except in extraordinary circumstances and/or if previously agreed to by the PA. An industry database will verify the password and access level of the user. All electronic submissions from an authorized user will be considered as an electronic signature and will be verified for authenticity utilizing criteria maintained in the PA database. In addition, these guidelines outline the processes used between the PA and:

- Code Holders
- Block Holders
- LERG Assignees
- Number Portability Administration Centers (NPAC)
- North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA)
- Regulatory Agencies

Thousands-block number pooling, in the context of these guidelines, allows for sharing of Central Office (CO) Codes (NXX Codes) among multiple SPs serving the same rate area. All ten thousand telephone numbers (TNs) within each NXX Code continue to be associated with the same rate area designation (i.e., V&H coordinates), but can be distributed among multiple SPs at the thousands-block (NXX-X) level. Examples of uses for thousands-blocks for which these guidelines apply include plain old telephone service (POTS), Centrex, Direct Inward Dialing (DID), wireless service, facsimile, and coin phones. The Thousands-Block Number (NXX-X) Pooling

Administration Guidelines may be found through the INC home page at: <http://www.atis.org/inc/index.asp>

REVENUE ACCOUNTING OFFICE (RAO) CODE GUIDELINES

RAO codes are three-position alphanumeric codes, assigned by Telcordia Technologies, that are used in the telecommunications industry for exchanging messages between companies. The RAO Code Guidelines are developed by Telcordia and provide information regarding how RAOs are used, the various types of RAO codes that are available, and how the codes are assigned. The Revenue Accounting Office (RAO) Code Guidelines may be found under “documents” through the TRA Information page at: <http://www.trainfo.com>

MERGER AND/OR ACQUISITION DATABASE IMPACT

When mergers and/or acquisitions take place, companies need to be aware of impacts pertaining to RAOs, Company Codes, and OCNs.

The Centralized Message Distribution System (CMDS) is a generic term that refers to several applications that utilize the system for the interexchange of data. Among these applications are the following:

CMDS-I is a subsystem that processes toll message records for exchange between the Local Exchange Carriers (LECs). Other Exchange Carrier and Interexchange Carrier (IC) involvement is through a sponsor relationship with a CMDS (host) Direct Participant (DP). These messages are generally associated with billing local exchange customers for collect and third-number and calling card messages.

The Carrier Access Billing System (CABS) is a subsystem that processes access records for exchange between the DPs. Other Exchange Carrier involvement is through a sponsor relationship with a host DP. These records are generally associated with billing ICs for local exchange access.

Calling Card and Third Number Settlement (CATS) System is a subsystem that produces Inter-company Settlement (ICS) reports for DP to DP, DP to other Exchange Carriers, (and DP to Radio Telephone Services (RTS) company message exchange activities.) The CMDS-I Message traffic is used as input to this subsystem.

The standard used to exchange data via CMDS is the Exchange Message Interface (EMI) record document. CMDS uses the pack concept. A pack consists of a header record, detail records, and a trailer record. A pack is addressed by means of the header record to a "Billing RAO" associated with a "Send to RAO" (similar to street address and floor when addressing U.S. Mail). "From RAO" is also included in the header record and is similar to a return address. The packs are invoiced by the sending RAO using the "From RAO," "Send to RAO," and "Billing RAO."

Because of the above process, CMDS is impacted by a change in RAO because it uses the RAO to direct data (messages/records) to the appropriate receiving (billing) company. If the RAO is not changed, the messages/records would continue to be directed to the previous or inappropriate company and revenue or credit may be lost.

Likewise, CMDS also uses the OCN to develop its Calling Card and Third Number Settlement (CATS) System reports. If an OCN is not changed, it would reflect the original company name on the CATS reports.

For 20-20-01/02 EMI packs, which are end-user billable messages, CMDS will not accept messages older than 90 days from the date the original call was made or 180 days for returned messages (unbillable/uncollectible).

Under some circumstances, it may be necessary for companies to choose to keep their old RAO for a period of time as a result of state or local billing requirements. The RAO and associated OCN changes are reflected in the Telcordia® TPM™ Data Source.

