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

### 2.1.6 Provisions 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 rate sheet. 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 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.
- 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.
- 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 imposed on the Company by another entity, for visits to the Customer Premises 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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## 2.1 Undertaking of the Company (Cont'd.)

## 2.1.6 Provisions 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 rate sheet, the responsibility of the Company shall be limited to the furnishing of facilities offered under this rate sheet and to the maintenance and operation of such facilities. Notwithstanding the above, 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;
  - 2. the reception of signals by Customer-provided equipment; or
  - 3. network control signaling where such signaling is performed by Customer-provided network control signaling equipment.
- G. 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.
- H. 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.

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

### 2.1.7 Non-routine Installation

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 rate sheet, 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;
- B. 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;

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### SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (Cont'd.)

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

### 2.1.8 Special Construction (cont'd.)

- 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 use basis.

## 2.1.9 Ownership of Facilities

Title to all facilities provided in accordance with this rate sheet 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 purposes 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 their use of the Company's offerings complies with relevant laws and applicable state regulations, policies, orders, and decisions; and if the Reseller intends to provide intrastate services, is certified with the appropriate state entity.
- 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.

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### 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 rate sheet;
- 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 subjugated 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;
- 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 owned 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;

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## 2.3 Obligations of the Customer, (Cont'd.)

### 2.3.1 The Customer shall be responsible for (cont'd.):

- 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 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.

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### SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (Cont'd.)

## 2.3 Obligations of the Customer, (Cont'd.)

#### 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, including reasonable attorneys' fees 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.

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## 2.3 Obligations of the Customer (Cont'd.)

### 2.3.3 Jurisdictional Reporting

The jurisdictional reporting requirements will be as specified below. When a Customer orders Access Service, its projected Percent Interstate Usage (PIU) must be provided in whole numbers to the Company. 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. <u>Originating Access</u>: Originating access minutes is only traffic originating from the Company Local Switching Center(s). The Customer should provide the Company with a projected PlU 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. <u>Terminating Access</u>: For Feature Group D Switched Access Service(s), 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 Sections 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 as set forth above will be used until the Customer reports a different projected PIU factor, as set forth below.

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# 2.3 Obligations of the Customer (Cont'd.)

### 2.3.3 Jurisdictional Reporting (cont'd.)

- D. Effective on the first of January, April, July and October of each year the Customer should update its interstate and intrastate jurisdictional report. The Customer should forward to the Company, to be received no later than 15 days after the first of each such month, 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, respectively, for each service arranged for interstate use, based solely on the traffic originating from or terminating to the Company Local Switching Center. The revised report will serve as the basis for the next three months' billing and will be effective on the bill date for that service. If the Customer does not supply the reports for those services where reports are needed, the Company will assume the percentage to be the same as that provided previously. For those cases in which a quarterly report has never been received from the Customer, the Company will assume the percentages to be the same as those provided in 2.3.3A and 2.3.3B above.
- 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.

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### 2.3 Obligations of the Customer (Cont'd.)

### 2.3.3 Jurisdictional Reporting (cont'd.)

(cont'd.)

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. The Company reserves the right to conduct an audit at any time during the year. The Customer, as its own expense, has the right to retain an independent auditing firm.

## 2.4 Customer Equipment and Channels

#### 2.4.1 General

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

#### 2.4.2 Station Equipment

The Customer is responsible for providing and maintaining any terminal A. 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 2.6 following is not applicable.

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### 2.4 Customer Equipment and Channels (Cont'd.)

#### 2.4.2 Station Equipment (cont'd.)

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.

## 2.4.3 Interconnection of Facilities

- A. 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.
- B. 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.

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### 2.4 Customer Equipment and Channels (Cont'd.)

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

- A. Upon reasonable notification of 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.B for the installation, operation, 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.
- 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.

#### 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.

#### A. Taxes

The Customer is responsible for the payment of all state sales tax, federal excise tax and federally mandated surcharges, such as; the Federal Universal Service Fund Surcharge, FCC Subscriber Line Charge, and Local Number Portability Surcharge. All such taxes and surcharges shall be separately designed on the Company's invoices.

