#### TITLE SHEET

# Mountain Communications, LLC COMPETITIVE LOCAL EXCHANGE SWITCHED ACCESS CARRIER Regulations and Schedule of Charges

Ιn

The territory served by Verizon Pennsylvania Inc.

And

Verizon North Inc.

The Company's tariff is in concurrence with all applicable state and federal laws, including, but not limited to 52 Pa. Code, 66 Pa. C.S., the Telecommunications Act of 1934, as amended, and with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission's applicable Rules and Regulations and Orders. Any provisions contained in this Tariff that are inconsistent with the foregoing mentioned will be deemed inoperative and superseded. Copies of this tariff are available for inspection at 4315 Bluebonnet Blvd., Suite A, Baton Rouge, LA 70809.

The Company will mirror the exchange area boundaries as stated in the tariffs of Verizon Pennsylvania Inc. Telephone Pa. P.U.C Nos 180A, 182A, 185A, 185B and 185C: Verizon North Inc. Telephone Pa. P.U.C. Nos. 1,3,5 and 6.

ISSUED: July 30, 2012

EFFECTIVE: July 31, 2012

BY: Larry Sisler, Managing Member Mountain Communications, LLC Route 3 Box 69-G Bruceton Mills, WV 26525

## CHECK SHEET

All Pages of this tariff are effective as of the date shown. Original and revised pages, as named below, comprise all changes from the original tariff in effect on the date indicated.

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Page	Revision	Page	<u>Revision</u>
Title	Ist Revised	38	Original
1	4th Revised*	39	Original
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35	Original		
36	Original		
37	Original		

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August 18, 2016

#### LIST OF MODIFICATIONS

This Tariff Supplement No. 1 includes the following revisions/additions:

- Check Sheet, 4th Revised Page 1
- 1) 2) Revised Composite Term End Office (CTEOC) rate, 4th Revised Sheet 51;

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August 17, 2016

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August 18, 2016

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#### **SYMBOLS**

The following symbols are the only symbols used for the purposes indicated below:

(I) - To signify increase in rates.
 (D) - To signify decrease in rates.
 (C) - To signify any other changes.

#### TARIFF FORMAT

- A. <u>Sheet Numbering</u> Sheet numbers appear in the upper-right corner of the sheet. Sheets are numbered sequentially. However, new sheets are occasionally added to the tariff.
- B. <u>Sheet Revision Numbers</u> Revision numbers also appear in the upper-right corner of the sheet.

  These numbers are used to determine the most current sheet version on file with the Commission.

  For example, 4th Revised Sheet 14 cancels 3rd Revised Sheet 14.
- C. <u>Paragraph Numbering Sequence</u> There are various levels of alphanumeric paragraph coding. Each level of coding is subservient to its next higher level of coding.

2.

2.1.

2.1.1.

2.1.1.A.

2.1.1.A.1.

2.1.1.A.1.(a)

D. <u>Check Sheets</u> - When a tariff filing is made with the Commission, an updated check sheet accompanies the tariff filing. The check sheet lists the sheets contained in the tariff, with a cross reference to the current revision number. When new sheets are added, the check sheet is changed to reflect the revision. All revisions made in a given filing are designated by an asterisk (\*). There will be no other symbols used on this sheet if these are the only changes made to it (i.e., the format, etc., remains the same, just revised revision levels on some sheets). The tariff user should refer to the latest check sheet to find out if a particular sheet is the most current sheet on file with the Commission.

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## APPLICATION OF TARIFF

This tariff sets forth the service offerings, rates, terms and conditions applicable to the furnishing of intrastate switched access service within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by Mountain Communications, LLC (hereinafter "the Company"). The provision of service by the Company as set forth in this tariff does not constitute a joint undertaking with the Customer for the furnishing of any service.

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#### DEFINITIONS

Certain terms used generally throughout this tariff for the Switched Access Services of this Company are defined below.

8XX Data Base Access Service: The term "8XX Data Base Access Service" denotes a toll-free originating Trunkside Access Service when the 8XX Service Access Code (i.e., 800, 822, 833, 844, 855, 866, 877, or 888 as available) is used. The term 8XX is used interchangeably with 800 Data Base Service throughout this Tariff to describe this service.

Access Code: A uniform five or seven digit code assigned by the Company to an individual customer. The five digit code has the form 10XXX, and the seven digit code has the form 950-XXXX or 101XXXX.

<u>Access Service</u>: Switched or Special Access to the network of an Interexchange Carrier for the purpose of originating or terminating communications.

Access Service Request (ASR): The industry service order format used by Access Service customers and access providers as agreed to by the Ordering and Billing Forum. Also referred to as Access Service Order.

<u>Access Tandem:</u> An Exchange Carrier's switching system that provides a concentration and distribution function for originating or terminating traffic between local switching centers and Customers' premises.

<u>Authorized User</u>: A person, firm, corporation or other entity that either is authorized by the Customer to use Access Services or is placed in a position by the Customer, either through acts or omissions, to use Access Services.

Carrier or Common Carrier: See Interexchange Carrier or Exchange Carrier.

<u>Channel(s)</u>: An electrical or, in the case of fiber optic-based transmission systems, a photonic communications path between two or more points of termination.

<u>Commission</u>: The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission.

Common Channel Signaling (CCS): A high speed packet switched communications network which is separate (out of band) from the public packet switched and message networks. It is used to carry addressed signaling messages for individual trunk circuits and/or database related services between signaling points in the CCS network.

Company: Mountain Communications, LLC.

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#### 1. **DEFINITIONS** (contd.)

Customer: The person, firm, corporation or other entity which orders service and is responsible for the payment of charges and for compliance with the Company's tariff regulations. The Customer could be an interexchange carrier, a wireless provider, or any other carrier authorized to operate in the state.

<u>Dedicated:</u> A facility or equipment system or subsystem set aside for the sole use of a specific customer.

End User: Any individual, association, corporation, governmental agency or any other entity other than an Interexchange Carrier which subscribes to intrastate service provided by an Exchange Carrier.

Exchange Carrier: Any individual, partnership, association, joint-stock company, trust, governmental entity or corporation engaged in the provision of local exchange telephone service.

Individual Case Basis (ICB): A service arrangement in which the regulations, rates and charges are developed based on the specific circumstances of the Customer's situation.

Interexchange Carrier (IXC) or Interexchange Common Carrier: Any individual, partnership, association, joint-stock company, trust, governmental entity or corporation engaged in state or foreign communication for hire by wire or radio, between two or more exchanges.

Joint User: A person, firm or corporation designated by the Customer as a user of access facilities furnished to the Customer by the Company, and to whom a portion of the charges for such facilities are billed under a joint use arrangement.

LATA: A local access and transport area established pursuant to the Modification of Final Judgment entered by the United States District Court for the District of Columbia in Civil Action No. 82-0192 for the provision and administration of communications services.

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## 1. <u>DEFINITIONS</u> (contd.)

<u>Local Access</u>: The connection between a customer's premises and a point of presence of the Local Exchange Carrier.

<u>Local Switching Center:</u> The switching center where telephone exchange service customer station Channels are terminated for purposes of interconnection to each other and to interoffice trunks.

Meet Point: A point of interconnection that is not an end office or tandem.

Meet Point Billing: The arrangement through which multiple exchange carriers involved in providing access services, divide the ordering, rating, and billing of such services on a proportional basis, so that each exchange company involved in providing a portion of the access service agrees to bill under its respective tariff.

Non-Recurring Charges: The one-time initial charges for services or facilities, including but not limited to charges for construction, installation, or special fees, for which the customer becomes liable at the time the Service Order is executed.

Out of Band Signaling: An exchange access signaling feature which allows customers to exchange call control and signaling information over a communications path which is separate from the message path.

<u>Point of Presence</u>: Location where the Customer maintains a facility for purposes of interconnecting to the Company's Network.

<u>Premises:</u> The space occupied by a Customer or Authorized User in a building or buildings or on contiguous property (except railroad rights-of-way, etc.).

<u>Presubscription</u>: An arrangement whereby an End User may select and designate to the Company an Interexchange Carrier (IXC) or Carriers it wishes to access, without an access code, for completing both intraLATA toll calls and/or interLATA calls. The selected IXC(s) are referred to as the End User's Primary Interexchange Carrier (PIC). The End User may select any IXC that orders FGD Switched Access Service at the Local Switching Center that serves the end user.

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## 1. DEFINITIONS (contd.)

<u>Recurring Charges</u>: The monthly charges to the Customer for services, facilities and equipment, which continue for the agreed upon duration of the service.

Service Commencement Date: For Special Access Service and Direct Connect Switched Access Service, the first day following the date on which the Company notifies the Customer that the requested service or facility is available for use, unless extended by the Customer's refusal to accept service which does not conform to standards set forth in the Service Order or this tariff, in which case the Service Commencement Date is the date of the Customer's acceptance of service. The parties may mutually agree on a substitute Service Commencement Date. If the Company does not have an executed Service Order from a Customer, the Service Commencement Date will be the first date on which the service or facility was used by the Customer. For Tandem Connect Customers, the Service Commencement Date will be the first date on which the service or facility was used by the Customer.

