

ACCESS SERVICE

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2. General Regulations

2.1 Undertaking of the Telephone Company

2.1.1 Scope

- (A) The Telephone Company does not undertake to transmit messages under this tariff.
- (B) The Telephone Company shall be responsible only for the installation, operation and maintenance of the service it provides.
- (C) The Telephone Company will, for maintenance purposes, test its service only to the extent necessary to detect and/or clear troubles.
- (D) Services are provided 24 hours daily, seven days per week, except as set forth in other applicable sections of this tariff.
- (E) The Telephone Company does not warrant that its facilities and services meet standards other than those set forth in this tariff.

2.1.2 Limitations

(A) Assignment or Transfer of Services

The customer may assign or transfer the use of services provided under this tariff only where there is no interruption of use or relocation of the services. Such assignment or transfer may be made to:

- (1) another customer, whether an individual, partnership, association or corporation, provided the assignee or transferee assumes all outstanding indebtedness for such services, and the unexpired portion of the minimum period and the termination liability applicable to such services, if any; or,

ACCESS SERVICE

2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.1 Undertaking of the Telephone Company (Cont'd)

2.1.2 Limitations (Cont'd)

(A) Assignment or Transfer of Services (Cont'd)

- (2) a court-appointed receiver, trustee or other person acting pursuant to law in bankruptcy, receivership, reorganization, insolvency, liquidation or other similar proceedings, provided the assignee or transferee assumes the unexpired portion of the minimum period and the termination liability applicable to such service, if any.

In all cases of assignment or transfer, the written acknowledgement of the Telephone Company is required prior to such assignment or transfer. This acknowledgement shall be made within 15 days from the receipt of notification. All regulations and conditions contained in this tariff shall apply to such assignee or transferee.

The assignment or transfer of services does not relieve or discharge the assignor or transferor from remaining jointly or severally liable with the assignee or transferee for any obligations existing at the time of the assignment or transfer.

(B) Use and Restoration of Services

The use and restoration of services shall be in accordance with Part 64, Subpart D, Appendix A, of the Federal Communications Commission's Rules and Regulations, which specifies the priority system for such activities.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.1 Undertaking of the Telephone Company (Cont'd)

2.1.2 Limitations (Cont'd)

(C) Sequence of Provisioning

Subject to compliance with the rules mentioned in (B) preceding, the services offered herein will be provided to customers on a first-come, first-served basis.

The first-come, first-served sequence shall be based upon the received time and date recorded, by stamp or other notation, by the Telephone Company on customer access orders. These orders must contain all the information as required for each respective service as delineated in other sections of this tariff. Customer orders shall not be deemed to have been received until such information is provided. Should questions arise which preclude order issuance due to missing information or the need for clarification, the Telephone Company will attempt to seek such missing information or clarification on a verbal basis.

2.1.3 Liability

(A) Limits of Liability

The Telephone Company's liability, if any, for its willful misconduct is not limited by this tariff. Except as set forth in Section 8.1.3 following, with respect to any other claim or suit, by a customer or by any others, for damages associated with the installation, provision, termination, maintenance, repair or restoration of service, and subject to the provisions of (B) through (G) following, the Telephone Company's liability if any, shall not exceed an amount equal to the proportionate charge for the service for the period during which the service was affected. This liability for damages shall be in addition to any amounts that may otherwise be due the customer under this tariff as a Credit Allowance for Service Interruption.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.1 Undertaking of the Telephone Company (Cont'd)

2.1.3 Liability (Cont'd)

(B) Acts or Omissions

The Telephone Company shall not be liable for any act or omission of any other carrier or customer providing a portion of a service, nor shall the Telephone Company for its own act or omission hold liable any other carrier or customer providing a portion of a service.

(C) Damages to Customer Premises

The Telephone Company is not liable for damages to the customer premises resulting from the furnishing of a service, including the installation and removal of equipment and associated wiring, unless the damage is caused by the Telephone Company's negligence.

(D) Indemnification of Telephone Company

(1) By the End User

The Telephone Company shall be indemnified, defended and held harmless by the end user against any claim, loss or damage arising from the end user's use of services offered under this tariff, involving:

- (a) claims for libel, slander, invasion of privacy, or infringement of copyright arising from the end user's own communications;

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.1 Undertaking of the Telephone Company (Cont'd)

2.1.3 Liability (Cont'd)

(D) Indemnification of Telephone Company (Cont'd)

(1) By the End User (Cont'd)

- (b) claims for patent infringement arising from the end user's acts combining or using the service furnished by the Telephone Company in connection with facilities or equipment furnished by the end users or customer; or,
- (c) all other claims arising out of any act or omission of the end user in the course of using services provided pursuant to this tariff.

(2) By the Customer

The Telephone 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 offered under this tariff, involving:

- (a) claims for libel, slander, invasion of privacy, or infringement of copyright arising from the customer's own communications;
- (b) claims for patent infringement arising from the customer's acts combining or using the service furnished by the Telephone Company in connection with facilities or equipment furnished by the end user or customer; or,
- (c) all other claims arising out of any act or omission of the customer in the course of using services provided pursuant to this tariff.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.1 Undertaking of the Telephone Company (Cont'd)

2.1.3 Liability (Cont'd)

(E) Explosive Atmospheres

The Telephone Company does not guarantee or make any warranty with respect to its services when used in an explosive atmosphere. The Telephone Company shall be indemnified, defended and held harmless by the customer from any and all claims by any person relating to such customer's use of services so provided.

(F) No License Granted

No license under patents (other than the limited license to use) is granted by the Telephone Company or shall be implied or arise by estoppel, with respect to any service offered under this tariff. The Telephone Company will defend the customer against claims of patent infringement arising solely from the use by the customer of services offered under this tariff and will indemnify such customer for any damages awarded based solely on such claims.

(G) Circumstances Beyond the Telephone Company's Control

The Telephone Company's failure to provide or maintain services under this tariff shall be excused by labor difficulties, governmental orders, civil commotions, criminal actions taken against the Telephone Company, acts of God and other circumstances beyond the Telephone Company's reasonable control, subject to the Credit Allowance for Service Interruption, as set forth in Section 2.4.4 following.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.1 Undertaking of the Telephone Company (Cont'd)

2.1.4 Provision of Services

The Telephone Company will provide to the customer, upon reasonable notice, services offered in other applicable sections of this tariff at rates and charges specified therein. Services will be made available to the extent that such services are or can be made available with reasonable effort, and after provision has been made for the Telephone Company's telephone exchange services.

2.1.5 Facility Terminations

The services provided under this tariff will include any entrance cable or drop wiring and wire or intrabuilding cable to that point where provision is made for termination of the Telephone Company's outside distribution network facilities at a suitable location inside a customer-designated premises. Such wiring or cable will be installed by the Telephone Company to the Point of Termination. Moves of the Point of Termination at the customer designated premises will be as set forth in Section 6.4.4 and Section 7.2.3 following.

2.1.6 Service Maintenance

The services provided under this tariff shall be maintained by the Telephone Company. The customer or others may not rearrange, move, disconnect, remove or attempt to repair any facilities provided by the Telephone Company, other than by connection or disconnection to any interface means used, except with the written consent of the Telephone Company.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.1 Undertaking of the Telephone Company (Cont'd)

2.1.7 Changes and Substitutions

Except as provided for equipment and systems subject to FCC Part 68 Regulations at 47 C.F.R. Section 68.110(b), the Telephone Company may, where such action is reasonably required in the operation of its business, substitute, change or rearrange any facilities used in providing service under this tariff. Such actions may include, without limitation:

- substitution of different metallic facilities,
- substitution of carrier or derived facilities for metallic facilities, used to provide other than metallic facilities,
- substitution of metallic facilities for carrier or derived facilities used to provide other than metallic facilities,
- change of minimum protection criteria,
- change of operating or maintenance characteristics of facilities, or
- change of operations or procedures of the Telephone Company.

In case of any such substitution, change or rearrangement, the transmission parameters will be within the range as set forth in Section 15 following. The Telephone Company shall not be responsible if any such substitution, change or rearrangement renders any customer furnished services obsolete or requires modification or alteration thereof or otherwise affects their use or performance. If such substitution, change or rearrangement materially affects the operating characteristics of the facility, the Telephone Company will provide reasonable notification to the customer in writing. Reasonable time will be allowed for any redesign and implementation required by the change in operating characteristics. The Telephone Company will work cooperatively with customer to determine reasonable notification procedures.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.1 Undertaking of the Telephone Company (Cont'd)

2.1.8 Refusal and Discontinuance of Service

(A) If a customer fails to comply with Section 2.1.6 preceding or Sections 2.3.1, 2.3.4, 2.3.6, 2.4.1 or 2.5 following, including any customers failure to make payments on the date and times therein specified, the Telephone Company may, on thirty (30) days written notice to the customer by Certified U.S. Mail, take the following actions:

- refuse additional applications for service and/or refuse to complete any pending orders for service, and/or
- discontinue the provision of service to the customer.

In the case of discontinuance all applicable charges, including termination charges, shall become due.

(B) In addition to and not in limitation of the provisions in (A) above, if a customer fails to comply with Section 2.4.1, following, including any payments to be made by it on the dates and times therein specified, the Telephone Company may take the actions specified in (A), above, with regard to services provided hereunder to that customer on fifteen (15) days written notice to the person designated by that customer to receive such notices of noncompliance, such notice period to start the day after the notice is sent by overnight delivery, if the customer has not complied with respect to amounts due in a subject bill or subject deposit and either:

- (1) the Telephone Company has sent the subject bill to the customer within seven (7) business days of the bill date; or;
- (2) the Telephone Company has sent the subject bill to the customer more than thirty (30) calendar days before notice under this section is given; or
- (3) the Telephone Company has sent the subject deposit request to the customer more than fifteen (15) business days before notice under this section is given..

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.1 Undertaking of the Telephone Company (Cont'd)

2.1.8 Refusal and Discontinuance of Service (Cont'd)

(B) (Cont'd)

In all other cases, the Telephone Company will give thirty (30) calendar days written notice pursuant to (A), above. The Telephone Company will maintain records sufficient to validate the date upon which a bill or deposit request was sent to the customer. Action specified in (A), above, will not be taken with regard to the subject bill or subject deposit request if the customer cures the noncompliance prior to the expiration of the fifteen (15) or thirty (30) days' notice period, as applicable.

(C) If notice is given by overnight delivery under (A) or (B), above, it shall be performed by a reputable overnight delivery service such as, or comparable to, the U.S. Postal Service Express Mail, United Parcel Service, or Federal Express.

(D) The provisions in (A) and (B), above, shall not apply to the charges that a customer does not pay based on the submission of a good faith dispute pursuant to Section 2.4.1(D), following.

(E) If a customer fails to comply with Section 2.2.2 following, the Telephone Company may, upon written request from a customer, or another Telephone Company, terminate service to any subscriber or customer identified as having utilized service provided under this tariff in the completion of abusive or unlawful telephone calls. Service shall be terminated by the Telephone Company as provided for in its general and/or local exchange service tariffs.

In such instances when termination occurs the Telephone Company shall be indemnified, defended and held harmless by any customer or Telephone Company requesting termination of service against any claim, loss or damage arising from the Telephone Company's actions in terminating such service, unless caused by the Telephone Company's negligence.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.1 Undertaking of the Telephone Company (Cont'd)

2.1.8 Refusal and Discontinuance of Service (Cont'd)

(F) Except as provided for equipment or systems subject to the FCC Part 68 Rules in 47 C.F.R. Section 68.108, if the customer fails to comply with Section 2.2.1 following, the Telephone 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, The Telephone Company may temporarily discontinue service forthwith if such action is reasonable in the circumstances. In case of such temporary discontinuance, the customer will be notified promptly 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 2.4.4 following, is not applicable.

(G) When access service is provided by more than one Telephone Company, the companies involved in providing the joint service may individually or collectively deny service to a customer for nonpayment. Where the Telephone Company(s) affected by the nonpayment is incapable of effecting discontinuance of service without cooperation from the other joint providers of Switched Access Service, such other Telephone Company(s) will, if technically feasible, assist in denying the joint service to the customer. Service denial for such joint service will only include calls originating or terminating within, or transiting, the operating territory of the telephone companies initiating the service denial for nonpayment. When more than one of the joint providers must deny service to effectuate termination for nonpayment, in cases where a conflict exists in the applicable tariff provisions, the tariff regulations of the end office Telephone Company shall apply for joint service discontinuance.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.1 Undertaking of the Telephone Company (Cont'd)

2.1.8 Refusal and Discontinuance of Service (Cont'd)

(H) If the Telephone Company does not refuse additional applications for service and/or does not discontinue the provision of the services as specified for herein, and the customer's noncompliance continues, nothing contained herein shall preclude the Telephone Company's right to refuse additional applications for service and/or to discontinue the provision of the services to the non-complying customer without further notice.

2.1.9 Notification of Service-Affecting Activities

The Telephone Company will provide the customer reasonable notification of service-affecting activities that may occur in the normal operation of its business. In case any change is made in the type of service rendered which would adversely affect the efficiency of operation or the adjustment of the equipment of customers, all customers who may be affected shall be notified by the utility at least 60 days in advance of the change or, if such notice is not possible, as early as feasible. Such activities may include, but are not limited to the following:

- equipment or facilities additions,
- removals or rearrangements,
- routine preventative maintenance, and
- major switching machine change-out.

Generally, such activities are not individual customer service specific, but may affect many customer services. No specific advance notification period is applicable to all service activities. The Telephone Company will work cooperatively with the customer to determine reasonable notification requirements.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.1 Undertaking of the Telephone Company (Cont'd)

2.1.10 Coordination with Respect to Network Contingencies

The Telephone Company intends to work cooperatively with the customer to develop network contingency plans in order to maintain maximum network capability following natural or man-made disasters which affect telecommunications services.