The following is a list of national or company deployed databases that may be impacted as a result of a merger and/or acquisition:

- BIRADS (Business Integrated Rating and Routing Database System)
- CABS (Carrier Access Billing System)
- CATS (Calling Card and Third Number Settlement)
- CLONES (Central Location On-Line Entry System)
- CMDS (Centralized Message Distribution System)
- CNAM (Calling NAME)
- CNAS (Canadian Number Administration System)
- CRIS (Customer Record Information System)
- LIDB (Line Information Database)
- NAS (Number Administration System)
- NECA Company Code Database
- NECA Tariff FCC No. 4
- NPAC (Number Portability Administration Center)
- PAS (Pooling Administration System)

There may be other databases which are internal to a corporation that may need to be reviewed for impact when mergers and/or acquisitions occur (e.g. billing, routing, etc.)

TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE FOR NXX AND SWITCH CHANGES IN A MERGER AND/OR ACQUISITION

This section provides a list of some situations that may occur during NXX and switch changes in a merger and/or acquisition as well as resolutions used.

SITUATION	SUGGESTED RESOLUTION
Overlooked host switch because no NXX(s) associated. Also known as a "No Line Host".	Selling Company Notifies purchasing company and Telcordia as soon as possible. Telcordia Updates AOCN in BIRRDS. The OCN is updated on the BIRRDS SRD (Switching Entity Record) screen by the purchasing company. An Emergency Notification can be requested by the purchasing company to be sent out via Telcordia TRA.
The BIRRDS effective date changes after updates to switches, NXX(s), and/or NXX-X(s) have been made.	Update BIRRDS as soon as possible with new effective date or cancel the existing updates if the new date is not known at the time. An Emergency Notification can be requested by the AOCN to be sent out via Telcordia TRA. Notify the code administrator and/or the pooling administrator where applicable.
NXX(s) and/or NXX-X(s) overlooked in transfer of records.	Purchasing and selling company concur to the overlooked data. Purchasing company notifies code administrator and/or pooling administrator and Telcordia TRA of overlooked NXX(s) and/or NXX-X(s). Telcordia TRA updates AOCN in BIRRDS upon notification/verification. The OCN is updated on the BIRRDS NXD screen by the purchasing company. . An Emergency Notification can be requested by the purchasing company to be sent out via Telcordia TRA.
Third party OCN Type 1 (Radio Common Carrier (RCC) type code) NXX and/or NXX-X exists on switch being purchased. The purchasing company wants RCC type code NXX and/or NXX-X removed from switch prior to sale date.	The purchasing company must notify the selling company to contact the third party OCN Type 1 (RCC type code) to request their records be removed from purchasing company's switch prior to sale date.
When purchasing company attempts to update the OCN on the NXD screen in BIRRDS for the NXXs or NXX-Xs transferred to them they are blocked due to the RAU (RAO Usage Control) screen which notes this OCN is not permitted to use this RAO.	First, determine if the RAO is hosted or non-hosted. If hosted, contact the CMDS provider of that RAO and request they update the RAU screen in BIRRDS to add the purchasing company's OCN. If non-hosted, determine if the purchasing company acquired the non-hosted RAO as part of the merger and/or acquisition. If yes, purchasing company contacts Telcordia for the name change. If no, then purchasing company acquires their own RAO.
When purchasing company attempts to update the OCN on the NXD screen in BIRRDS for the NXXs or NXX-Xs transferred to them they are blocked due to the SWU control which notes this OCN is not permitted to use the tandem (intra-LATA/local homing arrangements)	The purchasing company needs to contact the tandem company associated with the intra-LATA or local tandem found on the SHA screen of the switch on the NXD record to have the tandem company update the SWU to add the purchasing company's OCN.

associated with the switch	
When a purchasing company attempts to update the OCN on the NXD screen in BIRRDs for the NXXs or NXX-Xs transferred to them they are blocked due to the OCN of the NXX being different from the OCN on the switch.	The purchasing company needs to determine if the Switch CLLIs are a part of the acquisition. If yes, update the OCN on the SRD record. If no, the purchasing company must change the switch CLLI to one of their own, or the purchasing company must contact the owner of the switch to have the SRD updated to change the intercompany EOC indicator to Y.
Switches are re-homed at the time of purchase. Purchasing company can not modify the tandem homing information until they become AOCN of the switch records in BIRRDs which is at the time of the merger and/or acquisition date. The purchasing company needs to reflect these changes in BIRRDs prior to the merger and/or acquisition date to provide proper industry notice.	Prior to the AOCN transfer the purchasing company has to request that the selling company schedule applicable tandem changes in BIRRDs for the purchasing company.
Various industry databases (e.g. NECA Tariff FCC #4, BIRRDs, NAS, etc) reflect different information thus causing an unsynchronized condition.	Verify the industry databases have been updated with the current information. If yes, the unsynchronized condition may be the result of different processing cycles.

