#### **MINNESOTA**

### TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES TARIFF

OF

# TELIAX, INC.

This tariff contains the descriptions, regulations, and rates applicable to the furnishing of service and facilities for local exchange and interexchange telecommunication services provided by Teliax, Inc. for services furnished within the state of Minnesota. This tariff is on file with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, and copies may be inspected, during normal business hours, at the Company's principal place of business.

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## **CHECK SHEET**

The pages listed below of this tariff are effective as of the date shown. Revised pages contain all changes from the original tariff that are in effect as of the date indicated.

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<sup>\* -</sup> indicates those pages included with this tariff

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# **CHECK SHEET, (CONT'D.)**

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## **EXPLANATION OF SYMBOLS**

The following symbols are used for the purposes indicated below:

- (C) To signify changed listing, rule, or condition that may affect rates or charges.
- (**D**) To signify discontinued material, including listing, rate, rule, or condition.
- (I) To signify an increase.
- (M) To signify material relocated from or to another part of tariff schedule with no change in text, rate, rule or condition.
- (N) To signify new material including listing, rate, rule or condition.
- **(R)** To signify a reduction.
- (S) To signify reissued material.
- (T) To signify change in wording of text but not change in rate, rule, or condition.

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### APPLICATION OF TARIFF

This tariff sets forth the service offerings, rates, terms and conditions applicable to the furnishing of intrastate local exchange communications services by Teliax, Inc., hereinafter referred to as the Company, to Customers within the state of Minnesota. Teliax's services are furnished subject to the availability of facilities and subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein.

This tariff is on file with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. In addition, this tariff is available for review at the main office of Teliax, Inc., at 1001 16<sup>th</sup> Street, B-180 #102, Denver, CO 80265.

### **SERVICE AREA MAP**

The Company will provide local exchange service in areas currently served by CenturyLink QC (Qwest) and intrastate toll service throughout the state of Minnesota. Local calling areas are as defined in Section 3 of this tariff.

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#### **TARIFF FORMAT**

- **A.** Page Numbering Page numbers appear in the upper right corner of the page. Pages are numbered sequentially, however, new pages are occasionally added to the tariff. When a new page is added between pages already in effect, a decimal is added. For example, a new page added between pages 14 and 15 would be 14.1.
- **B.** Page Revision Numbers Revision numbers also appear in the upper right corner of each page. These numbers are used to determine the most current page version on file with the Commission. For example, the 4<sup>th</sup> Revised Page 14 cancels the 3<sup>rd</sup> Revised Page 14. Because of various suspension periods, deferrals, etc., the most current page number on file with the Commission is not always the tariff page in effect. Consult the Check Sheet for the page currently in effect.
- **C. Paragraph Numbering Sequence** There are nine levels of paragraph coding. Each level of coding is subservient to its next higher level:

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2.

2.1.

2.1.1.

2.1.1.A.

2.1.1.A.1.

2.1.1.A.1.(a).

2.1.1.A.1.(a).I.

2.1.1.A.1.(a).I.(i).

2.1.1.A.1.(a).I.(i).
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**D.** Check Sheets – When a tariff filing is made with the Commission, an updated Check Sheet accompanies the tariff filing. The Check Sheet lists the pages contained in the tariff, with a cross reference to the current revision number. When new pages are added, the Check Sheet is changed to reflect the revision. All revisions made in a given filing are designated by an asterisk (\*). There will be no other symbols used on this page if these are the only changes made to it (i.e., the format, etc. remain the same, just revised revision levels on some pages.) The tariff user should refer to the latest Check Sheet to find out if a particular page is the most current on file with the Commission.

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### **SECTION 1 - DEFINITIONS**

**Advance Payment** - Payment of all or part of a charge required before the start of service.

**Authorized User** - A person, corporation or other entity that is authorized by the Company Customer to utilize service provided by the Company to the customer. The customer is responsible for all charges incurred by an Authorized User.

**Automatic Numbering Identification (ANI)** - A type of signaling provided by a local exchange telephone company which automatically identifies the local exchange line from which a call originates.

Common Carrier - An authorized company or entity providing telecommunications services to the public

Company - Teliax, Inc., the issuer of this tariff.

**Customer** - The person, firm or corporation that orders service and is responsible for the payment of charges and compliance with the terms and conditions of this tariff.

**Customer Premises** - A location, or equipment, designated by the Customer for the purposes of connecting to the Company's services.

**Customer Terminal Equipment** - Terminal equipment provided by the Customer.

Commission - Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

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### **SECTION 1 - DEFINITIONS, (CONT'D.)**

**Deposit** - Refers to a cash or equivalent of cash security held as a guarantee for payment of the charges.

**Equal Access** - A form of dialed access provided by local exchange companies whereby interexchange calls dialed by the Customer are automatically routed to the Company network. Presubscribed Customers may also route interexchange calls to the Company network by dialing an access code supplied by the Company.

**Exchange Telephone Company or Telephone Company** - Denotes any individual, partnership, association, joint-stock company, trust, or corporation authorized by the appropriate regulatory bodies to engage in providing public switched communication service throughout an exchange area, and between exchange areas within the LATA.

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

IXC or Interexchange Carrier - A long distance telecommunications services provider.

**Interruption** - The inability to complete calls due to equipment malfunctions or human errors. Interruption shall not include, and no allowance shall be given for service difficulties such as slow dial tone, circuits busy or other network and/or switching capability shortages. Nor shall Interruption include the failure of any service or facilities provided by a common carrier or other entity other than the Carrier. Any Interruption allowance provided within this Tariff by Carrier shall not apply where service is interrupted by the negligence or willful act of the Customer, or where the Carrier, pursuant to the terms of this Tariff, terminates service because of non-payment of bills, unlawful or improper use of the Carrier's facilities or service, or any other reason covered by this Tariff or by applicable law.

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### **SECTION 1 - DEFINITIONS, (CONT'D.)**

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

**LATA** - A Local Access and Transport Area established pursuant to the Modification of Final Judgment entered by the United States District Court for the District of Columbia in Civil Action No. 82-0192; or any other geographic area designated as a LATA in the National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc. Tariff F.C.C. No. 4, or its successor tariff(s).

**LEC** - Local Exchange Company refers to the dominant, monopoly local telephone company in the area also served by the Company.

**Local Calling** - A completed call or telephonic communication between a calling Station and any other Station within the local service area of the Calling Station.

**Monthly Recurring Charges** - The monthly charges to the Customer for services, facilities and equipment, which continue for the agreed upon duration of the service.

MOU - Minutes of Use.

**Non-Recurring Charge ("NRC") -** The initial charge, usually assessed on a one-time basis, to initiate and establish service.

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### **SECTION 1 - DEFINITIONS, (CONT'D.)**

Point of Presence ("POP") - The Point of Presence.

**Premises** - The space or equipment occupied by a Customer or authorized user in a building or buildings or contiguous property not separated by a public right of way.

**Recurring Charges** - Monthly charges to the Customer for services, and equipment, which continues for the agreed upon duration of the service.

**Service(s)** - Local Exchange Service. Includes services and facilities provided for the origination or termination of any telecommunication regardless of the technology used in transmission. This includes, but is not limited to, local exchange, long distance, and data communications services that may use TDM, Internet Protocol ("IP") or other technology.

**Service Commencement Date** - The first day following the date on which the Company notifies the Customer that the requested service or facility is available for use, unless extended by the Customer's refusal to accept service which does not conform to standards set forth in the Service order or this tariff, in which case the Service Commencement Date is the date of the Customer's acceptance of service. The parties may mutually agree on a substitute Service Commencement Date.

**Service Order** - The written or verbal request for Company services by the Customer and the Company in the format devised by the Company. A Service Order initiates the respective obligations of the parties as set forth therein and pursuant to this tariff.

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## **SECTION 1 - DEFINITIONS, (CONT'D.)**

**Subscriber -** The person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity that orders telecommunications service from the Company. Service may be ordered by, or on behalf of, those who own, lease or otherwise manage the pay telephone, PBX, or other switch vehicle from which an end user places a call utilizing the services of the Company.

Teliax - Teliax, Inc., issuer of this tariff.

**Terminal Equipment** - Any telecommunications equipment other than the transmission or receiving equipment provisioned at a Company location.