Service Order: The written request for Access Services executed by the Customer and the Company in a format devised by the Company; or, in the alternative, the submission of an Access Service Request by the Customer in the manner specified in this tariff. The signing of a Service Order or submission of an ASR by the Customer and acceptance thereof by the Company initiates the respective obligations of the parties as set forth therein and pursuant to this tariff, but the duration of the service is calculated from the Service Commencement Date.

<u>Service(s)</u>: The Company's telecommunications Switched Access Services offered on the Company's network.

<u>Signaling System 7 (SS7)</u>: The common Channel Out of Band Signaling protocol developed by the Consultative Committee for International Telephone and Telegraph (CCITT) and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

<u>Special Access Service</u>: Dedicated access between a Customer's Premises and another Point of Presence for the purpose of originating or terminating communications.

<u>Switched Access Service</u>: Access to the switched network of an Exchange Carrier for the purpose of originating or terminating communications. Switched Access is available to carriers, as defined in this tariff.

<u>Trunk</u>: A communications path connecting two switching systems in a network, used in the establishment of an end-to-end connection.

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#### 2. REGULATIONS

#### 2.1 Undertaking of the Company

#### 2.1.1 Scope

The Company's services offered pursuant to this tariff are furnished for Switched Access Service. The Company may offer these services over its own or resold facilities. The Company installs, operates, and maintains the communications services provided herein in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth under this tariff. The Company may act as the Customer's agent for ordering access connection facilities provided by other carriers or entities as required in the Commission's rules and orders, when authorized by the Customer, to allow connection of a Customer's location to the Company network. The Customer shall be responsible for all charges due for such service agreement.

The Company's services and facilities are provided on a monthly basis unless otherwise indicated, and are available twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week.

The Company's tariff is in compliance with all applicable State and Federal laws, including, but not limited to, 52 Pa Code, 66 Pa. C.S. and the Communications Act of 1934 as amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996), and with the Commission's applicable Rules and Regulations and Orders. Any provisions contained herein that are inconsistent with the foregoing will be deemed inoperative and superseded.

#### 2.1.2 Shortage of Equipment or Facilities

- 2.1.2.1 The Company reserves the right to limit or to allocate the use of existing facilities, or of additional facilities offered by the Company when necessary because of lack of facilities or due to some other cause beyond the Company's control.
- 2.1.2.2 The furnishing of service under this tariff is subject to the availability on a continuing basis of all the necessary facilities and is limited to the capacity of the Company's facilities as well as facilities the company may obtain from other Carriers from time to time, to furnish service as required at the sole discretion of the Company.
- 2.1.2.3 The provisioning and restoration of service in emergencies shall be in accordance with Part 64, Subpart D, Appendix A of the Federal Communications Commission's Rules and Regulations, which specifies the priority system for such activities.

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## 2. <u>REGULATIONS</u> (contd.)

2.1 Undertaking of the Company (contd.)

#### 2.1.3 Terms and Conditions

- 2.1.3.1 Except as otherwise provided herein, service is provided and billed on the basis of a minimum period of at least one month, and shall continue to be provided until cancelled by the Customer, in writing, on not less than 30 days notice. Unless otherwise specified herein, for the purpose of computing charges in this tariff, a month is considered to have 30 days.
- 2.1.3.2 Customers seeking to cancel service have an affirmative obligation to block traffic originating from or terminating to the Company's network. By originating traffic from or terminating traffic to the Company's network, the Customer will have constructively ordered the Company's switched access service.
- 2.1.3.3 The Customer agrees to operate Company-provided equipment in accordance with instructions of the Company or the Company's agent. Failure to do so will void Company liability for interruption of service and may make the Customer responsible for damage to equipment pursuant to section 2.1.3.5 below
- 2.1.3.4 This tariff shall be interpreted and governed by the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania without regard for the State's choice of laws provisions.
- 2.1.3.5 The Customer agrees to return to the Company all Company-provided equipment delivered to Customer within five (5) days of termination of the service in connection with which the equipment was used. Said equipment shall be in the same condition as when delivered to Customer, normal wear and tear only excepted. Customer shall reimburse the Company, upon demand, for any costs incurred by the Company due to Customer's failure to comply with this provision.

## 2. <u>REGULATIONS</u> (contd.)

## 2.1 <u>Undertaking of the Company</u> (contd.)

#### 2.1.4 Liability of the Company

- The liability of the Company for damages arising out of the furnishing of its services, including but not limited to mistakes, omissions, delays, or errors, or other defects, representations, or use of these services or arising out of the failure or furnish the services, whether caused by acts of omission, shall be limited to the extension of allowances of interruptions as set forth in this tariff. The extension of such allowances for interruption shall be the sole remedy of the Customer and the sold liability of the Company. The Company will not be liable for any direct, indirect, incidental, special, consequential, exemplary or punitive damages to Customer as a result of any Company service, or acts or omissions or negligence of the Company's employees or agents.
  - A. Liability for interruptions will be limited to credits as outlined in Section 2.6.
- 2. The Company shall not be liable for any delay or failure or performance due to causes beyond its control, including but not limited to: acts of God, fire, flood, explosion or other catastrophes; any law, order, regulation, directions, action, or request of the United States Government, or of any government, including state and local governments having or claiming jurisdiction over the Company, or of any department, agency, Commission, bureau, corporation, or other instrumentality of any one or more of these federal, state, or local governments, or of any civil or military authority; national emergencies; insurrections, riots, wars, unavailability of rights-of-way or materials; or strikes; lock-outs, work stoppages, or other labor difficulties.

## 2. <u>REGULATIONS</u> (Cont'd)

## 2.1 <u>Undertaking of the Company</u> (Cont'd)

#### 2.1.4 Liability of the Company (Cont'd)

- 3. The Company shall not be liable for any act of omission of any entity furnishing to the Company for the services the Company offers.
- 4. The Company shall not be liable for any damages or losses due to the fault of negligence of the Customer or due to the failure or malfunction of Customer.
- The Company is not liable for any claims for loss or damages involving:
  - A. Breach in the privacy or security of communications transmitted by the Company.
  - B. Injury to property or injury or death to persons, including claims for payments made under Worker's Compensation law or under any plan for employee disability or death benefits arising out of, or caused by, any act of omission of the Customer.
  - C. Any representations made by Company employees that do not comport, or that are inconsistent, with the provisions of this tariff.
  - Any noncompletion of calls due to network busy conditions.
- 6. The Liability of the Company for errors in billing that result in overpayment by the Customer shall be limited to credit equal to the dollar amount erroneously billed, or in the event that payment has been made and service has been discontinued, to a refund of the amount erroneously billed.

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#### 2. REGULATIONS (Cont'd)

#### Undertaking of the Company (Cont'd) 2.1

#### 2.1.4 Liability of the Company (Cont'd)

7. The entire liability for any claim, loss, damage or expense from any cause whatsoever shall in no event exceed actual sums paid to the Company by Customer for the specific services giving rise to the claim. No action or proceeding against the Company shall be commenced more than one year after the service is rendered.

#### 8 Disclaimer

The Company will have no liability whatsoever to Customer, its employees, agents, subcontractors, or assignees, or to any other person for (I) damages arising out of any Underlying Carriers' or Other Providers' Performance Failure, (ii) any act or omission of any third party furnishing equipment, facilities or service to any Subscriber in connection with this Tariff or with the Services, or (iii) any other act or omission of any Other Provider, Subscriber or third party related to the use or provision of Services hereunder.

THE COMPANY MAKES NO WARRANTIES OR REPRESENTATIONS, EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED, EITHER IN FACT OR BY OPERATION OF LAW, STATUTORY, OR OTHERWISE, INCLUDING WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR USE EXCEPT THOSE EXPRESSLY SET FORTH HEREIN.

January 14, 2010

January 13, 2010 ISSUED: EFFECTIVE:

> BY: Larry Sisler, Managing Member Mountain Communications, LLC Route 3 Box 69-G

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## 2. REGULATIONS (contd.)

## 2.1 <u>Undertaking of the Company</u> (contd.)

#### 2.1.5 Notification of Service-Affecting Activities

The Company will provide the Customer reasonable notification of service-affecting activities that may occur in normal operation of its business. Such activities may include, but are not limited to, equipment or facilities additions, removals or rearrangements and routine preventative maintenance. Generally, such activities are not specific to an individual Customer but affect many Customer's services. No specific advance notification period is applicable to all service activities. The Company will work cooperatively with the Customer to determine the reasonable, notification requirements. With some emergency or unplanned service-affecting conditions, such as an outage resulting from cable damage, notification to the Customer may not be possible.

