

DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN & OSHINSKY LLP

2101 L Street NW • Washington, DC 20037-1526

Tel (202) 785-9700 • Fax (202) 887-0689

Writer's Direct Dial: (202) 828-2226

E-Mail Address: FurmanV@dsmo.com
12350.060

RECEIVED

DEC 11 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

December 11, 1998

VIA COURIER

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

EX PARTE
PRESENTATION

Re: CC Docket No. 97-151

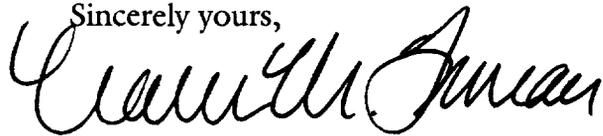
Dear Ms. Salas:

This letter reports a meeting on December 9, 1998 between Charles Gerkin of Chorey, Taylor & Feil, on behalf of ICG Communications, Inc., Cynthia Z. Schonhaut, Executive Vice President of Government Affairs at ICG Communications, Inc., Margaret Egler, Acting Chief of the Cable Services Bureau's Financial Analysis and Compliance Division, and Cheryl King of the Cable Services Bureau.

The topics discussed during the meeting are contained in the materials attached hereto.

If you desire any further information, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely yours,



Valerie M. Furman

VMF/gsw
Attachment

cc: Margaret Egler
Cheryl King

No. of Copies rec'd 012
List ABCDE

ICG Communications, Inc.
Ex Parte Presentation
CS Docket No. 97-151
December 9, 1998

RECEIVED

DEC 11 1998

RECEIVED

DEC 11 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

- ◆ Electric utilities are “attaching entities”
 - Electric utilities clearly are entities who attach facilities to poles and conduits
 - Nothing in § 224 limits “attaching entities” to parties with defined “pole attachments” used for cable service or telecommunications
 - ILECs recover 50% - 60% of total pole cost from electric utilities
 - Electric utilities recover 40% - 50% of total pole cost from ILECs
 - Failure to treat electric utilities as “attaching entities” would permit ILECs to recover entire pole cost from other users and permit electric utilities to recover most of pole cost from other users
 - Purpose of § 224 amendments was to insure CLECs access to ILEC and electric utility poles and conduits at reasonable rates, not to permit pole and conduit owners to recover their costs from other users

- ◆ Total cost of conduit bank should be allocated between usable and unusable space based upon ratio of available ducts to maintenance ducts
 - The only “space” in a conduit system is the space within the ducts
 - CP&L approach adopted in First Report & Order treats almost all costs of conduit bank as “unusable space” costs
 - Result is to permit owners of conduit bank to recover nearly 2/3 of cost of entire conduit bank from user of a single inner duct
 - Again, purpose of § 224 amendments was to insure CLECs access to existing conduit at reasonable rates, not to permit conduit owners to recover most conduit cost from new entrants

- ◆ Usable space allocations should be based upon best practices, not policies adopted and enforced by those who have incentive to increase new entrants' cost and time to market by requiring more make-ready work
 - Electric utilities are correct that old usable space presumptions are inconsistent with safety standards and actual field practices
 - But space allocations based on safety standards, rather than pole owner preferences, are the other side of the same coin
 - Pole attachment rate formula should provide incentives for efficient use of pole space, not incentives to perpetuate existing inefficient practices that needlessly impede new entrants
- ◆ Pole attachment rate target should be \$8 - \$10/pole
 - § 224(d) rates typically are \$4 - \$6
 - ILECs typically pay electric utilities \$25 for 2 ½ feet of pole space
 - Electric utility unregulated rate demands cluster at \$8 - \$10, \$15 and \$25
 - Low end of monopolist's rate demand in unregulated market probably approximates reasonable rate
- ◆ Conduit rate target should be \$2 - \$5/foot
 - ILEC § 224(d) rates typically are 50¢ - 75¢/foot
 - Unregulated ILEC rates typically are \$5 - \$7/foot
 - Unregulated electric utility rates cluster at \$2 - \$5, \$7 - \$10 and \$15+/foot
 - Unregulated rates of ILECs, who have strong incentives to overcharge new entrants, are likely to be somewhat above zone of reasonableness
- ◆ If allocation of relatively small portion of total cost to new entrant does not yield rates in target range, consideration should be given to use of replacement cost (especially for conduits), rather than higher allocation of embedded cost
 - Rates based on fully depreciated historic cost of old conduits raise 5th Amendment concerns