Usage Charges - Charges for minutes or messages traversing over local exchange facilities.

**User or End User** - A Customer, Joint User, or any other person authorized by a Customer to use service provided under this tariff.

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#### **SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS**

### 2.1 Undertaking of the Company

#### **2.1.1** Scope

The Company undertakes to furnish communications service pursuant to the terms of this tariff in connection with one-way and/or two-way information transmission between points within the state of Minnesota.

The Company is responsible under this tariff only for the services and facilities provided hereunder, and it assumes no responsibility for any service provided by any other entity that purchases access to the Company network in order to originate or terminate its own services, or to communicate with its own customers.

The Company arranges for installation, operation, and maintenance of the communications services provided in this tariff for Customers in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth under this tariff. The Company may act as the Customer's agent for ordering access connection facilities provided by other carriers or entities, when authorized by the Customer, to allow connection of a Customer's location to the Company network. The Customer shall be responsible for all charges due for such service arrangement.

### 2.1.2 Shortage of Equipment or Facilities

- **A**. The Company reserves the right to limit or to allocate the use of existing facilities, or of additional facilities offered by the Company, when necessary because of lack of facilities, or due to some other cause beyond Company control.
- **B.** The furnishing of service under this tariff is subject to the availability on a continuing basis of all the necessary facilities and is limited to the capacity of the Company facilities as well as facilities the Company may obtain from other carriers to furnish service from time to time as required at the sole discretion of the Company.

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### **SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

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

#### 2.1.3 Terms and Conditions

- A. Service is provided on the basis of a minimum period of at least thirty (30) days, 24-hours per day. For the purpose of computing charges in this tariff, a month is considered to have 30 days. When a service is discontinued prior to the expiration of the minimum period, charges are applicable, whether the service is used or not.
- **B.** Except as otherwise stated in this tariff, Customers may be required to enter into written service orders which shall contain or reference a specific description of the service ordered, the rates to be charged, the duration of the services, and the terms and conditions in this tariff. Customers will also be required to execute any other documents as may be reasonably requested by the Company to provide service.
- C. At the expiration of the initial term specified in each Service Order, or in any extension thereof, service shall continue on a month-to-month basis, unless otherwise specified by the written Service Order, at the then current rates unless terminated by either party upon notice. Any termination shall not relieve the Customer of its obligation to pay any charges incurred under the service order and this tariff prior to termination. The rights and obligations which by their nature extend beyond the termination of the term of the service order shall survive such termination.

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## **SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

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

### 2.1.3 Terms and Conditions, (Cont'd.)

- **D.** Service may be terminated by Company upon written notice to the Customer if:
  - 1. the Customer is using the service in violation of this tariff; or
  - 2. the Customer is using the service in violation of the law; or
  - **3.** the Customer is in violation of written Service Order terms.
- **E.** This tariff shall be interpreted and governed by the laws of the state of Minnesota.
- **F.** Any other telephone company may not interfere with the right of any person or entity to obtain service directly from the Company. No person or entity shall be required to make any payment, incur any penalty, monetary or otherwise, or purchase any services in order to have the right to obtain service directly from the Company.
- G. To the extent that either the Company or any other telephone company exercises control over available cable pairs, conduit, duct space, raceways, or other facilities needed by the other to reach a person or entity, the party exercising such control shall make them available to the other on terms equivalent to those under which the Company makes similar facilities under its control available to its Customers. At the reasonable request of either party, the Company and the other telephone company shall join the attempt to obtain from the owner of the property access for the other party to serve a person or entity.

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## **SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

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

# 2.1.4 Limitations on Liability

- A. Except as otherwise stated in this section, the liability of the Company for damages arising out of either: (1) the furnishing of its services, including but not limited to mistakes, omissions, interruptions, delays, or errors, or other defects, representations, or use of these services or (2) the failure to furnish its service, whether caused by acts or omission, shall be limited to the extension of allowances to the Customer for interruptions in service as set forth in Section 2.7.
- **B.** Except for the extension of allowances to the Customer for interruptions in service as set forth in Section 2.7, the Company shall not be liable to a Customer or third party for any direct, indirect, special, incidental, reliance, consequential, exemplary or punitive damages, including, but not limited to, loss of revenue or profits, for any reason whatsoever, including, but not limited to, any act or omission, failure to perform, delay, interruption, failure to provide any service or any failure in or breakdown of facilities associated with the service.
- C. The liability of the Company for errors in billing that result in overpayment by the Customer shall be limited to a credit equal to the dollar amount erroneously billed or, in the event that payment has been made and service has been discontinued, to a refund of the amount erroneously billed.

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## **SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

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

### 2.1.4 Limitations on Liability, (Cont'd.)

- **D.** The Company shall be indemnified and saved harmless by the Customer from and against all loss, liability, damage and expense, due to:
  - 1. Any act or omission of: (a) the Customer, (b) any other entity furnishing service, equipment or facilities for use in conjunction with services or facilities provided by the Company; or (c) common carriers or warehousemen, except as contracted by the Company;
  - 2. Any delay or failure of performance or equipment due to causes beyond the Company control, including but not limited to, acts of God, fires, floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, or other catastrophes; national emergencies, insurrections, riots, wars or other civil commotions; strikes, lockouts, work stoppages or other labor difficulties; criminal actions taken against the Company; unavailability, failure or malfunction of equipment or facilities provided by the Customer or third parties; and any law, order, regulation or other action of any governing authority or agency thereof;
  - **3.** Any unlawful or unauthorized use of Company facilities and services;
  - 4. Libel, slander, invasion of privacy or infringement of patents, trade secrets, or copyrights arising from or in connection with the material transmitted by means of Company-provided facilities or services; or by means of the combination of Company-provided facilities or services;
  - **5.** Breach in the privacy or security of communications transmitted over Company facilities;

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### **SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

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

### 2.1.4 Limitations on Liability, (Cont'd.)

## D. (Cont'd.)

- 6. Changes in any of the facilities, operations or procedures of the Company that render any equipment, facilities or services provided by the Customer obsolete, or require modification or alteration of such equipment, facilities or services, or otherwise affect their use or performance, except where reasonable notice is required by the Company and is not provided to the Customer, in which event the Company liability is limited as set forth in Section 2.1.4.A.
- 7. Defacement of or damage to Customer premises resulting from the furnishing of services or equipment on such premises or the installation or removal thereof;
- 8. Injury to property or injury or death to persons, including claims for payments made under Workers' Compensation law or under any plan for employee disability or death benefits, arising out of, or caused by, any act or omission of the Customer, or the construction, installation, maintenance, presence, use or removal of the Customer's facilities or equipment connected, or to be connected to Company facilities;
- **9.** Any non-completion of calls due to network busy conditions;
- **10.** Any calls not actually attempted to be completed during any period that service is unavailable:
- 11. And any other claim resulting from any act or omission of the Customer or patron(s) of the Customer relating to the use of Company services or facilities.

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## **SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

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

### 2.1.4 Limitations on Liability, (Cont'd.)

- **E.** The Company does not guarantee nor make any warranty with respect to installations provided by it for use in an explosive atmosphere.
- **F.** The Company makes no warranties or representations, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, either in fact or by operation of law, statutory or otherwise, including warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular use, except those expressly set forth herein.
- **G.** Failure by the Company to assert its rights pursuant to one provision of this rate sheet does not preclude the Company from asserting its rights under other provisions.
- H. Directory Errors In the absence of gross negligence or willful misconduct, no liability for damages arising from errors or mistakes in or omissions of directory listings, or errors or mistakes in or omissions of listing obtainable from the directory assistance operator, including errors in the reporting thereof, shall attach to the Company. An allowance for errors or mistakes in or omissions of published directory listings or for errors or mistakes in or omissions of listing obtainable from the directory assistance operator shall be at the monthly tariff rate for each listing, or in the case of a free or no-charge directory listing, credit shall equal two times the monthly tariff rate for an additional listing, for the life of the directory or the charge period during which the error, mistake or omission occurs.