## 2. REGULATIONS (contd.)

#### 2.1 Undertaking of the Company (contd.)

## 2.1.6 Provision of Equipment and Facilities

- 2.1.6.1 The Company shall use reasonable efforts to make available services to a Customer on or before a particular date, subject to the provisions of and compliance by the Customer with, the regulations contained in this tariff. The Company does not guarantee availability by any such date and shall not be liable for any delays in commencing service to any Customer.
- 2.1.6.2 The Company shall use reasonable efforts to maintain facilities and equipment that it furnishes to the Customer. The Customer may not, nor may the Customer permit others to, rearrange, disconnect, remove, attempt to repair or otherwise interfere with any of the facilities or equipment installed by the Company, except upon the written consent of the Company.
- 2.1.6.3 The Company may substitute, change or rearrange any equipment or facility at any time and from time to time, but shall not thereby alter the technical parameters of the service provided the Customer.
- 2.1.6.4 Equipment the Company provides or installs at the Customer premises for use in connection with the services the Company offers shall not be used for any purpose other than that for which the Company provided it.
- 2.1.6.5 The Customer shall be responsible for the payment of service charges imposed on the Company by another entity, for visits to the premises of the Customer when the service difficulty or trouble report results from the use of equipment or facilities provided by any party other than the Company, including but not limited to the Customer.
- 2.1.6.6 The Company shall not be responsible for the installation, operation, or maintenance of any Customer provided communications equipment. Where such equipment is connected to the facilities furnished pursuant to this tariff, the responsibility of the Company shall be limited to the furnishing of facilities offered under this tariff and to the maintenance and operation of such facilities. Notwithstanding the above, the Company shall not be responsible for:
  - the transmission of signals by Customer-provided equipment or for the quality of, or defects in, such transmission;
  - (b) the reception of signals by Customer-provided equipment; or
  - (c) network control signaling where such signaling is performed by Customer-provided network control signaling equipment.

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#### 2. REGULATIONS (contd.)

- 2.1 <u>Undertaking of the Company</u> (contd.)
- 2.1.6 Provision of Equipment and Facilities (contd.)
  - 2.1.6.7 The Company intends to work cooperatively with the Customer to develop network contingency plans in order to maintain maximum network capability following natural or man-made disasters which affect telecommunications services.
  - 2.1.6.8 The Company reserves the reasonable right to assign, designate or change telephone numbers, any other call number designations associated with Access Services, or the Company serving central office prefixes associated with such numbers, when necessary in the conduct of its business.

#### 2.1.7 <u>Non-routine Installation</u>

At the Customer's request, installation and/or maintenance may be performed outside the Company's regular business hours or in unusual locations. In such cases, charges based on cost of the actual labor, material, or other costs incurred by or charged to the Company will apply. If installation is started during regular business hours but, at the Customer's request, extends beyond regular business hours into time periods including, but not limited to, weekends, holidays, and/or night hours, additional charges may apply.

#### 2.1.8 Special Construction

Subject to the arrangement of the Company and to all of the regulations contained in this tariff, special construction of facilities may be undertaken on a reasonable efforts basis at the request of the Customer. Special construction is that construction undertaken and characterized by one or more of the following:

- (a) where facilities are not presently available and there is no other requirement for the facilities so constructed;
- of a type other than that which the Company would normally utilize in the furnishing of its services;
- (c) where facilities are to be installed over a route other than that which the Company would normally utilize in the furnishing of its services;
- (d) where facilities are requested in a quantity greater than that which the Company would normally construct;
- (e) where installation is on an expedited basis;
- (f) on a temporary basis until permanent facilities are available;
- (g) installation involving abnormal costs; or
- (h) in advance of its normal construction schedules.

Special construction charges for Switched Access Service will be determined on an individual case basis.

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#### 2. REGULATIONS (contd.)

## 2.1 Undertaking of the Company (contd.)

#### 2.1.9 Ownership of Facilities

Title to all facilities provided in accordance with this tariff remains in the Company, its agents, contractors or suppliers.

#### 2.2 Prohibited Uses

- 2.2.1 The services the Company offers shall not be used for any unlawful purpose or for any use as to which the Customer has not obtained all required governmental approvals, authorizations, licenses, consents and permits.
- 2.2.2 The Company may require applicants for service who intend to use the Company's offerings for resale and/or for shared use to file a letter with the Company confirming that their use of the Company's offerings complies with relevant laws and Commission regulations, policies, orders, and decisions.
- 2.2.3 The Company may require a Customer to immediately shut down its transmission of signals if said transmission is causing interference to others.

#### 2.3 Obligations of the Customer

- 2.3.1 The Customer shall be responsible for:
  - (a) the payment of all applicable charges pursuant to this tariff;
  - (b) reimbursing the Company for damage to, or loss of, the Company's facilities or equipment caused by the acts or omissions of the Customer; or the noncompliance by the Customer with these regulations; or by fire or theft or other casualty on the Customer Premises, unless caused by the negligence or willful misconduct of the employees or agents of the Company. The Company will, upon reimbursement for damages to its facilities or equipment, cooperate with the Customer in prosecuting a claim against the person causing such damage and the Customer shall be subrogated in the Company's right of recovery of damages to the extent of such payment;
  - (c) providing at no charge, as specified from time to time by the Company, any needed personnel, equipment, space, and power to operate Company facilities and equipment installed on the Customer Premises, and the level of heating and air conditioning necessary to maintain the proper operating environment on such Premises;

# 2. <u>REGULATIONS</u> (contd.)

- 2.3 Obligations of the Customer
  - 2.3.1 The Customer shall be responsible for:
    - (d) obtaining, maintaining, and otherwise having full responsibility for all rights-of-way and conduit necessary for installation of fiber optic cable and associated equipment used to provide Access Services to the Customer from the cable building entrance or property line to the location of the equipment space described in 2.3.1(c) above. Any costs associated with obtaining and maintaining the rights-of-way described herein, including the costs of altering the structure to permit installation of the Company-provided facilities, shall be borne entirely by, or may be charged by the Company to, the Customer. The Company may require the Customer to demonstrate its compliance with this subsection prior to accepting an order for service;

ISSUED:

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#### 2. REGULATIONS (contd.)

#### 2.3 Obligations of the Customer (contd.)

- 2.3.1 The Customer shall be responsible for: (contd.)
  - (e) providing a safe place to work and complying with all laws and regulations regarding the working conditions on the Premises at which Company employees and agents shall be installing or maintaining the Company's facilities and equipment. The Customer may be required to install and maintain Company facilities and equipment within a hazardous area if, in the Company's opinion, injury or damage to the Company employees or property might result from installation or maintenance by the Company. The Customer shall be responsible for identifying, monitoring, removing, and disposing of any hazardous material (e.g. friable asbestos) prior to any construction or installation work;
  - (f) complying with all laws and regulations applicable to, and obtaining all consents, approvals, licenses, and permits as may be required with respect to, the location of Company facilities and equipment in any Customer Premises or the rights-of-way for which Customer is responsible for obtaining under Section 2.3.1(d) above; and granting or obtaining permission for Company agents or employees to enter the Customer Premises at any time for the purpose of installing, inspecting, maintaining, repairing, or upon termination of service as stated herein, removing the facilities or equipment of the Company; and
  - (g) not creating or allowing to be placed or maintained any liens or other encumbrances on the Company's equipment or facilities.

#### 2.3.2 Claims

With respect to any service or facility provided by the Company; Customer shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Company from all claims, actions, damages, liabilities, costs, and expenses, excluding reasonable attorneys' fees and court costs, for:

- (a) any loss, destruction or damage to property of the Company or any third party, or the death of or injury to persons, including, but not limited to employees or invitees of either the Company or the Customer, to the extent caused by or resulting from the negligent or intentional act or omission of the Customer, its employees, agents, representatives or invitees;
- (b) any claim, loss, damage, expense or liability for infringement of any copyright, patent, trade secret, or any proprietary or intellectual property right of any third party, arising from any act or omission by the Customer, including, without limitation, use of the Company's services and facilities in a manner not contemplated by the agreement between the Customer and the Company.

ISSUED: January 13, 2010

#### 2. <u>REGULATIONS</u> (contd.)

#### 2.3 Obligations of the Customer (contd.)

#### 2.3.3 Jurisdictional Reporting

The jurisdictional reporting requirements will be as specified below. When a Customer orders Access Service, the Customer must provide the Company with its projected Percent Interstate Usage (PIU) in whole numbers. These whole number percentages will be used by the Company to apportion the use and/or charges between interstate and intrastate until a revised report is received as set forth herein. Reported or default PIU factors are used only where the call detail is insufficient to determine the appropriate jurisdiction of the traffic.

A. Originating Access: Originating access minutes consists only of traffic originating from the company's Local Switching Center(s). The Customer should provide the Company with a projected PIU factor on a quarterly basis.

If no PIU for originating minutes is submitted as specified herein, then the projected PIU will be set on a default basis of 50 percent interstate traffic and 50 percent intrastate traffic.

B. Terminating Access: For Feature Group D Switched Access Services, the Customer should provide the Company with a projected PIU factor by supplying the Company with an interstate percentage of terminating access minutes on a quarterly basis, as described in Section 2.3.3.D below.

If no projected PIU factor is submitted by the Customer, then the projected PIU will be set on a default basis of 50 percent interstate traffic and 50 percent intrastate traffic.