GLOSSARY

Access Carrier Name Abbreviation (ACNA) – A unique three character alphabetic code (AAA) assigned to identify customers receiving services offered by local exchange carriers. ACNA is also referred to as an Interexchange Access Carrier (IAC) Code.

Access Service Request – The ordering form used to request Access Services, both Special and Switched.

Administrative Operating Company Number (AOCN) - A four character numeric or alphanumeric that identifies the administrator of one (or more) data records contained in Telcordia's Business Integrated Rating and Routing Database System (BIRRDs). Numeric/alphanumeric AOCNs are determined by Operating Company Number (OCN) assignment. The AOCN further identifies the entity authorized by the code holder to input and maintain data into BIRRDs.

ANSI (American National Standards Institute) - A private, non-profit organization that administers and coordinates the U.S. voluntary standardization and conformity assessment system. The Institute's mission is to enhance both the global competitiveness of U.S. business and the U.S. quality of life by promoting and facilitating voluntary consensus standards and conformity assessment systems, and safeguarding their integrity.

Asset acquisition: Company A acquires some or all of the *property* of Company B. Typically, asset acquisitions involve the transfer of some or all of the telephone “exchanges” operated by the selling company.

Business Information Rating and Routing System (BIRRDs) - A centralized database maintained by Telcordia Technologies through which Service Providers or their authorized representatives enter and maintain routing and rating data in support of their NANP numbering assignments. Output from BIRRDs includes the Telcordia LERG Routing Guide and the Telcordia TPM Data Source.

CABS (Carrier Access Billing System) - An application used by local exchange carriers (LECs) to bill access and local services.

Central Office (CO) Code - The second three digits (NXX) of a ten-digit telephone number in the form NXX-NXX-XXXX, where N represents any one of the numbers 2 through 9 and X represents any one of the numbers 0 through 9. (47 C.F.R. § 52.7(c))

Central Office (CO) Code Administrator - Responsible for the administration of the NXXs within a Numbering Plan Area.

CLEC (Competitive Local Exchange Carrier) - In the United States, a CLEC is a facility based communications company that competes with the already established local telephone business by providing its own network and switching. The term distinguishes competitors from established Local Exchange Carriers (LECs) and arises from the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which was intended to promote competition among both long-distance and local phone Service Providers. Similarly in Canada, CLECs are addressed by Telecom Decision CRTC 97-8, 1 May 1997 (Decision 97-8).

CLONES - CLONES is maintained by Telcordia as the Location Registry for the creation and maintenance of COMMON LANGUAGE® Location Code (CLLI™ Code) by COMMON LANGUAGE subscribers. For an 11-character location identifier to be termed a CLLI Code, it must have been created and currently reside in CLONES. Associated information includes postal code, latitude and longitude, vertical and horizontal coordinates, and switching system type.

Code Holder - An assignee of an NXX code which was allocated by the Central Office (CO) Code Administrator.

COMMON LANGUAGE® Location Code (CLLI™ Code) - An eleven-character alphanumeric descriptor used to identify switches, points of interconnection, and other categories of telephony network elements and their locations. For an 11-character location identifier to be termed a CLLI Code, it must reside in CLONES. Companies that are subscribers of COMMON LANGUAGE® Location Information Service can refer questions to their company's CLLI Code Coordinator.

Company - A legal entity, formed under the laws of a particular state usually to operate a business of some type (e.g., provision of telephone service). Other types of legal entities that may perform similar functions include cooperatives, partnerships, limited liability corporations (LLCs), subchapter S corporations, etc. For simplicity, all are referred to as “companies” in this document. As a legal entity, a “company” has status similar to a person and can sign contracts, employ people, own assets (including other companies), and buy and sell goods and services, among other things.