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### **SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

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

### 2.1.4 Limitations on Liability, (Cont'd.)

## I. With respect to Emergency Number 911 Service

- 1. This service is offered solely as an aid in handling assistance calls in connection with fire, police and other emergencies. The Company is not responsible for any losses, claims, demands, suits or any liability whatsoever, whether suffered, made instituted or asserted by the Customer or by any other party or person for any personal injury or death of any person or persons, and for any loss, damage or destruction of any property, whether owned by the Customer or others, caused or claimed to have been caused by: (1) mistakes, omissions, interruptions, delays, errors or other defects in the provision of service, of (2) installation, operation, failure to operate, maintenance, removal, presence, condition, local or use of any equipment and facilities furnishing this service.
- 2. Neither is the Company responsible for any infringement, nor invasion of the right of privacy of any person or persons, caused or claimed to have been caused directly or indirectly, by the installation, operation, failure to operate, maintenance, removal, presence, condition, occasion or use of emergency 911 service features and the equipment associated therewith, or by any services furnished by the Company, including, but not limited to the identification of the telephone number, address or name associated with the telephone used by the party or parties accessing emergency 911 service, and which arise out of the negligence or other wrongful act of the Company, the Customer, its users, agencies or municipalities, or the employees or agents of any one of them.
- 3. When a Customer with a nonpublished telephone number, as defined herein, places a call to the emergency 911 service, the Company will release the name and address of the calling party, where such information can be determined, to the appropriate local governmental authority responsible for emergency 911 service upon request of such governmental authority. By subscribing to service under this rate sheet, the Customer acknowledges and agrees with the release of information as described above.

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## **SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

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

### 2.1.5 Notification of Service-Affecting Activities

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

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## **SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

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

### 2.1.6 Provision of Equipment and Facilities

- A. The Company shall use reasonable efforts to make available services to a Customer on or before a particular date, subject to the provisions of and compliance by the Customer with, the regulations contained in this tariff. The Company does not guarantee availability by any such date and shall not be liable for any delays in commencing service to any Customer.
- **B.** The Company shall use reasonable efforts to maintain only the facilities and equipment that it furnishes to the Customer. The Customer may not, nor may the Customer permit others to, rearrange, disconnect, remove, attempt to repair, or otherwise interfere with any of the facilities or equipment provisioned by the Company, except upon the written consent of the Company.
- C. The Company may substitute, change or rearrange any equipment or facility at any time and from time to time, but shall not thereby alter the technical parameters of the service provided the Customer.
- **D.** Equipment the Company provides or installs at the Customer Premises for use in connection with the services the Company offers shall not be used for any purpose other than that for which it was provided.
- E. The Customer shall be responsible for the payment of service charges as set forth herein for visits by Company agents or employees to the Premises of the Customer when the service difficulty or trouble report results from the use of equipment or facilities provided by any party other than the Company, including but not limited to the Customer.

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### **SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

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

### 2.1.6 Provision of Equipment and Facilities, (Cont'd.)

- F. The Company shall not be responsible for the installation, operation, or maintenance of any Customer-provided communications equipment. Where such equipment is connected to the facilities furnished pursuant to this tariff, the responsibility of the Company shall be limited to the furnishing of facilities offered under this tariff and to the maintenance and operation of such facilities. Subject to this responsibility, the Company shall not be responsible for:
  - 1. the transmission of signals by Customer-provided equipment or for the quality of, or defects in, such transmission; or
  - **2.** the reception of signals by Customer-provided equipment.

#### 2.1.7 Non-routine Installation

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

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### **SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

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

### 2.1.8 Special Construction

Subject to the agreement of the Company and to all of the regulations contained in this tariff, special construction of facilities may be undertaken on a reasonable effort's basis at the request of the Customer. Special construction is that construction undertaken:

- **A.** where facilities are not presently available, and there is no other requirement for the facilities so constructed:
- **B.** of a type other than that which the Company would normally utilize in the furnishing of its services;
- **C.** over a route other than that which the Company would normally utilize in the furnishing of its services;
- **D.** in a quantity greater than that which the Company would normally construct;
- **E.** on an expedited basis;
- **F.** on a temporary basis until permanent facilities are available;
- **G.** involving abnormal costs; or
- **H.** in advance of its normal construction.

### 2.1.9 Ownership of Facilities

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

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### **SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

### 2.2 Prohibited Uses

- **2.2.1** The services the Company offers shall not be used for any unlawful purpose or for any use as to which the Customer has not obtained all required governmental approvals, authorizations, licenses, consents and permits.
- **2.2.2** The Company may require applicants for service who intend to use Company offerings for resale and/or for shared use to file a letter with the Company confirming that their use of the Company offerings complies with relevant laws and Commission regulations, policies, orders, and decisions.
- **2.2.3** The Company may block any signals being transmitted over its network by Customers who cause interference to the Company or other users. Customer shall be relieved of all obligations to make payments for charges relating to any blocked Service and shall indemnify the Company for any claim, judgment or liability resulting from such blockage.
- 2.2.4 A Customer, joint user, or authorized user may not assign, or transfer in any manner, the service or any rights associated with the service without the written consent of the Company. The Company will permit a Customer to transfer its existing service to another entity if the existing Customer has paid all charges owed to the Company for regulated communications services. Such a transfer will be treated as a disconnection of existing service and installation of new service, and non-recurring installation charges as stated in this tariff will apply.

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## **SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

## 2.3 Obligations of the Customer

#### 2.3.1 General

The Customer is responsible for making proper application for service; placing any necessary order, complying with tariff regulations; payment of charges for services provided. Specific Customer responsibilities include, but are not limited to the following:

- **A.** the payment of all applicable charges pursuant to this tariff and written Service Orders:
- **B.** damage to or loss of Company facilities or equipment caused by the acts or omissions of the Customer; or the noncompliance by the Customer, with these regulations; or by fire or theft or other casualty on the Customer Premises, unless caused by the negligence or willful misconduct of the employees or agents of the Company;
- C. providing at no charge, as specified from time to time by the Company, any needed personnel, equipment space and power to operate Company facilities and equipment provisioned on the premises of the Customer, and the level of heating and air conditioning necessary to maintain the proper operating environment on such premises;
- D. obtaining, maintaining, and otherwise having full responsibility for all rights-of-way and conduits necessary for installation of fiber optic cable and associated equipment used to provide Communication Services to the Customer from the cable building entrance or property line to the location of the equipment space described in 2.3.1.C. Any and all costs associated with obtaining and maintaining the rights-of-way described herein, including the costs of altering the structure to permit installation of the Company-provided facilities, shall be borne entirely by, or may be charged by the Company to, the Customer. The Company may require the Customer to demonstrate its compliance with this section prior to accepting an order for service;

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## **SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

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

### 2.3.1 General, (Cont'd.)

- **E.** providing a safe place to work and complying with all laws and regulations regarding the working conditions on the premises at which Company employees and agents shall be installing or maintaining Company facilities and equipment. The Customer may be required to install and maintain Company facilities and equipment within a hazardous area if, in the Company opinion, injury or damage to Company employees or property might result from installation or maintenance by the Company. The Customer shall be responsible for identifying, monitoring, removing and disposing of any hazardous material (e.g., asbestos) prior to any construction or installation work:
- F. complying with all laws and regulations applicable to, and obtaining all consents, approvals, licenses and permits as may be required with respect to, the location of Company facilities and equipment in any Customer premises or the rights-of-way for which Customer is responsible under Section 2.3.1.D.; and granting or obtaining permission for Company agents or employees to enter the premises of the Customer at any time for the purpose of installing, inspecting, maintaining, repairing, or upon termination of service as stated herein, removing the facilities or equipment of the Company;
- **G.** not creating, or allowing to be placed, any liens or other encumbrances on Company equipment or facilities; and
- **H.** making Company facilities and equipment available periodically for maintenance purposes at a time agreeable to both the Company and the Customer. No allowance will be made for the period during which service is interrupted for such purposes.

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## **SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

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

### 2.3.2 Liability of the Customer

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

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## **SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

### 2.4 Customer Equipment and Channels

#### 2.4.1 General

Local Exchange Service includes services and facilities provided for the origination or termination of any telecommunication regardless of the technology used in transmission. This includes, but is not limited to, local exchange, long distance, and data communications services that may use TDM, Internet Protocol ("IP") or other technology. Company services are designed primarily for the transmission of voice-grade telephonic signals, except as otherwise stated in this tariff. A User may transmit any form of signal that is compatible with Company equipment, but the Company does not guarantee that its services will be suitable for purposes other than voice-grade telephonic communication except as specifically stated in this tariff.