2.1.11 Provisions and Ownership of Telephone Numbers

The Telephone Company reserves the reasonable right to assign, designate or change telephone numbers, any other call number designations associated with Access Services, or the Telephone Company serving central office prefixes associated with such numbers, when necessary in the conduct of its business. Should it become necessary to make a change in such number(s), the Telephone Company will furnish to the customer six months' notice, by Certified U.S. Mail, of the effective date and an explanation of the reason(s) for such change(s).

ACCESS SERVICE

2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.2 Use

2.2.1 Interference or Impairment

The characteristics and methods of operation of any circuits, facilities or equipment provided by other than the Telephone Company and associated with the facilities utilized to provide services under this tariff shall not:

- interfere with or impair service over any facilities of the Telephone Company, its affiliated companies, or its connecting and concurring carriers involved in its services,
- cause damage to their plant,
- impair the privacy of any communications carried over their facilities, or
- create hazards to the employees of any of them or the public.

2.2.2 Unlawful and Abusive Use

The services provided under this tariff shall not be used for unlawful purposes or used in an abusive manner.

Abusive use includes:

- the use of the service of the Telephone Company for a call or calls, anonymous or otherwise, in a manner reasonably expected to frighten, abuse, torment, or harass another;
- the use of the service in such a manner as to interfere unreasonably with the use of the service by one or more other customers.

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ACCESS SERVICE

2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.3 Obligations of the Customer

2.3.1 Damages

The customer shall reimburse the Telephone Company for damages to Telephone Company facilities utilized to provide services under this tariff caused by the negligence or willful act of the customer or resulting from the customer's improper use of the Telephone Company facilities, or due to malfunction of any facilities or equipment provided by other than the Telephone Company. Nothing in the foregoing provision shall be interpreted to hold one customer liable for another customer's actions. The Telephone Company will, upon reimbursement for damages, cooperate with the customer in prosecuting a claim against the person causing such damage and the customer shall be subrogated to the right of recovery by the Telephone Company for the damages to the extent of such payment.

2.3.2 Ownership of Facilities and Theft

Facilities utilized by the Telephone Company to provide service under the provisions of this tariff shall remain the property of the Telephone Company. Such facilities shall be returned to the Telephone Company by the customer, whenever requested, within a reasonable period. The equipment shall be returned in as good condition as reasonable wear will permit.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.3 Obligations of the Customer (Cont'd)

2.3.3 Equipment Space and Power

The customer shall furnish or arrange to have furnished to the Telephone Company, at no charge, equipment space and electrical power required by the Telephone Company to provide services under this tariff at the points of termination of such services. The selection of ac or dc power shall be mutually agreed to by the customer and the Telephone Company. The customer shall also make necessary arrangements in order that the Telephone Company will have access to such spaces at reasonable times for installing, testing, repairing or removing Telephone Company facilities used to provide services.

2.3.4 Availability for Testing

Access to facilities used to provide services under this tariff shall be available to the Telephone Company at times mutually agreed upon in order to permit the Telephone Company to make tests and adjustments appropriate for maintaining the services in satisfactory operating condition. Such tests and adjustments shall be completed within a reasonable time. As set forth in Section 2.4.4(C)(4) following, no credit will be allowed for any interruptions involved during such tests and adjustments.

2.3.5 Limitations of Use of Metallic Facilities

Signals applied to a metallic facility shall conform to the limitations set forth in Technical Reference Publication AS No. 1. In the case of application of dc telegraph signaling systems, the customer shall be responsible, at its expense, for the provision of current limiting devices to protect the Telephone Company facilities from excessive current due to abnormal conditions and for the provision of noise mitigation networks when required to reduce excessive noise.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.3 Obligations of the Customer (Cont'd)

2.3.6 Balance

All signals for transmission over the facilities used to provide services under this tariff shall be delivered by the customer balanced to ground except for ground start, duplex (DX) and McCulloch-Loop (Alarm System) type signaling and dc telegraph transmission at speeds of 75 baud or less.

2.3.7 Design of Customer Services

Subject to the provision of Section 2.1.7 preceding, the customer shall be solely responsible, at its own expense, for the overall design of its services and for any redesigning or rearrangement of its services which may be required because of changes in facilities, operations or procedures of the Telephone Company, minimum protection criteria or operating or maintenance characteristics of the facilities.

2.3.8 References to the Telephone Company

The customer may advise end users that certain services are provided by the Telephone Company in connection with the service the customer furnishes to end users; however, the customer shall not represent that the Telephone Company jointly participates in the customer's services.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.3 Obligations of the Customer (Cont'd)

2.3.9 Claims and Demands for Damages

- (A) With respect to claims of patent infringement made by third persons, the customer shall defend, indemnify, protect and save harmless the Telephone Company from and against all claims arising out of the combining with, or use in connection with, the services provided under this tariff, any circuit, apparatus, system or method provided by the customer.
- (B) The customer shall defend, indemnify and save harmless the Telephone Company from and against any suits, claims, losses and damages, including punitive damages, attorney fees and court costs by third persons arising out of the construction, installation, operation, maintenance, or removal of the customer's circuits, facilities, or equipment connected to the Telephone Company's services provided under this tariff including, without limitation, Worker's Compensation claims, actions for infringement of copyright and/or unauthorized use of program material, libel and slander actions based on the content of communications transmitted over the customer's circuits, facilities or equipment, and proceedings to recover taxes, fines, or penalties for failure of the customer to obtain or maintain in effect any necessary certificates, permits, licenses, or other authority to acquire or operate the services provided under this tariff; provided, however, the foregoing indemnification shall not apply to suits, claims, and demands to recover damages for damage to property, death, or personal injury unless such suits, claims or demands are based on the tortious conduct of the customer, its officers, agents, or employees.
- (C) The customer shall defend, indemnify and save harmless the Telephone Company from and against any suits, claims, losses or damages, including punitive damages, attorney fees and court costs by the customer or third parties arising out of any act or omission of the customer in the course of using services provided under this tariff.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.3 Obligations of the Customer (Cont'd)

2.3.10 Coordination with Respect to Network Contingencies

The customer shall, in cooperation with the Telephone Company, coordinate in planning the actions to be taken to maintain maximum network capability following natural or man-made disasters which affect telecommunications services.

2.3.11 Jurisdictional Report Requirements

(A) General Requirements

(1) Jurisdictional Report Requirements

(a) Special Access Service

When the customer orders Special Access Service, the customer will provide the percentage of interstate traffic to be carried over the customer's Special Access Service. If ten percent or less of traffic carried over the Special Access Service will be interstate, such service is considered to be jurisdictionally 100% intrastate. If the jurisdictional nature of the customer's Special Access Service changes, the customer must inform the Telephone Company in writing of the change. The effective date of the change will be the date the Telephone Company receives the customer's certification of change of jurisdiction. No charge applies for jurisdictional change.

(b) Other Access Services

When all other mixed interstate and intrastate access services are provided, all charges (i.e., monthly rates, usage rates and nonrecurring charges) are prorated between interstate and intrastate based on the Percent Interstate Usage (PIU) factor as set forth in this Section.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.3 Obligations of the Customer (Cont'd)

2.3.11 Jurisdictional Report Requirements (Cont'd)

(A) General Requirements (Cont'd)

(2) Jurisdictional Definitions

Interstate - A call is an interstate communication if the call originates from a telephone number within the boundaries of one state or country and terminates outside the boundaries of the state of origination. Intrastate - A call is an intrastate communication if the call both originates from a telephone number and terminates to another telephone number within the boundaries of the same state.

(3) Jurisdictional Percentages

PIU is expressed as a whole number between 0 and 100. The sum of the PIU and the intrastate jurisdictional percentage (IJP) must equal 100%. The IJP is determined by subtracting the PIU from 100. The PIU factor and the IJP factor serve as the basis for development of interstate and intrastate charges to the customer. For non-usage sensitive and nonrecurring rates, the quantity of service is multiplied by the PIU and IJP factors and by the applicable tariff rate to develop the charge. For usage sensitive rates, the quantity of usage sensitive units is multiplied by the PIU and IJP factors and by the applicable tariff rate to develop the charge.

Separate PIU factors are required for originating or terminating usage (except that for FGA or FGB the PIU will reflect the total for both originating and terminating usage).

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ACCESS SERVICE

2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.3 Obligations of the Customer (Cont'd)

2.3.11 Jurisdictional Report Requirements (Cont'd)

(A) General Requirements (Cont'd)

(3) Jurisdictional Percentages (Cont'd)

(a) Telephone Company Developed PIU

Where the jurisdiction can be determined from the call detail, the Telephone Company will bill according to the jurisdiction by developing a projected interstate percentage. The Telephone Company will be responsible for the accuracy of such projected interstate percentage. The projected interstate percentage will be developed on a monthly basis by end office, when the Switched Access Service access minutes are measured, 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. The Telephone Company will use this formula to calculate the customer's monthly PIU factor for each Telephone Company end office:

$$\frac{\text{measured interstate minutes}}{\text{total measured minutes}}$$

(b) Customer-Provided PIU

Where the Telephone Company does not possess the capability to determine the jurisdiction of a Switched Access Service, a PIU factor must be reported by the customer to the Telephone Company. When the customer orders Switched Access Service, the customer will provide a PIU in its order.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.3 Obligations of the Customer (Cont'd)

2.3.11 Jurisdictional Report Requirements (Cont'd)

(A) General Requirements (Cont'd)

(3) Jurisdictional Percentages (Cont'd)

(b) Customer-Provided PIU (Cont'd)

With the exception of FGA and FGB, customers shall report separate PIU factors to the Telephone Company for originating or terminating Switched Access Service provided by the Telephone Company. For FGA and FGB Switched Access Service, the PIU will be utilized for both originating and terminating traffic. Customers may report PIU factors at any of these reporting levels: end office, billing account number (BAN), or local access and transport area (LATA). Customers may compute PIU factors at the state level provided the factors are specific to the Telephone Company and reported at the LATA level. If a customer uses a combination of reporting levels, each access service provided by the Telephone Company should be included at least once, but not more than once, in the PIU factors provided to the Telephone Company.

Separate PIUs are required for flat rate Entrance Facilities, Direct Trunked Transport Facilities, and Switched Access Services Optional Features and Functions. The PIU factor(s) for use with such flat rated elements will reflect the combination of originating and terminating traffic of all services using such facilities. Revised PIU reports are also required when an access customer discontinues a portion of the access services or otherwise modifies the use of the access services within an end office or LATA in such a manner that substantially affects the jurisdiction of the traffic to which the PIU applies.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.3 Obligations of the Customer (Cont'd)

2.3.11 Jurisdictional Report Requirements (Cont'd)

(A) General Requirements (Cont'd)

(3) Jurisdictional Percentages (Cont'd)

(b) Customer-Provided PIU (Cont'd)

For FGA and FGB Switched Access Service where the nature of the service is such that the customer cannot determine a telephone company specific PIU, the customer may report a LATA level PIU for that service to all the telephone companies from which the service is provided within the LATA.

(i) Initial Requirements

Before a Switched Access Service is initially established, or for existing customers within 30 days following a request from the Telephone Company, the customer must provide the following written information to the Telephone Company:

- The customer must affirm that it possesses a network technology or other reasonable method to accurately determine the jurisdiction of each access service provided by the Telephone Company.
- The customer must affirm that it will calculate and report PIU factors to the Telephone Company based on the actual jurisdiction of each access service provided by the Telephone Company to the access customer.

ACCESS SERVICE

2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.3 Obligations of the Customer (Cont'd)

2.3.11 Jurisdictional Report Requirements (Cont'd)

(A) General Requirements (Cont'd)

(3) Jurisdictional Percentages (Cont'd)

(b) Customer-Provided PIU (Cont'd)

(ii) Annual Requirements

Each customer is required to provide to the Telephone Company by April 15 of each year a written report which describes the methodology used by the customer for determination of customer reported PIU factors.

If the Telephone Company does not receive the report by April 15 of each year, the Telephone Company will notify the customer by Certified Mail and advise the customer that unless the report is received by the Telephone Company within 30 days of receipt of the notice, a default PIU of 50% will be applied to the next billing cycle.

Customers are responsible for reporting accurate PIU factors to the Telephone Company. The Telephone Company is responsible for verifying the accuracy of PIU reports provided by customers. The Telephone Company will annually monitor all PIU reports.

ACCESS SERVICE

2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.3 Obligations of the Customer (Cont'd)

2.3.11 Jurisdictional Report Requirements (Cont'd)

(A) General Requirements (Cont'd)

(3) Jurisdictional Percentages (Cont'd)

(b) Customer-Provided PIU (Cont'd)

(iii) Quarterly Requirements

The customer shall update the jurisdictional report on the first of January, April, July and October of each year. The revised report will provide the interstate and intrastate percentage of use data for the past three months ending the last day of December, March, June and September. The update must be received by the Telephone Company no later than 15 days after the first day of each quarter as it will serve as the basis for billing the customer for that quarter. After the customer exercises its self-reporting options, if the customer does not provide a quarterly update report, the Telephone Company will assume the percentages to be the same as those provided in the last quarterly update received, and will continue to do so until the use of a default PIU becomes appropriate, as specified in 2.3.11(A)(3)(b)(ii) preceding.

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ACCESS SERVICE

2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.3 Obligations of the Customer (Cont'd)

2.3.11 Jurisdictional Report Requirements (Cont'd)

(A) General Requirements (Cont'd)

(3) Jurisdictional Percentages (Cont'd)

(c) Customer-Provided PIU (Cont'd)

(iii) Quarterly Requirements (Cont'd)

If the customer has never provided a quarterly report, the Telephone Company will notify the customer by Certified Mail and advise the customer that a default PIU of 50% will be applied beginning the next billing cycle unless a PIU report is filed by the customer.

The Telephone Company will review the jurisdictional reports quarterly for reasonableness and inform the customer by Certified Mail within 75 days of the beginning of the quarter if the Telephone Company believes the report does not accurately reflect the current PIU of the service. Upon such notification, the customer shall have 30 days to review the Telephone Company's concerns and make corrections, if applicable. Absent such notification by the Telephone Company, the report is assumed to be accurate and exempt from any billing adjustments that may arise from a subsequent audit.

