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**2. GENERAL REGULATIONS**

**2.1. UNDERTAKING OF THE COMPANY**

**2.1.1. SCOPE**

The Company undertakes to furnish Access Service in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in this Tariff.

**2.1.2. SHORTAGE OF FACILITIES**

All service is subject to the availability of suitable facilities. The Company reserves the right to limit the length of communications or to discontinue furnishing services when necessary because of the lack of transmission medium capacity or because of any causes beyond its control.

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 to furnish service from time to time as required at the sole discretion of the Company.

**2.1.3. TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

- A. Service is provided on the basis of a minimum period of three months for Switched Access. For the purpose of computing charges in this tariff, a month is considered to have 30 days.
- B. Customers may be required to enter into written service orders which shall contain or reference a specific description of the service ordered, the rates to be charged, the duration of the services, and the terms and conditions in this Tariff. Customers will also be required to execute any other documents as may be reasonably requested by the Company.
- C. In any action between the parties to enforce any provision of this Tariff, the prevailing party shall be entitled to recover its legal fees and court costs from the non-prevailing party in addition to other relief a court may award.
- D. The Company shall comply with all rules and regulations issued by the Commission. In addition, the regulations set forth herein apply to all services offered throughout this Tariff unless otherwise specified in the service specific section of this Tariff.

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Issued: March 9, 2005

By:

David Lloyd, Director - Tariffs  
183 Inverness Drive West  
Englewood, CO 80112

Effective: May 11, 2005

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**2. GENERAL REGULATIONS**

**2.1. UNDERTAKING OF THE COMPANY (CONT'D)**

**2.1.3. TERMS AND CONDITIONS (CONT'D)**

E. Assignment or Transfer

All services provided under this Tariff are controlled by the Company and the customer may not transfer or assign the use of service without the express prior written consent of the Company. Such transfer or assignment only shall apply where there is no interruption of the use or location of service. All terms and conditions shall apply to all such permitted transferees or assignees, as well as all conditions of service.

F. Use of Service

The services the Company offers shall not be used for any unlawful purpose or for any use for which the customer has not obtained all required governmental approvals, authorization, licenses, consents and permits.

The Company may require applicants for service who intend to use the Company's offering 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 regulations, policies, orders and decisions.

The Company may require a customer to immediately shut down its transmission if such transmission is causing interference to others.

A customer, joint user, or authorized user may not assign, or transfer in any manner, the service or any rights associated with the service without the express prior written consent of the Company. The Company will only permit a customer to transfer its existing service to another entity if the existing customer has paid all charges owed to the Company for regulated access services. All terms and conditions shall apply to all such permitted transferees or assignees, as well as all conditions of service.

Recording of telephone conversations of service provided by the Company is prohibited except as authorized by applicable federal, state and local laws.

G. Ownership of Facilities

The customer obtains no property right or interest in the use of any specific type of facility, service, equipment, number, process, or code. All right, title and interest to such items remain, at all times, solely with the Company.

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**2. GENERAL REGULATIONS**

**2.1. UNDERTAKING OF THE COMPANY (CONT'D)**

**2.1.3. TERMS AND CONDITIONS (CONT'D)**

H. Interconnection

The Company will provide for interconnection with other carriers in accordance with the rules and regulations promulgated by the Commission.

I. Service may be terminated upon written notice to the customer if:

1. The customer is using the service in violation of this Tariff; or
2. The customer is using the service in violation of the law.

J. This Tariff shall be interpreted and governed by the laws of the state of Alabama without regard for its choice of laws provision.

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**2. GENERAL REGULATIONS**

**2.1. UNDERTAKING OF THE COMPANY (CONT'D)**

**2.1.4. PROVISION OF EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES**

- A. 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.
- B. The Company shall use reasonable efforts to maintain facilities and equipment that it furnishes to the customer. The customer may not, nor may 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.
- C. 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, without the prior consent of the customer, which shall not be unreasonably withheld.
- D. 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.
- E. The customer shall be responsible for the payment of service charges as set forth herein for visits by the Company's agents or employees 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.

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**2. GENERAL REGULATIONS**

**2.1. UNDERTAKING OF THE COMPANY (CONT'D)**

**2.1.4. PROVISION OF EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES (CONT'D)**

- F. 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. Subject to this responsibility, the Company shall not be responsible for:
1. The transmission of signals by customer provided equipment or for the quality of, or defects in, such transmission; or
  2. The reception of signals by customer-provided equipment.
- G. Service is offered subject to the availability of facilities and provision of this Tariff. The Company's obligation to furnish facilities and service is dependent upon its ability to secure and retain, without unreasonable expense, suitable facilities from the underlying carrier, if an underlying carrier is involved.
- H. The Company shall not be required to furnish, or continue to furnish, facilities or service where the circumstances are such that the proposed use of the facilities or service would tend to adversely affect the Company's property, service or economic conditions.