## 2.4.2 Station Equipment

- A. Terminal equipment on the User's Premises and the electric power consumed by such equipment shall be provided by and maintained at the expense of the User. The User is responsible for the provision of wiring or cable to connect its terminal equipment to the Company Point of Connection.
- **B.** The Customer is responsible for ensuring that Customer-provided equipment connected to Company equipment and facilities is compatible with such equipment and facilities. The magnitude and character of the voltages and currents impressed on Company-provided equipment and wiring by the connection, operation, or maintenance of such equipment and wiring shall be such as not to cause damage to the Company-provided equipment and wiring or injury to Company employees or to other persons. Any additional protective equipment required to prevent such damage or injury shall be provided by the Company at the Customer's expense, subject to prior Customer approval of the equipment expense.

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## **SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

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

#### 2.4.3 Interconnection of Facilities

- **A.** Any special interface equipment necessary to achieve compatibility between the facilities and equipment of the Company used for furnishing Communication Services and the channels, facilities, or equipment of others shall be provided at the Customer's expense.
- **B.** Communication Services may be connected to the services or facilities of other communications carriers only when authorized by, and in accordance with, the terms and conditions of the tariffs of the other communications carriers that are applicable to such connections.
- C. Facilities furnished under this tariff may be connected to Customer-provided terminal equipment in accordance with the provisions of this tariff. All such terminal equipment shall be registered by the Federal Communications Commission pursuant to Part 68 of Title 47, Code of Federal Regulations; and all User-provided wiring shall be installed and maintained in compliance with those regulations.

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## **SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

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

### 2.4.4 Inspections

- A. Upon suitable notification to the Customer, and at a reasonable time, the Company may make such tests and inspections as may be necessary to determine that the Customer is complying with the requirements set forth in Section 2.4.2.A. for the installation, operation, and maintenance of Customer-provided facilities, equipment, and wiring in the connection of Customer-provided facilities and equipment to Company-owned facilities and equipment.
- **B.** If the protective requirements for Customer-provided equipment are not being complied with, the Company may take such action as it deems necessary to protect its facilities, equipment, and personnel. The Company will notify the Customer promptly if there is any need for further corrective action. Within ten days of receiving this notice, the Customer must take this corrective action and notify the Company of the action taken. If the Customer fails to do this, the Company may take whatever additional action is deemed necessary, including the suspension of service, to protect its facilities, equipment and personnel from harm.

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### **SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

## 2.5 Payment Arrangements

## 2.5.1 Payment for Service

The Customer is responsible for the payment of all charges for facilities and services furnished by the Company to the Customer and to all Authorized Users by the Customer, regardless of whether those services are used by the Customer itself or are resold to or shared with other persons.

The Customer is responsible for payment of any sales, use, gross receipts, excise, access or other local, state, federal and 911 taxes, charges or surcharges (however designated) (excluding taxes on Company net income) imposed on or based upon the provision, sale or use of network services.

Customers will only be charged once, on either an interstate or intrastate basis, for any nonrecurring charges.

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### **SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

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

### 2.5.2 Billing and Collection of Charges

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

- **A.** Nonrecurring charges are due and payable within thirty (30) days after the invoice date, unless otherwise agreed to in advance.
- **B.** The Company shall present invoices for recurring charges monthly to the Customer, in advance of the month in which service is provided, and Recurring Charges shall be due and payable within thirty (30) days after the invoice date unless otherwise agreed to in advance. When billing is based on customer usage, charges will be billed monthly for the preceding billing periods.
- C. When service does not begin on the first day of the month, or end on the last day of the month, the charge for the fraction of the month in which service was furnished will be calculated on a pro rata basis. For this purpose, every month is considered to have thirty (30) days.
- D. Billing of the Customer by the Company will begin on the Service Commencement Date, which is the first day following the date on which the Company notifies the Customer that the service or facility is available for use, except that the Service Commencement Date may be postponed by mutual agreement of the parties, or if the service or facility does not conform to standards set forth in this tariff or the Service Order. Billing accrues through and includes the day that the service, circuit, arrangement or component is discontinued.

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## **SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

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

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

- E. Further, if any portion of the payment is received by the Company after the payment Due Date as set forth above, or if any portion of the payment is received by the Company in funds which are not immediately available to the Company, a late payment penalty shall be due the Company. Any payment or portion thereof not received by the Due Date is subject to a late charge on the unpaid amount at the lesser of 1.5% per month or the maximum rate permitted by law.
- F. A charge of \$30.00 (thirty dollars) or the current allowable amount will be assessed for any check or other form of payment returned by the drawee bank or other financial institution for insufficient or uncollected funds, closed account, apparent tampering, missing signature or endorsement, or any other insufficiency or discrepancy necessitating return of the instrument at the discretion of the drawee bank or financial institution. This charge will be assessed in addition to any charges assessed by the drawee bank or any other financial institution.
- G. If service is disconnected by the Company in accordance with Section 2.6 following and later restored, restoration of service will be subject to all applicable installation charges. Service shall, at the Company's discretion, be restored when all past due amounts are paid or the event giving rise to the discontinuance (if other than nonpayment) is corrected.

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## **SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

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

### 2.5.3 Disputed Bills

- A. In the event that a billing dispute occurs concerning any charges billed to the Customer by the Company, the Company may require the Customer to pay the undisputed portion of the bill to avoid discontinuance of service for non-payment. The Customer must submit a documented claim for the disputed amount. The Customer will submit all documentation as may reasonably be required to support the claim. All claims must be submitted to the Company within 30 days of receipt of billing for those services. If the Customer does not submit a claim as stated above, the Customer waives all rights to filing a claim thereafter.
- **B.** Unless disputed the invoice shall be deemed to be correct and payable in full by the Customer. If the Customer is unable to resolve any dispute with the Company, then the Customer may file a complaint with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. The address of the Commission is as follows:

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission 121 7th Place East, Suite #350 350 Metro Square Building St. Paul, MN 55101

Telephone: (651) 296-0406 Toll Free: (800) 657-3782 TTY: (651) 297-1200

Email: consumer.puc@state.mn.us

- **C.** If the dispute is resolved in favor of the Customer and the Customer has withheld the disputed amount, no interest credits or penalties will apply.
- **D.** If the dispute is resolved in favor of the Company and the Customer has withheld the disputed amount, payment is due within 5 days of notice of resolution or late fees and penalties will apply.

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## **SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

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

#### 2.5.4 Advance Payments

To safeguard its interests, the Company may require a Customer to make an advance payment before services and facilities are furnished, where special construction is involved. The advance payment will not exceed an amount equal to the nonrecurring charge(s) and one (1) month's charges for the service or facilities. In addition, the advance payment may also include an amount equal to the estimated non-recurring charges for the special construction and recurring charges (if any) for a period to be set between the Company and the Customer. The advance payment will be credited to the Customer's initial bill. Advance payments do not accrue interest. An advance payment will not be required in addition to a deposit.

#### 2.5.5 Deposits

- A. The Company may, in order to safeguard its interests, require a Customer which has a proven history of late payments to the Company or does not have established credit or has a bad credit rating to make a deposit prior to or at any time after the provision of service to the Customer to be held by the Company as a guarantee of the payment of rates and charges. No such deposit will be required of a Customer which has established satisfactory credit and has no history of late payments to the Company.
- **B.** The amount of the deposit which may be required of a Customer for the purpose of establishing credit shall not exceed two times the average monthly bill for Customers whose bills are payable in advance. The amount of deposit may be adjusted at the request of the Customer at any time when the character, purpose, or degree of the Customer's use of the service has materially changed, or when it is indicated that it will change.
- C. The making of a deposit shall not relieve any Customer of the obligation to pay current bills when due. A deposit shall only be applied to the indebtedness of the Customer for jurisdictional telecommunications services of the provider.