Company Code – A unique four-character alphanumeric code (NXXX) assignable to all telecommunications Service Providers. For purposes of this document N=0-9 and X=0-9 or A-Z.

Exchange Carrier (EC) – A carrier authorized to provide telecommunication services within one or more access service areas. [T1.104-1988] 2. A company that provides telecommunications within a LATA (United States) or province (Canada). In Canada, ECs also provide telecommunications among Canadian carriers. [T1.209-1998]

Exchange Carrier (EC) Code – A unique four-character alphabetic code (AAAA) assigned to exchange carriers to facilitate the exchange of information between communications industry trading partners.

Effective Date - The date by which routing and rating changes must be complete for the assigned thousands-block or the assigned Central Office Code. Also, the date by which the thousands-block becomes an active block. (Also referred to as “the LERG Routing Guide effective date.”)

Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier (ILEC) - Incumbent local exchange carrier means (as stated in FCC 1996 Act, Section 251(h) (1)), with respect to area, the local exchange carrier that on February 8, 1996 provided telephone exchange service in such area; and on February 8, 1996, was deemed to be a member of the National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA) pursuant to section 69.601(b) of the Commission’s regulation (47 C.F.R. 69.601(b)); or is a person or entity that, on or after February 8, 1996, became a successor or assign of a member described in clause (1). NOTE: The NECA categories of ILEC and Regional Bell Operating Company (RBOC) are used in the Telcordia LERG Routing Guide to identify all incumbent exchange carriers. However, to differentiate between the incumbent independent telephone companies and the Bell Operating Companies (BOC) prior to 1984, the independent companies are identified by the ILEC category and the BOC are identified by the RBOC category.

Industry Numbering Committee (INC) -, A standing committee of the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS) that provides an open forum to address and resolve industry-wide issues associated with the planning, administration, allocation, assignment and use of numbering resources and related dialing considerations for public telecommunications within the North American Numbering Plan (NANP) area.

Initial Code - The first geographic NXX code assigned to a Service Provider for each rate center in which it provides service.

Interexchange Access Carrier (IAC) - A unique three character alphabetic code (AAA) assigned to identify customers receiving services offered by local exchange carriers. IAC is also referred to as Access Carrier Name Abbreviation (ACNA).

Jeopardy - A jeopardy condition exists when the forecasted and/or actual demand for NXX resources will exceed the known supply during the planning/implementation interval for relief. NOTE: This definition only applies to ATIS-0300037, Network and Routing Resources Educational Document: Intercompany Responsibilities in the Telecommunications Industry. There may be other defined uses of jeopardy in other NIIF documents.

LERG™: See “Telcordia® LERG™ Routing Guide”

Local Access and Transport Area (LATA) - Denotes a geographic area established for the provision and administration of communications service. It encompasses one or more designated exchanges, which are grouped to serve common social, economic and other purposes. For some Access Service Providers this is synonymous with the term Market Area.

Local Number Portability (LNP) – Permits telephone subscribers to retain their telephone numbers should they desire to change local Service Providers or their location within their Exchange Rate Center.

Location Routing Number (LRN) - The ten-digit (NPA-NXX-XXXX) number assigned to a switch/Point of Interconnection (POI) used for routing in a permanent local number portability environment.

MECAB (Multiple Exchange Carrier Access Billing) - The guidelines for billing when access service is provided by more than one access provider. The sub-committee of the Ordering & Billing Forum (OBF) Billing Committee responsible for developing the guidelines for billing when access service is provided by more than one access provider.

Merger - The consolidation of two companies. In a merger, the merged company ceases to exist as a separate business and legal entity. The surviving company assumes the assets, liabilities, franchises, and powers of the merged company by operation of law (*i.e.*, automatically).

National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA) – NECA is an association that administers the FCC's access charge plan, a plan that helps ensure that telephone service remains available and affordable in all parts of the country. Directly and through its subsidiaries, NECA also administers a number of other significant federal and state programs.

NANP Area - Consists of the United States, Canada and the Caribbean countries: Anguilla, Antigua, Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Canada, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, Montserrat, Sint Maarten, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & Grenadines, Turks & Caicos Islands, Trinidad & Tobago, and U.S. Caribbean territories (including American Samoa, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands).