- C. Except where the Company measured access minutes are used as set forth above, the Customer reported projected PIU factor will be used until the Customer reports a different PIU factor, as set forth below.
- D. Effective on the first of January, April, July and October of each year the Customer shall update the PIU factor and report the result to the Company (Quarterly PIU Report). The Customer should forward to the Company, to be received no later than 15 days after the first of each month listed above, a revised report showing the interstate and intrastate percentage of use for the past three months ending the last day of December, March, June and September (calendar quarter), respectfully, and shall serve as the basis of the PIU factor to be used for the next calendar quarter. If the Customer does not provide the Company a Quarterly PIU Report, the Company will assume the PIU factor to be the same as specified in the Quarterly PIU Report most recently provided by the Customer. If a Customer has never provided the Company a Quarterly PIU Report or the Customer is a new customer, the Company will assume the PIU factor to be a default basis of 50 percent interstate and 50 percent intrastate traffic for the next calendar quarter.

## 2. REGULATIONS (contd.)

- 2.3 Obligations of the Customer (contd.)
  - 2.3.3 Jurisdictional Reporting (contd.)
    - E. <u>Jurisdictional Reports Verification</u>: For Switched Access Service, if a billing dispute arises or a regulatory commission questions the projected PIU factor, the Customer will provide the data issued to determine the projected PIU factor. The Customer will supply the data within 30 days of the Company request.

The Customer shall keep records of call detail from which the percentage of interstate and intrastate use can be ascertained and, upon request of the Company, shall make the records available for inspection as reasonably necessary for purposes of verification of the percentages.

# 2.4 Customer Equipment and Channels

#### 2.4.1 In General

A Customer may transmit or receive information or signals via the facilities of the Company.

#### 2.4.2 Station Equipment

- 2.4.2.A The Customer is responsible for providing and maintaining any terminal equipment on the Customer Premises. The electric power consumed by such equipment shall be provided by, and maintained at the expense of, the Customer. All such terminal equipment must be registered with the FCC under 47 C.F.R., Part 68 and all wiring must be installed and maintained in compliance with those regulations. The Company will, where practicable, notify the Customer that temporary discontinuance of the use of a service may be required; however, where prior notice is not practicable, nothing contained herein shall be deemed to impair the Company's right to discontinue forthwith the use of a service temporarily if such action is reasonable under the circumstances. In case of such temporary discontinuance, the Customer will be promptly notified and afforded the opportunity to correct the condition which gave rise to the temporary discontinuance. During such period of temporary discontinuance, credit allowance for service interruptions as set forth in Section 2.7 following is not applicable.
- 2.4.2.B The Customer is responsible for ensuring that Customer-provided equipment connected to Company equipment and facilities is compatible with such equipment and facilities. The magnitude and character of the voltages and currents impressed on Company-provided equipment and wiring by the connection, operation, or maintenance of such equipment and wiring shall be such as not to cause damage to the Company-provided equipment and wiring or injury to the Company's employees or other persons. Any additional protective equipment required to prevent such damage or injury shall be provided by the Company at the Customer's expense.

## 2. <u>REGULATIONS</u> (contd.)

## 2.4 Customer Equipment and Channels (contd.)

#### 2.4.3 Interconnection of Facilities

2.4.3.C Any special interface equipment necessary to achieve compatibility between the

facilities and equipment of the Company used for furnishing Access Services and the Channels, facilities, or equipment of others shall be provided at the Customer's expense.

2.4.3.D Switched Access Services may be connected to the services or facilities of other

communications carriers only when authorized by, and in accordance with, the terms and conditions of the tariffs of the other communications carriers which are applicable to such connections.

#### 2.4.4 <u>Inspections</u>

- 2.4.4.A Upon reasonable notification to the Customer, and at reasonable times, the Company may make such tests and inspections as may be necessary to determine that the Customer is complying with the requirements set forth in Section 2.4.2.2 for the installation, operation, and maintenance of Customer-provided facilities, equipment, and wiring in the connection of Customer-provided facilities and equipment to Company-owned facilities and equipment. No credit will be allowed for any interruptions occurring during such inspections.
- 2.4.4.B If the protective requirements for Customer-provided equipment are not being

complied with, the Company may take such action as it deems necessary to protect its facilities, equipment, and personnel. The Company will notify the Customer promptly if there is any need for further corrective action. Within ten days of receiving this notice, the Customer must take this corrective action and notify the Company of the action taken. If the Customer fails to do this, the Company may take whatever additional action is deemed necessary, including the suspension of service, to protect its facilities, equipment, and personnel from harm. The Company will, upon request 24 hours in advance, provide the Customer with a statement of technical parameters that the Customer's equipment must meet.

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ISSUED: January 13, 2010 EFFECTIVE:

## 2. <u>REGULATIONS</u> (contd.)

#### 2.5 Payment Arrangements

#### 2.5.1 Payment for Service

The Customer is responsible for payment of all charges for services and facilities furnished by the Company to the Customer or its joint or Authorized Users.

- 2.5.1.A <u>Taxes</u>: The Customer is responsible for the payment of any sales, use, gross receipts, excise, access or other local, state and federal taxes, charges or surcharges (however designated) excluding taxes on the Company's net income imposed on or based upon the provision, sale or use of Switched Access Services. All such taxes shall be separately designated on the Company's invoices. Any taxes imposed by a local jurisdiction (e.g., county and municipal taxes) will only be recovered from those Customers located in the affected jurisdictions. If an entity other than the Company (e.g. another carrier or a supplier) imposes charges on the Company, in addition to its own internal costs, in connection with a service for which the Company's non-recurring charge is specified, those charges will be passed on to the Customer. It shall be the responsibility of the Customer to pay any such taxes that subsequently become applicable retroactively.
- 2.5.1.B A surcharge is imposed on all charges for service originating at addresses in states which levy, or assert a claim of right to levy, a gross receipts tax on the Company's operations in any such state, or a tax on interstate access charges incurred by the Company for originating access to telephone exchanges in that state. This surcharge is based on the particular state's receipts tax and other state taxes imposed directly or indirectly upon the Company by virtue of, and measured by, the gross receipts or revenues of the Company in that state and/or payment of interstate access charges in that state. The surcharge will be shown as a separate line item on the Customer's monthly invoice.

#### 2.5.2 Billing and Collection of Charges

#### 2.5.2.A Invoicing:

The Company shall present invoices for all charges to the Customer on a monthly basis. Unless otherwise stated herein, all bills for services provided to or on behalf of the Customer by the company are due upon receipt.

The Company shall bill on a current basis all charges incurred by, and credits due to, the Customer under this tariff attributable to services established, provided, or discontinued during the preceding billing period.

Non-Recurring Charges are payable when the service for which they are specified has been performed. Recurring Charges which are not dependant on usage will be billed in advance of the month in which service is provided. The Company bills Non-Recurring Charges and Recurring Charges monthly to the Customer.

ISSUED: January 13, 2010

## 2. <u>REGULATIONS</u> (contd.)

## 2.5 Payment Arrangements (contd.)

#### 2.5.2 Billing and Collection of Charges (contd.)

#### 2.5.2.B Due Date and Late Payment Fees:

All bills for services are due 20 days from the date of mailing by the Company. If the last day for payment falls on a Saturday, Sunday or bank holiday or another day when the offices of the Company are not open to receive payment, the due date shall be extended to the next business day. Undisputed charges which have not been received in full 5 days after the due date will be considered past due and are subject to the following late payment provisions. The late payment charge will be equal to 1.25% per month on the full unpaid and overdue balance of the past due bill, not to exceed 15% per annum. A late payment charge will not be assessed against an outstanding security deposit.

Interest shall not be assessed on any previously assessed late payment charges.

If a service is disconnected by the Company in accordance with Section 2.5.5 following and later restored, restoration of service will be subject to all applicable installation charges.

#### 2.5.2.C Billing Dispute:

The Customer shall notify the Company of any disputed items on an invoice. The customer may dispute the bill orally or in writing at any time once the invoice is received. If the Customer and the Company are unable to resolve the dispute to their mutual satisfaction, the Customer may file a complaint with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission in accordance with the Commission's regulations. If the customer disputes a bill and the dispute requires documentation, the Customer must document its claim to the Company in writing.

ISSUED: January 13, 2010

EFFECTIVE:

#### 2. <u>REGULATIONS</u> (contd.)

#### 2.5 Payment Arrangements (contd.)

#### Billing and Collection of Charges (contd.) 2.5.2

## 2.5.2.C Billing Dispute: (contd.)

2.5.2, C.1 For written complaints sufficient documentation consists of, but is not

> limited to, the following information, where such information is relevant to the dispute and available to the Customer:

- The nature of the dispute (i.e., alleged incorrect rate, alleged incorrect minutes of use, etc.), including the basis for the Customer's belief that the bill is incorrect;
- The type of usage (i.e., originating or terminating);
- The Company end office where the minutes of use originated or terminated (if applicable);
- The number of minutes in dispute;
- The billing account number(s) (BANs) assigned by the Company;
- The dollar amount in dispute;
- The date of the bill(s) in question;
- Circuit number or complete system identification and DS3 system identification if the dispute concerns a Connecting Facility Assignment (CFA) on a DS1. Line number, trunk number and Two Six Code (TSC) should also be provided;
- Purchase Order Number (PON) and dates involved (due date or as-of date) for disputes involving order activity and what the Customer believe is incorrect (e.g. non-recurring charge, mileage, circuit identification) and why they believe it to be incorrect (not received, not ordered, incorrect rate, etc.) For order activity disputes documentation should include traffic reports, billing cycle, and, is the service is shared, both main and shared service BANs. Line number, trunk number and Two Six Code as well as end-office identification should also be provided; and/or,
- Any other information necessary to facilitate dispute resolution.
- If additional information from the Customer would assist in resolving the dispute, the Customer may be requested to provide this information. This data may include, but is not limited to, summarized usage data by time of day. The request for such additional information shall not affect the dispute date established by this section.