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#### SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (Cont'd.)

### 2.5 Payment Arrangements (Cont'd.)

#### 2.5.2 Billing and Collection of Charges

Unless otherwise specified herein, bills are due and payable 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. Any known unbilled charges for prior periods and any known adjustments also will be applied to the current bill.

Non-Recurring Charges are due and payable within 30 days after the invoice date.

The Company shall present invoices for all Charges monthly to the Customer.

Amounts not paid within 30 days after the date of invoice will be considered past due. The Company will assess a late payment charge equal to 1.5% per month for any past due balance that exceeds 30 days. If the Company becomes concerned at any time about the ability of a Customer to pay its bills, the Company may require that the Customer pay its bills within a specified number of days and make such payments in cash or the equivalent of cash.

If a service is disconnected by the Company in accordance with Section 2.5.3 following and later restored, restoration of service will be subject to all applicable installation charges.

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## 2.5 Payment Arrangements (Cont'd.)

### 2.5.2 Billing and Collection of Charges (cont'd.)

The Customer shall notify the Company of any disputed items on an invoice within 90 days of receipt of the invoice. If the Customer and the Company are unable to resolve the dispute to their mutual satisfaction, the Customer may file a complaint with the Board in accordance with the Board's rules of procedures.

Any disputed charges will be handled in accordance with N.J.A.C. 14:3-7.13.

#### 2.5.3 Refusal and Discontinuance of Service

- A. Upon nonpayment of any amounts owing to the Company, the Company may, by giving requisite 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 30 days' prior 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.

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## 2.5 Payment Arrangements (Cont'd.)

### 2.5.3 Refusal and Discontinuance of Service (cont'd.)

- E. Upon the Company's discontinuance of service to the Customer under Section 2.5.3.A or 2.5.3.B 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 rate sheet, 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.
- F. The Company may discontinue the furnishings of any and/or all service(s) to Customer, without incurring any liability:
  - 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 2.5.3.F.1.(a-e), 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

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## 2.5 Payment Arrangements (Cont'd.)

- 2.5.3 Refusal and Discontinuance of Service (cont'd.)
  - F. (cont'd)
    - 1. (cont'd)
      - (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 2.5.3.A above; or
      - (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, or attempts or use, service with the intent to void the payment, either in whole or in part, of the rate sheet charges for the service by:
        - Using or attempting to use service by rearranging, tampering with, or making connections to the Company's service not authorized by this rate sheet, or
        - II. Using tricks, schemes, false or invalid numbers, false credit devices, electronic devices; or
        - III. By delivering calls to or accepting calls from the Company's End User locations over Company switched local exchange services; or
        - IV. Continuing to have Company End Users presubscribed to the Customer; or
        - V. Any other Fraudulent means or devices; or
    - 2. Upon ten (10) days' written notice to the Customer of any sum thirty (30) days past due;

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### 2.5 Payment Arrangements (Cont'd.)

## 2.5.3 Refusal and Discontinuance of Service (cont'd.)

### F. (cont'd)

- Upon ten (10) days' 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 2.5.3.A, above; or
- 4. Seven (7) days after sending the Customer written notice of noncompliance with any provision of this rate sheet if the noncompliance is not corrected within that seven (7) 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.
- G. In the event the Company incurs fees or expenses, including attorney's fees, in collecting, or attempting to collect, any charges owed the Company, the Customer will be liable to the Company for the payment of all such fees and expenses reasonably incurred.

### 2.5.4 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 will be calculated and applied on a case-by-case basis.

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## SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (Cont'd.)

## 2.6 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 as set forth in 2.6.1 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; (vi) inability to gain access to the IXC's equipment; and (vii) 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.

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## 2.6 Allowances for Interruptions in Service, (Cont'd.)

