On December 23, 2015 the State of Idaho Public Utilities Commission in its order in Cause No. GNR-T-15-06, Order Number 33414, approved an all-services overlay as the relief method for the 208 NPA. The 208 NPA serves the entire state of Idaho. The new 986 NPA will serve the same geographic area currently served by the existing 208 NPA.

An area code overlay allows a new area code to be assigned over the same geographic area as an existing area code, which means any customer requesting additional or new service (e.g., landline, wireless, etc.) could have a different area code for the new number. The overlay results in the need for 10-digit (area code + telephone number) dialing for all local calls.

Permissive 10-digit dialing in the 208 area code begins on November 5, 2016. During the permissive dialing period, subscribers may dial local calls within the overlay area on either a 7-digit or 10-digit basis, but will be encouraged to dial 10-digits. After the permissive period ends, all calls must be dialed using 10-digits.

Prior to August 5, 2017:
All telecommunications service providers (CLECs, IXCs, Wireless Carriers, and ILECs) must complete the conversion of their networks to send 10-digit signaling of the called-to party for all calls terminating in all Frontier Communications end offices, access tandems and intraLATA tandems in the existing 208 NPA.

Service providers presently utilizing a MF E-911 interconnection in the 208 NPA are strongly advised to convert to SS7. Otherwise, additional Multi Frequency Centralized Automatic Message Accounting (MF CAMA) trunks must be established for the new 986 NPA. Failure to convert to SS7 or establish new MF CAMA trunks in the new 986 NPA by August 5, 2017, may result in E-911 call completion failures.
Beginning August 5, 2017:
10-digit signaling is required for all calls terminating in all Frontier Communications end offices, access tandems, and intraLATA tandems in the existing 208 NPA. Failure to comply with the required 10-digit signaling will result in call failures.

Additional information regarding the 208/986 overlay is available on the NANPA website at http://www.nanpa.com. (See Planning Letter Number PL-490.)

A sample customer letter has been developed to assist with communicating permissive and mandatory dialing time frames to end user customers. Please adjust the contact information accordingly. Notification to your customers is recommended to occur 30 days prior to the permissive dialing effective date.

The 208/986 overlay will not affect existing local calling areas or rates. No existing 208 NPA numbers will be changed and all existing 208 NPA numbers will retain the existing NPA.