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**2. GENERAL REGULATIONS**

**2.1. UNDERTAKING OF THE COMPANY (CONT'D)**

**2.1.5. LIABILITY OF THE COMPANY**

- A. The liability of the Company for damages arising out of the furnishing of its Services, including but not limited to mistakes, omissions, interruptions, delays, or errors, or other defects, representations, or use of these services or arising out of the failure to furnish the service, whether caused by acts or omission, shall be limited to the extension of allowances for interruption as set forth in Section 2.5. The extension of such allowances for interruption shall be the sole remedy of the customer and the sole 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, equipment or facilities, or the acts or omissions or negligence of the Company's employees or agents.
- B. The Company shall not be liable for any delay or failure of performance or equipment due to causes beyond its control, including but not limited to: acts of God, fire, flood, explosion or other catastrophes; any law, order, regulation, direction, action, or request of the United States Government, or of any other 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, lockouts, work stoppages, or other labor difficulties.
- C. The Company shall not be liable for (a) any act or omission of any entity furnishing to the Company or to the Company's customer facilities or equipment used for interconnection with Access and Interconnection Services; or (b) for the acts or omissions of common carriers or warehousemen
- D. The Company shall not be liable for any damages or losses due to the fault or negligence of the customer or due to the failure or malfunction of customer-provided equipment or facilities.

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Issued: March 9, 2005

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David Lloyd, Director - Tariffs  
183 Inverness Drive West  
Englewood, CO 80112

Effective: May 11, 2005

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**2. GENERAL REGULATIONS**

**2.1. UNDERTAKING OF THE COMPANY (CONT'D)**

**2.1.5. LIABILITY OF THE COMPANY (CONT'D)**

- E. The Company does not guarantee nor make any warranty with respect to installations it provides for use in an explosive atmosphere. The customer indemnifies and holds the Company harmless from any and all loss, claims, demands, suits, or other action, or any liability whatsoever, whether suffered, made, instituted, or asserted by any other party or person(s), and for any loss, damage, or destruction of any property, whether owned by the customer or others, caused or claimed to have been caused directly or indirectly by the installation, operation, failure to operate, maintenance, removal presence, condition, location, or use of any installation so provided. The Company reserves the right to require each customer to sign an agreement acknowledging acceptance of the provisions of this Section 2.1.5.E as a condition precedent to such installations.
- F. The Company is not liable for any defacement of or damage to customer premises resulting from the furnishing of services or equipment on such premises or the installation or removal thereof, unless such defacement or damage is caused by negligence or willful misconduct of the Company's agents or employees.
- G. The Company shall be indemnified, defended, and held harmless by the customer against any claim, loss or damage arising from the customer's use of services involving claims for libel, slander, invasion of privacy, or infringement of copyright arising from the customer's own communications.
- H. The entire liability for any claim, loss, damage or expense from any cause whatsoever shall in no event exceed sums actually paid to the Company by the 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.
- I. The Company makes no warranties or representations, express 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.

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Issued: March 9, 2005

By:

David Lloyd, Director - Tariffs  
183 Inverness Drive West  
Englewood, CO 80112

Effective: May 11, 2005

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**2. GENERAL REGULATIONS**

**2.1. UNDERTAKING OF THE COMPANY (CONT'D)**

**2.1.6. DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE FOR CAUSE**

- A. Upon nonpayment of any amounts owing to the Company, the Company may, by giving 5 days prior written notice to the customer, discontinue or suspend service without incurring any liability.
- B. Upon violation of any of the other material terms or conditions for furnishing service the Company may, by giving reasonable notice in writing to the customer, discontinue or suspend service without incurring any liability if such violation continues during that period.
- 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.
- 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.
- E. In the event of fraudulent use of the Company's network, the Company may without notice suspend or discontinue service. The customer will be liable for all related costs. The customer will also be responsible for payment of any reconnection charges.
- F. Upon the Company's discontinuance of service to the customer under 2.1.6.A. or 2.1.6.B., 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.

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Issued: March 9, 2005

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Effective: May 11, 2005

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**2. GENERAL REGULATIONS**

**2.2. OBLIGATIONS OF THE CUSTOMER**

**2.2.1. CUSTOMER PREMISES PROVISIONS**

- A. The customer shall provide the personnel, power and space required to operate all facilities and associated equipment installed on the premises of the customer.
- B. The customer shall be responsible for providing Company personnel access to premises of the customer at any reasonable hour for the purpose of testing the facilities or equipment of the Company.