- Rates based on small share of large replacement cost (rather than large share of small embedded cost) would tend to equalize rates for older & newer conduits of comparable value
- Rates based on large share of embedded cost would result in much higher rates for conduit owned by new entrants than for conduit owned by incumbent conduit owners, resulting in appearance of unfairness

Agreement No. _____

**MASTER AGREEMENT FOR ACCESS
TO POLES, DUCTS, CONDUITS, AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY (TEXAS)**

This Agreement dated _____, 19__, is made by and between Southwestern Bell Telephone Company ("SWBT") and the undersigned Applicant. As provided in this Agreement, SWBT will provide Applicant nondiscriminatory access, in accordance with the Pole Attachment Act, the Telecommunications Act of 1996, and applicable rules, regulations, and commission orders, to poles, ducts, conduits, and rights-of-way owned or controlled by SWBT and located in this state.

ARTICLE 1: PARTIES

1.01 Southwestern Bell Telephone Company. Southwestern Bell Telephone Company is a corporation chartered in the State of Missouri. SWBT's principal office is located at 1010 Pine Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63101.

1.02 Applicant. Applicant is a telecommunications carrier or cable television system doing business or operating in this State under the following name(s):

Applicant maintains offices in this State at the following address: _____

Applicant is more fully described in APPENDIX II ("Identification of Applicant").

ARTICLE 2: PURPOSE OF AGREEMENT

2.01 Primary Purpose of Agreement. The primary purpose of this Agreement is to set forth the rates, terms, conditions, and procedures under which SWBT will provide Applicant access to SWBT's poles, ducts, conduits, and rights-of-way located in this State.

2.02 Applicability. This Agreement applies to all poles, ducts, conduits, and rights-of-way subject to the Pole Attachment Act, 47 U.S.C. § 224, as amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, and further amendments.

2.03 Construction in Accordance with Purpose. All provisions of this Agreement shall be construed and applied consistently with the requirements of the Pole Attachment Act and those provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, including but not limited to 47 U.S.C. §§ 251(b)(4) and 271(c)(2)(B)(iii), which mandate access to SWBT's poles, ducts, conduits, and rights-of-way.

2.04 Uniform Application and Nondiscriminatory Access. In Paragraph 1156 of the First Interconnection Order in CC Docket No. 96-98, the FCC has ordered that “[W]here access is mandated, the rates, terms, and conditions of access must be uniformly applied to all telecommunications carriers and cable operators that have or seek access.” In Paragraph 1157 of the First Interconnection Order, the FCC has further stated that except as specifically noted elsewhere in that order, “a utility may not favor itself over other parties with respect to the provision of telecommunications or video programming services.” This Agreement has been drafted and shall be construed to effectuate these nondiscriminatory access requirements.

2.05 Effect on Rights and Remedies under Law. This Agreement is intended by the parties to implement, rather than abridge, their respective rights under federal and state law. In the event of an irreconcilable conflict between any provision of this Agreement and any applicable federal or state laws, rules, regulations, or commission orders, the parties’ rights and remedies under such laws, rules, regulations, and orders shall take precedence over the terms of this Agreement.

2.06 Additional Negotiations. This Agreement is one of many agreements between SWBT and parties seeking access to SWBT’s poles, ducts, conduits, and rights-of-way in this State. Nothing contained in this Agreement shall preclude SWBT from negotiating additional or different terms of access with third parties. Applicant may, at any time, seek amendments to this Agreement to conform to the terms of agreements between SWBT and third parties. In addition, the parties acknowledge that it may be necessary to amend or supersede this Agreement to conform to changes in the law, streamline procedures for granting access, address issues not addressed in this Agreement, and resolve operational concerns arising by virtue of the presence of competing providers of telecommunications and cable television services on, within, or in the vicinity of SWBT’s poles, ducts, conduits, and rights-of-way. Each party shall, therefore, at the request of the other party, engage in good faith negotiations to supplement, amend or replace this Agreement.