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ACCESS SERVICE

2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.3 Obligations of the Customer (Cont'd)

2.3.11 Jurisdictional Report Requirements (Cont'd)

(A) General Requirements (Cont'd)

(3) Jurisdictional Percentages (Cont'd)

(b) Customer-Provided PIU (Cont'd)

(iii) Quarterly Requirements (Cont'd)

In the event the Telephone Company notifies the customer as specified in the previous paragraph, billing adjustments may apply pursuant to Section 2.3.11(A)(8) following.

(iv) Exceptions

All foreign exchange (FX) FGA services and dedicated off network access line (ONAL) FGA services ordered under this tariff are designated as 100% intrastate services and are exempt from PIU reporting requirements.

(4) Audit of Jurisdictional Accuracy

(a) Jurisdictional Report Verification

When a customer provides a projected interstate usage percent as set forth in 2.3.11(A)(3)(b) preceding, the Telephone Company may, for audits sanctioned by the Audit Committee, (on written request by Certified U.S. Mail), require the customer to provide call detail records which will be audited to substantiate the projected interstate usage factor provided to the Telephone Company.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.3 Obligations of the Customer (Cont'd)

2.3.11 Jurisdictional Report Requirements (Cont'd)

(A) General Requirements (Cont'd)

(4) Audit of Jurisdictional Accuracy (Cont'd)

(a) Jurisdictional Report Verification (Cont'd)

The Telephone Company will request that the call detail records be made available to an independent auditor or the Telephone Company within 30 days of the request at an agreed upon location during normal business hours.

If the customer fails to comply with the request to produce records pursuant to 2.3.11(A)(4)(b), the Telephone Company may refuse additional applications for service and/or refuse to complete any pending orders for service for a period of 30 days as set forth in 2.1.8 preceding. If, at the conclusion of 30 days, the customer still does not comply with this request, the Telephone Company may discontinue the provision of the service as specified in 2.1.8 preceding.

The audit verification process and responsible party(ies) for payment of audit expenses will be determined as set forth in (i) and (ii) following:

(i) The Telephone Company will participate in the Audit Committee for the purpose of joint administration of PIU audits.

(ii) The customer may select an independent auditor and pay all audit expenses.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.3 Obligations of the Customer (Cont'd)

2.3.11 Jurisdictional Report Requirements (Cont'd)

(A) General Requirements (Cont'd)

(4) Audit of Jurisdictional Accuracy (Cont'd)

(a) Jurisdictional Report Verification (Cont'd)

PIU reporting, auditing, and billing practices are to be consistent with the provisions of the Telephone Company's tariffs and the final order in Docket No. 10127, and the Public Utility Commission of Texas' Rules.

(b) Maintenance of Customer Records

The customer shall retain and maintain net call detail records for a minimum 12-month period that statistically substantiate the PIU provided to the Telephone Company as set forth in 2.3.11(A)(3)(b) preceding. Such net call detail records (i.e., workpapers and/or backup documentation, including paper, magnetic tapes or any other form of records for billed customer traffic) shall consist of call information, including call terminating address (i.e., called number), the call duration, the trunk group or access lines over which the call is routed and the point at which the call enters and/or exits the customer's network, and calling number when available.

If the Telephone Company determines that the customer's records, worksheets and backup documentation are insufficient or if the customer does not provide the call detail records in accordance with the provisions set forth in this tariff, the Telephone Company shall request the call detail records on a prospective basis not to exceed a three-month time period.

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ACCESS SERVICE

2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.3 Obligations of the Customer (Cont'd)

2.3.11 Jurisdictional Report Requirements (Cont'd)

(A) General Requirements (Cont'd)

(5) Application of Audit Results

If the composite PIU determined by the auditor for all access services subject to audit varies more than three percentage points from the composite reported PIU for those access services, the Telephone Company will make adjustments to billing based upon the audit results for a maximum of 12 months as specified in 2.3.11(A)(8) following.

When an audit determines that a customer's reported PIU by access service deviates from the service's specific PIU, as determined by the audit, by more than three percentage points, and that deviation is not due to seasonal changes or other identifiable reasons, the Telephone Company shall apply the service specific PIU as determined by the audit to each such service for two successive quarters following the completion of the audit. The PIU for those two quarters may only be changed with the approval of the Telephone Company upon a showing by the customer, which the Telephone Company finds adequate, that the customer's PIU for a service has changed since the completion of the audit.

If a customer has been audited (either by a voluntary self-audit accepted by the Audit Committee or an Audit Committee audit), no subsequent audits may be initiated by the Audit Committee within 12 months from the completion of the last audit. However, the Telephone Company may still require explanation of any change in reported PIU by the customer during the 12-month period and, if the Audit Committee determines that the explanation is not adequate, the Audit Committee may initiate another audit to determine if the change in reported PIU is reasonable.

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ACCESS SERVICE

2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.3 Obligations of the Customer (Cont'd)

2.3.11 Jurisdictional Report Requirements (Cont'd)

(A) General Requirements (Cont'd)

(6) Contested Audits

When a PIU audit is conducted, the customer may contest the results of the audit by providing written notice by Certified Mail to the Audit Committee within 30 calendar days of the receipt of the audit results by the customer.

When a PIU audit is conducted, the Telephone Company may contest the results of the audit by providing written notice by Certified Mail to the customer and the Audit Committee within 30 calendar days of the receipt of the audit results by the Telephone Company.

Absent written notification as specified herein, audit results cannot be contested.

Contested audits may be informally resolved by the Audit Committee, or be resolved by a neutral arbitrator, if the Telephone Company and the customer agree to such an arrangement. If the arbitrator rules in favor of the Telephone Company, the customer must pay the expense of the arbitrator. If the arbitrator rules in favor of the customer, the Telephone Company will pay the expense of the arbitrator. The arbitration proceeding shall be governed by the law (both statutory and case) of the state in which the arbitration hearing is held, including, but not limited to, the Uniform Arbitration Act, as adopted in that state. The arbitrator shall determine the customer's PIU consistent with the provisions of 2.3.11(A)(3) preceding.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.3 Obligations of the Customer (Cont'd)

2.3.11 Jurisdictional Report Requirements (Cont'd)

(A) General Requirements (Cont'd)

(6) Contested Audits (Cont'd)

Prior to the arbitration hearing, each party shall notify the arbitrator of the PIU percentage which that party believes to be correct. The arbitrator, in deciding, may adopt the PIU percentage of either party or may adopt a PIU percentage different from those proposed by the parties. If the arbitrator adopts a PIU percentage proposed by one of the parties, the other party (whose PIU percentage was not adopted) shall pay all costs of the arbitration. If the arbitrator adopts a PIU percentage higher than either of the PIU percentages proposed by the parties, then the party proposing the lower PIU percentage shall pay all costs of the arbitration. If the arbitrator adopts a PIU percentage lower than either of the PIU percentages proposed by the parties, then the party proposing the higher PIU percentage shall pay all costs of the arbitration. If the arbitrator adopts a PIU percentage which falls between the two proposed by the parties, then the parties shall each pay one-half of the arbitration costs.

The Telephone Company shall not issue adjusted bills until any contest of the audit has been resolved in accordance with this subsection.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.3 Obligations of the Customer (Cont'd)

2.3.11 Jurisdictional Report Requirements (Cont'd)

(A) General Requirements (Cont'd)

(7) Disputed Bills

A customer may dispute bill adjustments following receipt of the adjusted bill. Disputes arising from bill adjustments may, upon agreement by the involved parties, be informally resolved by a neutral arbitrator or mediator. By the sixty-first day following receipt of the adjusted bill, a customer must either place the disputed amount of the adjusted bill in escrow or pay the disputed amount to the Telephone Company pending resolution of the dispute. The Commission, the arbitrator, or the Audit Committee to whom this dispute is directed may waive this requirement.

If, on the sixty-first day, the disputed amount is neither placed in escrow nor received by the Telephone Company, the Telephone Company will provide the customer, by Certified Mail, with a notice of disconnection and may disconnect service not sooner than 30 days after the customer received notice. Disconnection is limited to services for which the PIU is materially misreported by at least three percentage points.

(8) Bill Adjustments

Bill adjustments resulting from an audit of jurisdictional accuracy will be made in accordance with the following provisions.

ACCESS SERVICE

2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.3 Obligations of the Customer (Cont'd)

2.3.11 Jurisdictional Report Requirements (Cont'd)

(A) General Requirements (Cont'd)

(8) Bill Adjustments (Cont'd)

- (a) For initial audits, no backbilling adjustments will be made based upon the conclusions of a voluntary audit conducted by an auditor approved by the Audit Committee within 12 months of receipt of written notification of the audit guidelines. For initial Audit Committee initiated audits, or voluntary audits conducted by non-approved auditors, billing adjustments will be made for up to 12 prior months.
- (b) For subsequent audits, whether voluntary using an auditor approved by the Audit Committee or Audit Committee initiated, no billing adjustments will apply for any report period prior to the first month of the quarter for which a customer receives notice that the Telephone Company challenges the PIU reported by the customer. Billing adjustments shall commence from the first day of the first month of the quarter in which the customer receives notice of the challenge and shall extend through the audit completion date, but the period of adjustment shall not exceed 12 months under any circumstances.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.3 Obligations of the Customer (Cont'd)

2.3.11 Jurisdictional Report Requirements (Cont'd)

(A) General Requirements (Cont'd)

(8) Bill Adjustments (Cont'd)

(c) Billing adjustments will be made only if the composite PIU determined by the auditor for all access services subject to audit varies more than three percentage points from the composite reported PIU for those access services. The adjusted bills are to be computed by first computing an "Audit Adjusted PIU". The "Audit Adjusted PIU" will be determined by the Audit Committee or the Telephone Company as follows:

- (i) If the reported PIU was found to be too high, the "Audit Adjusted PIU" is the PIU determined by the auditor plus three percentage points.
- (ii) If the reported PIU was found to be too low, the "Audit Adjusted PIU" is the PIU determined by the auditor less three percentage points.

The Telephone Company is to calculate a net bill adjustment for usage using the "Audit Adjusted PIU" to compute a bill or credit to the customer. However, no billing adjustments will be made for any period to which the audit applies in which the customer's reported PIU falls within three percentage points of the Audit PIU. If the billing adjustment is less than \$500, the Telephone Company may forego any billing adjustment.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.3 Obligations of the Customer (Cont'd)

2.3.11 Jurisdictional Report Requirements (Cont'd)

(A) General Requirements (Cont'd)

(8) Bill Adjustments (Cont'd)

(c) (Cont'd)

To correct past bills from the Telephone Company, a net adjustment factor will be calculated which represents the difference between the Telephone Company's interstate rate and the Telephone Company's intrastate rate for service. Adjusted units will be calculated which represent the difference between the total usage times the Reported PIU and the total usage times the Audit Adjusted PIU. The customer will be billed or credited as follows:

Net adjustment factor x Adjusted units = Net bill adjustment

The Telephone Company may utilize a different methodology only if it produces an equivalent result as the preceding formula\_.

- (d) The customer will be billed for the Telephone Company's allocated audit costs resulting from an audit only if the customer-reported composite PIU deviates from the composite Audit-PIU by more than five percentage points and results in an underbilling of access charges to the access customer. Audit costs include the costs incurred by the Audit Committee's auditor for the purpose of auditing the customer.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.3 Obligations of the Customer (Cont'd)

2.3.12 Determination of Intrastate Charges for Mixed Interstate and Intrastate Switched Access Service

When mixed interstate and intrastate Switched Access Service is provided, all charges (i.e., nonrecurring, monthly and/or usage) including optional features charges, will be prorated between interstate and intrastate. The percentage determined, as set forth in Section 2.3.11 preceding, will serve as the basis for prorating the charges unless the Telephone Company is billing according to actuals by jurisdiction. The percentage of an Access Service to be charged as intrastate is applied in the following manner:

(A) Monthly and Nonrecurring Charges

For monthly and nonrecurring chargeable rate elements, multiply the percent intrastate use times the quantity of chargeable elements times the stated tariff rate.

(B) Usage Sensitive Charges

For usage sensitive (i.e., access minutes and calls) chargeable rate elements, multiply the percent intrastate use times actual use (i.e., measured or Telephone Company assumed average use) times the stated tariff rate.

The intrastate percentage may change as revised usage reports are submitted as set forth in Section 2.3.11 preceding.

ACCESS SERVICE

2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.3 Obligations of the Customer (Cont'd)

2.3.13 Identification and Rating to VoIP-PSTN Traffic

(A) Scope

- (1) VoIP-PSTN Traffic is defined as traffic exchanged between the Telephone Company end user and the customer in time division multiplexing ("TDM") format that originates and/or terminates in internet protocol ("IP") format. This section governs the identification of VoIP-PSTN Traffic that is required to be compensated at interstate access rates by the Federal Communications Commission in its report and Order in WC Docket Nos. 10-90, etc., FCC Release No. 11-161 (Nov. 18, 2011) ("FCC Order"). Specifically, this section establishes the method of separating such traffic (referred to in this tariff as "Relevant VoIP-PSTN Traffic") from the customer's traditional intrastate access traffic, so that such Relevant VoIP-PSTN Traffic can be billed in accordance with the FCC Order.
- (2) This section will be applied to the billing of switched access charges to a customer that is a local exchange carrier only to the extent that the customer has also implemented billing of interstate access charges for Relevant VoIP- PSTN Traffic in accordance with the FCC Order.

(B) Rating of VoIP-PSTN Traffic

- (1) The Relevant VoIP-PSTN Traffic identified in accordance with this tariff section that is delivered to the Telephone Company's network will be billed at rates equal to the Telephone Company's applicable tariffed interstate switched access rates as specified in the Telephone Company's applicable federal access tariff, or the Telephone Company's applicable tariffed intrastate switched access rates as specified in this tariff, whichever is lower.