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### **SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

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

#### 2.5.5 Deposits, (Cont'd.)

- **D.** The Company will pay interest on deposits, to accrue from the date the deposit is made until it has been refunded, or until a reasonable effort has been made to effect refund. The Company will pay interest at the rate prescribed by the Commission.
- E. The Company shall keep a record of each cash deposit until the deposit is returned. The record will show the name of each Customer making a deposit; the premises occupied by the Customer when making the deposit and each successive premises occupied while the deposit is retained by the Company; the amount and date of making the deposit; and a record of each transaction, such as the payment of interest, interest credited, etc., concerning the deposit. Concurrently with receiving a deposit, the Company will provide the Customer a receipt showing the deposit date, the name and billing address of the Customer and the deposit amount.
- **F.** Upon discontinuance of service, or when a Customer has established credit by other means, the Company will promptly refund any deposit, plus accrued simple interest, or the balance, if any, in excess of the unpaid bills for the services furnished by the Company. A transfer of service from one location to another within the Company serving area shall not be deemed a discontinuance with the Company if the character of the service remains unchanged.
- **G.** Deposits will be refunded after twelve months of timely payment, with interest as specified above.

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### **SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

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

# 2.5.6 Cancellation of Application for Service

- **A.** Applications for service cannot be canceled without Company agreement. Where the Company permits a Customer to cancel an application for service prior to the start of service or prior to any special construction, no charges will be imposed except for those specified below.
- **B.** Where, prior to cancellation by the Customer, the Company incurs any expenses in installing the service or in preparing to install the service that it otherwise would not have incurred, a charge equal to the costs incurred by the Company, less net salvage, shall apply, but in no case shall this charge exceed the sum of the charge for the minimum period of services ordered, including installation charges, and all charges others levy against the Company that would have been chargeable to the Customer had service commenced (all discounted to present value at six percent).
- C. Where the Company incurs any expense in connection with special construction, or where special arrangements of facilities or equipment have begun, before the Company receives a cancellation notice, a charge equal to the costs incurred by the Company, less net salvage, applies. In such cases, the charge will be based on such elements as the cost of the equipment, facilities, and material, the cost of installation, engineering, labor, and supervision, general and administrative expense, other disbursements, depreciation, maintenance, taxes, provision for return on investment, and any other costs associated with the special construction or arrangements.
- **D.** Special charges described in 2.5.6.A. through 2.5.6.C. will be calculated and applied on a case-by-case basis.

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# **SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

# 2.5 Payment Arrangements, (Cont'd.)

### 2.5.7 Changes in Service Requested

If the Customer makes or requests material changes in circuit engineering, equipment specifications, service parameters, premises locations, or otherwise materially modifies any provision of the application for service, the Customer's installation fee shall be adjusted accordingly.

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#### **SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

#### 2.6 Discontinuance of Service

The Company may discontinue service under this section. Customers will be given five (5) days written notice prior to discontinuance unless otherwise indicated. The five-day notice period excludes Sundays and legal holidays. Service will not be disconnected on any Friday, Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, or at any time when the Company's business offices are not open to the public, except where an emergency exists.

After discontinuing service, the Company may declare all future monthly and other charges which would have been payable by the Customer during the remainder of the term for which such services would have otherwise been provided to the Customer to be immediately due and payable. These remedies are in addition to all other remedies that may be available to the Company at law or in equity or under any other provision of this tariff.

- **2.6.1** The Company may discontinue service with notice for any of the following:
  - **A.** For failure to pay a bill for service when due;
  - **B.** For violation of any of the Company's rules on file with the Commission;
  - **C.** For failure to provide the Company reasonable access to equipment and property;
  - **D.** For breach of contract for service between the Customer and the Company;
  - **E.** For failure to furnish such service, equipment, and/or rights-of-way necessary to serve the Customer as shall have been specified by the Company as a condition of obtaining service; or
  - **F.** When necessary for the Company to comply with any order or request of any governmental authority having jurisdiction.

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# **SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

### 2.6 Discontinuance of Service, (Cont'd.)

- **2.6.2** The Company may discontinue service without notice for any of the following:
  - **A.** In the event of tampering with the Company's equipment;
  - **B.** In the event of a condition determined to be hazardous to the Customer, to other Customers of the Company, to the company's equipment, the public or to employees of the Company; or
  - C. In the event of a Customer's use of equipment in such a manner as to adversely affect the Company's equipment or the Company's service to others.

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### **SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

### 2.7 Allowances for Interruptions in Service

Interruptions in service that are not due to the negligence of, or noncompliance with the provisions of this tariff by, the Customer or the operation or malfunction of the facilities, power or equipment provided by the Customer, will be credited to the Customer as set forth in 2.7.1 for the part of the service that the interruption affects.

#### **2.7.1** General

- A. A credit allowance will be given when service is interrupted, except as specified below. A service is interrupted when it becomes inoperative to the Customer, e.g., the Customer is unable to transmit or receive, because of a failure of a component furnished by the Company under this rate sheet.
- **B.** An interruption period begins when the Customer reports a service, facility or circuit to be inoperative and, if necessary, releases it for testing and repair. An interruption period ends when the service, facility or circuit is operative.
- C. If the Customer reports a service, facility or circuit to be interrupted but declines to release it for testing and repair or refuses access to its premises for test and repair by the Company, the service, facility or circuit is considered to be impaired but not interrupted. No credit allowances will be made for a service, facility or circuit considered by the Company to be impaired.
- **D.** The Customer shall be responsible for the payment of service charges as set forth herein for visits by Company agents or employees to the premises of the Customer when the service difficulty or trouble report results from the use of equipment or facilities provided by any party other than the Company, including but not limited to the Customer.

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### **SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

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

#### **Limitations of Allowances** 2.7.2

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

- Due to the negligence of or noncompliance with the provisions of this rate sheet by A. any person or entity other than the Company, including but not limited to the Customer;
- В. Due to the failure of power, equipment, systems, connections or services not provided by the Company;
- C. Due to circumstances or causes beyond the reasonable control of the Company;
- D. During any period in which the Company is not given full and free access to its facilities and equipment for the purposes of investigating and correcting interruptions;
- Ε. A service will not be deemed to be interrupted if a Customer continues to voluntarily make use of the service. If the service is interrupted, the Customer can get a service credit, use another means of communications provided by the Company (pursuant to Section 2.7.3), or utilize another service provider;
- F. During any period when the Customer has released service to the Company for maintenance purposes or for implementation of a Customer order for a change in service arrangements;
- G. That occurs or continues due to the Customer's failure to authorize replacement of any element of special construction; and
- That was not reported to the Company within thirty (30) days of the date that service H. was affected.

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### **SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

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

#### 2.7.3 Use of Another Means of Communications

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

### 2.7.4 Application of Credits for Interruptions in Service

- A. Credits for interruptions in service that is provided and billed on a flat rate basis for a minimum period of at least one month, beginning on the date that billing becomes effective, shall in no event exceed an amount equivalent to the proportionate charge to the Customer for the period of service during which the event that gave rise to the claim for a credit occurred. A credit allowance is applied on a pro rata basis against the rates specified hereunder and is dependent upon the length of the interruption. Only those facilities on the interrupted portion of the circuit will receive a credit.
- **B.** For calculating credit allowances, every month is considered to have thirty (30) days.
- **C.** A credit allowance will be given for interruptions over two hours. Two or more interruptions of fifteen (15) minutes or more during any one 24-hour period shall be combined into one cumulative interruption.

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#### **SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

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

#### 2.7.4 Application of Credits for Interruptions in Service, (Cont'd.)

## D. Interruptions of 24 Hours or Less

**Length of Interruption**Less than 2 hours

**Amount of Service to be Credited** 

None Credit Formula

**Credit Formula:** 

Over 2 Hours

Credit =  $A/720 \times B$ 

A = outage time in hours (must be 2 or more)

B = total monthly Recurring Charge for affected service.

# 2.7.5 Cancellation for Service Interruption

Cancellation or termination for service interruption is permitted only if any circuit experiences a single continuous outage of 8 hours or more or cumulative service credits equaling 16 hours in a continuous 12-month period. The right to cancel service under this provision applies only to the single circuit that has been subject to the outage or cumulative service credits.

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# **SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

### 2.8 Use of Customer's Service by Others

### 2.8.1 Joint Use Arrangements

Joint use arrangements will be permitted for all services provided under this tariff. From each joint use arrangement, one member will be designated as the Customer responsible for the manner in which the joint use of the service will be allocated. The Company will accept orders to start, rearrange, relocate, or discontinue service only from the designated Customer. Without affecting the Customer's ultimate responsibility for payment of all charges for the service, each joint user shall be responsible for the payment of the charges billed to it.

