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555 NXX Line Number Reference Document

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Attachment 1: INC Issue Form 005 – Assignment of 555-XXXX Line Numbers

Attachment 2: Grandfathered 555 Line Numbers

Attachment 3: NANPA Planning Letter 483 – Moratorium on 555 Line Number Assignments and Requirement to Provide Information on Current 555 Assignments

Attachment 4: INC Issues associated with the 555 NXX Line Numbers

1.0 Purpose and Scope of this Document

The purpose of this document is to capture the history of the 555 NXX line numbers, including the uses prior to the creation of the 555 NXX Assignment Guidelines in 1994, to the sunset of the Guidelines in 2016. This document also addresses issues associated with implementation, a summary of assignment data, the Industry Numbering Committee's (INC) 2016 agreement to sunset the 555 NXX Assignment Guidelines, and agreement that the future of 555 line numbers will be determined if a need for the resource is identified and agreed to by INC.

2.0 Origin of the 555 NXX Line Number

555-XXXX line numbers were assigned and used by local exchange carriers prior to the creation of the 555 NXX Assignment Guidelines. The use of 555 numbers and the network arrangement used to route and complete 555 calls had been primarily in support of Directory Assistance (DA) services, e.g., 555-1212.

A formal industry Issue was accepted as Issue 254 by the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS) Industry Carriers Compatibility Forum (ICCF) in 1992. This Issue was moved to INC in 1994 (see Attachment 1 – INC Issue 005 – Assignment of 555-XXXX Line Numbers). The Issue stated that because 555-XXXX line numbers were one of the few remaining seven-digit resources, the proposal was that nationwide use of these numbers could be an alternative resource for information service providers. The intended use of 555 numbers was for the provisioning of information services within geographic area codes, with the potential to include a broad range of existing and future services as well. The idea was that consumers could dial a 555 number in order to access types of public information services that might not be met by other numbering resources available (e.g., 976 NXXs and the 900 Numbering Plan Area [NPA]).

A 555 line number was assigned either on a national or non-national basis. A national number was a unique line number in the 555 NXX assigned to an entity for use in all or most of the geographic NPAs in the North American Numbering Plan (NANP) area. A number was designated as a national number if it was to be used in at least 30% of all NPAs or states or provinces in the NANP area. National numbers could not be assigned by the Administrator to any other entity. A non-national number was a line number in the 555 NXX assigned to an entity for use in a specific geographic area or areas (NPAs, states, or provinces). A number was designated non-national if it was to be used in fewer than 30% of NPAs or states or provinces. Non-national numbers were available for assignment to multiple entities, assuming those entities wished to use the non-national number in different geographic NPAs.

The intent was that 555 numbers could be dialed using either 7 or 10 digits, depending on service arrangements and the local dialing plan. 555 numbers assigned on a national basis would be dialed using only 7 digits from any location in an NPA in which appropriate technical service interconnection arrangements had been ordered and deployed. Any national or non-national number would be dialed using 7 digits, if dialed from within the NPA(s) in which it was activated. If a national or non-national 555 number was dialed from outside the area code in which it was activated, it would have been necessary to dial 10 digits. Accordingly, access networks should be able to accommodate 10 digit dialed 555 as well as 7 digit dialed 555 numbers, if either 7 digit dialing of 555 national numbers or 7 digit dialing of non-national numbers within the home NPA was permitted.