ACCESS SERVICE

2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.3 Obligations of the Customer (Cont'd)

2.3.13 Identification and Rating to VoIP-PSTN Traffic

(B) Rating of VoIP-PSTN Traffic

(2) The Relevant VoIP-PSTN Traffic identified in accordance with this tariff section that is originated on the Telephone Company's network will be billed as follows:

- for the period from December 29, 2011 through July 12, 2012, such traffic shall be billed at rates equal to the Telephone Company's applicable tariffed interstate originating switched access rates;
- for the period from July 13, 2012 through June 30, 2014, such traffic shall be billed at rates equal to the Telephone Company's applicable tariffed intrastate originating switched access rates; and
- beginning July 1, 2014, such traffic shall be billed at rates equal to the Telephone Company's applicable tariffed interstate originating switched access rates, or the Telephone Company's applicable tariffed intrastate originating switched access rates, whichever is lower.

(C) Calculation and Application of Percent VoIP Usage Factor

The Telephone Company will determine the number of Relevant VoIP-PSTN Traffic minutes of use ("MOU") to which interstate rates will be applied under subsection (B), above, by applying a Percent VoIP Usage ("PVU") factor to the total intrastate access MOU exchanged between the Telephone Company end user and the customer. The PVU will be derived and applied as follows:

- (1) The customer will calculate and furnish to the Telephone Company a factor (the "PVU") representing the percentage of total intrastate and interstate access MOU that the customer exchanges with the Telephone Company in the State, that (a) is sent to the Telephone Company and that originated in IP format; or (b) is received from the Telephone Company and terminated in IP format. This PVU shall be based on information such as traffic studies, actual call detail, or other relevant and verifiable information.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.3 Obligations of the Customer (Cont'd)

2.3.13 Identification and Rating to VoIP-PSTN Traffic

(C) Calculation and Application of Percent VoIP Usage Factor

- (2) The Telephone Company will apply the PVU factor to the total intrastate access MOU exchanged with the customer to determine the number of Relevant VoIP-PSTN Traffic MOUs.
- (3) If the customer does not furnish the Telephone Company with a PVU pursuant to the preceding paragraph (C)(1), the Telephone Company will utilize a PVU equal to zero.

(D) Initial PVU Factor

If the PVU factor is not available and/or cannot be implemented in the Telephone Company's billing systems by January 1, 2012, once the factor is available and can be implemented the Telephone Company will adjust the customer's bills to reflect the PVU retroactively to January 1, 2012. This retroactive adjustment will be made to January 1, 2012, provided that the customer provides the factor to the Telephone Company no later than April 15, 2012; otherwise, it will set the initial PVU equal to zero, as specified in subsection (C)(3) above.

(E) PVU Factor Updates

The customer may update the PVU factor quarterly using the method set forth in subsection (C)(1) above. If the customer chooses to submit such updates, it shall forward to the Telephone Company, no later than 15 days after the first day of January, April, July and/or October of each year, a revised PVU factor based on data for the prior three months, ending the last day of December, March, June and September, respectively. The revised PVU factor will apply prospectively and serve as the basis for billing until superseded by a new PVU.

(F) PVU Factor Verification

Not more than two times in any year, the Telephone Company may ask the customer to verify the PVU factor furnished to the Telephone Company. The party so requested shall comply, and shall reasonably provide the records and other information used to determine the PVU factors.

ACCESS SERVICE

2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.4 Payment Arrangements and Credit Allowances

2.4.1 Payment of Rates, Charges and Deposits

(A) Deposits

The Telephone Company will only require a customer which has a proven history of late payments to the Telephone Company, or does not have established credit, to make a deposit prior to or at any time after the provision of a service to the customer. No such deposit will be required of a customer which is a successor of a company which has established credit and has no history of late payments to the Telephone Company. Such deposit may not exceed the actual or estimated rates and charges for the service for a two-month period. The fact that a deposit has been made in no way relieves the customer from complying with the Telephone Company's regulations as to the prompt payment of bills. At such time as the provision of the service to the customer is terminated, the amount of the deposit will be credited to the customer's account and any credit balance which may remain will be refunded.

Simple interest set annually by the Public Utility Commission of Texas at the rate of not less than six percent per annum or greater than twelve percent per annum will be paid on deposits held 30 days or more. Payment of the interest to the customer shall be annually, if requested by the customer, or at the time the deposit is returned or credited to the customer's account. The deposit shall cease to draw interest on the date it is returned or credited to the customer's account.

When the customer has paid bills for service for 12 consecutive residential billings or for 24 consecutive commercial or industrial billings without having service disconnected for nonpayment of bills and without having more than two occasions in which a bill was delinquent, and when the customer is not delinquent in the payment of the current bill, the Telephone Company shall promptly and automatically refund the deposit plus accrued interest to the customer in the form of cash or credit to a customer's bill, or void the guarantee.

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ACCESS SERVICE

2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.4 Payment Arrangements and Credit Allowances (Cont'd)

2.4.1 Payment of Rates, Charges and Deposits (Cont'd)

(B) Bill Dates

The Telephone Company shall bill on a current basis all charges incurred by and credits due to the customer under this tariff attributable to services established or discontinued during the preceding billing period. In addition, the Telephone Company shall bill in advance charges for all services to be provided during the ensuing billing period except for charges associated with service usage and for the Federal Government which will be billed in arrears. The bill day (i.e., the billing date of a bill for a customer for Access Service under this tariff), the period of service each bill covers, and the payment date will be as follows:

(1) Access Services Billed to End Users

For Access Services billed to End Users, the Telephone Company will establish a bill day each month for each end user account or advise the customer in writing of an alternate billing schedule. Alternate billing schedules shall not be established on less than 60 days' notice or initiated by the Telephone Company more than twice in any consecutive 12-month period.

The bill will cover nonusage sensitive service charges for the ensuing billing period for which the bill is rendered, any known unbilled nonusage sensitive charges for prior periods and unbilled usage charges for the period after the last bill day through the current bill day. Any known unbilled usage charges for prior periods and any known unbilled adjustments will be applied to this bill. Such bills are due when rendered as set forth in the Telephone Company local exchange tariff.

## ACCESS SERVICE

2. General Regulations (Cont'd)2.4 Payment Arrangements and Credit Allowances (Cont'd)2.4.1 Payment of Rates, Charges and Deposits (Cont'd)(B) Bill Dates (Cont'd)(2) Access Services Billed to Customers Other Than End Users

For Access Services billed to customers other than End Users, the Telephone Company will establish a bill day each month for each customer account or advise the customer in writing of an alternate billing schedule. Alternate billing schedules shall not be established on less than 60 days' notice or initiated by the Telephone Company more than twice in any consecutive 12-month period.

The bill will cover nonusage sensitive service charges for the ensuing billing period for which the bill is rendered, any known unbilled nonusage sensitive charges for prior periods and unbilled usage charges for the period after the last bill day through the current bill day. Any known unbilled usage charges for prior periods and any known unbilled adjustments will be applied to this bill.

Payment for such bills is due in immediately available funds by the payment date, as set forth in (C) following. If payment is not received by the payment date, a late payment penalty will apply as set forth in (C) following.

ACCESS SERVICE

2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.4 Payment Arrangements and Credit Allowances (Cont'd)

2.4.1 Payment of Rates, Charges and Deposits (Cont'd)

(C) Payment Dates and Late Payment Penalties

- (1) All bills dated as set forth in (B)(2) preceding, for service provided to the customer by the Telephone Company, are due 31 days (payment date) after the bill day or by the next bill date (i.e., same date in the following month as the bill date), whichever is the shortest interval, except as provided herein, and are payable in immediately available funds. If the customer does not receive a bill at least 20 days prior to the 31-day payment due date, then the bill shall be considered delayed. When the bill has been delayed, upon request of the customer the due date will be extended by the number of days the bill was delayed. Such request of the customer must be accompanied with proof of late bill receipt.

ACCESS SERVICE

2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.4 Payment Arrangements and Credit Allowances (Cont'd)

2.4.1 Payment of Rates, Charges and Deposits (Cont'd)

(C) Payment Dates and Late Payment Penalties (Cont'd)

(1) (Cont'd)

If such payment date would cause payment to be due on a Saturday, Sunday or Legal Holiday, payment for such bills will be due from the customer as follows:

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

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ACCESS SERVICE

2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.4 Payment Arrangements and Credit Allowances (Cont'd)

2.4.1 Payment of Rates, Charges and Deposits (Cont'd)

(C) Payment Dates and Late Payment Penalties (Cont'd)

(2) Further, if no payment is received by the payment date or if a payment or any portion of a payment is received by the Telephone Company after the payment date as set forth in (1) preceding, or if a payment or any portion of a payment is received by the Telephone Company in funds which are not immediately available to the Telephone Company, then a late payment penalty of five percent may apply to the unpaid balance; however, no such penalty shall apply to delinquent residence service bills. The five percent penalty on delinquent bills shall not be applied to any balance to which the penalty was applied in a previous billing.

(D) Billing Disputes Resolved in Favor of the Telephone Company

In the event that a billing dispute concerning any charges billed to the customer by the Telephone Company is resolved in favor of the Telephone Company, any payments withheld pending settlement of the dispute shall be subject to an additional charge determined in accordance with (C)(2) preceding and applied to such disputed charges.

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ACCESS SERVICE

2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.4 Payment Arrangements and Credit Allowances (Cont'd)

2.4.1 Payment of Rates, Charges and Deposits (Cont'd)

(E) Billing Disputes Resolved in Favor of the Customer

In the event that a billing dispute is resolved in favor of the customer, no late payment charge will apply to the disputed amount and the customer will receive a credit equal to the overcharged amount.

(1) Interest Credit

Further, the customer will receive an interest credit where an overcharge is not adjusted within three billing cycles of the bill in error.

(2) Interest Credit Period

Such interest will be paid from the bill date on which the error occurred through the date of the bill to which the overbilling/interest is applied.

(3) Calculation of Interest Credit

Interest shall be applied to the amount of overcharge as specified in Substantive Rule 26.27(a)(3)(B). The rate of interest is set annually by the Public Utility Commission of Texas for a 12-month period and is based on an average of prime commercial paper rates for the previous 12 month period. A copy of the Order Setting Interest Rates is included in the User's Guide section of this tariff.

(F) Proration of Charges

Adjustments for the quantities of services established or discontinued in any billing period, beyond the minimum period set forth for services in other sections of this tariff, will be prorated to the number of days based on a 30-day month. The Telephone Company will, upon request, furnish within 30 days of a request and at no charge to the customer such detailed information as may reasonably be required for verification of any bill.

ACCESS SERVICE

2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.4 Payment Arrangements and Credit Allowances (Cont'd)

2.4.1 Payment of Rates, Charges and Deposits (Cont'd)

(G) Rounding of Charges

When a rate as set forth in this tariff is shown to more than two decimal places, the charges will be determined using the rate shown. The resulting amount will then be rounded to the nearest penny (i.e., rounded to two decimal places).

2.4.2 Minimum Periods

The minimum period for which services are provided and for which rates and charges are applicable is one month except as otherwise specified.

The minimum period for which service is provided and for which rates and charges are applicable for a Specialized Service or Arrangement provided on an individual case basis as set forth in Section 12 following, is one month unless a different minimum period is established with the individual case filing.

When a service is discontinued prior to the expiration of the minimum period, charges are applicable, whether the service is used or not, as follows:

- (A) When a service with a one-month minimum period is discontinued prior to the expiration of the minimum period, a one month charge will apply at the rate level in effect at the time service is discontinued.
- (B) When a service with a minimum period greater than one month is discontinued prior to the expiration of the minimum period, the applicable charge will be the lesser of (1) the Telephone Company's total nonrecoverable costs less the net salvage value for the discontinued service or (2) the total monthly charges, at the rate level in effect at the time service is discontinued, for the remainder of the minimum period.

ACCESS SERVICE

2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.4 Payment Arrangements and Credit Allowances (Cont'd)

2.4.3 Cancellation of an Order for Service

Provisions for the cancellation of an order for service are set forth in other applicable sections of this tariff.

2.4.4 Credit Allowance for Service Interruptions

(A) General

Service is considered to be interrupted when it becomes unusable to the customer because of a failure of a facility component used to furnish service under this tariff or protective controls result in the complete loss of service by the customer. An interruption period starts when an inoperative service is reported to the Telephone Company and ends when the service is operative.

The credit allowance for an interruption or for a series of interruptions shall not exceed:

- the applicable monthly rate, or
- the assumed minutes of use charge.

For calculating credit allowances, every month is considered to have 30 days. When a service includes more than one communications path, the interruption allowance applies to the path interrupted. A refund may be accomplished by a credit on a subsequent bill for service.

(B) When a Credit Allowance Applies

In the event a customer's service is interrupted other than by the negligence or willful act of the customer, and it remains out of order for eight normal working hours or longer after access to the premises is made available and after being reported to be out of order, appropriate adjustments or refunds shall be made to the customer.

ACCESS SERVICE

2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.4 Payment Arrangements and Credit Allowances (Cont'd)

2.4.4 Credit Allowance for Service Interruptions (Cont'd)

(C) When A Credit Allowance Does Not Apply

No credit allowance will be made for:

- (1) Interruptions caused by the negligence of the customer;
- (2) Interruptions of a service due to the failure of equipment or systems provided by the customer or others;
- (3) Interruptions of a service during any period in which the Telephone Company is not afforded access to the premises where the service is terminated;
- (4) Interruptions of a service when the customer has released that service to the Telephone Company for maintenance purposes, to make rearrangements, or for the implementation of an order for a change in the service during the time that was negotiated with the customer prior to the release of that service. Thereafter, a credit allowance as set forth in (B) preceding applies;
- (5) Interruptions of a service which continue because of the failure of the customer to authorize replacement of any element of Special Construction, as set forth in Section 16 following. The period for which no credit allowance is made begins on the seventh day after the customer receives the Telephone Company's written notification of the need for such replacement and ends on the day after receipt by the Telephone Company of the customer's written authorization for such replacement;

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.4 Payment Arrangements and Credit Allowances (Cont'd)

2.4.4 Credit Allowance for Service Interruptions (Cont'd)

(C) When A Credit Allowance Does Not Apply (Cont'd)

- (6) Periods when the customer elects not to release service for testing and/or repair and continues to use it on an impaired basis;
- (7) An interruption or a group of interruptions, resulting from a common cause, that would result in credit in an amount less than one dollar.

