

# Returned IPv4 Addresses

ARIN-2011-6

# Purpose of Proposal

- Right now if any RIR gets a returned block of IPv4 space, especially those longer than a /8, and they give it back to the IANA, there is no global policy in place under which the IANA can give that block back to the community.
- This policy attempts to specifically state what ARIN will do with blocks that are returned (hand them back out within ARIN).

# ARIN-2011-6

## Policy statement:

### 4.1.9 Returned IPv4 Addresses

Except where otherwise directed by policy; all IPv4 addresses returned to, recovered, or revoked by ARIN will be made available for allocation or assignment in the ARIN region as quickly as practicable.

## Rationale:

Adopting this proposal will result in the clarification of the status of returned IPv4 addresses. IPv4 address resources should not sit idle due to lack of policy clarity.

## Timetable for implementation:

Immediately

# Changes to original text

- Originally the proposal had the following components:
  - 30 Day hold period
  - Only applied to legacy address blocks
  - Specified that blocks would be allocated to “ARIN members”

# Staff Comments

- Deviates from current practice which is to return any recovered or returned /8s to the IANA.
- Staff will continue to implement its own current operating practice by recycling returned address space.
- The community should consider amending the Rationale to state “... status of **existing and future** returned IPv4 addresses” if that matches the policy intent. The clarification would avoid any misinterpretation in implementation when handling space returned, recovered, or revoked before policy adoption.
- Minimal resource impact

# PPML Discussion Points

- Changes to original text
  - 30 day hold down vs “as quickly as practicable”
  - Legacy only vs all IPv4 addresses
  - ARIN members vs “in the ARIN region”
- Keeping space local vs global responsibility
  - When will there be global policy for what IANA should do with returned blocks?

# Proposal Pros

- Gives clear policy to ARIN for what to do with returned or recovered IPv4 address blocks
- Helps keep address space from being stranded at the IANA
  - May help spur work on a global policy for IANA action with returned blocks

# Proposal Cons

- May not be fair to all regions because most space that might be returned is pre-RIR space and most of that space is in the ARIN region