2.07 Relationship to Interconnection Agreement. SWBT has provided Applicant the option of executing this Agreement either as a standalone agreement or as part of the interconnection agreement, if any, between the parties. Applicant’s election is reflected in this section, and this Agreement shall be construed in accordance with Applicant’s election. If this Agreement has been executed as part of an interconnection agreement, Applicant shall have the additional option of replacing this Agreement at any time with SWBT’s then-current Master Agreement for Access to Poles, Ducts, Conduits, and Rights-of-Way.

- This Agreement has been entered into as a standalone Agreement.
- This Agreement has been entered into, at Applicant’s request, as an appendix, attachment, or exhibit to an interconnection agreement

between the parties. Except as otherwise specifically stated in this Agreement, the terms of this Agreement, which are specific to poles, ducts, conduits, and rights-of-way, shall apply in the event of conflict between the terms of this Agreement and the general terms and conditions set forth in the interconnection agreement.

2.08 Access Ancillary to Arrangements for Interconnection, Collocation, and Access to Unbundled Network Elements. Nothing contained in this Agreement shall be construed as precluding Applicant from having such additional access to SWBT's poles, ducts, conduits, and rights-of-way as may be necessary to effectuate the terms of other arrangements between Applicant and SWBT relating to interconnection, collocation, and access to unbundled network elements. To the extent that this Agreement does not provide the access required, additional terms of access may be included in any tariff or agreement between the parties establishing arrangements for interconnection, collocation, or access to unbundled network elements.

ARTICLE 3: DEFINITIONS

3.01 Definitions in general. As used in this Agreement, the terms defined in this article shall have the meanings set forth below in Sections 3.02 to 3.48 except as the context otherwise requires.

3.02 Agreement. The term "Agreement" refers to this Master Agreement for Access to Poles, Ducts, Conduits, and Rights-of-Way. The term "Agreement" includes all appendices, attachments, and addenda to this Agreement, including but not limited to addenda, if any, reflecting state-specific requirements or Applicant-specific requirements imposed by interconnection arbitration orders.

3.03 Anchor. The term "anchor" refers to a device, structure, or assembly which stabilizes a pole and holds it in place. An anchor assembly may consist of a rod and fixed object or plate, typically embedded in the ground, which is attached to a guy strand or guy wire which, in turn, is attached to the pole. The term "anchor" does not include the guy strand which connects the anchor to the pole.

3.04 Appendix. The capitalized term "APPENDIX" refers to one of the following appendices to this Agreement.

APPENDIX I: Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges

APPENDIX II: Identification of Applicant

APPENDIX III: Administrative Forms and Notices

SW-9433: Pole Attachments

- SW-9434: Access Application and Make-Ready Authorization
- SW-9435: Conduit Occupancy
- SW-9436A: Notification of Surrender or Modification of Pole Attachment License by Licensee
- SW-9436B: Notification of Surrender or Modification of Conduit Occupancy License by Applicant
- SW-9436C: Notification of Unauthorized Attachments by Applicant
- APPENDIX IV: Insurance Requirements
- APPENDIX V: Nondisclosure Agreement
- APPENDIX VI: Notices to Applicant
- APPENDIX VII: Notices to SWBT
- APPENDIX VIII: Identification of Utility Liaison Supervisor (ULS)

3.05 Assigned. When used with respect to pole, duct, conduit, or right-of-way space, the term “assigned” refers to space that is occupied by, or has been designated for occupancy by, either party or by a third party. Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement, no person or entity shall have the right to occupy space assigned to another person or entity (other than on a temporary basis in the event of emergency as provided in Section 15.02 of this Agreement) until the assignment has been released or lapsed. Assignment procedures are described in Section 8.02 of this Agreement.