**2.2.2. LIABILITY OF THE CUSTOMER**

- A. The customer will be liable for damages to the facilities of the Company and for all incidental and consequential damages caused by the negligent or intentional acts or omissions of the customer, its officers, employees, agents, invitees, or contractors where such acts or omissions are not the direct result of the Company's negligence or intentional misconduct.
- B. To the extent caused by any negligent or intentional act of the customer as described in A., preceding, the customer shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Company from and against all claims, actions, damages, liabilities, costs and expenses, including reasonable attorneys' fees, for (1) any loss, destruction or damage to property of any third party, (2) the death of or injury to persons, including, but not limited to, employees or invitees of either party, and (3) any liability incurred by the Company to any third party pursuant to this or any other price list or tariff of the Company, or otherwise, for any interruption of, interference to, or other defect in any service provided by the Company to such third party.
- C. The customer shall not assert any claim against any other customer or user of the Company's services for damages resulting in whole or in part from or arising in connection with the furnishing of service under this Tariff including but not limited to mistakes, omissions, interruptions, delays, errors or other defects or misrepresentations, whether or not such other customer or user contributed in any way to the occurrence of the damages, unless such damages were caused solely by the negligent or intentional act or omission of the other customer or user and not by any act or omission of the Company. Nothing in this Tariff is intended either to limit or to expand customer's right to assert any claims against third parties for damages of any nature other than those described in the preceding sentence.

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Issued: March 9, 2005

By:

David Lloyd, Director - Tariffs  
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Effective: May 11, 2005.

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**2. GENERAL REGULATIONS**

**2.2. OBLIGATIONS OF THE CUSTOMER (CONT'D)**

**2.2.3. JURISDICTIONAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

- A. For Feature Group B Switched Access Service(s) for both originating and terminating usage, a projected Percentage of Interstate Usage (PIU) must be provided by the customer to the Company. When a customer orders Feature Group B Switched Access Service, the customer shall state, in its order, the projected PIU factor for each Feature Group B Switched Access Service group ordered. The formula for developing PIU is as follows in C., following.
- B. For Feature Group D Switched Access Service(s), the Company, where jurisdiction can be determined from call detail, will determine the PIU as follows:
  - 1. For originating access minutes, the PIU will be developed on a monthly basis, by end office trunk group, by dividing the measured interstate originating access minutes (the access minutes where the calling number is in one state and the called number is in another state) by the total originating access minutes.
  - 2. For terminating access minutes, the customer has the option to provide the Company with a projected PIU factor. Customers who provide a PIU factor shall supply the Company with an interstate percentage of the Feature Group D terminating access minutes for each account to which the customer may terminate traffic. Should the customer not supply a terminating PIU factor, the data used by the Company to develop the PIU for originating access minutes will be used to develop the PIU for such terminating access minutes.

When a customer orders Feature Group D Switched Access Service, the customer shall supply a projected PIU for each end office trunk group involved to be used in the event that originating call detail is insufficient to determine the jurisdiction of the usage. For purposes of developing the PIU, the customer shall utilize the same considerations as those set forth in C., following.

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Issued: March 9, 2005

By:

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Effective: May 11, 2005.

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**2. GENERAL REGULATIONS**

**2.2. OBLIGATIONS OF THE CUSTOMER (CONT'D)**

**2.2.3. JURISDICTIONAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS (CONT'D)**

- C. Where the call detail data is insufficient to develop jurisdiction, the customer must provide the Company with a PIU using the following steps:
1. For purposes of developing the PIU, the customer shall consider every call that enters the customer's network at a point within the same state as the state where the called station is located to be intrastate and every call that enters the customer's network at a point in a state different from the state in which the called station is located to be interstate.
  2. The Company will designate the number obtained by subtracting the PIU from 100 ( $100 - \text{projected interstate percentage} = \text{intrastate percentage}$ ) as the projected intrastate percentage of use.
  3. A whole number percentage will be used by the Company to apportion the usage, monthly recurring, and/or nonrecurring charges between interstate and intrastate until a revised report is received.
- D. The projected interstate percentage of use will be used to determine the charges as follows:

The number of access minutes for a trunk group will be multiplied by the projected interstate percentage of use to determine the interstate access minutes; (i.e.,  $\text{number of access minutes} \times \text{projected interstate percentage of use} = \text{interstate access minutes}$ ). The number of interstate access minutes so determined will be subtracted from the total number of access minutes (i.e.,  $\text{number of access minutes} - \text{interstate access minutes} = \text{intrastate access minutes}$ ). The intrastate access minutes for the group will be billed as set forth in Section 3., following.