#### 2.6.1 Limitations on Allowances

No credit allowance will be made for:

- A. interruptions due to the negligence of, or noncompliance with the provisions of this rate sheet by, the Customer, Authorized User, Joint-User, or other Common Carrier providing service connected to the service of Company;
- B. 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;
- C. interruptions due to the failure or malfunction of non-Company equipment;
- D. 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;
- E. interruptions of service during a period in which the Customer continues to use the service on an impaired basis;
- F. interruptions of service 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. interruption of service due to circumstances or causes beyond the control of the Company.

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## 2.7 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 pursuant to any financing, merger or reorganization of the Company.

#### 2.8 Notices and Communications

- 2.8.1 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.
- 2.8.2 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.
- 2.8.3 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.
- 2.8.4 All notices or other communications required to be given pursuant to this rate sheet 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.
- 2.8.5 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.

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## SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (Cont'd.)

## 2.9 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).

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### SECTION 3 - ORDERING OPTIONS FOR ACCESS SERVICE

#### 3.1 General

This section sets forth the regulations and order related charges for Access Service Requests (ASR) for Switched Access Service, as defined in this rate sheet. These charges are in addition to other applicable charges set forth in other sections of this rate sheet.

### 3.1.1 Ordering Conditions

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.

### 3.1.2 Minimum Period of Service

The minimum period for which Access Service is provided and for which charges are applicable is one month.

- A. The following changes will be treated as a discontinuance of the existing service and a request for installation of a new service. All associated Non-Recurring Charges will apply for the new service, and a new minimum period will be established:
  - 1. A change in the identity of the Customer of record; or
  - 2. A move by the Customer to a different building.
- B. 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:

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.

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### SECTION 3 - ORDERING OPTIONS FOR ACCESS SERVICE, (Cont'd.)

## 3.2 Miscellaneous Charges

Customer Requested Due Date Change<sup>1,2</sup>

\$50, per order

Customer Requested Expedite<sup>2</sup>

\$250, per location, per order

Cancellation

(after 3 business days from order placement)<sup>2</sup>

Full NRCs + \$250, per order

Design Change, DS0/DS1<sup>2</sup>

\$150, per circuit

Design Change, DS3 and higher<sup>2</sup>

\$300, per circuit

Administrative Processing<sup>2</sup>

\$25, per order

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Company Due Date Change Policy - No due date change accepted at or after four (4) days prior to the current due date. If a Customer request is received during that time period, the supplemental charge will apply and, in addition, the billing will start on the current due date without exception.

For services involving facilities leased from other telecommunications providers, Supplementary Charges will be priced on an Individual Case Basis, and will be based upon a pass-through of all charges assessed by other providers, and the Company's administrative costs.

#### SECTION 4 - SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE

#### 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 to an End User's Premises.

Switched Access Service is available when originating or terminating calls from or to an end user which subscribes to the Company's Local Exchange Services.

Rates and charges are set forth in Section 5. The application of rates for Switched Access Service is described in Section 5.

### 4.2 Provision and Description of Switched Access Service Arrangements

#### 4.2.1 Feature Group Access

FG Access is provisioned at the DS-1 level and provides trunk-side access to Local Switching Center switches, for the Customer's use in originating and terminating communications. Basic FG Access service will be provided with Multi-Frequency In Band Signaling (SS7 is also available, where capabilities exist).

All traffic is routed to and from the Company's local switching center via the Customer's tandem provider or via end office trucking, where available. Delivery of calls to, or acceptance of calls from, the Company's End User locations over Company-switched local exchange services shall constitute an agreement by the Customer to purchase switched access services as described herein. The Company reserves the right to require the Customer to submit an ASR for switched access.

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### SECTION 4 - SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE, (Cont'd.)

## 4.2 Provision and Description of Switched Access Service Arrangements, (Cont'd.)

#### 4.2.2 Manner of Provision

Trunks used for Switched Access Service may be configured for one-way (either originating only or terminating only) or for two-way directionality.

### 4,2.3 Call Types

The following Switched Access Service call types are available:

- A. Originating FG Access
- B. Originating 800 FG Access
- C. Terminating FG Access

#### 4.2.4 Originating FG Access

The access code for FG Access switching is a uniform access code of the form 1+ or 011+ or 101XXXX. For 101XXXX dialing 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. The Company will provide originating FG access consistent with dialing parity obligations.