3.06 Authorized contractor. “Authorized contractors” are contractors selected by Applicant who may, subject to Applicant’s direction and control, perform facilities modification or make-ready work which would ordinarily be performed by SWBT or persons acting on SWBT’s behalf. As used in this Agreement, the term “authorized contractor” does not refer to contractors performing routine installation, maintenance, or repair work on Applicant’s behalf or other contractors who may be selected by Applicant to perform work on Applicant’s behalf without SWBT’s approval. More specifically, the term “authorized contractor” refers only to those contractors included on a list of contractors mutually approved by Applicant and SWBT to perform one or more of the following tasks within a specified SWBT construction district: (a) installation of those sections of Applicant’s ducts or facilities which connect to SWBT’s conduit system as provided in Section 6.08(c); (b) installation of inner duct as provided in Section 10.02(b); (c) excavation work in connection with the removal of retired or inactive (dead) cables as provided in Section 10.02(c); or (d) make-ready work as provided in Sections 10.04 and 10.05. A person or entity approved as an authorized contractor is only an authorized

contractor with respect to those tasks for which such person or entity has been approved by both parties and is an authorized contractor only in those SWBT construction districts agreed to by both parties. Designation of an authorized contractor for a specific category of tasks shall not be deemed to be the designation of such person or entity as an authorized contractor for other purposes, nor shall approval of an authorized contractor by one SWBT construction district constitute approval of such authorized contractor for the area served by a different SWBT construction district; provided, however, that if a specific construction job extends beyond the boundaries of a single construction district, an authorized contractor shall, for the purposes of that job, be deemed to have been approved by all SWBT construction districts in which the work is to be performed. If, by agreement of the parties or commission order, Applicant has been approved as an authorized contractor, such approval shall be noted by an addendum to this Agreement.

3.07 Available. When used with respect to pole, duct, conduit, and right-of-way space, the term "available" refers to space that is not occupied or assigned. In conduit systems owned or controlled by SWBT, maintenance ducts will not be considered "available" for assignment. All other unassigned ducts, inner ducts, sub-ducts, and partitioned conduits in a conduit system owned or controlled by SWBT will be deemed available for assignment.

3.08 Cables. The term "cable" includes but is not limited to twisted-pair copper, coaxial, and fiber optic cables. Cables are transmission media which may be attached to or placed in poles, ducts, conduits, and rights-of-way but are not themselves poles, ducts, conduits, or rights-of-way. Nothing contained in this Agreement shall be construed as a grant of access to cables attached to SWBT's poles or placed in SWBT's ducts, conduits, or rights-of-way.

3.09 Conduit. The term "conduit" refers to all SWBT conduits subject to the Pole Attachment Act and the provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 codified as 47 U.S.C. §§ 251(b)(4) and 271(c)(2)(B)(iii). In general, conduits are tubes or structures, usually underground or on bridges, containing one or more ducts used to enclose cables, wires, and associated transmission equipment. Except as the context otherwise requires, the term "conduit" refers only to conduit owned or controlled by SWBT, including the re-enterable manholes and handholes used to connect ducts and provide access to cables, wires, and other facilities within the ducts. As used in this Agreement, the term "conduit" refers only to conduit structures (including ducts, manholes and handholes) and space within those structures and does not include (a) cables and other telecommunications equipment located within conduit structures or (b) central office vaults, controlled environment vaults, or other SWBT structures (such as huts and cabinets) which branch off from or are connected to SWBT's conduit.

3.10 Conduit occupancy. The term "conduit occupancy" refers to the presence of wire, cable, optical conductors, or other equipment within any part of SWBT's conduit system.

3.11 Conduit system. The term "conduit system" refers to any combination of ducts, conduits, manholes, and handholes joined to form an integrated whole. As used in this Agreement, the term "conduit system" refers only to conduit systems owned or controlled by SWBT and does not include (a) cables and other telecommunications equipment located within conduit structures or (b) central office vaults, controlled environment vaults, or other SWBT structures (such as huts and cabinets) which branch off from or are connected to SWBT's conduit.