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### **SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

### 2.9 Cancellation of Service/Termination Liability

If a Customer cancels a Service Order or terminates services before the completion of the term for any reason whatsoever other than a service interruption (as defined in Section 2.7.1 above), the Customer agrees to pay to the Company termination liability charges, as defined below unless otherwise stated in written Service Order. These charges shall become due as of the effective date of the cancellation or termination and be payable within the period, set forth in Section 2.5.2.

## 2.9.1 Termination Liability

The Customer's termination liability for cancellation of service shall be equal to:

- **A.** all unpaid Non-Recurring charges reasonably expended by the Company to establish service to the Customer; plus
- **B.** any disconnection, early cancellation or termination charges reasonably incurred and paid to third parties by the Company on behalf of the Customer; plus
- **C.** all Recurring Charges specified in the applicable Service Order Tariff for the balance of the then current term.

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# **SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

### 2.10 Transfers and Assignments

Neither the Company nor the Customer may assign or transfer its rights or duties in connection with the services and facilities provided by the Company without the written consent of the other party, except that the Company may assign its rights and duties:

- **2.10.1** to any subsidiary, parent company or affiliate of the Company; or
- 2.10.2 pursuant to any sale or transfer of substantially all the assets of the Company; or
- **2.10.3** pursuant to any financing, merger or reorganization of the Company.

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# **SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

# 2.11 Customer Liability for Fraud and Unauthorized Use of the Network

Fraud and Unauthorized use of the network occurs when a person or entity that does not have actual, apparent, or implied authority to use the network, obtains Company services provided under this or other Company tariff(s).

It is the exclusive responsibility of the Customer to prevent the occurrence of fraud, and Customer is responsible for payment of any charges incurred due to fraud (including Toll Fraud, the theft of long distance service), abuse, or misuse of the Services, whether known or unknown to Customer, and whether or not the Company takes any actions to stop or block unauthorized or fraudulent use of service.

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### **SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

#### 2.12 Notices and Communications

- **2.12.1** The Customer shall designate on the Service Order the address to which the Company shall mail or deliver all notices and other communications, except that the Customer may also designate a separate address to which Company bills for service shall be mailed.
- **2.12.2** The Company shall designate on the Service Order an address to which the Customer shall mail or deliver all notices and other communications, except that Company may designate a separate address on each bill for service to which the Customer shall mail payment on that bill.
- **2.12.3** Except as otherwise stated in this tariff, all notices or other communications required to be given pursuant to this tariff will be in writing. Notices and other communications of either party, and all bills mailed by the Company, shall be presumed to have been delivered to the other party on the third business day following placement of the notice, communication or bill with the U.S. Mail or a private delivery service, prepaid and properly addressed, or when actually received or refused by the addressee, whichever occurs first.
- **2.12.4** The Company or the Customer shall advise the other party of any changes to the addresses designated for notices, other communications or billing, by following the procedures for giving notice set forth herein.

#### 2.13 Taxes, Fees and Surcharges

The Company reserves the right to bill any and all applicable taxes, fees and surcharges in addition to normal rates and charges for services provided to the Customer. Taxes and fees include, but are not limited to: Federal Excise Tax, State Sales Tax, Municipal Tax, and Gross Receipts Tax. Unless otherwise specified in this tariff, such taxes, fees and surcharges are in addition to rates as quoted in this tariff and will be itemized separately on Customer invoices.

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### **SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

#### 2.14 Miscellaneous Provisions

#### 2.14.1 Telephone Number Changes

Whenever any Customer's telephone number is changed after a directory is published, the Company shall intercept all calls to the former number for at least one hundred and twenty (120) days and give the calling party the new number provided existing central office equipment will permit, and the Customer so desires.

When service in an existing location is continued for a new Customer, the existing telephone number may be retained by the new Customer only if the former Customer consents in writing, and if all charges against the account are paid or assumed by the new Customer.

#### 2.14.2 Maintenance and Operations Records

Records of various tests and inspections, to include non-routine corrective maintenance actions or monthly traffic analysis summaries for network administration, necessary for the purposes of the Company or to fulfill the requirements of Commission rules shall be kept on file in the office of the Company as required under Commission rules.

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#### **SECTION 3 - SERVICE AREAS**

#### 3.1 Local Exchange Service Areas

Local exchange services are provided, subject to availability of facilities and equipment, in all areas currently served by the following incumbent LECs:

1) CenturyLink QC (Qwest)

# 3.1.1 Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan Exchange

# A. Rate Center - (Originating traffic)

Anoka, Cedar, Elk River, Forest Lake, Hamel, Hanover, Minneapolis Zone 1, Shakopee, Soderville, St. Croix Beach, St. Paul, Stillwater, Wayzata and White Bear Lake

# **B.** Local Calling Area by Rate Center - (Terminating traffic)

7th Ave. SE, 24th Ave. SE, 66th St, Afton, Anoka, Apple Valley, Beard, Beach, Big Lake, Brooklyn Center, Bryant, Belle Plaine, Buffalo, Burnsville, Cambridge, Cedar, Center City, Chaska, Chisago City, Cleveland, Cologne, Coon Rapids, Cottage Grove, Crystal, Downtown, Delano, Enfield, Elk River, Emerson, Excelsior, Fernbrook Lane, Forest Lake, Fort Snelling, Franklin, Fridley, Front, Farmington, Hastings, Hamel, Hanover, Hopkins, Isanti, Jordan, Lakeville, Lexington, Lindstrom, Maple Grove, Maple Plain, Maplewood, Market, Midway, Mayor, Minneapolis, Monticello, Montrose, Mound, Navarre, Normandale, New Market, New Prague, North Branch, Norwood, Oak Grove, Orchard, Osseo, Prior Lake, Park Row, Penn, Pillsbury, Rogers, Rosemont, Rockford, Rice, Rose, Rosemount, St. Bonifacius, St. Croix Beach, St. Michael, St. Paul, Scandia-Marine, Shoreview, Shakopee, Soderville, Spring Lake Park, Stillwater, South Burnsville, Twin Cities, Victoria, Waconia, Watertown, Waverly Wayzata, West St. Paul, White Bear Lake, Webster, Wyoming and Zimmerman.

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# **SECTION 3 - SERVICE AREAS, (CONT'D.)**

# 3.1 Local Exchange Service Areas, (Cont'd.)

### 3.1.2 Outstate Exchanges

Exchanges	Exchanges	Exchanges	Exchanges
Albert Lea	Eveleth	Mora	St. Peter
Appleton	Faribault	Morris	Staples
Austin	Fergus Falls	Mountain Iron	Stewartville
Avon	Finland	Nashwauk	Swanville
Barnum	Foley	Nicollet	Thief River Falls
Battle Lake	Gaylord	Nisswa	Tofte
Bemidji	Glenville	North Branch	Tracy
Biwabik	Glenwood	Northfield	Virginia
Braham	Grand Marais	Ogilvie	Wabasha
Brainerd	Grand Rapids	Olivia-Bird Island	Wadena
Breckenridge	Hawley	Ortonville-Big Stone	Waseca
Buffalo	Henning	Owatonna	Willmar
Buhl	Hibbing	Park Rapids	Windom
Caledonia	Hinckley	Pine City	Winona
Cambridge	Holdingford	Pipestone	
Carlton	Jackson	Princeton	
Cass Lake	Keewatin	Red Wing	
Chatfield	Lake Park-Iowa	Redwood Falls-Morton	
Chisholm	Le Sueur	Rochester	
Cloquet	Litchfield	Royalton	
Cold Spring	Little Falls	Rush City	
Coleraine	Luverne	Sandstone	
Cook	Mahnomen	Sauk Centre	
Crookston	Marble	Silver Bay	
Detroit Lakes	Marshall	Spirit Lake-Iowa	
Duluth	Montevideo	St. Charles	
East Grand Forks	Moorhead	St. Cloud	
Estherville-Iowa	Moose Lake	St. Joseph	

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#### **SECTION 4 - SERVICE CHARGES AND SURCHARGES**

### 4.1 Service Order and Change Charges

**4.1.1** Non-recurring charges apply to processing Service Orders for new service and for changes in service.

**Primary Line Connection Charge:** Applies to requests for initial connection or establishment of telephone service with the Company.