ISSUED:

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EFFECTIVE:

## 2. REGULATIONS (contd.)

- 2.5 Payment Arrangements (contd.)
  - 2.5.2 Billing and Collection of Charges (contd.)
    - 2.5.2.C Billing Dispute: (contd.)
      - 2.5.2.C.2 The date of resolution shall be the date on which the Company completes its investigation of the dispute, notifies the Customer of the disposition and, if the billing dispute is resolved in favor of the Customer, applies the credit for the amount of the dispute resolved in the Customer's favor to the Customer's bill, including the disputed amount interest credit, as appropriate.
    - 2.5.2.D Ordering, Rating and Billing of Access Services Where More Than One Exchange Carrier is Involved.

All Recurring and Non-Recurring Charges for services provided by each Exchange Carrier are billed under each Company's applicable tariffs. Under a Meet Point Billing arrangement, the Company will only bill for charges for traffic carried between the Company Local Switching Center and the End User.

The multiple billing arrangement described in this section is subject to the provisions of the Multiple Exchange Carrier Access Billing Guidelines (MECAB) and the Multiple Exchange Carrier Ordering and Design Guidelines (MECOD), except that the Company will not bill for local transport as described in MECAB. The Company will bill the Tandem Connect (as defined in Section 5.3.3.1.1) rate elements as specified in this Tariff.

The Company must notify the Customer of: 1) the meet point option that will be used; 2) the Carrier(s) that will render the bill(s); 3) the Carrier(s) to whom payment should be remitted; and 4) the Carrier(s) that will provide the bill inquiry function. The Company shall provide such notification at the time orders are placed for Access Service. Additionally, the Company shall provide this notice in writing 30 days in advance of any changes in the arrangement.

The Company will handle the rating and billing of Access Services under this tariff where more than one Exchange Carrier is involved in the provision of Access Services, as follows: each company will provide its portion of access service based on the regulations, rates and charges contained in its respective access service tariff, subject to the following rules, as appropriate:

- (1) The application of non-distance sensitive rate elements varies according to the rate structure and the location of the facilities involved:
  - (a) when rates and charges are listed on a per minute basis, the Company's rates and charges will apply to traffic originating from the Customer's Premises and terminating at the End User's premises, and vice versa.

ISSUED: January 13, 2010

#### REGULATIONS (contd.)

#### 2.5 Payment Arrangements (contd.)

#### 2.5.3 Advance Payments

To safeguard its interests, the Company may in its sole discretion require a Customer to make an Advance Payment before services and facilities are furnished. The Advance Payment will not exceed an amount equal to the Non-Recurring Charge(s) for installation costs and special construction, and one month's charges for the service or facility ordered. In addition, where special construction is involved, the Advance Payment may also include an amount equal to the estimated Non-Recurring charges for the special construction and Recurring Charges (if any) for a period to be set by agreement between the Company and the Customer. The Advance Payment will be credited in its entirety to the Customer's initial bill. The advance payment is due 10 business days following the date the Company confirms acceptance of the order, or on the application date, whichever is later. If the advance payment is not received by such payment date, the order may be cancelled. When the Customer cancels an access service request, the order will be withdrawn. An Advance Payment may be required in addition to a deposit.

#### 2.5.4 Refusal and Discontinuance of Service

- 2.5.4.A Upon nonpayment of any amounts owing to the Company, the Company may, by giving prior written notice to the Customer advising that it has 5 days to make settlement on the account or have service disconnected, discontinue or suspend service without incurring any liability.
- 2.5.4.B Upon violation of any of a material term or condition for furnishing service the Company may, by giving 5 days' prior notice in writing to the Customer, discontinue or suspend service without incurring any liability if such violation continues during that period.
- 2.5.4.C Upon condemnation of any material portion of the facilities used by the Company to provide service to a Customer or if a casualty renders all or any material portion of such facilities inoperable beyond feasible repair, the Company, by notice to the Customer, may discontinue or suspend service without incurring any liability.
- 2.5.4.D Upon any governmental prohibition, or required alteration of the services to be provided or any violation of an applicable law or regulation, the Company may immediately discontinue service without incurring any liability.

EFFECTIVE: January 14, 2010

ISSUED:

- 2. REGULATIONS (contd.)
- 2.5 Payment Arrangements (contd.)
  - 2.5.4 Refusal and Discontinuance of Service (contd.)
    - 2.5.4.E Upon the Company's discontinuance of service to the Customer under Section 2.5.4.1 or 2.5.4.2 above, the Company, in addition to all other remedies that may be available to the Company at law or in equity or under any other provision of this tariff, may declare all future monthly and other charges which would have been payable by the Customer during the remainder of the term for which such services would have otherwise been provided to the Customer to be immediately due and payable.
    - 2.5.4.F When Access Service is provided by more than one Company, the companies involved in providing the joint service may individually or collectively deny service to a Customer for nonpayment. Where the Company(s) affected by the nonpayment is incapable of effecting discontinuance of service without cooperation from the other joint providers of Switched Access Service, such other Company(s) will, if technically feasible, assist in denying the joint service to the Customer. Service denial for such joint service will only include calls originating or terminating within, or transiting, the operating territory of the Company initiating the service denial for nonpayment. When more than one of the joint providers must deny service to effectuate termination for nonpayment, in cases where a conflict exists in the applicable tariff provisions, the tariff regulations of the company whose Local Switching Center serves the Customer shall apply for joint service discontinuance.
    - 2.5.4.G The Company may discontinue the furnishings of any and/or all service(s) to a Customer, without incurring any liability:
      - 2.5.4.G.1 Immediately and without notice if the Company deems that such action is necessary to prevent or to protect against fraud or to otherwise protect its personnel, agents, facilities or services. The Company may discontinue service pursuant to this sub-section 2.5.4.G.1.(a-f), if
        - (a) The Customer refuses to furnish information to the Company regarding the Customer's credit-worthiness, its past or current use of common carrier communications services or its planned use of service(s); or
        - (b) The Customer provides false information to the Company regarding the Customer's identity, address, credit-worthiness, past or current use of common carrier communications services, or its planned use of the Company's service(s); or
        - (c) The Customer states that it will not comply with a request of the Company for security for the payment for service(s) in accordance with Section 2.5.4.1 above; or

ISSUED: January 13, 2010

## 2. <u>REGULATIONS</u> (contd.)

- 2.5 Payment Arrangements (contd.)
  - 2.5.4 Refusal and Discontinuance of Service (contd.)

2.5.4.G.1 (contd.)

- (d) The Customer has been given written notice by the Company of any past due amount (which remains unpaid in whole or in part) for any of the Company's other common carrier communications services to which the Customer either subscribes or had subscribed or used; or
- (e) The Customer uses service to transmit a message, locate a person or otherwise give or obtain information without payment for the service; or
- (f) The Customer uses, or attempts or use, service with the intent to avoid the payment, either in whole or in part, of the tariffed charges for the service by:
  - (1) Using or attempting to use service by rearranging, tampering with, or making connections to the Company's service not authorized by this tariff; or
  - (2) Using tricks, schemes, false or invalid numbers, false credit devices, electronic devices; or
  - (3) Any other fraudulent means or devices.
- 2.5.4.G.2 Immediately upon written notice to the Customer, after failure of the Customer to comply with a request made by the Company for security for the payment of service in accordance with Section 2.5.4, above; or

ISSUED: January 13, 2010

# 2. REGULATIONS (contd.)

# 2.5 Payment Arrangements (contd.)

# 2.5.4 Refusal and Discontinuance of Service (contd.)

2.5.4.G.3 Ten (10) days after sending the Customer written notice of noncompliance with

any provision of this tariff if the noncompliance is not corrected within that ten (10) day period. The discontinuance of service(s) by the Company pursuant to this Section does not relieve the Customer of any obligation to pay the Company for charges due and owing for service(s) furnished up to the time of discontinuance.

# 2.5.5 Cancellation of Application for Service

Where, prior to cancellation by the Customer, the Company incurs any expenses in installing the service or in preparing to install the service that it otherwise would not have incurred, a charge equal to the costs the Company incurred, less net salvage, shall apply, but in no case shall this charge exceed the sum of the charge for the minimum period of services ordered, including installation charges, and all charges others levy against the company that would have been chargeable to the Customer had service begun.

The special charges described above will be calculated and applied on a case-by-case basis.