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### SECTION 4 - SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE, (Cont'd.)

## 4.2 Provision and Description of Switched Access Service Arrangements, (Cont'd.)

### 4.2.5 Originating 800 FG Access

800 FG Access Service is a service offering utilizing originating Trunk side Switched Access Service. When an 8YY + NXX + XXXX call is originated by an End User or other users of the Company's services, the Company will perform Customer identification based on screening of the full ten-digits of the 8YY number to determine the Customer location to which the call is to be routed. This Tariff applies only to intrastate 8YY calls originated by End Users and other users of the Company's services served by the Company.

#### 4.2.6 Terminating FG Access

FG Access, when used in the terminating direction, 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.

### 4.3 Reports and Testing

- 4.3.1 <u>Design Layout Report</u>: At the request of the Customer, the Company will provide to the Customer the makeup of the facilities and services provided from the Customer's Premises to the first point of switching. This information will be provided in the form of a Design Layout Report. The Design Layout Report will be provided to the Customer at no charge.
- 4.3.2 <u>Acceptance Testing</u>: At no additional charge, the Company will, at the Customer's request, cooperatively test, at the time of installation, the following parameters: loss, Cnotched noise, C-message noise, 3-tone slope, d.c. continuity and operational signaling.

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#### **SECTION 5 - SWITCHED ACCESS RATES**

#### 5.1 General

This section contains the specific regulations governing the rates and charges that apply for Switched Access Services:

The Company offers Tandem Switching Access Service, Local Switching Access Service – Direct Connection, and Local Switching Access Service – Indirect Connection.

There are three types of rates and charges that 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.

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#### SECTION 5 - SWITCHED ACCESS RATES, (Cont'd.)

### 5.2 Rate Categories

5.2.1 Tandem Switching Access Service (Originating and Terminating)

Tandem Switching is an access service providing transmission and tandem switching between the Customer designated premises and the Company switch(es) where the Customer's traffic is switched from or to an entity other than an End User for purposes of originating or terminating the Customer's communications. The Tandem Switching Access Service composite rate is comprised of the following rate elements: tandem switching charges, tandem termination charges, and tandem facility mileage charges.

5.2.2 Local Switching Access Service - Direct Connection (Originating and Terminating)

Local Switching Access Service - Direct Connection is an access service providing the Customer connections to and use of end office switching equipment for the origination or termination of the Customer's communications to the Company's End Users. The Local Switching Access Service - Direct Connection rate consists of end office switching charges and may also include a DS3 trunk port charge. With Direct Connection, Customer is responsible for ordering or providing the DS3 facility to the Company's point of presence in the access tandem serving area. The DS3 trunk port charge applies on an Individual Case Basis when the Customer is not collocated with the Company's switch. The rate will not exceed that of the competing ILEC rate for the same function.

5.2.3 Local Switching Access Service - Indirect Connection (Originating and Terminating)

Local Switching Access Service - Indirect Connection is an access service providing the Customer use of and office switching equipment for the origination or termination of the Customer's communications to the Company's End Users as well as transport to or from the Customer's tandem provider. The Local Switching Access Service - Indirect Connection composite rate is comprised of the following rate elements: end office switching charges, tandem termination charges, and tandem facility mileage charges.

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# SECTION 5 - SWITCHED ACCESS RATES, (Cont'd.)

## 5.2 Rate Categories, (Cont'd.)

### 5.2,4 Toll-Free 8YY Data Base Query

The Toll-Free 8YY Switched Access Service is an originating access service in which the Company delivers Toll Free calls to Customers. Rate elements apply as set forth in Section 5.4.5.

### 5.2.5 Optional Features

Other optional features may be available on an Individual Case Basis (ICB).

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### SECTION 5 - SWITCHED ACCESS RATES, (Cont'd.)