(D) Use of an Alternative Service Provided by the Telephone Company

Should the customer elect to use an alternative service provided by the Telephone Company during the period that a service is interrupted, the customer must pay the tariffed rates and charges for the alternative service used.

(E) Temporary Surrender of a Service

In certain instances, the customer may be requested by the Telephone Company to surrender a service for purposes other than maintenance, testing or activity relating to a service order. If the customer consents, a credit allowance will be granted. The credit allowance will be 1/1440 of the monthly rate for each period of 30 minutes or fraction thereof that the service is surrendered. In no case will the credit allowance exceed the monthly rate for the service surrendered in any one monthly billing period.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.4 Payment Arrangements and Credit Allowances (Cont'd)

2.4.5 Reestablishment of Service Following Fire, Flood or Other Occurrence

(A) Nonrecurring Charges Do Not Apply

Nonrecurring charges do not apply for the reestablishment of service following a fire, flood or other occurrence attributed to an Act of God provided that:

- (1) The service is of the same type as was provided prior to the fire, flood or other occurrence;
- (2) The service is for the same customer;
- (3) The service is at the same location on the same premises;
- (4) The reestablishment of service begins within 60 days after Telephone Company service is available. (The 60-day period may be extended a reasonable period if the renovation of the original location on the premises affected is not practical within the allotted time period).

(B) Nonrecurring Charges Apply

Nonrecurring charges apply for establishing service at a different location on the same premises or at a different premises pending reestablishment of service at the original location.

ACCESS SERVICE

2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.4 Payment Arrangements and Credit Allowances (Cont'd)

2.4.6 Title or Ownership Rights

The payment of rates and charges by customers for the services offered under the provisions of this tariff does not assign, confer or transfer title or ownership rights to proposals or facilities developed or utilized, respectively, by the Telephone Company in the provision of such services.

2.4.7 Access Services Provided By More Than One Telephone Company

When an Access Service is provided by more than one telephone company, the telephone companies involved will mutually agree upon one of the billing methods as set forth in (B) (1) and (2) following based on the service being provided. The Telephone Company will notify the customer which of the billing methods will be used. The customer will place the order for the service as set forth in Section 5.3 following dependent upon the billing method.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.4 Payment Arrangements and Credit Allowances (Cont'd)

2.4.7 Access Services Provided By More Than One Telephone Company (Cont'd)

(A) Non Meet Point Billing - FGA

At the option of the Telephone Company, the Non Meet Point Billing option may be applied to FGA Switched Access Service.

The Telephone Company receiving the order from the customer, as specified in Section 5.3.1 following, will arrange to provide the service, determine the applicable charges and bill the customer for the entire service in accordance with its Access Services tariff as provided for under a FGA Revenue Sharing Agreement.



ACCESS SERVICE

2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.4 Payment Arrangements and Credit Allowances (Cont'd)

2.4.7 Access Services Provided By More Than One Telephone Company (Cont'd)

(B) Meet Point Billing

Meet Point Billing is required when an access service is provided by multiple telephone companies for FGB, FGC and FGD Switched Access Services, Directory Assistance, and Special Access. It is optional for FGA Switched Access Service.

For usage rated access service the access minutes of use will be determined by each company. A company without recording capability may obtain detailed access usage records from the recording company to develop its access minutes.

In a single bill arrangement, the Bill Rendering Company for FGB, FGC and FGD Switched Access Services is normally the end user's end office. For WATS usage, the Bill Rendering Company is normally the WATS serving office. For Directory Assistance, the Bill Rendering Company is normally the Directory Assistance location.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.4 Payment Arrangements and Credit Allowances (Cont'd)

2.4.7 Access Services Provided By More Than One Telephone Company (Cont'd)

(B) Meet Point Billing (Cont'd)

In a multiple bill arrangement, the other Bill Rendering Company(s) is any telephone company(s) in whose territory a segment of Local Transport or Special Transport is provided and/or where the customer's Point of Termination is located.

There are two Meet Point Billing Options -- Single Bill and Multiple Bill. The Issuing Carriers will utilize the Meet Point Billing Multiple Bill Option unless otherwise specified on an Issuing Carrier's company specific rate sheets in Section 17.2 following.

The Telephone Company must notify the customer of:

- the Meet Point Billing Option that will be used,
- the telephone company(s) that will render the bill(s),
- the telephone company(s) to whom payment(s) should be remitted, and
- the telephone company(s) that will provide the bill inquiry function.

The Telephone Company shall provide such notification at the time orders are placed for access service. Additionally, the Telephone Company shall provide this notice in writing 30 days in advance of any changes.

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## ACCESS SERVICE

2. General Regulations (Cont'd)2.4 Payment Arrangements and Credit Allowances (Cont'd)2.4.7 Access Services Provided By More Than One Telephone Company (Cont'd)(B) Meet Point Billing (Cont'd)

A telephone company that renders a meet point bill, the Bill Rendering Company, will render the bill in accordance with Industry Standards as described in the Multiple Exchange Carrier Access Billing Guidelines (MECAB) and the Multiple Exchange Carrier Ordering and Design Guidelines (MECOD). The bill will identify the other telephone company(s) providing service (when applicable) and include cross reference(s) to common circuit identifiers. Should a billing dispute arise, the terms and conditions of the Bill Rendering Telephone Company will apply.

(1) Single Bill Option

The Single Bill option provides the following three billing alternatives:

- Single Bill/Multiple Tariff,
- Single Bill/Pass-Through Billing, and
- Single Bill/Single Tariff.

These options are described following in (a) and (b) respectively.

ACCESS SERVICE

2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.4 Payment Arrangements and Credit Allowances (Cont'd)

2.4.7 Access Services Provided By More Than One Telephone Company (Cont'd)

(C) Meet Point Billing (Cont'd)

(1) Single Bill Option (Cont'd)

(a) Single Bill/Multiple Tariff

Each telephone company will receive an order or a copy of the order from the customer as specified in Section 5.3.2 following and arrange to provide the service. The Bill Rendering Company will:

- determine and include all other recurring and nonrecurring rates and charges for each involved telephone company;
- identify each involved telephone company's rates and charges separately on the bill;
- forward the bill to the customer and provide a copy of the bill or other substantiation of the charges to the involved telephone companies; and
- advise the customer how to remit the payment, either directly to each telephone company involved in the provision of this meet point billed service; or, as a single payment made to the Bill Rendering Company. If payments are to be sent directly to the Bill Rendering Company, the non-bill rendering telephone company(s) will provide the customer with written authorization for the payment arrangement.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.4 Payment Arrangements and Credit Allowances (Cont'd)

2.4.7 Access Services Provided By More Than One Telephone Company (Cont'd)

(B) Meet Point Billing (Cont'd)

(1) Single Bill Option (Cont'd)

(b) Single Bill/Single Tariff

Each telephone company will receive an order or a copy of the order from the customer as specified in Section 5.3.2 following and arrange to provide the service. The Bill Rendering Company will:

- determine and include all other recurring and nonrecurring rates and charges of its access tariff; and
- forward the bill to the customer.

The customer will remit the payment to the Bill Rendering Company.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.4 Payment Arrangements and Credit Allowances (Cont'd)

2.4.7 Access Services Provided By More Than One Telephone Company (Cont'd)

(B) Meet Point Billing (Cont'd)

(2) Multiple Bill Option

Each telephone company will receive an order or a copy of the order from the customer as specified in Section 5.3.2 following. Each telephone company will be the Bill Rendering Company and will:

- prepare its own bill;
- determine its charge(s) for Local Transport, Directory Transport, and/or Special Transport as set forth in (3) following;
- determine and include all other recurring and nonrecurring rates and charges of its access tariff; and
- forward its bill to the customer.

The customer will remit payment directly to each Bill Rendering Company.

ACCESS SERVICE

2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.4 Payment Arrangements and Credit Allowances (Cont'd)

2.4.7 Access Services Provided By More Than One Telephone Company (Cont'd)

(B) Meet Point Billing (Cont'd)

(3) Determination of Meet Point Billed Local Transport, Directory Transport, and Special Transport Charges

Except as specified in (j) below for Ethernet Switched Access Local Transport, each telephone company's portion of the Local Transport, Directory Transport, and Special Transport will be determined as follows:

- (a) Determine the appropriate Local Transport, Directory Transport, or Special Transport mileage by computing the number of airline miles between the Telephone Company premises using the V&H method set forth respectively in Sections 6.4.6, 9.1.3 and 7.2.5 following.
- (b) For Directory Transport and Special Transport, determine the rate for the airline mileage determined in (i) preceding using the rate schedule set forth in Sections 17.6 and 17.3 following.
- (c) Determine the billing percentage (BP), as set forth in NATIONAL EXCHANGE CARRIER ASSOCIATION, INC. TARIFF F.C.C. NO. 4, which represents the portion of the service provided by each telephone company.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.4 Payment Arrangements and Credit Allowances (Cont'd)

2.4.7 Access Services Provided By More Than One Telephone Company (Cont'd)

(B) Meet Point Billing (Cont'd)

(3) Determination of Meet Point Billed Local Transport, Directory Transport, and Special Transport Charges (Cont'd)

(d) For FGA, FGB, FGC and FGD Tandem Switched Transport:

- multiply the number of originating and terminating access minutes of use routed over the facility times the number of airline miles as set forth in (a) preceding, times the BP for each Telephone Company, as set forth in (c) preceding, times the Tandem Switched Facility rate;
- multiply the Tandem Switched Termination rate times the number of originating and terminating access minutes routed over the facility.
- When a tandem office is located within the operating territory of a Telephone Company participating in this tariff, multiply the Tandem Switching rate times the number of originating and terminating access minutes that are switched at the tandem.
- The tandem Switched Termination rate is applied as set forth in 6.1.3(A) following. The Switched Access Nonrecurring Charges are applied as set forth in 6.4.1(B) following. (Note: The BP is not applied to the Switched Access Tandem Switched Termination rate or any Nonrecurring Charge.)



ACCESS SERVICE

2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.4 Payment Arrangements and Credit Allowances (Cont'd)

2.4.7 Access Services Provided By More Than One Telephone Company (Cont'd)

(B) Meet Point Billing (Cont'd)

(3) Determination of Meet Point Billed Local Transport, Directory Transport, and Special Transport Charges (Cont'd)

(e) For FGA, FGB, FGC and FGD Direct Trunked Transport:

- multiply the number of airline miles as set forth in (a) preceding, times the BP for each Telephone Company, as set forth in (c) preceding, times the Direct Trunked Facility rate;
- The Direct Trunked Termination rate is applied as set forth in 6.1.3(A) following. The Switched Access Nonrecurring Charges are applied as set forth in 6.4.1(B) following. (Note: The BP isnot applied to either the Switched Access Direct Trunked Termination rate or any Nonrecurring Charge.)

(f) For FGA, FGB, FGC and FGD Entrance Facility:

- When the Entrance Facility and/or Multiplexing equipment is located within the operating territory of a Telephone Company participating in this tariff, the Entrance Facility and/or Multiplexing charge will apply.
- The Billing Percentage (BP) is not applicable to the Entrance Facility and Multiplexer Charges.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.4 Payment Arrangements and Credit Allowances (Cont'd)

2.4.7 Access Services Provided By More Than One Telephone Company (Cont'd)

(B) Meet Point Billing (Cont'd)

(3) Determination of Meet Point Billed Local Transport, Directory Transport, and Special Transport Charges (Cont'd)

- (g) For Special Access Services, (i) multiply the number of airline miles, as set forth in (a) preceding, times the BP for each telephone company, as set forth in (c) preceding, times the Special Transport per mile rate; and (ii) add 50% of the Special Transport Fixed rate.

The Special Access Special Transport Fixed rate and nonrecurring charges are applied as set forth in Sections 7.2.1(C) and 7.2.2(B) following.

(Note: The BP is not applied to either the Special Transport Fixed rate or any nonrecurring charge.)

- (h) For Directory Assistance Service, multiply the Directory Transport rate times the number of directory assistance calls times the BP for each telephone company, as set forth in (c) preceding. The Directory Assistance nonrecurring charge is applied as set forth in 9.4.1(B) following. (Note: The BP is not applied to any nonrecurring charge.)

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.4 Payment Arrangements and Credit Allowances (Cont'd)

2.4.7 Access Services Provided By More Than One Telephone Company (Cont'd)

(B) Meet Point Billing (Cont'd)

(3) Determination of Meet Point Billed Local Transport, Directory Transport, and Special Transport Charges (Cont'd)

- (i) When three or more telephone companies are involved in providing an Access Service, the intermediate telephone company(s) will determine the appropriate transport charges as set forth in (iv) and (v) preceding, except the Local Transport Termination or Special Transport Fixed rate does not apply at the intermediate telephone company(s) offices.
- (j) For Ethernet Switched Access Local Transport (ESALT)
  - When ESAL T is jointly provided with a Telephone Company in an adjacent operating territory, each of the two Telephone Companies involved (i.e., the company with the ESAL T SWC and the company with the SWC serving the customer designated premises) will bill one ESALT Direct Trunked Termination (ESALT OTT) monthly rate element, one ESAL T Direct Trunked Facility (ESAL T DTF)-E2 monthly rate element, one ESAL T OTT nonrecurring charge and one Access Order Charge. The company with the SWC serving the customer designated premises will also bill the customer the applicable monthly and nonrecurring charges for the ESAL T Entrance Facility (EF) rate element.
  - When ESAL T is jointly provided with a Telephone Company in a non-adjacent operating territory and the airline distance between the ESAL T SWC and the SWC serving the customer designated premises is 50 airline miles or less as measured using the V&H coordinates

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.4 Payment Arrangements and Credit Allowances (Cont'd)

2.4.7 Access Services Provided By More Than One Telephone Company (Cont'd)

(B) Meet Point Billing (Cont'd)

(3) Determination of Meet Point Billed Local Transport, Directory Transport, and Special Transport Charges (Cont'd)

(j) For Ethernet Switched Access Local Transport (ESALT) (Cont'd)

method, each of the two Telephone Companies involved (i.e., the company with the ESALT SWC and the company with the SWC serving the customer designated premises) will bill one ESAL T OTT monthly rate element, one ESAL T DTF-E3 monthly rate element, one ESAL T OTT nonrecurring charge and one Access Order Charge. The company with the SWC serving the customer designated premises will also bill the customer the applicable monthly and nonrecurring charges for the ESALT Entrance Facility (EF) rate element.