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**2. GENERAL REGULATIONS**

**2.2. OBLIGATIONS OF THE CUSTOMER (CONT'D)**

**2.2.3. JURISDICTIONAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS (CONT'D)**

- E. Effective on the first of January, April, July and October of each year, the customer may update the jurisdictional reports that require a projected interstate percentage. The customer shall forward to the Company, to be received no later than 20 calendar days after the first of each such month, a revised report showing the interstate percentage of use for the past three months ending the last day of December, March, June and September, respectively, for each service arranged for interstate and intrastate use. Except as set forth in B., preceding, where jurisdiction can be determined from the recorded message detail, the revised report will serve as the basis for the next three months billing and will be effective on the bill date in the following month (i.e., February, May, August, and November) for that service. No prorating or back billing will be done based on the report. If the customer does not supply the report, the Company will assume the percentage to be the same as that provided in the last quarterly report. For those cases in which a quarterly report has never been received from the customer, the Company will assume the percentage to be the same as that provided in the order for service as set forth in A., preceding.
- F. The customer reported projected interstate percentage of use as set forth in A., above will be used for the apportionment of any monthly rates or nonrecurring charges associated with Feature Groups B or D Switched Access Service until the end of the quarter during which the service was activated. Thereafter, a projected interstate percentage for such apportionment will be developed quarterly by the Company based on the data used to develop the projected interstate percentage of use as set forth in A., preceding. Where call detail is insufficient to make such a determination, the customer will be requested to project an interstate percentage of use to be used by the Company for such apportionment.

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Issued: March 9, 2005

By:

David Lloyd, Director - Tariffs  
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Effective: May 11, 2005

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**2. GENERAL REGULATIONS**

**2.2. OBLIGATIONS OF THE CUSTOMER (CONT'D)**

**2.2.3. JURISDICTIONAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS (CONT'D)**

- G. The customer shall keep sufficient detail from which the percentage of interstate use can be ascertained and upon request of the Company make the records available for inspection. Such a request will be initiated by the Company no more than once per year. The customer shall supply the data within 30 calendar days of the Company request.
- H. The customer may provide an additional percentage of interstate use for Common Transport and End Office/Local Switching subject to the reporting requirements previously listed in this section. The percentage of interstate use may be provided per individual facility or at the billing account level. Should the customer not provide a percentage of interstate use, the Company will use the reported Feature Group B or Feature Group D aggregated percentage of interstate use.
- I. In the sole discretion of the Company, all or any portion of the jurisdictional reporting requirements set out above may be waived.

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**2. GENERAL REGULATIONS**

**2.2. OBLIGATIONS OF THE CUSTOMER (CONT'D)**

**2.2.4. CHANGES IN SERVICE REQUESTED**

If the customer makes or requests material changes in circuit engineering, equipment specifications, service parameters, premises locations, or otherwise materially modifies any provision of the application for service, the customer's installation fees shall be adjusted according to the terms and conditions set forth in Section 2.8, following.

**2.2.5. NOTICE TO COMPANY FOR CANCELLATION OF SERVICE**

Customers desiring to terminate service shall provide the Company 30 days written notice of their desire to terminate service.

**2.2.6. CLAIMS**

With respect to any service or facility provided by the Company, the customer shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Company from and against all claims, actions, damages, liabilities, costs and expenses, including reasonable attorney fees for:

- A. Any loss, destruction or damage to property of the Company or any third party, or the death or injury to persons, including, but not limited to, employees or invitees of either party, to the extent caused by or resulting from the negligent or intentional act or omission of the customer, its employees, agents, representatives or invitees; or
- 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 Company services and facilities in a manner not contemplated by the agreement between the customer and the Company.

**2.2.7. TRANSFERS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

The customer may not assign or transfer its rights or duties in connection with the services and facilities provided by the Company without the written consent of the Company.

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## 2. GENERAL REGULATIONS

### 2.3. CUSTOMER EQUIPMENT AND CHANNELS

#### 2.3.1. INTERCONNECTION OF FACILITIES

In order to protect the Company's facilities and personnel and the services furnished to other customers by the Company from potentially harmful effects, the signals applied to the Company's service shall be such as not to cause damage to the facilities of the Company. Any special interface equipment necessary to achieve the compatibility between facilities of the Company and the channels or facilities of others shall be provided at the customer's expense.

- A. The Company may, upon notification to the customer, at a reasonable time, make such tests and inspections as may be necessary to determine that the customer is complying with the Company's requirements for the installation, operation and maintenance of customer-provided equipment and for the wiring of the connection of customer equipment to Company-owned facilities.
- B. If the protective requirements in connection with customer-provided equipment are not being complied with, the Company may take such action as necessary to protect its facilities and personnel and will promptly notify the customer by registered mail in writing of the need for protective action. In the event that the customer fails to advise the Company within 10 days after such notice is received or within the time specified in the notice that corrective action has been taken, the Company may take whatever additional action is deemed necessary, including the suspension of service, to protect its facilities 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.

#### 2.3.2. INSPECTION AND TESTING

- A. Upon suitable notification to the customer, and at a reasonable time, 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 2.3 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.
- 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.