### 5.3 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 or other 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 over 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 over 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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### SECTION 5 - SWITCHED ACCESS RATES, (Cont'd.)

## 5.4 Rates and Charges

5.4.1 Tandem Switching Access Service

Tandem Transport Termination, Per Minute

Originating

\$0.000003

**Terminating** 

\$0.00003

Tandem Transport Facility, Per Minute

Originating

\$0.001581

Terminating

\$0.001581

Tandem Switching, Per Minute

Originating

\$0.001684

Terminating

\$0.001684

5.4.2 Local Switching Access Service - Direct Connection

A. End Office Switching, Per Minute

Originating

\$0.002227

Terminating

\$0.002227

B. DS3 Trunk Port

**ICB** 

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### SECTION 5 - SWITCHED ACCESS RATES, (Cont'd.)

### 5.4 Rates and Charges, (Cont'd.)

### 5.4.3 Local Switching Access Service - Indirect Connection

Tandem Transport Termination, Per Minute
Originating \$0.00003
Terminating \$0.00003

Tandem Transport Facility, Per Minute

Originating \$0.001581 Terminating \$0.001581

Local Switching

Originating \$0.002227 Terminating \$0.002227

#### 5.4.4 Toll-Free 8YY Data Base Query

Per Query \$0.0040530

#### 5.4.5 Toll Free 8YY Switched Access Service

Originating from the Company's End Users: Local Switching Access Service – Direct Connection or – Indirect Connection rates will apply, as appropriate.

Originating from parties that are not the Company's End Users: Tandem Switching Service rate will apply.

#### 5.4.6 Switched Access Optional Features

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

### 5.4.7 Common Carrier Line Charge

Originating \$0.0000000 Terminating \$0.0000000

#### 5.4.8 SS7 Signaling

Originating \$0.003803 Terminating \$0.003803

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#### SECTION 6 - LOCAL TRAFFIC EXCHANGE AND TERMINATION

### 6.1 General

This section establishes the methodology for the exchange and termination of local 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.

#### 6.3 Local Traffic Compensation

Local traffic exchange will be conducted under a Bill and Keep arrangement. All local traffic will be exchanged under a Meet Point Billing Arrangement unless and until either the Board or FCC requires an alternative approach for the exchange of usage information for such traffic for use by all industry participants, pursuant to which the Company and the Terminating Carriers shall recover the costs of transporting and terminating such traffic on their networks from other parties in accordance with the then applicable regulations, including to the extent practicable, any Internet Service Provider access charge exemption. This provision does not apply to access traffic, transit traffic, or wireless traffic.

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### SECTION 7 - CONTRACTS AND INDIVIDUAL CASE BASIS ARRANGEMENTS

#### 7.1 Contracts

The Company may provide any of the services offered under this rate sheet, 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 rate sheet 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.

# 7.2 Individual Case Basis 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. ICB rates will be offered to the Customer in writing and on a non-discriminatory basis.

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#### **SECTION 8 - MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES**

#### 8.1 Wireless Termination Service

This tariff applies to intraMTA traffic originated by a Commercial Mobile Radio Service (CMRS) provider and terminated to end-user subscribers of the Company (i.e., wireless to wireline traffic) without the direct interconnection of the CMRS provider's and the Company's networks and where the CMRS provider is physically connected with and delivers traffic to a third party ILEC(s) which in turn delivers the traffic to the Company.

- 8.1.1 This service is provided to Commercial Mobile Radio Service (CMRS) providers licensed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).
- 8.1.2 Wireless Termination Service is limited to wireless-to-wireline traffic that originates and terminates within the same Major Trading Area (MTA) (i.e., intraMTA traffic). The Major Trading Area as defined in 47 C.F.R. paragraph 24-102 of the FCC Rules and Regulations.
- 8.1.3 Wireless Termination Service is not available to wireless-to-wireline traffic that originates and terminates in two different MTAs (i.e., interMTA traffic). In those situations where a CMRS provider terminates interMTA traffic to the end-user subscribers of the Company then the rates, terms and conditions of the appropriate access tariff of the Company (either intrastate or interstate) will apply.
- 8.1.4 These Regulations and Rates are in addition to the Regulations, Rate and Charges in other Company tariffs.