3.12 Construction District. The term "construction district" refers to the SWBT organization responsible for outside plant construction in a specified geographic area. The term "construction district" connotes responsibility for handling a function and not to the official name of the organization responsible for outside plant construction matters.

3.13 Cost/Cost-based. The terms "cost" and "costs" refer to costs determined in a manner consistent with the Pole Attachment Act and applicable rules, regulations, and commission orders. The term "cost-based" refers to rates, fees, and other charges which are based on costs and determined in a manner consistent with the Pole Attachment Act and applicable rules, regulations, and commission orders.

3.14 Duct. The term "duct" refers to all SWBT ducts subject to the Pole Attachment Act and the provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 codified as 47 U.S.C. §§ 251(b)(4) and 271(c)(2)(B)(iii). In general, a "duct" is a single enclosed tube, pipe, or channel for enclosing and carrying cables, wires, and other equipment. As used in this Agreement, the term "duct" includes "inner ducts" created by subdividing a duct into smaller channels. Except as the context otherwise requires, the term "duct" refers only to ducts owned or controlled by SWBT and space within those ducts and does not include cables and other telecommunications equipment located within such ducts.

3.15 Facilities. The terms "facility" and "facilities" refer to any property, equipment, or items owned or controlled by any person or entity.

3.16 FCC. The acronym "FCC" refers to the Federal Communications Commission.

3.17 First Interconnection Order. The term "First Interconnection Order" refers to the First Report and Order adopted by the FCC on September 1, 1996, and released on September 8, 1996, in CC Docket No. 96-98, In the Matter of Implementation of the Local Competition Provisions in the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and CC Docket No. 95-185, In the Matter of Interconnection between Local Exchange Carriers and Commercial Mobile Radio Service Providers. Access to poles, ducts, conduits, and rights-of-way is addressed in the First Interconnection Order in Paragraphs 1119-1240.

3.18 Handhole. The term "handhole" refers to a structure similar in function to a manhole, but which is too small for personnel to enter. As used in this Agreement, the term "handhole" refers only to handholes which are part of SWBT's conduit system and

does not refer to handholes which provide access to buried cables not housed within SWBT ducts or conduits. As used in this Agreement, the term "handhole" refers only to handhole structures owned or controlled by SWBT and does not include cables and other telecommunications equipment located within handhole structures.

3.19 Hazardous substances. The term "hazardous substances" refers to hazardous and toxic substances, waste, pollutants, contaminants, and materials as defined in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act ("CERCLA"), 42 U.S.C. § 9601(14), as amended, and other federal, state, and local health, safety, and environmental laws, ordinances, statutes, rules, and regulations applicable to sites subject to this Agreement, including but not limited to the Occupational Safety and Health Act ("OSHA"). In general, the term "hazardous substances" refers to any substance the presence, use, transport, abandonment or disposal of which (a) requires investigation, remediation, compensation, fine, or penalty under health, safety, and environmental laws, ordinances, statutes, rules, and regulations applicable to sites subject to this Agreement or (b) poses risks to human health, safety, or the environment and is regulated under any such laws, ordinances, statutes, rules, and regulations. For the purposes of this Agreement, the term "hazardous substances" shall also include petroleum, natural gas, and other combustible or noxious liquids, gases, or solids which may accumulate at sites subject to this Agreement.

3.20 Interconnection agreement. The term "interconnection agreement" refers to the interconnection agreement, if any, to which this Agreement has been made an appendix, attachment, or exhibit, or, as the context may require, any other interconnection agreement between the parties.

3.21 Jacket. The term "jacket" refers to a single enclosed outer covering containing communications wires, fibers, or other communications media. As used in this Agreement, the term "jacket" refers to the outermost sheath or jacket of a cable.

3.22 Joint user. The term "joint user" refers to any person or entity which has entered or may enter into an agreement or arrangement with SWBT permitting it to attach its facilities to SWBT's poles or place its facilities in SWBT's ducts, conduits, or rights-of-way.