- When ESALT is jointly provided with a Telephone Company in a non-adjacent operating territory and the airline distance between the ESAL T SWC and the SWC serving the customer designated premises is between 51 and 75 airline miles as measured using the V&H coordinates method, each of the two Telephone Companies involved (i.e., the company with the ESAL T SWC and the company with the SWC serving the customer designated premises) will bill one ESALT OTT monthly rate element, one ESAL T DTF-E4 monthly rate element, one ESAL T OTT nonrecurring charge and One Access Order Charge. The company with the SWC serving the customer designated premises will also bill the customer the applicable monthly and nonrecurring charges for the ESAL T Entrance Facility (EF) rate element.

ACCESS SERVICE

2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.4 Payment Arrangements and Credit Allowances (Cont'd)

2.4.7 Access Services Provided By More Than One Telephone Company (Cont'd)

(B) Meet Point Billing (Cont'd)

(3) Determination of Meet Point Billed Local Transport, Directory Transport, and Special Transport Charges (Cont'd)

(j) For Ethernet Switched Access Local Transport (ESALT) (Cont'd)

The applicable monthly and nonrecurring charges will be based on the ESALT T bandwidth capacity ordered by the customer.

When required, charges for Tandem Switched Transport mileage between the ESALT SWC and end office(s) will be determined based on the provisions in (a) through (d) above.

(4) Application of Nondistance Sensitive Rates (Cont'd)

The application of nondistance sensitive recurring and nonrecurring rate elements varies according to the rate structure and the location of the facilities involved.

(a) When rates and charges are listed on a per point of termination basis, the Telephone Company's rates will be billed for the termination(s) within the Telephone Company's operating territory. These rates and charges will not apply when the Telephone Company provides access service as an intermediate, non-terminating telephone company.

(b) When rates and charges are listed on a per unit basis, (i.e., central office bridging or multiplexing), the Telephone Company's rates and charges will apply for units located in the Telephone Company's operating territory.

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ACCESS SERVICE

2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.4 Payment Arrangements and Credit Allowances (Cont'd)

2.4.7 Access Services Provided By More Than One Telephone Company (Cont'd)

(B) Meet Point Billing (Cont'd)

(4) Application of Nondistance Sensitive Rates (Cont'd)

- (c) When rates and charges are developed on an individual case basis, such rates will be developed for the portion of the service provided by the Telephone Company.
- (d) When rates and charges are listed on a per service basis, such rates and charges will apply.
- (e) Fifty percent (50%) of the Special Transport Fixed rate, Voice Grade Performance and Conditioning rates specified in Section 17.3 following will be billed for each end of the service that terminates within the Telephone Company's operating territory. These rates and charges will not apply when the Telephone Company provides access service as an intermediate, non-terminating telephone company.
- (f) Where the Telephone Company is the intermediate telephone company in a meet point billing arrangement, none of the nonrecurring charges listed in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of this tariff will apply.

ACCESS SERVICE

2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.4 Payment Arrangements and Credit Allowances (Cont'd)

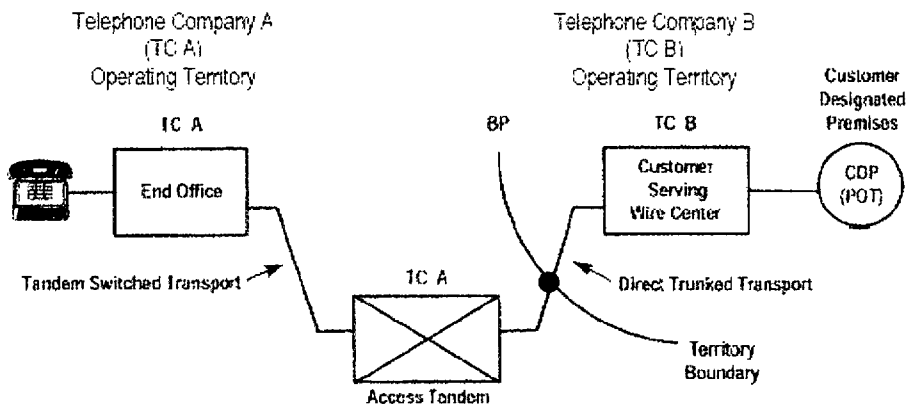
2.4.7 Access Services Provided By More Than One Telephone Company (Cont'd)

(B) Meet Point Billing (Cont'd)

(5) Example 1 – Switched Access

Layout

- FGD Switched Access is ordered to End Office.
- End Office and Access Tandem are in the operating territory of Telephone Company A (TC A) participating in this tariff.
- Customer Designated Premises is in the operating territory of Telephone Company B (TC B) not participating in this tariff.



BP = Billing Percentage

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.4 Payment Arrangements and Credit Allowances (Cont'd)

2.4.7 Access Services Provided By More Than One Telephone Company (Cont'd)

(B) Meet Point Billing (Cont'd)

(5) Example 1 – Switched Access (Cont'd)

The following example reflects the rate calculations for TC A, a Telephone Company participating in this tariff.

- Assume:

End Office to Access Tandem:

Airline miles from TC A End Office to TC A Access Tandem = 22.1, Rounded = 23

Access Tandem to Serving Wire Center:

Airline miles from TC A Access Tandem to TC B Serving Wire Center = 25.6, Rounded = 26

Billing Percentage (BP)

TC A = 40%  
TC B = 60%

Access Minutes = 9000

End Office Charges = EO

Tandem Switched Facility Rate = TSF

Tandem Switched Termination Rate = TST

Tandem Switching Rate = TS

Direct Trunked Facility Rate = DTF

Direct Trunked Termination Rate = DTT



ACCESS SERVICE

2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.4 Payment Arrangements and Credit Allowances (Cont'd)

2.4.7 Access Services Provided By More Than One Telephone Company (Cont'd)

(B) Meet Point Billing (Cont'd)

(5) Example 1 – Switched Access (Cont'd)

Telephone Company A charges are:

End Office charges  
= 9,000 min. x EO rate

Tandem Switched Facility charge  
= 9,000 min. x 23 mi. x TSF rate

Tandem Switched Termination charge  
= 2 terminations x 9,000 min. x TST rate

Tandem Switching charge  
= 9,000 min. x TS rate

Direct Trunked Facility charge  
= 26 miles x DTF rate x 40%

Direct Trunked Termination charge  
= 1 termination x DTT rate

ACCESS SERVICE

2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.4 Payment Arrangements and Credit Allowances (Cont'd)

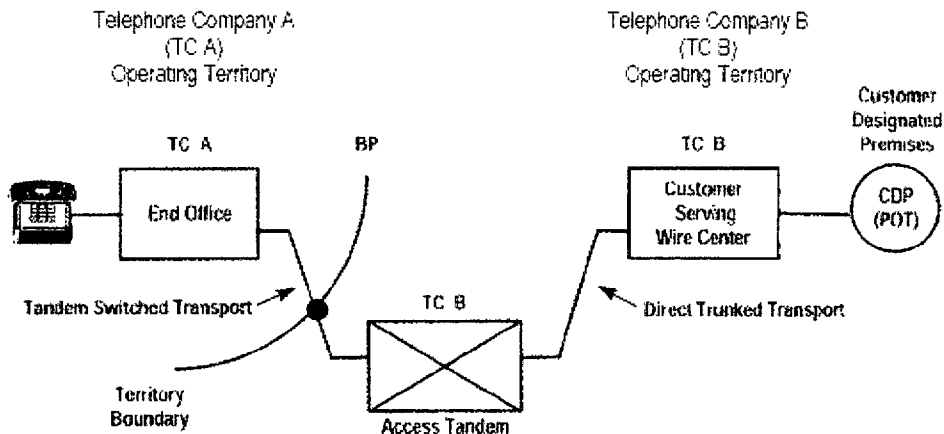
2.4.7 Access Services Provided By More Than One Telephone Company (Cont'd)

(B) Meet Point Billing (Cont'd)

(6) Example 2 – Switched Access

Layout

- FGD Switched Access is ordered to End Office.
- End Office is in the operating territory of Telephone Company A (TC A) participating in this tariff.
- Access Tandem and Customer Designated Premises are in the operating territory of Telephone Company B (TC B) not participating in this tariff.



BP = Billing Percentage

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.4 Payment Arrangements and Credit Allowances (Cont'd)

2.4.7 Access Services Provided By More Than One Telephone Company (Cont'd)

(B) Meet Point Billing (Cont'd)

(6) Example 2 – Switched Access (Cont'd)

The following example reflects the rate calculations for TC A, a Telephone Company participating in this tariff.

- Assume:

End Office to Access Tandem:

Airline miles from TC A End Office to TC B Access Tandem = 22.1, Rounded = 23

Billing Percentage (BP)

TC A = 80%

TC B = 20%

Access Tandem to Serving Wire Center:

Airline miles from TC B Access Tandem to TC B Serving Wire Center = 25.6, rounded = 26

Access Minutes = 9600

End Office Charges = EO

Tandem Switched Facility Rate = TSF

Tandem Switching Rate = TS

Direct Trunked Facility Rate = DTF

Direct Trunked Termination Rate = DTT

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.4 Payment Arrangements and Credit Allowances (Cont'd)

2.4.7 Access Services Provided By More Than One Telephone Company (Cont'd)

(B) Meet Point Billing (Cont'd)

(6) Example 2 – Switched Access (Cont'd)

- Telephone Company A charges are:

End Office charges  
= 9,000 min. x EO rate

Tandem Switched Facility charge  
= 9,000 min. x 23 mi. x TSF rate x 80%

Tandem Switched Termination charge  
= 1 termination x 9,000 min. x TST rate

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.4 Payment Arrangements and Credit Allowances (Cont'd)

2.4.8 Distance Learning Discount

Upon submission of an affidavit that complies with the requirements of the Public Utility Commission of Texas' Substantive Rule 26.141, 16 T.A.C., an educational institution (as defined in §26.141(a)(2)), may obtain a 25% discount on the tariffed rate for any tariffed service that is predominantly used for distance learning purposes.

Educational percentage discount rates (E-RATES) as defined in §26.216 may also apply, and are coordinated with other discounts according to §26.141. School, library or consortia are eligible for application of the Federal Communication Commission's Educational Percentage Discount Rates (E-Rates) for services pursuant to 47 C.F.R. Part 54. To receive these discounts, a school, library or consortia must meet the Federal requirements and the discounts must be applied to existing contracts as specified by the Federal Communications Commission's requirements or to services resulting from contracts pursuant to the Local Exchange Carrier's voluntary participation in the Federal bidding process.

2.5 Connections

Equipment and Systems (i.e., terminal equipment, multiline terminating systems and communications systems) may be connected with Switched and Special Access Service furnished by the Telephone Company where such connection is made in accordance with the provisions specified in Technical Reference Publications AS No. 1 and in Section 2.1 preceding.

ACCESS SERVICE

2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.6 Definitions

Certain terms used herein are defined as follows:

800 Data Base Access Service

The term "800 Data Base Access Service" denotes a service which uses a data base system to identify 800 access customers on a 10-digit basis. For purposes of administering the rules and regulations set forth in this tariff regarding the provision of 800 Database Access, except where otherwise specified, 800 Database Access service shall include the following service access codes 800, 888, 877, 866, 855, 844, 833, and 822.

800 Series

The term 800 series denotes the service access codes of 800, 888, 877, 866, 855, 844, 833, and 822.

Access Code

The term "Access Code" denotes a uniform access code assigned by the Telephone Company to an individual customer in the form of 101-XXXX and 950-XXXX.

Access Minutes

For the purpose of calculating chargeable usage, the term "Access Minutes" denotes customer usage of exchange facilities in the provision of intrastate service. On the originating end of an intrastate call, usage is measured from the time the originating end user's call is delivered by the Telephone Company to and acknowledged as received by the customer's facilities connected with the originating exchange. On the terminating end of an intrastate call usage is measured from the time the call is received by the end user in the terminating exchange. Timing of usage at both originating and terminating ends of an intrastate call shall terminate when the calling or called party disconnects, whichever event is recognized first in the originating and terminating exchanges, as applicable.

ACCESS SERVICE

2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.6 Definitions (Cont'd)

Access Tandem

The term "Access Tandem" denotes a Telephone Company or centralized equal access provider switching system that provides a concentration and distribution function for originating or terminating traffic between end offices and a customer designated premises.

Answer/Disconnect Supervision

The term "Answer/Disconnect Supervision" denotes the transmission of the switch trunk equipment supervisory signal (off-hook or on-hook) to the customer's point of termination as an indication that the called party has answered or disconnected.

Assumed Average Access Minutes

The term "Assumed Average Access Minutes" denotes the usage that will be billed each month to customers for FGA foreign dial tone and private switched network access arrangements served from Telephone Company serving end offices where actual recorded minutes of use are not available.

Attenuation Distortion

The term "Attenuation Distortion" denotes the difference in loss at specified frequencies relative to the loss at 1004 Hz, unless otherwise specified.

Automatic Number Identification (ANI)

The term "Automatic Number Identification" denotes the Multi-Frequency (MF) signaling parameter that identifies the billing number of the calling party.

Balance (100 Type) Test Line

The term "Balance (100 Type) Test Line" denotes an arrangement in an end office which provides for balance and noise testing.

Bit

The term "Bit" denotes the smallest unit of information in the binary system of notation.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.6 Definitions (Cont'd)

Building

The term "same building" is to be interpreted to mean a structure under one roof or two or more structures on one premises which are connected by an enclosed or covered passageway. In no case can conduit be considered as an enclosed passageway nor buildings connected by a covered public mall be the "same building".