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Issued: March 9, 2005

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Effective: May 11, 2005

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**2. GENERAL REGULATIONS**

**2.4. ORDERING, RATING AND BILLING OF ACCESS SERVICES WHERE MORE THAN ONE EXCHANGE COMPANY IS INVOLVED**

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).

**2.5. ALLOWANCE FOR INTERRUPTIONS IN SERVICE**

**2.5.1. GENERAL**

- A. A credit allowance will be given when service is interrupted, except as specified in 2.5.2, following. A service is interrupted when it becomes inoperative to the customer; e.g., the customer is unable to transmit or receive because of a failure of a component furnished by the Company under this tariff.
- B. An interruption period begins when the customer reports a service, facility or circuit to be inoperative and, if necessary, releases it for testing and repair. An interruption period ends when the service, facility, or circuit is operative.
- C. If the customer reports a service, facility, or circuit to be interrupted but declines to release it for testing and repair, the service, facility, or circuit is considered to be impaired but not interrupted. No credit allowances will be made for a service, facility, or circuit considered by the Company to be impaired.

**2.5.2. 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 customers' 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.

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**2. GENERAL REGULATIONS**

**2.5. ALLOWANCE FOR INTERRUPTIONS IN SERVICE (CONT'D)**

**2.5.3. LIMITATIONS ON ALLOWANCES**

No credit allowance will be made for any interruption in service:

- A. Due to the negligence of or noncompliance with the provisions of this Tariff by any person or entity other than the Company, including but not limited to the customer or other common carriers connected to the service of the Company;
- B. Due to the failure of power, equipment, systems, connections or services not provided by the Company;
- C. Due to circumstances or causes beyond the control of the Company;
- D. During any period in which the Company is not given full and free access to its facilities and equipment for the purposes of investigating and correcting interruptions;
- E. During any period in which the customer continues to use the service on an impaired basis;
- F. During any period when the customer has released service to the Company for maintenance purposes or for implementation of a customer order for a change in service arrangements;
- G. That occurs or continues due to the customer's failure to authorize replacement of any element of special construction; and
- H. That was not reported to the Company within thirty (30) days of the date that service was affected.

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**2. GENERAL REGULATIONS**

**2.5. ALLOWANCE FOR INTERRUPTIONS IN SERVICE (CONT'D)**

**2.5.4. USE OF ANOTHER MEANS OF COMMUNICATIONS**

If the customer elects to use another means of communications during the period of interruption, the customer must pay the charges for the alternative service used.

**2.5.5. APPLICATION OF CREDITS FOR INTERRUPTIONS IN SERVICE**

In case of an interruption to any service, allowance for the period of interruption, if not due to the negligence of the customer, shall be as follows:

- A. For Switched Access Service, no credit shall be allowed for an interruption of less than 24 hours. The customer shall be credited for an interruption of 24 hours or more at the rate of 1/30 of (a) any applicable monthly rates, or (b) the assumed minutes of use charge for each period of 24 hours or major fraction thereof that the interruption continues.
- B. The credit allowance(s) for an interruption or for a series of interruptions shall not exceed (a) any applicable monthly rates, or (b) the assumed minutes of use charge for the service interrupted in any one monthly billing period.

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**2. GENERAL REGULATIONS**

**2.6. PRIVACY RULES**

Automatic Number Identification (ANI) derived information may be used only for billing, routing, screening, ensuring network performance, completing calls or performing, services directly related to the telephone caller's original call or transaction. Therefore, should the business that receives ANI information have an established customer relationship with the caller, the business may offer products or services to the caller that are directly related to the products or services previously purchased by the caller. The business that receives ANI information may not establish marketing lists or conduct ongoing market calls for unrelated products or services or sell the information derived from ANI (caller's name, address, telephone billing number, purchasing habits, etc.) to third parties unless it gets the prior written consent of the caller.

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## 2. GENERAL REGULATIONS

### 2.7. APPLICATION OF RATES AND CHARGES

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

#### 2.7.1. MEASURING ACCESS MINUTES

Customer traffic to End Offices will be measured (i.e., recorded or assumed) by the Company at End Office 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 damaged tapes or experienced recording system outages, the Company will estimate the volume of lost customer access minutes of use based on previously known values. Access minutes will be recorded to the nearest one second for any particular call. Access minutes or fractions thereof are accumulated over the billing period for each End Office and are then rounded up to the nearest access minute for each end office.

For originating calls over Feature Group B or D, usage measurement begins when the originating Feature Group B or 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 B or 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 B or D, the measurement of access minutes begins when the terminating Feature Group B or D switch receives answer supervision from the terminating end user's end office, indicating the terminating end user has answered.

The measurement of terminating call usage over Feature Group B or D ends when the terminating Feature Group B or 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.