### 2.6 Cancellation of Service

If a Customer cancels services before the completion of the term for any reason whatsoever, the Customer agrees to pay to the Company the following sums which shall become due and owing as of the effective date of the cancellation or termination: all costs, fees, and expenses reasonably incurred in connection with 1) all Non-Recurring Charges reasonably expended by Company to establish service to Customer, plus 2) any disconnection, early cancellation or termination charges reasonably incurred and paid to third parties by Company on behalf of Customer, plus 3) all Recurring Charges specified in the applicable Service Order Tariff for the balance of the then current term.

The terms and conditions specified in Section 3 will apply for cancellation of an Access Service Request.

ISSUED: January 13, 2010

# 2. <u>REGULATIONS</u> (contd.)

# 2.7 Allowances for Interruptions in Service

Interruptions in service which are not due to the negligence of or noncompliance with the provisions of this rate sheet by, the Customer or the operation or malfunction of the facilities, power, or equipment provided by the Customer, will be credited to the Customer for the part of the service that the interruption affects.

The credit allowance will be calculated by the Company after the Customer notifies the Company of service interruption. The amount of the allowance will depend on the length of the outage and the service impacted. Service outage conditions are defined as complete loss of call origination and/or receipt capability. Credit allowances, if any, will be deducted from the charges payable by the IXC and will be expressly indicated on the next invoice. A service outage begins when the IXC reports the outage to the Company. A service outage ends when the affected circuit and/or associated Company equipment is fully operational in accordance with the technical specifications.

Credit allowances do not apply to outages (i) caused by the IXC; (ii) due to failure of equipment provided by the IXC; (iii) during any period in which the Company is not given access to the service premises; (iv) failures of LEC facilities or equipment which are carrying the failures resulting from the activities or negligence of LEC employees; (v) inability to gain access to the IXC's equipment; and (vi) due to mutually agreed upon maintenance and repair.

Credit allowances received by the Company from the LEC for Off-Net facility outages which affects the IXC's switched services will be passed through to the IXC in the form of a credit on the next invoice.

No credit allowances will be made for:

- (1) Interruptions due to the negligence of, or noncompliance with the provisions of this tariff by, the Customer, authorized user, joint user, or other common carrier providing service connected to the service of the Company;
- (2) interruptions due to the negligence of any person other than the Company, including, but not limited to, the Customer or other common carriers connected to the Company's facilities;
- (3) interruptions due to the failure or malfunction of non-Company equipment;
- (4) interruptions of service during any period in which the Company is not given full and free access to its facilities and equipment for the purpose of investigating and correcting interruptions;
- (5) interruptions of service during a period in which the Customer continues to use the service on an impaired basis;
- (6) Company for maintenance purposes or for implementation of a Customer order for a change in service arrangements;
- (7) interruption of service due to circumstances or causes beyond the control of the Company.

ISSUED: January 13, 2010

# 2. REGULATIONS (contd.)

# 2.8 Transfers and Assignments

Neither the Company nor the Customer may assign or transfer its rights or duties in connection with the services and facilities provided by the Company without the written consent of the other party, except that the Company may assign its rights and duties (a) to any subsidiary, parent Company or affiliate of the Company (b) pursuant to any sale or transfer of substantially all the assets of the Company; or(c) pursuant to any financing, merger or reorganization of the Company.

# 2.9 Notices and Communications

- 2.9.1 Delivery of calls to or acceptance of calls from the Company's end user locations over Company-switched local exchange services constitutes an order by the Customer to purchase switched access services as described herein. Similarly, the selection by a Company's end user of the Customer as the presubscribed IXC constitutes an order of switched access by the Customer. In these cases, an invoice will be the first communication from the Company to the Customer. In other instances a Service Order may be used.
- 2.9.2 The Customer shall designate on the Service Order an address to which the Company shall mail or deliver all notices and other communications, except that the Customer may also designate a separate address to which the Company's bills for service shall be mailed.
- 2.9.3 The Company shall designate on the Service Order an address to which the Customer shall mail or deliver all notices and other communications, except that the Company may designate a separate address, on each bill for service, to which the Customer shall mail payment on that bill.
- 2.9.4 All notices or other communications required to be given pursuant to this tariff shall be in writing. Notices and other communications of either party, and all bills mailed by the Company, shall be presumed to have been delivered to the other party on the third business day following deposit of the notice, communication, or bill with the U.S. Mail or a private delivery service, prepaid and properly addressed, or when actually received or refused by the addressee, whichever occurs first.
- 2.9.5 The Company or the Customer shall advise the other party of any changes to the addresses designated for notices, other communications or billing, by following the procedures for giving notice set forth herein.

EFFECTIVE: January 14, 2010

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# 2. <u>REGULATIONS</u> (contd.)

## 2.10 Meet Point Billing

Meet Point Billing applies when more than one Exchange Telephone Company is involved in the provision of Access Service. All recurring and nonrecurring charges for services provided by each Exchange Telephone Company are billed under each company's applicable rates as set forth below. The Company accepts and adheres to the Ordering and Billing Forum guidelines, Multiple Exchange Carrier Access Billing (MECAB) and Multiple Exchange Carrier Ordering and Design (MECOD).

## 2.11 Application of Rates

The regulations set forth in this section govern the application of rates for services contained in other sections of this tariff.

## 2.11.1 Charges Based on Duration of Use

Customer traffic to end offices will be measured (i.e., recorded or assumed) by the Company at end office switches or access tandem switches. Originating and terminating calls will be measured (i.e., recorded or assumed) by the Company to determine the basis for computing chargeable access minutes. In the event the Customer message detail is not available because the company lost or damages tapes or experienced recording system outages, the Company will estimate the value of lost Customer access minutes of use based on previously known values. For originating calls over Feature Group D, usage measurement begins when the originating Feature Group D switch receives the first wink supervisory signal forwarded from the Customer's point of termination.

The measurement of originating call usage ends when the originating Feature Group D switch receives disconnect supervision from either the originating end user's end office, indicating the originating end user has disconnected, or the Customer's point of termination, whichever is recognized first by the switch.

For terminating calls over Feature Group D, the measurement of access minutes begins when the terminating Feature Group D switch receives answer supervision from the terminating end user's end office, indicating the terminating end user has answered. For terminating calls over FGD Access Service, the measured minutes are chargeable access minutes. Where assumed minutes are used, the assumed minutes are the chargeable access minutes.

The measurement of terminating call usage over Feature Group D ends when the terminating Feature Group D switch receives disconnect supervision from either the terminating end user's end office, indicating the terminating end user has disconnected, or the Customer's point of termination, whichever is recognized first by the switch.

ISSUED:

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FGD access minutes or fractions thereof, the exact value of the fraction being a function of the switch technology where the measurement is made, are accumulated over the billing period for each end office, and are then rounded up to the nearest access minutes for each end office.

# 2. REGULATIONS (contd.)

# 2.12 Billing Name and Address

## 2.12.1 Service Description

Billing Name and Address (BNA) service provides account detail of the Company's customers to interexchange carriers, operator service providers, enhanced service providers, and any other provider of interstate telecommunications services.

### 2.12.2 General

- Upon acceptance of an order for BNA service, the Company will furnish
  account detail for each working number submitted. Account detail consists of
  current data base information including the end user's billing name and billing
  address.
- B. Only current information which resides in the Company's data base will be provided. Customers ordering BNA service must accept BNA account detail on an "as is" basis.
- C. The Company will specify the location where requests for BNA service are to be received, and the format in which the requests are to be provided.
- D. The subscribing customer must agree that BNA information will not be resold or otherwise provided to any other person, corporation, partnership or entity, other than Customer's authorized billing agent, and that Billing Name and Address shall be used by Customer or Customer's authorized billing agent solely for:
  - 1. Billing its customers for using Customer's telecommunications services.
  - 2. Any purpose associated with the equal access requirement of United States v. AT&T, 552 F. Supp. 131 (D.D.C. 1982).
  - 3. Verification of service orders of new customers, identification of customers who have moved to a new address, fraud prevention, and similar nonmarketing purposes.

For calling card calls and collect and third party billed calls, Billing Name and Address for ANI service is not available on accounts of nonpublished/unlisted

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end users who, by request to the Company (which request may be submitted at any time), have specified that such information not be released.

## E. Manual Request

- 1. At the customer's option, the Company will provide BNA via manual request procedures.
- 2. BNA service information will be provided by the Company in standard paper format via facsimile or first class U.S. mail.
- 3. The data will be provided in a time frame mutually agreed to by the customer and the company. Availability of data may be delayed if errors exist in the request received from the customer.

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# 2. REGULATIONS (contd.)

# 2.12 Billing Name and Address (contd.)

# 2.12.2 General (contd.)

# F. Mechanized Request

- At the customer's option, the Company will provide BNA, subject to
  procedures established for Customer Account Record Exchange (CARE).
   The customer will submit its requests through proper CARE procedures, as
  revised or amended.
- G. Upon receipt of a request from a vendor for BNA, the Company will provide the requested information to the vendor within ten (10) business days of the Company's receipt of the vendor's request. Both the request and the provision of the BNA information will be in a mutually agreed-upon format.