Business Day

The term "Business Day" denotes the time of day that a company is open for business. Generally, in the business community, these are 8:00 or 9:00 AM to 5:00 or 6:00 PM, respectively, with an hour for lunch, Monday through Friday, resulting in a standard forty (40) hour work week. However, Business Day hours for the Telephone Company may vary based on company policy, union contract and location. To determine such hours for an individual company, or company location, that company should be contacted at the address shown under the Issuing Carrier's name listed on Title Pages 2 through 5 preceding.

Busy Hour Minutes of Capacity (BHMC)

The term "Busy Hour Minutes of Capacity (BHMC)" denotes the customer specified maximum amount of Switched Access Service and/or Directory Assistance Service access minutes the customer expects to be handled in an end office switch during any hour in an 8:00 AM to 11:00 PM period for the Feature Group Service and/or Directory Assistance Service ordered. This customer specified BHMC quantity is the input data the Telephone Company uses to determine the number of transmission paths for the Feature Group and/or Directory Assistance Service ordered.

Call

The term "Call" denotes a customer attempt for which complete address information (i.e., 0-, 911, or 10 digits) is provided to the serving dial tone office.

Calling Number Party (CPN)

The term "Calling Number Party" denotes the SS7 signaling parameter that identifies the subscriber line number or directory number of the calling party.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.6 Definitions (Cont'd)

Carrier Identification Code (CIC)

The term "Carrier Identification Code" denotes a numeric code assigned by the North American Number Plan (NANP) Administrator for the provisioning of Feature Group B or Feature Group D Switched Access Services. The numeric code is unique to each carrier and is used by the Telephone Company to route switched access traffic to the Customer Designated Premises.

Carrier or Common Carrier

See Interexchange Carrier.

CCS

The term "CCS" denotes a hundred call seconds, which is a standard unit of traffic load that is equal to 100 seconds of usage or capacity of a group of servers (i.e., trunks).

Central Office

See End Office.

Central Office Maintenance Technician

The term "Central Office Maintenance Technician" denotes a Telephone Company employee who performs installation and/or repair work, including testing and trouble isolation, within the Telephone Company Central Office.

Central Office Prefix

The term "Central Office Prefix" denotes the first three digits (NXX) of the seven digit telephone number assigned to a customer's Telephone Exchange Service when dialed on a local basis.

Channel(s)

The term "Channel(s)" denotes an electrical or photonic, in the case of fiber optic-based transmission systems, communications path between two or more points of termination.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.6 Definitions (Cont'd)

Channel Service Unit

The term "Channel Service Unit" denotes equipment which performs one or more of the following functions: termination of a digital facility, regeneration of digital signals, detection and/or correction of signal format error, and remote loop back.

Channelize

The term "Channelize" denotes the process of multiplexing-demultiplexing wider bandwidth or higher speed channels into narrower bandwidth or lower speed channels.

Charge Number (CN)

The term "Charge Number" denotes the SS7 signaling parameter that identifies the billing telephone number of the calling party.

Clear Channel Capability

The term "Clear Channel Capability" denotes the ability to transport twenty-four 64 Kbps over a DS1 Mbps High Capacity service via a B8ZS line code format.

Closed-End

The term "Closed-End" denotes the end of a telecommunication service on which the end user customer is connected to a WATS serving office via WATS Access Line Service or on which the end user customer is connected to the carrier via a dedicated (private line) service. The closed-end of OutWATS is the originating end. The closed-end of inward 800 service is the terminating end.

C-Message Noise

The term "C-Message Noise" denotes the frequency weighted average noise within an idle voice channel. The frequency weighting, called C-message, is used to simulate the frequency characteristic of the 500-type telephone set and the hearing of the average subscriber.

C-Notched Noise

The term "C-Notched Noise" denotes the C-message frequency weighted noise on a voice channel with a holding tone, which is removed at the measuring end through a notch (very narrow band) filter.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.6 Definitions (Cont'd)

Common Channel Signaling

The term "Common Channel Signaling" (CCS) denotes a high speed packet switched communications network which is separate (out of band) from the public packet switched and message networks. Its purpose is to carry addressed signaling messages for individual trunk circuits and/or database related services between Signaling Points in the CCS network.

Common Line

The term "Common Line" denotes a line, trunk, pay telephone line or other facility provided under the general and/or local exchange service tariffs of the Telephone Company, terminated on a central office switch. A common line-residence is a line or trunk provided under the residence regulations of the general and/or local exchange service tariffs. A common line-business is a line provided under the business regulations of the general and/or local exchange service tariffs.

Communications System

The term "Communications System" denotes channels and other facilities which are capable of communications between terminal equipment provided by other than the Telephone Company.

Customer(s)

The term "Customer(s)" denotes any individual, partnership, association, joint-stock company, trust, corporation, or governmental entity or other entity which subscribes to the services offered under this tariff, including both Interexchange Carriers (ICs) and End Users.

Customer Designated Premises

The term "Customer Designated Premises" denotes the premises specified by the customer for the provision of Access Service.

Data Transmission (107 Type) Test Line

The term "Data Transmission (107 Type) Test Line" denotes an arrangement which provides for a connection to a signal source which provides test signals for one-way testing of data and voice transmission parameters.

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## ACCESS SERVICE

2. General Regulations (Cont'd)2.6 Definitions (Cont'd)Decibel

The term "Decibel" denotes a unit used to express relative difference in power, usually between acoustic or electric signals, equal to ten (10) times the common logarithm of the ratio of two signal powers.

Decibel Reference Noise C-Message Weighting

The term "Decibel Reference Noise C-Message Weighting" denotes noise power measurements with C-Message Weighting in decibels relative to a reference 1000 Hz tone of 90 dB below 1 milliwatt.

Decibel Reference Noise C-Message Referenced to 0

The term "Decibel Reference Noise C-Message Referenced to 0" denotes noise power in "Decibel Reference Noise C-Message Weighting" referred to or measured at a zero transmission level point.

Detail Billing

The term "Detail Billing" denotes the listing of each message and/or rate element for which charges to a customer are due on a bill prepared by the Telephone Company.

Digital Switched 56 Service

The term "Digital Switched 56 Service" denotes a switched access optional feature available with FGD Access, which provides for data transmission and up to 56 Kilobits per second.

Direct-Trunked Transport

The term "Direct Trunked Transport" denotes transport from the serving wire center to the end office or from the serving wire center to the access tandem on circuits dedicated to the use of a single customer.

Directory Assistance (Intrastate)

The term "Directory Assistance" denotes the provision of telephone numbers by a Telephone Company operator when the operator location is accessed by a customer by dialing NPA + 555-1212 or 555-1212.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.6 Definitions (Cont'd)

Directory Assistance Location (Intrastate)

The term "Directory Assistance Location" denotes a Telephone Company office where Telephone Company equipment first receives the Directory Assistance call from the customer's end user and selects the first operator position to respond to the Directory Assistance call.

Dual Tone Multifrequency Address Signaling

The term "Dual Tone Multifrequency Address Signaling" denotes a type of signaling that is an optional feature of Switched Access FGA. It may be utilized when FGA is being used in the terminating direction (from the point of termination with the customer to the local exchange end office). An office arranged for Dual Tone Multifrequency Signaling would expect to receive address signals from the customer in the form of Dual Tone Multifrequency signals.

Echo Control

The term "Echo Control" denotes the control of reflected signals in a telephone transmission path.

Echo Path Loss

The term "Echo Path Loss" denotes the measure of reflected signal at a four-wire point of interface without regard to the send and receive Transmission Level Point.

Echo Return Loss

The term "Echo Return Loss" denotes a frequency weighted measure of return loss over the middle of the voiceband (approximately 500 to 2500 Hz), where talker echo is most annoying.

Effective Two-Wire

The term "Effective Two-Wire" denotes a condition which permits the simultaneous transmission in both directions over a channel, but it is not possible to insure independent information transmission in both directions. Effective two-wire channels may be terminated with two-wire or four-wire interfaces.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.6 Definitions (Cont'd)

Effective Four-Wire

The term "Effective Four-Wire" denotes a condition which permits the simultaneous independent transmission of information in both directions over a channel. The method of implementing effective four-wire transmission is at the discretion of the Telephone Company (physical, time domain, frequency-domain separation or echo cancellation techniques). Effective four-wire channels may be terminated with a two-wire interface at the customer's premises. However, when terminated two-wire, simultaneous independent transmission cannot be supported because the two-wire interface combines the transmission paths into a single path.

End Office

The term "End Office" denotes a local Telephone Company switching system where Telephone Exchange Service customer station loops are terminated for purposes of interconnection to each other and to trunks. This term includes Remote Switching Modules/Systems served by a Host Central Office in a different wire center.

End User

The term "End User" means any customer of an intrastate telecommunications service that is not a carrier, except that a carrier other than a Telephone Company shall be deemed to be an "end user" when such carrier uses a telecommunications service for administrative purposes, and a person or entity that offers telecommunications service exclusively as a reseller shall be deemed to be an "end user" if all resale transmissions offered by such reseller originate on the premises of such reseller.

Enhanced Service

The term "Enhanced Service", as defined in Part 64 of the F.C.C.'s Rules and Regulations, are services "...offered over common carrier transmission facilities used in interstate communications, which employ computer processing applications that act on the format, content, code, protocol or similar aspects of the subscriber's transmitted information; provide the subscriber additional, different, or restructured information; or involve subscriber interaction with stored information."

ACCESS SERVICE

2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.6 Definitions (Cont'd)

Entrance Facility

The term "Entrance Facility" denotes a Switched Access Service dedicated Local Transport facility between the customer's serving wire center and the customer designated premises.

Entry Switch

See First Point of Switching.

Envelope Delay Distortion

The term "Envelope Delay Distortion" denotes a measure of the linearity of the phase versus frequency of a channel.

Equal Level Echo Path Loss

The term "Equal Level Echo Path Loss" (ELEPL) denotes the measure of Echo Path Loss (EPL) at a four-wire interface which is corrected by the difference between the send and receive Transmission Level Point (TLP). [ELEPL = EPL - TLP (send) + TLP (receive).]

Equalized

The term "Equalized" denotes a procedure which provides for the component frequencies of the material transmitted having about the same relationship at the two ends of the channel.

Exchange

The term "Exchange" denotes a unit generally smaller than a local access and transport area, established by the Telephone Company for the administration of communications service in a specified area which usually embraces a city, town or village and its environs. It consists of one or more central offices together with the associated facilities used in furnishing communications service within that area. The exchange includes any Extended Area Service area that is an enlargement of a Telephone Company's exchange area to include nearby exchanges. One or more designated exchanges comprise a given local access and transport area.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.6 Definitions (Cont'd)

Exit Message

The term "Exit Message" denotes an SS7 message sent to an end office by the Telephone Company's tandem switch to mark the Carrier Connect Time when the Telephone Company's tandem switch sends an Initial Address Message to an Interexchange Customer.

Expected Measured Loss

The term "Expected Measured Loss" denotes a calculated loss which specifies the end-to-end 1004-Hz loss on a terminated test connection between two readily accessible manual or remote test points. It is the sum of the inserted connection loss and test access loss including any test pads.

Extended Area Service

See Exchange.

Facilities

The term "Facilities" denotes any cable, fiber optic, poles, conduit, microwave or carrier equipment, wire center distribution frames, central office switching equipment, computers (both hardware and software), business machines, etc., utilized to provide (1) the services offered under this tariff or (2) the services provided by a customer for its own use or for the use of its customers (End Users).

Facility Interface

The term "Facility Interface" denotes a point of demarcation, at the customer terminal location or End User premises, at which the Telephone Company's responsibility for the provision of Access Service ends.

First Come - First Served

The term "First Come - First Served" denotes a procedure followed when a shortage of facilities or equipment occurs, such that an Access Service ordered cannot be installed. The orders delayed by the shortage of facilities will be prioritized according to the sequence in which they were received. That is, when facilities or equipment become available, the first order received will be the first order processed.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.6 Definitions (Cont'd)

First Point of Switching

The term "First Point of Switching" denotes the first Telephone Company or centralized equal access provider location at which switching occurs on the terminating path of a call proceeding from the customer designated premises to the terminating end office and, at the same time, the last Telephone Company or centralized equal access provider location at which switching occurs on the originating path of a call proceeding from the originating end office to the customer designated premises.

Frequency Shift

The term "Frequency Shift" denotes the change in the frequency of a tone as it is transmitted over a channel.

Grandfathered

The term "Grandfathered" denotes Terminal Equipment, Multiline Terminating Systems and Protective Circuitry directly connected to the facilities utilized to provide services under the provisions of this tariff, and which are considered grandfathered under Part 68 of the F.C.C.'s Rules and Regulations.

Host Central Office

The term "Host Central Office" denotes an electronic local Telephone Company End Office where Telephone Exchange Service customer station loops are terminated for purposes of interconnection to each other and to trunks. Additionally, this type of End Office contains the central call processing functions which service itself and its Remote Switching Modules/Systems.

Hub

The term "Hub" denotes a wire center at which bridging or multiplexing functions are performed for customers served out of any wire center.

Immediately Available Funds

The term "Immediately Available Funds" denotes a corporate or personal check drawn on a bank account and funds which are available for use by the receiving party on the same day on which they are received and include U.S. Federal Reserve bank wire transfers, U.S. Federal Reserve notes (paper cash), U.S. coins, U.S. Postal Money Orders and New York Certificates of Deposit.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.6 Definitions (Cont'd)

Impedance Balance

The term "Impedance Balance" denotes the method of expressing Echo Return Loss and Singing Return Loss at a four-wire interface whereby the gains and/or loss of the four-wire portion of the transmission path, including the hybrid, are not included in the specification.

Impulse Noise

The term "Impulse Noise" denotes any momentary occurrence of the noise on a channel over a specified level threshold. It is evaluated by counting the number of occurrences which exceed the threshold.

Individual Case Basis (ICB)

The term "Individual Case Basis (ICB)" denotes a condition in which the regulations, if applicable, rates and charges for an offering under the provisions of this tariff are developed based on the circumstances in each case.