North American Numbering Plan (NANP) - An integrated telephone numbering plan serving countries as shown under NANP Area. According to Industry Numbering Committee, NANP is a numbering architecture in which every station in the NANP Area is identified by a unique ten-digit address consisting of a three-digit NPA code, a three digit central office code of the form NXX, and a four-digit line number of the form XXXX.

North American Numbering Plan Administration (NANPA) – NANPA holds overall responsibility for the neutral administration of NANP numbering resources, subject to directives from regulatory authorities in the countries that share the NANP. NANPA's responsibilities include assignment of NANP resources, and, in the U.S. and its territories, coordination of area code relief planning and collection of utilization and forecast data.

North American Numbering Plan Resource Utilization/Forecasting (NRUF) Report - The NANPA gathers forecast and utilization information to monitor and project exhaust in individual NPAs/area codes as well as in the NANP overall. This semi-annual report includes number utilization information as well as a five-year forecast of

demand by year. Non-rural carriers report utilization at the thousands-block level per rate center. Rural carriers report utilization at the Central Office Code level per rate center. Pooling carriers forecast at the thousands-block level per rate center. Non-pooling carriers forecast at the Central Office Code level per rate center. For more detailed information, see the NRUF Reporting Guidelines.

Numbering Plan Area (NPA) - Also called area code. An NPA is the 3-digit code that occupies the A, B, and C positions in the 10-digit North American Numbering Plan (NANP) format that applies throughout the NANP Area. Traditionally, NPAs were are of in the form of NX0/1X, where N represents the digits 2-9 and X represents any digit 0-9. After 1/1/95, NPAs were changed to the form of NXX. In the NANP, NPAs are classified as either geographic or non-geographic.

- a) Geographic NPAs are NPAs which correspond to discrete geographic areas within the NANP Area.
- b) Non-geographic NPAs are NPAs that do not correspond to discrete geographic areas, but which are instead assigned for services with attributes, functionalities, or requirements that transcend specific geographic boundaries. The common examples are NPAs in the NYY format, e.g., 8YY.

Number Portability Administration Center (NPAC) – The industry’s source database for identifying ported customer telephone numbers and the associated location routing number (LRN) for the purposes of properly routing a call to a ported number.

Operating Company Number (OCN) - A four character numeric or alphanumeric code that uniquely identifies providers of communications service, excluding Interexchange Carriers. NOTE: NECA-assigned Company Codes may be used as OCNs.

Point of Interconnection (POI) - The physical location where a Service Provider's connecting circuits interconnect for the purpose of interchanging traffic on the Public Switched Telephone Network. This term is sometimes referred to as Point of Interface.

Pooling Administrator (PA) - The entity or entities responsible for administering a thousands-block number pool (FCC 00-104, §52.7 (g)).

Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) - A worldwide network of public circuit switched networks based on E.164 addressing, which is the International Telecommunication Union – Telecommunications Standardization Sector (ITU-T) recommendation defining the international public telecommunications numbering plan.

Rate Area – A defined geographical division of an exchange area used as the basis for establishing uniform tariffs for local traffic (including multi-message unit traffic) for classes of service available within the area. Rate Areas are customarily found in larger metropolitan areas and may also be the basis for establishing tariffs for short-haul toll traffic.

Rate Center - Rate Center is used for numbering resource applications and reports to associate telephone numbers with a geographic area, as defined by the relevant regulatory agency. A Rate Center is also a uniquely defined point (Vertical & Horizontal Coordinates) located within an exchange area from which mileage measurements are determined. These measurements can be used with the tariffs in the message rating processes.

SECAB (Small Exchange Carrier Access Billing) - Guidelines that can be used for billing of access or local service charges by LECs or their vendors who currently do not conform to the CABS Billing Output Specifications (BOS). This sub-committee of the OBF Billing Committee is responsible for developing the SECAB guidelines used by LECs or their vendors who currently do not conform to the CABS Billing Output Specifications (BOS).

Service Provider (SP) - A telecommunications carrier or other entity that receives numbering resources from the North American Numbering Plan Administrator, a Pooling Administrator or a telecommunications carrier for the purpose of providing or establishing telecommunications service (FCC 00-104, § 52.5 (i)).

Stock Acquisition - When one company acquires a controlling share of the stock of another company. Generally, one corporation takes control over the other, but both retain their status as separate legal entities. Each company remains responsible for its individual liabilities, and retains ownership of its assets.