**Secondary Line Connection Charge:** Applies to installation of a second or additional access line.

**Service Order Charge:** Applies to connection of new lines and to services orders associated with Customer requests for changes in service, moves, and the addition of services, including the additional of calling features.

### **4.1.2** Rates

Line Connection Charge  Busi	ness
Primary Line \$60	00.0
Secondary Line \$60	00.0
Service Order Charge	
Moves/Adds/Changes \$25	.00

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# **SECTION 4 - SERVICE CHARGES AND SURCHARGES, (CONT'D.)**

### 4.2 Premises Visit Charge

Premises Visit charges apply when the installation of network access facilities or trouble resolution require a visit to the Customer's premises. This charge applies in addition to the Technician Dispatch Charge.

	Business
Installation Charge – 1 <sup>st</sup> Hour	\$120.00
Repair Charge − 1 <sup>st</sup> ½ Hour	\$91.00
Repair Charge – Each Add'l ½ Hour	\$46.00

# 4.3 Restoral Charge

A restoration charge applies to the restoration of suspended service and facilities because of nonpayment of bills and is payable at the time that the restoration of the suspended service and facilities is arranged. The restoration charge does not apply when, after disconnection of service, service is later re-installed.

Per occasion, per line: \$40.00

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#### **SECTION 5 - LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE**

### 5.1 Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN)

#### **5.1.1** Description of Service

- A. Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) is a digital standard that provides an integrated voice or data capability to the customer premises facility, utilizing the public switched telephone network. ISDN delivers voice, data and video by two standard methods of access. Primary Rate Interface (PRI) Service and Basic Rate Interface Service (BRS). The Company will only provide Primary Rate Interface service.
- **B.** PRI service has a capacity of 1.544 megabits per second (Mbps) and has multiple channels: 23 B-channels, and one D-Channel, and is also known as 23 B+D access. The 64-Kbps B-channels carry user information such as voice calls, circuit-switched data or video while the D-channel carries the call-control signaling information. The B-channels may be provisioned on the same facility as the D-channel or on other PRI T1 facilities. Each B-channel is dedicated to inward, outward or 2-way traffic. The customer may use CPE to bond together 64 Kbps B-channels for the transmission of circuit-switched data or video.
- **C.** Directory Numbers: Primary Directory Number A single telephone directory number is provided with each PRI service ordered.
- **D.** Directory Listings: One primary directory listing is provided per PRI service per customer.
- **E.** Emergency 911 services will be provided for all voice calls on PRI service.

#### **5.1.2** Protection of the Network

**A.** In the event customer equipment meets required specifications, but causes interference with current or future services, the Company reserves the right to notify the customer and modify the service to eliminate the interference or disconnect the service. In such case, termination charges do not apply.

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### **SECTION 5 - LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE, (CONT'D.)**

# 5.1 Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN), (Cont'd.)

### 5.1.2 Protection of the Network, (Cont'd.)

- В. Upon notification by the Company that unauthorized transmissions are due to customer equipment or facilities, the customer or customer's authorized agent will correct the situation on an expeditious basis or service will be disconnected by the Company to protect the network. THE COMPANY DISCLAIMS LIABILITY FOR LOSSES WHICH MIGHT BE INCURRED AS A RESULT OF DISCONNECTING THE SERVICE AND DISCLAIMS ANY AND ALL IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. With respect to such equipment or service, the Company shall not be liable for any incidental or consequential damages, including, but not limited to any loss, or damage, arising out of customer's use of or inability to use the service or equipment, whether said use is in combination with other services or equipment, or separate from them.
- C. The Company maintains the right and option to check the output of any equipment used in the transmission of signals to or from the Customer premises for this service. This includes the Company provided facilities or other facilities used in conjunction with provision of PRI service such as CPE.
- **D.** The Company anticipates the use of other technologies to provide this service as they are developed. As other technologies are introduced, the interface specifications will be disclosed as required.

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### **SECTION 5 - LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE, (CONT'D.)**

### 5.1 Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN), (Cont'd.)

#### 5.1.3 Availability, Installation and Maintenance

- **A.** The availability and functionality of PRI service capabilities may vary, or may not be available, dependent upon the type of central office switching system, related software controlling that switch, hardware and outside plant.
- **B.** The Company will furnish all installation and maintenance labor required to install, maintain and test the service from the Demarcation Point on the customer's property to the central office. The customer or property owner will be responsible for installation, maintenance, and testing of all wire and cable facilities and CPE on the customer side of the Demarcation Point. At the customer's option, the Company will provide installation, maintenance and testing as part of their non-regulated business.
- C. If there are any changes in inside wiring which require the Company to redesign the PRI service capability, the customer shall reimburse the Company for all cost incurred by the Company in making such a change. Should PRI service capability fail due to inside wiring not owned by the Company, or CPE, or power failure, the responsibility for failure shall be solely that of the customer and the Company shall not be liable.
- **D.** If PRI service should experience interruption, disconnection, error, performance failure, or some other out-of-service condition and last for more than 8 consecutive hours after the customer gives the Company notice of such out-of-service condition, except for problems caused by the customer's action, inside wiring, interface, customer premise power outage, and/or CPE, an out-of-service credit will be applied to the customer's bill. See Rules and Regulations, Interruptions to Service.

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### **SECTION 5 - LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE, (CONT'D.)**

#### 5.1 Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN), (Cont'd.)

#### **5.1.4** Circuit Switching Feature Descriptions

Circuit Switched Services is an arrangement which provides the ability to originate and receive circuit-switched voice and/or data calls over 64 Kbps B channels. The customer may choose among the following Circuit-Switched features based upon application needs:

A. Clear Channel Capability – A characteristic of the transmission path on the B channels that allow the full bandwidth of 64 Kbps to be available to the customer. Through the CPE, it is also possible to bond multiple B channels together to achieve greater bandwidth speeds.

### **5.1.5** Service Arrangements

### A. Voice/Data PRI (with DID)

A Voice/Data PRI with Direct Inward Dialing (DID) have 3 elements: the T-1, the Service Configuration, and a 2-way trunk/DID. This service configuration provides 23 B-channels and 1 D-channel. The B-channels carry user information such as voice calls, circuit-switched data or video. The D-channel handles signaling information.

#### B. Data PRI 23B+D

This service configuration provides for 23 B-channels and 1 D-channel. The B-channels carry user information such as voice calls, circuit-switched data, or video while the D channel handles signaling information.

# C. Data PRI 24B

This service configuration provides for 24 channels. The B-channels carry user information such as voice calls, circuit-switched data, or video. The signaling information is provided by a D-Channel on the first T1 facility.

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### **SECTION 5 - LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE, (CONT'D.)**

### 5.1 Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN), (Cont'd.)

#### **5.1.6** Direct Inward Dialing (DID)

- A. The Company will assign line numbers for direct inward dialing in blocks of numbers. When additional numbers are required, they will be made available as soon as the Company has equipment/numbers available for this purpose. The Company does not guarantee that line numbers will be made available in all cases.
- **B.** DID is an optional feature which can be purchased in conjunction with the Company's PRI Service. DID service transmits the dialed digits for all incoming calls allowing the Customer's equipment to route the incoming calls directly to individual stations corresponding to each individual number.

## **5.1.7** Rates and Charges

Following are the monthly rate and nonrecurring charges for PRI service based on a one-year contract:

	Monthly	Non-Recurring
	Rate	Rate
1 Year Commitment Service Configuration:	_	
Voice/Data PRI (with DID)	\$675.00	\$500.00
Data PRI 23B+D	\$675.00	\$500.00
Data PRI 24B	\$675.00	\$500.00
DID Number charges:		
Group of 20-line numbers assigned	\$3.50	\$10.00

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#### **SECTION 6 – SUPPLEMENTAL SERVICES**

#### **6.1** Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP)

#### 6.1.1 General

TAP is a state sponsored assistance program under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 237 and is designed to make telephone service accessible to qualifying low-income residential households. Through this program, eligible households will receive a monthly discount on telephone service.