3.23 License. The term "license" refers to a written instrument confirming that SWBT has granted the application of Applicant or a third party for access to pole, duct, conduit, or right-of-way space and that, based on Applicant's or such third party's representations (and SWBT's field inspection, if any), it appears that no further facilities modification, capacity expansion or make-ready work by SWBT is required before facilities described in the application are installed in the space requested. The term "license" refers to licenses issued by SWBT pursuant to this Agreement and may, if the context requires, refer to licenses issued by SWBT before the date of this Agreement. The parties' use of the term "license" in this Agreement shall not be construed as conferring authority or discretion on SWBT's part to deny access to Applicant in any

manner inconsistent with the requirements of the Pole Attachment Act, the Telecommunications Act of 1996, and applicable rules, regulations, and commission orders.

3.24 Local service provider ("LSP"). The terms "local service provider" and "LSP" refer only to telecommunications carriers authorized by applicable federal and state laws and regulations to provide local exchange service. As used in this Agreement, these terms include SWBT.

3.25 Maintenance duct. The term "maintenance duct" generally refers to a full-sized duct (typically three inches in diameter or larger) which may be used, on a short-term basis, for maintenance, repair, or emergency restoration activities. Maintenance ducts will be available, on a nondiscriminatory basis, to all persons and entities (including SWBT, Applicant, other local service providers, and other joint users) with facilities in the conduit section in which the maintenance duct is located for (a) short-term emergency repairs as provided in Article 15 of this Agreement and (b) short-term non-emergency maintenance or repair activities as provided in Articles 12 and 13 of this Agreement. No more than one full-sized duct within any given conduit section will be designated by SWBT as the maintenance duct. In those locations where, on the effective date of this Agreement, there is not a full-sized duct available to be used as a maintenance duct, SWBT will designate an inner duct, if one is available, as the maintenance duct although such inner duct may be too small to accommodate some of the cables occupying the conduit section in which such inner duct is located. The term "maintenance duct" does not include ducts and conduits extending from a SWBT manhole to customer premises. Maintenance ducts will not be considered "available" (as defined in Section 3.07) for assignment to SWBT, Applicant, or joint users for purposes other than short-term uses contemplated in this section; provided, however, that SWBT may assign the duct currently designated as a maintenance duct if another suitable full-sized duct will be made available to serve as a replacement maintenance duct and may assign an inner duct currently designated as a maintenance duct if another inner duct will be made available to serve as a replacement maintenance duct. Maintenance duct designations may change from time to time and may or may not be reflected in SWBT's outside plant records. When only one usable full-sized duct remains in a conduit section, that duct shall be deemed to be the maintenance duct.

3.26 Make-ready work. The term "make-ready work" refers to all work performed or to be performed to prepare SWBT's poles, ducts, conduits, rights-of-way, and related facilities for the requested occupancy or attachment of Applicant's facilities. Make-ready work does not include the actual installation of Applicant's facilities. "Make-ready work" includes, but is not limited to, clearing obstructions (e.g., by "rodding" ducts to ensure clear passage), and rearranging, transferring, replacing, and removing existing facilities on a pole or in a conduit system where such work is required to accommodate Applicant's facilities (as contrasted with work performed on SWBT's behalf in furtherance of SWBT's own business needs or convenience). "Make-ready work" may require "dig-ups" of existing facilities and may include the repair,

enlargement or modification of SWBT's facilities (including, but not limited to, poles, ducts, conduits, handholes, and manholes), consolidating services into fewer cables, or the performance of other work required to make a pole, anchor, duct, conduit, manhole, handhole, or right-of-way usable for the initial placement of Applicant's facilities. As used in this Agreement, the term "make-ready work" also includes associated planning and engineering work required to confirm or determine the extent of make-ready work required and to plan make-ready projects.

3.27 Manhole. The term "manhole" refers to an enclosure, usually below ground level and entered through a hole on the surface covered with a cast iron, cast aluminum, steel, or concrete manhole cover, which personnel may enter and use for the purpose of installing, operating, and maintaining facilities in ducts or conduits which are parts of SWBT's conduit system. As used in this Agreement, the term "manhole" refers only to manhole structures owned or controlled by SWBT and does not include cables and other telecommunications equipment located within manhole structures.