The number of BNA records for which charges apply will be accumulated by the Company, and billed to the customer on a monthly basis at the rates set forth in this tariff.

# 3. ACCESS SERVICE ORDER

3.1 General: An Access Service Order is used by the Company to provide a customer Access Service.

# 3.1.1 <u>Information Required</u>

When placing an order for Access Service, the customer shall provide, at a minimum the following information:

A. For Feature Group D Switched Access Service, the Customer shall specify the number of busy hour minutes of capacity (BHMC) from the customer's premises to the end office by Feature Group and by traffic type. This information is used to determine the number of transmission paths. The Customer shall also specify the Local Transport and Local Switching options. Customers may, at their option, order FGD by specifying the number of trunks and the end office when direct routing to the end office is desired and the Local Transport and Local Switching options desired. When ordering by trunk quantities rather than BHMC quantities to an end office, the customer must also provide the Company an estimate of the amount of traffic it will generate to and/or from each end office subtending an access tandem operated by another Exchange Telephone Company to assist the Company in its own efforts to project further facility requirements.

In addition, for Feature Group D with the SS7 option, the customer shall specify the switching point codes and trunk circuit identification codes for trunks with the SS7 option, and the STP point codes, signaling link codes and link type for each Common Channel Signaling Access (CCSA) connection ordered.

When a customer orders FGD in trunks, the Customer is responsible to assure that sufficient access facilities have been ordered to handle its traffic.

- B. For 8XX Data Base Access Service, the customer shall order the service in accordance with the preceding provisions set forth for Feature Group D.
- C. For Local Access Service, the customer shall specify the number of trunks or facilities and the end office when direct routing to the end office is desired and the options desired. When ordering trunks or facilities to an end office, the customer must also provide the Company an estimate of the amount of traffic to be generated to and/or from each end office subtending an access tandem operated by another Exchange Telephone Company to assist the Company in the effort to project further facility requirements. In addition, when the customer orders trunks or facilities, the customer is responsible for assuring that sufficient access facilities have been ordered to handle its traffic.

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# 3. ACCESS SERVICE ORDER (contd.)

### 3.1 General (contd.)

Access Service Request Modifications: The Customer may request a modification of its ASR prior to the Service Commencement Date. All modifications must be in writing using the industry ASR process. The Company, in its sole discretion, may accept a verbal modification from the Customer. The Company will make every effort to accommodate a requested modification when it is able to do so with the normal work force assigned to complete such an order within normal business hours. Charges for access service order modification will apply as set forth below, on a per occurrence basis.

Any increase in the number of Special Access Service Channels, Switched Access Service lines, trunks, Direct Connect transport facilities, Out of Band Signaling connections or any change in engineering or functionality of a service will be treated as a new ASR with a new Service Date interval.

3.1.3 Service Commencement Date Changes: ASR service dates for the installation of new services or rearrangement of existing services may be changed, but the new service date may not exceed the original Service Commencement Date by more than 30 calendar days. When, for any reason, the Customer indicates that service cannot be accepted for a period not to exceed 30 calendar days, and the Company accordingly delays the start of service, a Service Date Change Charge will apply. In addition, when the Customer submits a request for a Service Date Change that is less than five business days from the date of notification by the Customer, a Service Date Change Charge and an Expedite Charge will apply. No Expedite Charge will apply if the Customer requests a Service Date Change that is more than 5 business days from the date of request by the Customer but earlier than the original requested Service Commencement Date.

If the Customer requested service date is more than 30 calendar days after the original service date, the order will be cancelled by the Company on the 31st day. Appropriate cancellation charges will be applied. If the Customer still requires the service, the Customer must place a new ASR with the Company.

The Service Date Change Charge will apply on a per order, per occurrence basis for each service date changed.

3.1.4 Design Change Charge: The Customer may request a Design Change to the service ordered. A Design Change is any change to an ASR which requires Engineering Review. An Engineering Review is a review by Company personnel of the service ordered and the requested changes to determine what change(s) in the design, if any, are necessary to meet the Customer's request. Design Changes include such changes as the addition or deletion of optional features or functions, a change in the type of Transport Termination (Switched Access only) or type of Channel interface. Any other changes are not considered Design Changes for purpose of this subsection and will require issuance of a new ASR and the cancellation of the original ASR with appropriate cancellation charges applied.

The Design Change Charge will apply on a per order, per occurrence basis, for each order requiring a Design Change.

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## ACCESS SERVICE ORDER (contd.)

## 3.1 General (contd.)

3.1.5 Expedited Order Charge: When placing an Access Order for service(s) for which a Standard Interval exists, a Customer may request a Service Commencement Date that is earlier than the Standard Interval Service Date, in which case an Expedite Charge will apply. The Expedite Charge will not apply if the new Service Commencement Date is more than five days from the date of the request to the Company of the expedited order request. The request for an earlier service date may be received from the Customer prior to its issuance of an ASR, or after the ASR has been issued but prior to the service date. The Company has the exclusive right to accept or deny the Expedite Order request. However if, upon reviewing availability of equipment and scheduled work load, the Company agrees to provide service on an expedited basis and the Customer accepts the Company's proposal, an Expedite Charge will apply.

If the Company is subsequently unable to meet an agreed upon expedited service date, then the Expedite Charge will not apply.

In the event the Company provides service on an expedited basis on the Customer's request, and the Customer delays service or is not ready for delivery of service at the time of installation, a Service Date Change Charge will apply in addition to the Expedite Charge.

In the event that the Customer cancels an expedite request, the Expedite Charge will be added to any applicable Cancellation Charge specified herein.

In the event that the Customer requests a Service Date Change after the Company has received the original expedite request, the Expedite Charge will still apply.

An Expedite Charge will not be applied to orders expedited for Company reasons.

If costs other than additional administrative expenses are to be incurred when the Access Order is expedited, the regulations and charges for Special Construction as set forth in this tariff will apply.

The Expedited Order Charge will apply on a per order, per occurrence basis, as specified in the customer service agreement.

3.1.6 Cancellation of an Access Service Request: A Customer may cancel an ASR for the installation of Switched Access Service at any time prior to notification by the Company that service is available for the Customer's use. The cancellation date is the date the Company receives written or verbal notice from the Customer that the order is to be cancelled. The verbal notice must be followed by written confirmation within 10 days. A Customer may negotiate an extension of a service date of an ASR for installation of new services or rearrangement of existing service, in which case a Service Date Change Charge will apply. However, the new service date cannot exceed the originally established service date by more than 30 calendar days. On the 31st day beyond the original service date, the ASR will be cancelled and the appropriate Cancellation Charge will be applied.

# 3. ACCESS SERVICE ORDER (contd.)

- 3.1 General (contd.)
  - 3.1.6 Cancellation of an Access Service Request: (contd.)

A Customer may cancel an ASR for the installation of Special Access Service without incurring a charge at any time prior to the acceptance of a Negotiated Interval Service Date by the Customer. Cancellation Charges will apply for Special Access Service if the Customer cancels more than 48 hours after the Application Date. Cancellation Charges for Expedited Orders will be applied for any order cancelled from the Application Date forward.

If the Company misses a service date for a Standard or Negotiated Interval Access Order by more than 30 days due to circumstances such as acts of God, governmental requirements, work stoppages and civil commotions, the Company shall not be liable for such delay and the Customer may cancel the ASR without incurring cancellation charges.

- 3.1.7 <u>Minimum Period of Service</u>: The minimum period for which Access Service is provided and for which charges are applicable is specified in a written agreement signed by the customer.
- 3.1.8 When Service is disconnected prior to the expiration of the minimum period, charges are applicable for the balance of the minimum period. For Switched Access Service, the charge for a month or fraction thereof is equivalent to 50,000 billed minutes of use for the applicable service. All applicable Non-Recurring Charges for the service will be billed in addition to the Minimum Period Charge.

### 4. SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE DESCRIPTION

### 4.1 General

Switched Access Service, which is available to Customers for their use in furnishing their services to end users, provides a two-point communications path between a Customer's Premises and an End User's Premises. It provides for the use of common terminating, switching and transport facilities. Switched Access Service provides the ability to originate calls from an End User's Premises to a customer's premises, and to terminate calls from a Customer's Premises location to an End User's Premises. Switched Access Service is only available when originating or terminating calls from or to an end user which subscribes to the Company's Local Exchange Services.

### 4.1.1 Feature Group Access

Feature Group (FG) Access provides trunk-side access to Local Switching Center switches, for the Customer's use in originating and terminating communications.

When the Customer has no direct facilities to the Company, all traffic is routed to and from the Company's local switching center via the Customer's tandem provider (Tandem Connect Access). Delivery of calls to, or acceptance of calls from, the Company's end user customer locations via Tandem Connect Access over Company-switched local exchange services shall constitute an agreement by the Customer to purchase Tandem Connect Access services. The Company reserves the right to submit an ASR for Tandem Connect Access.