### **6.1.2** Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for assistance, an applicant must meet the following requirements:

- (A) This discount applies on a single line at the principal place of residence for the applicant.
- (B) Applicant signs document certifying under penalty of perjury that the consumer has income at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or receives benefits from at least one of the following programs:
  - Medicaid
  - Food Support (food stamps)
  - Supplemental Security Income
  - Federal Public Housing Assistance or Section 8
  - Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
  - National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program
  - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (Minnesota Family Investment Program, or MFIP)

Individuals who do not qualify under any of the above but live on a federally recognized reservation may qualify if the applicant signs a document certifying under penalty of perjury that the applicant receives benefits from at least one of the following programs:

- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
- Tribally administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- Head Start (only for those meeting its income qualifying standard)
- National School Lunch Program's free lunch program

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### **SECTION 6 – SUPPLEMENTAL SERVICES, (CONT'D.)**

#### 6.1 Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP), (Cont'd.)

#### 6.1.2 Eligibility Requirements, (Cont'd.)

(C) Applicant agrees to notify the carrier if that consumer ceases to participate in any of the above listed federal assistance programs.

### **6.1.3** Eligibility Revocation

If the Telephone Company discovers that conditions exist that disqualify the recipient of TAP, the support will be discontinued. The customer will be billed retroactively to whichever is the most recent of the dates TAP assistance commenced or the recipient no longer qualified for the service not to exceed 12 months.

#### **6.1.4** Rates

The surcharge rate is the effective rate ordered by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. The Company is responsible for billing, collecting and remitting the surcharge to the appropriate government agency.

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# **SECTION 6 – SUPPLEMENTAL SERVICES, (CONT'D.)**

### 6.2 Telecommunications Access Minnesota (TAM)

#### 6.2.1 Definition

Telecommunications Access Minnesota (TAM) provides for a surcharge to establish and administer a program to distribute communication devices to eligible Minnesotans who have a hearing, speech, or physical disability and to create and maintain telecommunications relay service.

### **6.2.2** Eligibility for Communications Devices

The Department of Human Resources is responsible for distributing communications devices and will determine if a consumer is eligible for such devices. To be eligible to obtain a communications device, a person must be:

- **A**. Able to benefit from and use the equipment for its intended purpose;
- **B.** have a hearing, speech or physical disability;
- **C.** a resident of the state;
- **D.** a resident in a household that has a median income at or below the applicable median household income in the state, except a deaf and blind person applying for a telebraille unit may reside in a household that has a median income no more than 150 percent of the applicable median household income in the state; and
- **E.** a resident in a household that has telephone service or that has made application for service and has been assigned a telephone number; or a resident in a residential care facility, such as a nursing home or group home where telephone service is not included as part of overall service provision.

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### **SECTION 6 – SUPPLEMENTAL SERVICES, (CONT'D.)**

### 6.2 Telecommunications Access Minnesota (TAM), (Cont'd.)

# **6.2.3** Eligibility for Wiring Installation

If a person with a hearing, speech or physical disability does not have wiring to the person's premise to receive telephone service, and the person is subject to economic hardship as determined by the Department of Human Services, the telephone company providing local service shall at the direction of the administrator of the program install necessary outside wiring without charge to the household.

## 6.2.4 Funding

This program is funded through a surcharge on residence and business access lines which pay the 911 surcharge.

### **6.2.6** Rates

The surcharge rate is the effective rate ordered by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. The Company is responsible for billing, collecting and remitting the surcharge to the appropriate government agency.

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### **SECTION 6 – SUPPLEMENTAL SERVICES, (CONT'D.)**

#### **6.3** Toll Restriction Service

Toll Restriction Service provides for exchange access lines or trunks to be restricted from dialing billable toll calls. Local directory assistance calls are allowed. This service is offered subject to the availability of facilities to individual line residence, individual line business and dial switching type customers. Provision of toll restriction does not alleviate customer responsibility for charges associated with completed toll calls.

Toll Restriction may include Billed Number Screening (BNS) for residential customers. BNS prohibits collect and/or third number billed calls from being charged to BNS-equipped numbers. Some calls, originating from locations that do not have screening capabilities, may not be capable of being intercepted and denied. These calls will be billed to the customer if completed.

#### **6.3.1** Rates

	<u>Residence</u>	<u>Business</u>
Nonrecurring charge, per line	\$5.00	\$5.00
Monthly, per line		

### 6.4 900 Service Access Restriction

900 Service Access Restriction enables residence or business exchange access line customers to prohibit dialing of calls within the 900 prefix. Customers who choose this service will also be restricted from calling calls with the prefix of 976 and 676. This service is offered only where facilities permit and is only available on direct dialed calls.

#### **6.4.1** Rates

	Residence	<b>Business</b>
Nonrecurring charge, per line	\$0.00	\$0.00
Monthly rate, per line	\$0.00	\$0.00

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# **SECTION 6 – SUPPLEMENTAL SERVICES, (CONT'D.)**

### 6.5 Blocking for 10XXX1+/10XXX011+ Calls

This service prevents 10XXX1+ and 10XXX011+ calls from being completed from the Customer's line and is offered subject to the availability of facilities. Provision of this service does not alleviate Customer responsibility for charges associated with completed toll calls.

#### **6.5.1** Rates

	Nonrecurring	Monthly
	<u>Charge</u>	Rate
Per line or trunk arranged	\$0.00	\$0.00

### 6.6 Optional Calling Features

## **6.1.1** Feature Descriptions

**Call Trace** (\*57) - Allows a called party to initiate an automatic trace of the last call received. Call Trace is available on a usage basis only.

**Caller Identification Blocking** – Allows the name and number of the calling party to be blocked from being transmitted when placing outbound calls.

**Per Call Blocking** – To activate per-call blocking, a Customer dials a special code prior to placing a call. Blocking will be activated for that outgoing call only. There is no charge for using per call blocking, and it is provided on an unlimited basis.

Per Line Blocking - When blocking is established on the line, it can be deactivated by dialing a code before each call. This one call unblock allows the name and/or number to be sent for that one call only. Customers who choose per line blocking within 90 days of establishing service will not be charged a nonrecurring charge. After 90 days, customers requesting per line blocking will be charged a nonrecurring charge for each line equipped with per line blocking. Per line blocking will be provided free to law enforcement and domestic violence agencies and individual victims of domestic violence upon request. Per line blocking will not be provided to business customers unless they can demonstrate a need.

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# **SECTION 6 – SUPPLEMENTAL SERVICES, (CONT'D.)**

# **6.7** Directory Assistance Services

A Customer may obtain assistance, for a charge, in determining a telephone number by dialing Directory Assistance Service. A Customer can also receive assistance by writing the Company with a list of names and addresses for which telephone numbers are desired. Customers will be provided a white page listing and directory.

Local Directory Assistance Per Call Charge

\$1.50

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# **SECTION 7 – TOLL SERVICES**

7.1 [Reserved for Future Use]

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#### **SECTION 8 - CONTRACT SERVICES**

### 8.1 Individual Case Basis (ICB) Arrangements

Rates for ICB arrangements will be developed on a case-by-case basis in response to a bona fide request from a Customer or prospective Customer for service which vary from tariffed arrangements. Rates quoted in response to such requests may be different for tariffed service than those specified for such service in the Rate Attachment. ICB rates will be offered to Customers in writing and will be made available to similarly situated Customers. The Company will update this tariff to reference each individual contract with (i) residential Customers or (ii) business Customers with three (3) or fewer lines, or (iii) for terms and conditions that are related to price or length of the contract term.

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#### **SECTION 9 - SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS**

#### 9.1 Non-Routine Installation and/or Maintenance

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

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#### **SECTION 10 - PROMOTIONS**

#### **10.1** Demonstration of Service

From time to time the Company may demonstrate service for potential Customers by providing free use of its network on a limited basis for a period of time, not to exceed one (1) month. Demonstration of service and the type, duration or quantity of service provided will be at the Company's discretion.

#### **10.2** Special Promotions

From time to time, the Carrier may provide promotional offerings to introduce a current or potential Subscriber to a service not being used by the subscriber. These offerings may be limited to certain dates, times or locations and may waive or reduce recurring or non-recurring charges. The Company will notify the Commission prior to the effective date of any promotional offering.

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