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Effective: May 11, 2005

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**2. GENERAL REGULATIONS**

**2.7. APPLICATION OF RATES AND CHARGES (CONT'D)**

**2.7.2. RATES BASED UPON DISTANCE**

Where the charges for service are specified based upon distance, the following rules apply:

- A. Distance between two points is measured as airline distance between the wire centers of the originating and terminating telephone lines. The wire center is a set of geographic coordinates, as referenced in National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc. Tariff F.C.C. No. 4, associated with each NPA-NXX combination (where NPA is the area code and NXX is the first three digits of a seven-digit telephone number). Except that, until the National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc. Tariff F.C.C. No. 4 is revised to include certain Company wire centers, the airline distance should be determined utilizing the "V" (vertical) and "H" (horizontal) coordinates as set forth in any applicable Company tariffs on file with the FCC.
- B. The airline distance between any two wire centers is determined as follows:
1. Obtain the "V" and "H" coordinates for each wire center from the above referenced NECA tariff.
  2. Compute the difference between the "V" coordinates of the two wire centers; and the difference between the two "H" coordinates.
  3. Square each difference obtained in step (2) above.
  4. Add the square of the "V" difference and the square of the "H" difference obtained in step (3).
  5. Divide the sum of the squares by 10. Round to the next higher whole number if any fraction is obtained.
  6. Obtain the square root of the whole number result obtained above. Round to the next higher whole number if any fraction is obtained. This is the airline mileage.

Formula:

$$\sqrt{\frac{|v_1 v_2|^2 + |h_1 h_2|^2}{10}}$$

- C. The airline mileage is used to determine the Switched Access Service Common Mileage rates as set forth in Section 3.

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**2. GENERAL REGULATIONS**

**2.7. APPLICATION OF RATES AND CHARGES (CONT'D)**

**2.7.3. NONRECURRING CHARGES**

Nonrecurring charges are one-time charges that apply for a specific work activity (i.e., installation or service rearrangements).

A. Installation of Service

Nonrecurring charges apply to each Access Service installed. For Switched Services ordered on a per trunk basis, the charge is applied per trunk. For Switched Services ordered on a busy hour minutes of capacity basis, the charge is also applied on a per trunk basis but the charge applies only when the capacity ordered requires the installation of an additional trunk(s).

B. Service Rearrangements

All changes to existing services other than changes involving administrative activities only will be treated as a discontinuance of the existing service and an installation of a new service. The nonrecurring charge described in A., preceding, will apply for this work activity. Moves that change the physical location of the point of termination are described below.

1. Moves Within the Same Building

When the move is to a new location within the same building, the charge for the move will be an amount equal to one half of the nonrecurring charge for the capacity affected. There will be no change in the minimum period requirements.

2. Moves to a Different Building

Moves to a different building will be treated as a discontinuance and start of service and all associated nonrecurring charges will apply. New minimum period requirements will be established for the new service. The customer will also remain responsible for satisfying all outstanding minimum period charges for the discontinued service.

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**2. GENERAL REGULATIONS**

**2.8. ACCESS SERVICE ORDER**

**2.8.1. ORDERING REQUIREMENTS**

- A. A Switched Access Service Order is used by the Company to provide a customer Switched Access Service. When placing an order for Switched Access Service, the customer shall provide, at a minimum, the following information:
1. For Feature Group B Switched Access Service, the customer shall specify the number of trunks and the End Office when direct routing to the End Office is desired. When ordering FGB trunks 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 to assist the Company in the effort to project further facility requirements. In addition, the customer shall also specify for terminating only access, whether the trunks are to be arranged in trunk group arrangements or provided as single trunks.
  2. 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 Common 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 Common Transport and Local Switching options desired. When a customer orders FGD in trunks, the customer is responsible to assure that sufficient access facilities have been ordered to handle its traffic. 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 to assist the Company in its own efforts to project further facility requirements.

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**2. GENERAL REGULATIONS**

**2.8. ACCESS SERVICE ORDER (CONT'D)**

**2.8.2. ACCESS SERVICE ORDER INTERVALS**

Switched Access Service is provided with one of the following Service Date Intervals:

- Negotiated Interval
- Advance Order Interval

A. Negotiated Interval

The Company will negotiate a service date interval with the customer. The Company will offer a service date based on the type and quantity of Access Services the customer has requested. All services for which rates are applied on an individual case basis are provided with a Negotiated Interval.