Initial Address Message

The term "Initial Address Message" denotes an SS7 message sent in the forward direction to initiate trunk set up, reserve an outgoing trunk and process the information about that trunk along with other data relating to the routing and handling of the call to the next switch.

Inserted Connection Loss (ICL)

The term "Inserted Connection Loss" denotes the 1004 Hz power difference (in dB) between the maximum power available at the originating end and the actual power reaching the terminating end through the inserted connection.

Installation and Repair Technician

The term "Installation and Repair Technician" denotes a Telephone Company employee who performs installation and/or repair work, including testing and trouble isolation, outside of the Telephone Company Central Office and generally at the customer designated premises.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.6 Definitions (Cont'd)

Interexchange Carrier (IC) or Interexchange Common Carrier

The terms "Interexchange Carrier" (IC) or "Interexchange Common Carrier" denote any individual, partnership, association, jointstock company, trust, governmental entity or corporation engaged for hire in intrastate communication by wire or radio, between two or more exchanges.

Intermediate Hub

The term "Intermediate Hub" denotes a wire center at which bridging or multiplexing functions are performed only for customers served by that wire center and wire centers that subtend the hub, as specified in NATIONAL EXCHANGE CARRIER ASSOCIATION, INC. TARIFF F.C.C. No. 4.

Intermodulation Distortion

The term "Intermodulation Distortion" denotes a measure of the nonlinearity of a channel. It is measured using four tones, and evaluating the ratios (in dB) of the transmitted composite four-tone signal power to the second-order products of the tones (R2), and the third-order products of the tones (R3).

Interstate Communications

The term "Interstate Communications" denotes both interstate and foreign communications.

Intrastate Communications

The term "Intrastate Communications" denotes any communications within a state subject to oversight by a state regulatory commission as provided by the laws of the state involved.

Legal Holiday

The term "Legal Holiday" denotes days other than Saturday or Sunday for which the Telephone Company is normally closed. These include New Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and a day when Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day or Columbus Day is legally observed and other locally observed holidays when the Telephone Company is closed.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.6 Definitions (Cont'd)

Line Side Connection

The term "Line Side Connection" denotes a connection of a transmission path to the line side of a local exchange switching system.

Local Access and Transport Area (LATA)

The term "Local Access and Transport Area" denotes a geographic area established for the provision and administration of communications service. It encompasses one or more designated exchanges, which are grouped to serve common social, economic and other purposes.

Local Tandem Switch

The term "Local Tandem Switch" denotes a local Telephone Company switching unit by means of which local or access telephonic communications are switched to and from an End Office Switch.

Loop Around Test Line

The term "Loop Around Test Line" denotes an arrangement utilizing a Telephone Company central office to provide a means to make certain two-way transmission tests on a manual basis. This arrangement has two central office terminations, each reached by means of separate telephone numbers and does not require any specific customer premises equipment.

Loss Deviation

The term "Loss Deviation" denotes the variation of the actual loss from the designed value.

Major Fraction Thereof

The term "Major Fraction Thereof" denotes any period of time in excess of 1/2 of the stated amount of time. As an example, in considering a period of 24 hours, a major fraction thereof would be any period of time in excess of 12 hours exactly. Therefore, if a given service is interrupted for a period of 36 hours and 15 minutes, the customer would be given a credit allowance for two, 24 hour periods for a total of 48 hours.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.6 Definitions (Cont'd)

Message

The term "Message" denotes a "call" as defined preceding.

Message Telecommunications Service (MTS)/Message Telecommunications Service-Type (MTS-type)

The terms "MTS/MTS-Type" denote Interexchange services provided via access to a common line on both the originating end and the terminating end of a long distance call.

Milliwatt (102 Type) Test Line

The term "Milliwatt (102 Type) Test Line" denotes an arrangement in an end office which provides a 1004 Hz tone at 0 dBm0 for one-way transmission measurements towards the customer's premises from the Telephone Company end office.

Multi-Frequency (MF) Signaling

The term "Multi-Frequency (MF) Signaling" denotes an in-band signaling method in which call signaling information is transmitted between network switches using the same voiceband channel used for voice.

Network Control Signaling

The term "Network Control Signaling" denotes the transmission of signals used in the telecommunications system which perform functions such as supervision (control, status, and charge signals), address signaling (i.e., dialing), calling and called number identifications, rate of flow, service selection error control and audible tone signals (call progress signals indicating re-order or busy conditions, alerting, coin denominations, coin collect and coin return tones) to control the operation of the telecommunications system.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.6 Definitions (Cont'd)

Nonsynchronous Test Line

The term "Nonsynchronous Test Line" denotes an arrangement in step-by-step end offices which provides operational tests which are not as complete as those provided by the synchronous test lines, but can be made more rapidly.

North American Numbering Plan

The term "North American Numbering Plan" denotes a three-digit area code (Numbering Plan Area - NPA) and a seven-digit telephone number made up of a three-digit Central Office prefix plus a four-digit station number.

Off-hook

The term "Off-hook" denotes the active condition of Switched Access or a Telephone Exchange Service line.

On-hook

The term "On-hook" denotes the idle condition of Switched Access or a Telephone Exchange Service line.

Open Circuit Test Line

The term "Open Circuit Test Line" denotes an arrangement in an end office which provides an ac open circuit termination of a trunk or line by means of an inductor of several Henries.

Originating Direction

The term "Originating Direction" denotes the use of access service for the origination of calls from an End User Premises to an IC Premises.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.6 Definitions (Cont'd)

Pay Telephone

The term "Pay Telephone" denotes a location where Telephone Company equipment is provided in a public or semipublic place where Telephone Company customers can originate telephonic communications and pay the applicable charges by (1) inserting coins into the equipment, or (2) using a credit card, or (3) third party billing the call or (4) calling collect.

Phase Jitter

The term "Phase Jitter" denotes the unwanted phase variations of a signal.

Point of Termination

The term "Point of Termination" denotes the point of demarcation within a customer-designated premises at which the Telephone Company's responsibility for the provision of Access Service ends.

Premises

The term "Premises" denotes all portions of the same building occupied by the same customer, provided that:

- (A) the portions are not separated from each other by intervening offices, rooms or suites not occupied by the customer,
- (B) the portions of different floors are contiguous and that the portion on the upper floor is directly above the portion occupied on the lower floor.

All of the buildings occupied by the same customer, provided that all of the buildings are located on the same continuous property, which is owned and/or leased by the same customer, and are not separated by a public highway. A public highway is considered to mean a vehicular thoroughfare which is governmentally owned.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.6 Definitions (Cont'd)

Registered Equipment

The term "Registered Equipment" denotes the customer's premises equipment which complies with and has been approved within the Registration Provisions of Part 68 of the F.C.C.'s Rules and Regulations.

Regularly Scheduled Working Hours

See Business Day

Release Message

The term "Release Message" denotes an SS7 message sent in either direction to indicate that a specific circuit is being released.

Remote Switching Modules/Systems

The term "Remote Switching Modules/Systems" denotes small, remotely controlled electronic end office switches which obtain their call processing capability from an electronic Host Central Office. The Remote Switching Modules/Systems cannot accommodate direct trunks.

Return Loss

The term "Return Loss" denotes a measure of the similarity between the two impedances at the junction of two transmission paths. The higher the return loss, the higher the similarity.

Service Access Code

The term "Service Access Code" denotes a 3 digit code in the NPA format which is used as the first three digits of a 10 digit address and which is assigned for special network uses. Whereas NPA codes are normally used for identifying specific geographical areas, certain Service Access Codes have been allocated in the North American Numbering Plan to identify generic services or to provide access capability. Examples of Service Access Codes include the 800 and 900 codes.

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ACCESS SERVICE

2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.6 Definitions (Cont'd)

Service Termination

The term "Service Termination" denotes the connection of Access Service at a customer premises, or a Centrex C.O.

Serving Wire Center

The term "Serving Wire Center" denotes the wire center from which the customer designated premises would normally obtain dial tone from the Telephone Company.

Seven Digit Manual Test Line

The term "Seven Digit Manual Test Line" denotes an arrangement which allows the customer to select balance, milliwatt and synchronous test lines by manually dialing a seven digit number over the associated access connection.

Shortage of Facilities or Equipment

The term "Shortage of Facilities or Equipment" denotes a condition which occurs when the Telephone Company does not have appropriate cable, switching capacity, bridging, or multiplexing equipment, etc., necessary to provide the Access Service requested by the customer.

Short Circuit Test Line

The term "Short Circuit Test Line" denotes an arrangement in an end office which provides for an ac short circuit termination of a trunk or line by means of a capacitor of at least four microfarads.

Signal-to-C-Notched Noise Ratio

The term "Signal-to-C-Notched Noise Ratio" denotes the ratio in dB of a test signal to the corresponding C-Notched Noise.

ACCESS SERVICE

2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.6 Definitions (Cont'd)

Singing Return Loss (SRL)

The term "Singing Return Loss" (SRL) denotes the frequency weighted measure of return loss at the edges of the voiceband (200 to 500 Hz and 2500 to 3200 Hz), where singing (instability) problems are most likely to occur.

Special Order

The term "Special Order" denotes an order for a Billing and Collection Service or an order for a Directory Assistance Service.

Subtending End Office of an Access Tandem

The term "Subtending End Office of an Access Tandem" denotes an end office that has final trunk group routing through that tandem.

Super Intermediate Hub

The term "Super Intermediate Hub" denotes a wire center at which bridging or multiplexing functions are performed for customers serviced by all wire centers in the LATA. A Super Intermediate Hub can be restricted to one or more designated NPAs within a LATA and/or to wire centers that are owned by the same Telephone Company as the hub. Super Intermediate Hubs and the wire centers they serve are identified in NATIONAL EXCHANGE CARRIER ASSOCIATION, INC. TARIFF F.C.C. No. 4.

Synchronous Test Line

The term "Synchronous Test Line" denotes an arrangement in an end office which performs marginal operational test of supervisory and ring-tripping functions.

Tandem Switched Transport

The term "Tandem Switched Transport" denotes transport from the tandem to the end office that is switched at a tandem.

Terminating Direction

The term "Terminating Direction" denotes the use of Access service for the completion of calls from an IC premises to an End User Premises.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.6 Definitions (Cont'd)

Termination Charge

The term "Termination Charge" denotes a charge that is applicable should a customer discontinue Special Construction or Specialized Service or Arrangements, etc., prior to the expiration of its termination liability period. This charge is computed at the time of discontinuance and in no case will it ever exceed the maximum termination liability (charge) which was agreed to by the customer at the time the Special Construction or Specialized Service or Arrangements, etc., was undertaken.

Terminus Hub

The term "Terminus Hub" denotes a wire center at which bridging or multiplexing functions are performed only for customers served directly by the same wire center.

Toll VoIP-PTSN Traffic

The term "Toll VoIP-PSTN Traffic" denotes a customer's interexchange voice traffic exchanged with the Telephone Company in Time Division Multiplexing format over PSTN facilities, which originates and/or terminates in Internet Protocol (IP) format. "Toll VoIP-PSTN Traffic" originates and/or terminates to an end user customer of a service that requires IP-compatible customer premises equipment.

Transmission Measuring (105 Type) Test Line/Responder

The term "Transmission Measuring (105 Type) Test Line/Responder" denotes an arrangement in an end office which provides far-end access to a responder and permits two-way loss and noise measurements to be made on trunks from a near end office.

Transmission Path

The term "Transmission Path" denotes an electrical path capable of transmitting signals within the range of the service offering, (i.e., a voice grade transmission path is capable of transmitting voice frequencies within the approximate range of 300 to 3000 Hz). A transmission path is comprised of physical or derived facilities consisting of any form or configuration of plant typically used in the telecommunications industry.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.6 Definitions (Cont'd)

Transmission Specifications

The term "Transmission Specifications" denotes the appropriate limits, (i.e., immediate action limits) of the Access Service transmission parameters.

Trunk

The term "Trunk" denotes a communications path connecting two switching systems in a network, used in the establishment of an end-to-end connection.

Trunk Group

The term "Trunk Group" denotes a set of trunks which are traffic engineered as a unit for the establishment of connections between switching systems in which all of the communications paths are interchangeable.

Trunk Side Connection

The term "Trunk Side Connection" denotes the connection of a transmission path to the trunk side of a local exchange switching system.

Two-Wire to Four-Wire Conversion

The term "Two-Wire to Four-Wire Conversion" denotes an arrangement which converts a four-wire transmission path to a two-wire transmission path to allow a four-wire facility to terminate in a two-wire entity (i.e., a central office switch).

V&H Coordinates Method

The term "V&H Coordinates Method" denotes a method of computing airline miles between two points by utilizing an established formula which is based on the vertical and horizontal coordinates of the two points.

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2. General Regulations (Cont'd)

2.6 Definitions (Cont'd)

WATS Serving Office

The term "WATS Serving Office" denotes a Telephone Company designated serving wire center where switching, screening and/or recording functions are performed in connection with the closed-end of WATS or WATS-type services.

Wide Area Telecommunications Service (WATS) /Wide Area Telecommunications Service-Type (WATS-type)

The terms "WATS/WATS-type" denote Interexchange services provided via a WATS Access Line, private line, special access line or other dedicated line on the originating closed end.

WATS Access Line (WAL)

The term "WATS Access Line" denotes a dedicated connection between an end user premises and the WATS serving office.

WATS Access Line Service

The term "WATS Access Line Service" denotes a service that combines Switched Access Service with a WATS Access Line that connects an end user premises with a WATS Serving Office.

WATS Serving Office

The term "WATS Serving Office" denotes a Telephone Company designated serving wire center where switch, screening and/or recording functions are performed in connection with the closed-end of WATS Access Line Services.

Wire Center

The term "Wire Center" denotes a building in which one or more central offices, used for the provision of Telephone Exchange Services, are located.

Wireless Switching Center (WSC)

The term "Wireless Switching Center" (WSC) denotes a Wireless Service Provider (WSP) switching system that is used to terminate wireless stations for purposes of interconnection to each other and to trunks interfacing with the public switched network.