3.28 Occupancy. The term "occupancy" refers to the presence of cables or other facilities on a pole, in a duct or conduit, or within a right-of-way.

3.29 Overlashing. The term "overlashing" refers to the practice of placing an additional cable or inner duct by lashing such cable or inner duct with spinning wire over an existing cable and strand.

3.30 Person acting on Applicant's behalf. The terms "person acting on Applicant's behalf," "personnel performing work on Applicant's behalf," and similar terms include both natural persons and firms and ventures of every type, including, but not limited to, corporations, partnerships, limited liability companies, sole proprietorships, and joint ventures. The terms "person acting on Applicant's behalf," "personnel performing work on Applicant's behalf," and similar terms specifically include, but are not limited to, Applicant, its officers, directors, employees, agents, representatives, attorneys, contractors, subcontractors, and other persons or entities performing services at the request of or as directed by Applicant and their respective officers, directors, employees, agents, and representatives. An authorized contractor selected by Applicant to perform make-ready work shall be deemed to be a person acting on Applicant's behalf while performing such work at Applicant's request.

3.31 Person acting on SWBT's behalf. The terms "person acting on SWBT's behalf," "personnel performing work on SWBT's behalf," and similar terms include both natural persons and firms and ventures of every type, including but not limited to corporations, partnerships, limited liability companies, sole proprietorships, and joint ventures. The terms "person acting on SWBT's behalf," "personnel performing work on SWBT's behalf," and similar terms specifically include, but are not limited to, SWBT, its officers, directors, employees, agents, representatives, attorneys, contractors, subcontractors, and other persons or entities performing services at the request of or as directed by SWBT and their respective officers, directors, employees, agents, and

representatives. An authorized contractor selected by SWBT to perform make-ready work shall be deemed to be a person acting on SWBT's behalf while performing such work at SWBT's request.

3.32 Pole. The term "pole" refers to all SWBT poles subject to the Pole Attachment Act and the provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 codified as 47 U.S.C. §§ 251(b)(4) and 271(c)(2)(B)(iii). Except as the context otherwise requires, the term "pole" refers only to poles (and associated anchors) which are owned or controlled by SWBT and does not include cables and other telecommunications equipment attached to pole structures.

3.33 Pole Attachment. As defined in the Pole Attachment Act, 47 U.S.C. § 224(a)(4), the term "pole attachment" refers to "any attachment by a cable television system or provider of telecommunications service to a pole, duct, conduit, or right-of-way owned or controlled by a utility." In this Agreement, except as the context otherwise requires, the term "pole attachment" refers to any attachment by a cable television system or provider of telecommunications service to a pole (and associated anchors) owned or controlled by SWBT. The term "pole attachment" includes all such facilities attached to or supported by a SWBT pole, including but not limited to cables, risers and U-guards, equipment boxes, drop wires, anchors, bolts, clamps, drive rings, guys, hooks, strands, and other hardware affixed to the pole. Groupings of associated pole attachments for billing purposes shall be consistent with the Pole Attachment Act and applicable rules, regulations, and commission orders. Except as otherwise authorized by applicable FCC rules, regulations, or orders, Applicant's pole attachments occupying the same usable space (or otherwise associated with facilities occupying the same usable space on a pole) shall be treated as a single attachment for billing purposes.

3.34 Pole Attachment Act. The term "Pole Attachment Act" refers to those provisions of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, now codified as 47 U.S.C. § 224, as those provisions may be amended from time to time.

3.35 Pre-license survey. The term "pre-license survey" refers to work and activities performed or to be performed by SWBT or by persons acting on SWBT's behalf for the primary purpose of:

- (a) confirming or determining the existing availability and capacity of a pole, duct, conduit, or right-of-way and identifying capacity, safety, reliability, or engineering concerns, if any, relating to Applicant's application;
- (b) confirming or determining the extent, if any, to which modifications to SWBT's poles, ducts, conduits, or right-of-ways are required to accommodate Applicant's facilities;

- (c) confirming or determining what make-ready work, if any, will be required to prepare SWBT's poles, ducts, conduits, or rights-of-way to accommodate Applicant's facilities; and
- (d) estimating the costs, if any, that Applicant will be required to pay for any such facilities modification, capacity expansion, or make-ready work.