The initial establishment of service where the customer is:

	<b>MAXIMUM INTERVAL</b>
1. Not yet provided with any FGB or FGD service in the LATA	6 months
2. Provided FGB or FGD service in the LATA	90 Days

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**2. GENERAL REGULATIONS**

**2.8. ACCESS SERVICE ORDER (CONT'D)**

**2.8.2. ACCESS SERVICE ORDER INTERVALS (CONT'D)**

B. Advance Order Interval

1. When placing an Access Order, a customer may request an Advance Order Interval for a service date of 12 to 24 months from the Application Date for the following services:
  - A minimum of 24 voice grade equivalent Access Service lines or trunks or 720 BHMCs
2. Orders for less than the minimum quantities will be accommodated under Negotiated Interval provisions.
3. Advance Order Interval Access Orders are subject to all ordering conditions of Negotiated Interval Access Orders except for the following:
4. A nonrefundable Advance Payment will be calculated as follows:
  - The minimum monthly charge for the minimum period plus the applicable Nonrecurring Charges for the services ordered.
5. This Advance Payment is due 10 working days from the date the Company confirms acceptance of the order, or on the Application Date, whichever date is the later date. If the Advance Payment is not received by such payment date, the order will be canceled.
6. When the Access Services are connected on the service date, the Advance Payment will be applied as a credit to the customer's billed service charges. When there has been a decrease in the number of services originally ordered, as described below, only the portion of the Advance Payment for services actually installed will be credited.
7. Cancellation or Partial Cancellation of an Advance Order Interval Access Order
  - a. When the customer cancels an Access Order, the order will be withdrawn. The Advance Payment will not be credited or refunded.
  - b. Any decrease in the number of ordered Access Services will be treated as a partial cancellation, and the portion of the Advance Payment for the services canceled will not be credited or refunded.

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**2. GENERAL REGULATIONS**

**2.8. ACCESS SERVICE ORDER (CONT'D)**

**2.8.3. ACCESS ORDER MODIFICATIONS**

The customer may request a modification of its Access Order at any time prior to notification by the Company that service is available for the customer's use or prior to the service date, whichever is later.

Any increase in the number of Access Service lines, trunks or busy hour minutes of capacity or CCSA signaling connections will be treated as a new Access Order (for the increased amount only).

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**2. GENERAL REGULATIONS**

**2.8. ACCESS SERVICE ORDER (CONT'D)**

**2.8.4. CANCELLATION OF AN ACCESS ORDER**

A. A customer may cancel an Access Order for the installation of service at any time prior to notification by the Company that service is available for the customer's use or prior to the service date, whichever is later. The cancellation date is the date the Company receives written or verbal notice from the customer that the order is to be canceled. The verbal notice must be followed by written confirmation within 10 days. If a customer or end user is unable to accept Access Service within 30 calendar days after the original service date, the customer has the choice of the following options:

1. The Access Order shall be canceled and charges set forth in B., following will apply, or
2. Billing for the service will commence.

If no cancellation request is received within the specified 30 calendar days, billing for the service will commence. In any event, the cancellation date or the date billing is to commence, as applicable, shall be the 31st day beyond the original service date of the Access Order.

B. When a customer cancels a Negotiated Interval Access Order for the installation of service, a Cancellation Charge will apply as follows:

1. When the customer cancels an Access Order, a charge equal to the estimated provisioning costs incurred at a particular date for the service ordered by the Company shall apply.
2. If the Company misses a service date for a 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 customer may cancel the Access Order without incurring cancellation charges.

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**2. GENERAL REGULATIONS**

**2.8. ACCESS SERVICE ORDER (CONT'D)**

**2.8.5. MINIMUM PERIOD**

- A. The minimum period for which Switched Access Service is provided and for which charges are applicable is three months.
- B. The following changes will be treated as a discontinuance of the existing service and an installation of a new service. A new minimum period will be established. All associated nonrecurring charges will apply for the new service.
- A move to a different building.
  - A change in type of service.
  - A change in Switched Access Service Interface Group.
  - Change in Switched Access Service traffic type.

**2.8.6. MINIMUM PERIOD CHARGE**

When Access Service is disconnected prior to the expiration of the minimum period, charges are applicable for the balance of the minimum period.

The Minimum Period Charge for monthly billed services will be determined as follows:

- A. All unpaid Nonrecurring Charges reasonably expended by Company to establish service to customer, plus;
- B. Any disconnection, early cancellation or termination charges reasonably incurred and paid to third parties by Company on behalf of customer, plus;
- C. All Recurring Charges specified in the applicable Service Order for the balance of the then current minimum period;
- D. Minus a reasonable allowance for costs avoided by the Company as a direct result of customer's cancellation.

In addition to the Minimum Period Charge, Termination Liabilities may apply, as set forth elsewhere, for those services ordered under Term Agreements.

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## 2. GENERAL REGULATIONS

### 2.9. BILLING AND PAYMENT

The Company shall bill on a monthly basis all charges incurred by and credits due to the customer. The customer shall receive its bill in a paper format. Such bills are due upon receipt. The Company will, upon request and if available, furnish such detailed information as may reasonably be required for verification of the customer's bill.

