

**Number:** PL-455

**Date:** August 5, 2013

**Subject:** Implementation of the 844 NPA for Toll-Free Services

**Related Previous Planning Letters:** PL-452, PL-443, PL-214

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In February 2000, the Industry Numbering Committee (INC) directed NANPA to assign the 844, 833 and 822 NPA codes for toll-free service (see Planning Letter 214).

On July 31, 2013, the Federal Communications Commission authorized the SMS/800, Inc. to open the 844 toll free area code on December 7, 2013 at Noon, Eastern Time.

### **General History**

An October 2012 analysis of the toll-free resource conducted by 800/SMS, Inc. projected the resource would reach a 90% in-use threshold in 1Q14, with full exhaust in the 4Q15. Based upon this information, 800/SMS, Inc. recommended the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) consider opening the 844 NPA on or about February 15, 2014.

On April 4, 2013, the FCC requested comment from the industry regarding the opening of the 844 code for toll-free number assignments on February 15, 2014. The INC recommended that service providers have their network preparations for implementation of the 844 toll-free NPA completed by November 2, 2013.

In a letter dated June 28, 2013, SMS/800, Inc. provided an update to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on the status of the toll-free resource. In calendar year 2013, SMS/800, Inc. noted an increase in not only the number of toll-free reservations but also the rate at which those numbers are put into service. As a result, SMS/800, Inc. requested that its previous recommendation of the 844 NPA code opening be accelerated to December 7, 2013, instead of the previous date of February 15, 2014.

General questions regarding this planning letter should be directed to John Manning, Senior Director, NANPA on 571-434-5770.