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### SECTION 8 - MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES, (CONT'D.)

### 8.1 Wireless Termination Service, (cont'd.)

- 8.1.5 This tariff applies except as otherwise provided in 1) an interconnection agreement between the CMRS provider and the Company approved by the Commission pursuant to the Act; or 2) a terminating traffic agreement between the CMRS provider and the Company approved by the Commission.
- 8.1.6 The Company shall issue a bill to the CMRS provider based on the best information available to the Company including, but not limited to, records of terminating traffic created by the Company at its end office or tandem switch. If possible, the CMRS provider will provide to the Company billing records in standard industry formats regarding calls it originates that terminate on the Company's network. Records will be provided at an individual call detail record, if possible, with sufficient information to identify the specific date and time of the call, the call duration, and the originating and terminating numbers. If a CMRS provider is unable to provide billing records of the calls that it originates to the Company, the Company may use usage reports and/or records generated by a third party ILEC whose network is used to transit the traffic as the basis for billing the CMRS provider. If the CMRS provider is unable to provide billing records, the CMRS provider will have the responsibility of providing, on a quarterly basis (or as otherwise agreed to by the Company), a report to the Company providing the percentage of the CMRS provider's traffic terminated to the Company that is intraMTA or interMTA traffic. The report will also detail what percentage of the interMTA traffic is intrastate and what percentage is interstate. Such reports shall be based on studies of actual traffic originated by the CMRS provider and terminated to the Company.

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### SECTION 8 - MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES, (CONT'D.)

# 8.1 Wireless Termination Service, (cont'd.)

- 8.1.7 Reports regarding the percentages of intraMTA or interMTA traffic (and the intrastate or interstate jurisdiction of interMTA traffic) shall be based on a reasonable traffic study conducted by the CMRS providers and available to the Company upon request. Such studies shall be conducted no less frequently than once each quarter to ensure that the CMRS provider is using an accurate intraMTA/interMTA percentage. The CMRS provider shall pay the Company for all charges in accordance with the rates set forth in this tariff. Such payments are to be received within thirty (30) days from the effective date of the billing statement. The CMRS provider shall pay a late charge on any undisputed charges which are not paid within the thirty (30) day period. The rate of the late charge shall be the lesser of 1.5% per month or the maximum amount allowed by law. The CMRS provider shall pay the Company the reasonable amount of the Company's expenses related to collection of overdue bills, such amounts to include reasonable attorney fees. The CMRS provider will be responsible for the accuracy and quality of its data as submitted to the Company. Upon reasonable written notice, the Company or its authorized representative shall have the right to conduct a review and verification of the CMRS provider to give assurances of compliance with the provisions of this tariff. This includes on-site verification reviews at the CMRS provider's or vendor locations. The review may consist of an examination and verification of data involving records, systems, procedures and other information related to the traffic originated by the CMRS provider and terminated to the Company. The CMRS provider will provide the Company with reasonable access to such information as is necessary to determine amounts payable under this tariff.
- 8.1.8 If the CMRS provider fails to comply with any of the terms and conditions of this tariff, including any payments to be made by it on the dates and times herein specified, the Company, may on five (5) day's written notice by Certified U.S. Mail to the CMRS provider, refuse additional applications for service and/or refuse to complete any pending orders for service by the non-complying CMRS provider at any time thereafter, or may discontinue the provision of the services to the non-complying CMRS provider at any time thereafter. In the case of such discontinuance, all applicable tariff charges shall become due. If the Company is unable to effectuate discontinuance of service at its own office it may request the assistance of other LECs with whom the Company's network is connected.

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## SECTION 8 - MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES, (CONT'D.)

# 8.1 Wireless Termination Service, (cont'd.)

## 8.1.9 Rates and Charges

Rates for termination of IntraMTA Traffic (per MOU):

\$0.011800

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