All bills for service provided to the customer by the Company are due (payment date) within 21 calendar days of the bill being sent and are payable in immediately available funds. If such payment due date would cause payment to be due on a Saturday, Sunday or Legal Holiday, payment for such bills shall be due from the customer as follows:

If such payment due date falls on a Sunday or on a Legal Holiday, the payment due date shall be the first non-Holiday date following such Sunday or Legal Holiday. If such payment due date falls on a Saturday or on a Legal Holiday that is observed on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday, the payment due date shall be the last non-Holiday day preceding such Saturday or Legal Holiday.

The customer will be assessed a charge of twenty dollars (\$20.00) for each check submitted by the customer to the Company which a financial institution refuses to honor.

If any portion of the payment is received by the Company after the due date, or if any portion of the payment is received by the Company in funds that are not immediately available upon presentment, then a late payment penalty shall be due to the Company. The late payment penalty shall be the portion of the payment not received by the due date, multiplied by a late factor. The late factor shall be 1.5% per month.

#### 2.9.1. TAXES

The customer is responsible for payment of any sales, use, gross receipts, excise, access, franchise or other local, state and federal taxes, charges, fees or surcharges (however designated) (excluding taxes on the Company's net income) imposed on or based upon the provision, sale or use of network services. Where applicable, such taxes will be billed by the Company to the customer and will be separately stated on the customer's invoice; provided, however, that the Company will not bill to the customer such taxes as may be exempted by a tax exemption or resale certificate for operation in any jurisdiction in which the customer obtains such a certificate.

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**2. GENERAL REGULATIONS**

**2.9. BILLING AND PAYMENT (CONT'D)**

**2.9.2. CLAIMS AND DISPUTES**

In the event that a billing dispute occurs concerning any charge billed to the customer by the Company, the customer must submit a documented claim for the disputed amount. The customer will submit all documentation as may reasonably be required to support the claim. All claims must be submitted to the Company within time prescribed by rules after receipt of billing for that service. If the customer does not submit a claim as stated above, the customer waives all rights to filing a claim thereafter. All disputes between the Company and the customer that cannot be settled through negotiation may be resolved by arbitration upon written demand of either party. Arbitration shall be referred to the American Arbitration Association (AAA) and conducted pursuant to its Commercial Arbitration Rules. The arbitrator shall have the authority to award compensatory damages solely; such award shall be final and binding and may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof. The provisions of the Federal Arbitration Act shall govern such arbitration. This dispute process does not preclude the customer from filing a complaint with the Commission.

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**2. GENERAL REGULATIONS**

**2.9. BILLING AND PAYMENT (CONT'D)**

**2.9.3. PAYMENT OF DEPOSITS**

To safeguard its interests, the Company may require a customer to make a deposit to be held as a guarantee for the payment of charges. The fact that a deposit has been made in no way relieves the customer from complying with the Company's regulations as to advance payments and the prompt payment of bills upon presentation by the Company, and providing for the discontinuance of service for nonpayment of any regulated sum due the Company. The deposit will not exceed an amount equal to:

- two month's charges for a service or facility which has a minimum payment period of one month; or
- the charges that would apply for the minimum payment period for a service or facility which has a minimum payment period of more than one month; except that the deposit may include an additional amount in the event that a termination charge is applicable.

A deposit may be required in addition to an Advance Payment.

When a service or facility is discontinued, the amount of a deposit, if any, will be applied to the customer's account and any credit balance remaining will be refunded. Before the service or facility is discontinued, the company may return the deposit or credit it to the customer's account. If the amount of the deposit is insufficient to cover the balance due to the customer's account, the Company retains the right to collect any amounts owing after the deposit has been applied plus any costs related to the collection of any remaining balance.

Deposits cannot be held beyond December following 24 months of deposit retention. Deposits held will accrue interest at 7% annually. Interest will not accrue on any deposit after the date on which reasonable effort has been made to return it to the customer.

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**2. GENERAL REGULATIONS**

**2.9. BILLING AND PAYMENT (CONT'D)**

**2.9.4. ADVANCE PAYMENTS**

To safeguard its interests, the Company may 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) and one month's charges for the service or facility. 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 between the Company and the customer. The advance payment will be credited to the customer's initial bill. An advance payment may be required in addition to a deposit.

**2.10. SPECIAL CONSTRUCTION**

All rates and charges quoted herein provide for the furnishing of facilities when suitable facilities are available or where the design or construction of the necessary facilities does not involve unusual costs.

When, at the request of the customer, the Company designs and/or constructs facilities that it would otherwise not construct, or the construction of such facilities involves a greater expense than would otherwise be incurred, Special Construction nonrecurring charges may apply.

**2.11. NON-ROUTINE INSTALLATION**

At the customer's request, installation and/or maintenance may be performed outside the Company's regular business hours or in hazardous 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.