#### A. Originating Access

The access code for FG Access switching is a uniform code of the form 101XXXX. (Other supported call types may include FGA, FGB, and 500/700/900 access.) A single access code will be the assigned number of all FG Access provided to the Customer by the Company. When the access code is used, FG Access switching also provides for dialing the digit 0 for access to the Customer's operator service, 911 for access to emergency service, and/or the end of dialing digit (#) for cut-through access to the Customer's premises. Originating 101XXXX FG Access rates also apply where service is accessed via "1+" where presubscription is available.

# B. <u>Terminating Access</u>

Originating and Terminating FG Access provides trunk-side access to Local Switching Center switches with an associated 101XXXX access code for the customer's use in originating or terminating communications. Terminating FG Access may only be used to access end users who are subscribing to the Company's Local Exchange Services. Calls in the terminating direction will not be completed to 950-0XXX or 950-1XXX access codes, local operator assistance (0- and 0+), Directory Assistance, (411 or 555-1212) service codes 611 and 911 and 101XXXX access codes. The customer is responsible to assure that sufficient access facilities have been ordered to handle its traffic.

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- 4. SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE DESCRIPTION (contd.)
  - 4.1 General (contd.)
    - 4.1.2 8XX Data Base Access Service

8XX Data Base Access Service provides originating trunk side switched access. When an 8XX+NXX+XXXX call is originated by an End User, the Company will perform the 8XX database query to determine the proper 8XX provider to which the call will be routed.

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## SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE RATES

#### 5.1 Explanation of rates

#### 5.1.1 General

This section contains the specific regulations governing the rates and charges that apply for Switched Access Services. There are three types of rates and charges that may apply to Switched Access Service:

Non-Recurring Charges: One-time charges that apply for a specific work activity.

Recurring Charges: Fixed charges apply each month and depend on the number and type of facilities in place.

Usage Charges: Charges that are applied on a per access minute basis. Usage rates are accumulated over a monthly period.

#### 5.1.2 Rate Categories

There are several rate categories which apply to Switched Access Service:

- Blended Carrier Switched Access Originating
- Blended Carrier Switched Access Terminating
- Toll-Free 8XX Data Base Access Service

The Company provides originating and terminating switched access through a single blended rate based on aggregate traffic volumes from the following cost categories:

#### A. Common Line

The Common Line cost category establishes the charges related to the use of Company-provided end user common lines by customers and end users for interstate access.

## B. Switched Transport (Tandem Switched)

The Switched Transport or Tandem Switched cost category establishes the charges related to the transmission and tandem switching facilities between the customer designated premises and the end office switch(es) where the customer's traffic is switched to originate or terminate the customer's communications.

# C. End Office Switching

The End Office Switching cost category establishes the charges related to the use of end office switching equipment, the terminations in the end office of end user lines, the terminations of calls at Company Intercept Operators or recordings, the Signaling Transfer point (STP) costs, and the SS7 signaling function between the end office and the STP.

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## 5. <u>SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE RATES</u> (contd.)

5.1 <u>Explanation of rates</u> (contd.)

# 5.1.3 Billing of Access Minutes

When recording originating calls over FG Access with multi-frequency address signaling, usage measurement begins when the first wink supervisory signal is forwarded from the Customer's facilities. The measurement of originating call usage over FG Access ends when the originating FG Access entry switch receives disconnect supervision from either the originating End User's Local Switching Center (indicating that the originating End User has disconnected), or the Customer's facilities, whichever is recognized first by the entry switch.

For terminating calls over FG Access with multi-frequency address signaling, the measurement of access minutes begins when a seizure signal is received from the Carrier's trunk group at the Point-of-Presence within the LATA. The measurement of terminating call usage over FG Access ends when a disconnect signal is received, indicating that either the originating or terminating user has disconnected.

When recording originating calls of FG Access with SS7 signaling, usage measurement begins with the transmission of the initial address message by the switch for direct trunk groups and with the receipt of an exit message by the switch for tandem trunk groups. The measurement of originating FG Access usage ends when the entry switch receives or sends a release message, whichever occurs first.

For terminating calls of FG Access with SS7 signaling, the measurement of access minutes begins when the terminating recording switch receives the initial address message from the terminating End User. On directly routed trunk groups or on tandem routed trunk groups, the Company switch receives the initial address message and sends the indication to the Customer in the form of an answer message. The measurement of terminating FG Access call usage ends when the entry switch receives or sends a release message, whichever occurs first.

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5	SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE RATES (contd.)	1
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#### 5.2 Rates

#### Carrier Common Line (CCL) Access 5.2.1

Per Minute \$0.008004 Originating \$0.000000 Terminating

### 5.2.2

5.2.3

Local Transport Per Minute \$0.000002 Tandem Switched Facility Per Mile \$0.000000 Tandem Switched Termination \$0.001574 Access Tandem Switching Per Minute Local Switching \$0.000000 (a) Originating Access Minutes \$0.000000 **Terminating Access Minutes** (b) Composite Term End Office

8XX Data Base Access 5.2.4

(CTEOC)

The 8XX Data Base Access Charge will apply for each Toll-Free 8XX call query received at the Company's (or its provider's) 8XX data base.

\$0.000700

\$0,003089 per query.

#### Switched Access Optional Features 5.2.5

All Optional Features are offered on an Individual Case Basis (ICB).

#### Miscellaneous Charges 5.3

#### Returned Check Charge 5.3.1

Greater of \$25.00 or largest amount allowable by law per occurrence.

#### 5.3.2 Service Date or Design Change Charges

\$25.00 per occurrence.

#### Directory Assistance CABS Billing Rate 5.3.3

\$0.25 per 100 minutes of intrastate directory assistance.

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(C)

BY: Larry Sisler, Managing Member Mountain Communications, LLC Route 3 Box 69-G Bruceton Mills, WV 26525

## 6. LOCAL AND OEAS TRAFFIC EXCHANGE AND TERMINATION

### 6.1 General

This section establishes the methodology for the exchange and termination of local and optional extended area service (OEAS) traffic for carriers that do not have an interconnection agreement with the Company.

# 6.2 Ordering Conditions

The Customer may order switched access through a Constructive Order, as defined herein, or through an ASR. The format and terms of the ASR will be as specified in the Industry Access Service Order Guidelines, unless otherwise specified herein.

## 7. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS

### 7.1 Individual Case Basis (ICB) Arrangements

Arrangements will be developed on an Individual Case Basis (ICB) in response to a bona fide special request from a customer or prospective Customer to develop a competitive bid for a service, or to establish rates for services for which the Company has not yet established generically tariffed rates. ICB rates will be offered to the Customer in writing and on a non-discriminatory basis.

## 7.2 Contracts

The Company may provide any of the services offered under this tariff, or combinations of services, to Customers on a contractual basis. The terms and conditions of each contract offering are subject to the agreement of both the Customer and Company. Such contract offerings will be made available to similarly situated Customers in substantially similar circumstances. Rates in other sections of this tariff do not apply to Customers who agree to contract arrangements, with respect to services within the scope of the contract.

Services provided under contract are not eligible for any promotional offerings which may be offered by the Company from time to time.

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### 8. BILLING NAME AND ADDRESS

Billing Name and Address (BNA) provides the billing name and address of an end user who has an Automatic Number Identification recorded by the customer (interexchange carriers, operator service providers, enhanced service providers and any other provider of interstate telecommunications services) for telecommunications services rendered by the customer to its end user. The receipt of this information will allow the customer to provide its own billing to end users who may not have established a formal relationship with the customer.

BNA is provided for the sole purpose of permitting the Customer to bill its telephonic communications services to its end users and may not be resold or used for any other purpose, including marketing activity such as market surveys or direct marketing by mail or by telephone. The Customer may not use BNA information to bill for merchandise, gift certificates, catalogs or other services or products.

### 8.1 Undertaking of the Company

- A. All requests for information will be by facsimile.
- B. The Company will specify the format in which requests are to be submitted.
- C. The BNA information will be provided for the calling number furnished to the extent a billing name and address exists in the Company's records. BNA information will not be provided for those end users who have requested that their BNA not be disclosed for collect and bill to third party calls.
- D. The Company will provide the most current BNA information resident in its data base. Due to normal end user account activity, there may be instances where the BNA information provided is not the BNA that was applicable at the time the message originated.

# 8.2 Obligations of the Customer

- A. With each order for BNA Service, the customer shall identify the authorized individual, the address, and or the facsimile to receive the BNA information.
- B. The customer shall institute adequate internal procedure to insure that BNA information, including that related to "confidential" non-published and non-listed telephone numbers, is used only for the purpose set forth in this tariff and that BNA information is available only to those customer personnel or agents with a need to know the information.
- C. The customer shall not publicize or represent to others that the Company jointly participates with the customer in the development of the customer's end user records, accounts, data bases or market data, records files and data bases or other systems it assembles through the use of BNA Service.

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# 8. <u>BILLING NAME AND ADDRESS</u> (contd.)

## 8.3 <u>Usage Rates</u>

Billing Name and Address (BNA) Customers will be assessed a per record rate for each BNA record requested. This rate is billed to the customer on a monthly basis. The BNA per record rate applies regardless of whether the requested telephone number is available in the Telephone Company's information database.

Per Request \$0.50

The above charge applies to each individual name or address requested during an inquiry.

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