Switching Entity - An electromechanical, electronic, or digital system for connecting lines to lines, lines to trunks, or trunks to trunks for the purpose of originating/terminating calls. A single switching system may handle several Central Office (CO) codes.

Telcordia® LERG™ Routing Guide – Contains information about the local routing data obtained from the Telcordia Business Integrated Rating and Routing Database System (BIRRDS) system. This information reflects the current network configuration and scheduled network changes for all entities originating or terminating Public Switched Telephone Network calls within the North American Numbering Plan.

Telcordia® TPM™ Data Source - A set of data files issued by Telcordia Technologies, primarily to support call rating. The TPM includes all assigned NPA NXX and thousands-blocks within the NANP with associated data elements that include: OCN, Rate Center, Rate Center Major Vertical and Horizontal Coordinates, Rate Center LATA , RAO, Placename, state/province/country, daylight savings indicator, time zone, and portability indicator.

Terminating Point Masterfile: See “*Telcordia® TPM™ Data Source*”

Test Number - A three to ten digit number assigned for inter- and intra-network testing purposes.

Thousands-Block - A range of one thousand line numbers within an NPA-NXX beginning with X000 and ending with X999, where X is a value from 0 to 9.

Thousands-Block (NXX-X) Number Pooling - Thousands-block number pooling is a process by which the 10,000 numbers in a Central Office (CO) Code (NXX) are separated into ten sequential blocks of 1,000 numbers each (thousands-blocks), and allocated separately within a rate center (FCC 00-104, § 52.20 (a)).

ULEC (Unbundled Local Exchange Carrier) - A carrier providing the connection to the end user premises and access to the long distance network using unbundled network elements.

ACRONYM LIST

ACNA	Access Customer Name Abbreviation
ANSI	American National Standards Institute
AOCN	Administrative Operating Company Number
ASR	Access Service Request
ATIS	Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions
BIRRDS	Telcordia Business Integrated Rating and Routing Database System
BO	Business Office
BOC	Bell Operating Company
CABS	Carrier Access Billing System
CAD	Code Administration Record
CATS	Calling Card and Third Number Settlement
CIC	Carrier Identification Code
CLEC	Competitive Local Exchange Carrier
CLONES	Telcordia Central Location On-line System
CMDS	Centralized Message Distribution System
CMRS	Commercial Mobile Radio Service
CNA	Canadian Numbering Administrator
CNARG	Telcordia ® Calling Name Access Routing Guide
CNSS	Telcordia Calling Name Access Support System
CO	Central Office
COCAG	Central Office Code (NXX) Assignment Guidelines
EC	Exchange Carrier
ECC	Exchange Carrier (EC) Code
EMI	Exchange Message Interface
EMR	Exchange Message Record
EN	Telcordia ® Emergency Notification
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
GTT	Global Title Translation
IAC	Interexchange Access Customer
IC	Interexchange Carrier (sometimes known as IXC)
ILEC	Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier
INC	Industry Numbering Committee
LARG	Telcordia ® LIDB Access Routing Guide
LASS	LIDB Access Support System
LATA	Local Access Transport Area
LEC	Local Exchange Carrier
LIDB	Line Information DataBase
LNP	Local Number Portability
LRN	Location Routing Number
MECAB	Multiple Exchange Carrier Access Billing
NANP	North American Numbering Plan
NANPA	North American Numbering Plan Administration
NECA	National Exchange Carrier Association
NIIF	Network Interconnection Interoperability Forum
NPA	Numbering Plan Area
NPAC	Number Portability Administration Center
NRRIC	Network Routing Resources Information Committee
OCN	Operating Company Number
PA	Pooling Administrator
POI	Point of Interconnection
PSTN	Public Switched Telephone Network

PUC	Public Utilities Commission
RAO	Revenue Accounting Office
RCC	Radio Common Carrier
SAC	Service Access Code
SCC	Special Calling Card
SCP	Service Control Point
SECAB	Small Exchange Carrier Access Billing
SP	Service Provider
SS7	Signaling System 7
SSP	Service Switching Point
STP	Signal Transfer Point
TRA	Telcordia Routing Administration
ULEC	Unbundled Local Exchange Carrier
V&H	Vertical & Horizontal