3.36 Pre-occupancy survey. The term "pre-occupancy survey" refers to work and activities performed or to be performed by Applicant or persons acting on Applicant's behalf for the primary purpose of enabling Applicant to determine:

- (a) whether SWBT's poles, ducts, conduits, or rights-of-way, in their existing condition, are suitable for Applicant's intended use;
- (b) the extent, if any, to which modifications of SWBT's poles, ducts, conduits, or rights-of-way will be proposed by Applicant to expand the capacity of SWBT's poles, ducts, conduits, or rights-of-way to accommodate Applicant's facilities; and
- (c) what other capacity expansion or make-ready work, if any, will be proposed by Applicant to prepare SWBT's poles, ducts, conduits, and rights-of-way to accommodate Applicant's facilities.

3.37 Primary point of contact. The term "primary point of contact" refers to the persons designated by Applicant and SWBT, respectively, to coordinate arrangements for Applicant's access to SWBT's poles, ducts, conduits, and rights-of-way and records relating to such poles, ducts, conduits, and rights-of-way. SWBT's designated primary point of contact shall be the Utility Liaison Supervisor unless the parties have arranged for that function to be performed by a designated account representative who will serve as an intermediary between Applicant and the Utility Liaison Supervisor.

3.38 Rights-of-way. The term "rights-of-way" refers to all SWBT rights-of-way subject to the Pole Attachment Act and the provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 codified as 47 U.S.C. §§ 251(b)(4) and 271(c)(2)(B)(iii). In general, rights-of-way are legal rights to pass over or through property of another party for limited purposes as defined in a statute, ordinance, easement, grant or other conveyance. Rights-of-way include but are not limited to (a) public rights-of-way which SWBT may occupy as permitted by law for the placement of its facilities (e.g., rights-of-way on, under, or over streets, highways, and other public roads) and (b) easements or servitudes granted by property owners or obtained through the exercise of eminent domain authority authorizing SWBT to pass over, place facilities on, and have rights of ingress and egress to the property of such property owners. Rights-of-way may also include easements which, at the time of land development or subdivision, were dedicated for use by public or private utilities and are being occupied, in whole or in part, by SWBT's facilities. Except as the context otherwise requires, the term "rights-of-way" as used in this

Agreement refers only to rights-of-way owned or controlled by SWBT and does not include (a) cables and other telecommunications equipment buried or located on such rights-of-way, (b) public rights of way (which are owned by and subject to the control of governmental entities), or (c) any space which is owned and controlled by a third-party property owner and occupied by SWBT with permission from such owner rather than as a matter of legal right. As used in this Agreement, the term "right-of-way" may also include certain fee-owned or leased property acquired by SWBT for the specific purpose of installing poles, ducts, or conduits or burying underground cables which are part of SWBT's network distribution facilities.

3.39 Sheath. The term "sheath" refers to an enclosed covering containing communications wires, fibers, or other communications media. A cable may include both inner and outer sheaths.

3.40 Spinning. The term "spinning" refers to a method of attaching a cable or inner duct to a supporting strand. "Spinning" is sometimes referred to as "lashing."

3.41 State. When capitalized, the term "State" (as used in terms such as "this State") refers to the State of Texas.

3.42 State Commission. The term "State Commission" refers to the Texas Public Utility Commission.

3.43 Strand. The term "strand" refers to support wires, typically stranded together, or other devices attached to a pole and connecting that pole to an anchor or to another pole for the purpose of increasing pole stability or supporting wires, cables, and associated facilities. The term "strand" includes, but is not limited to, strands sometimes referred to as "anchor strands," "anchor/guy strands," "down guys," "guy strands," "pole-to-pole guys," and "messengers."

3.44 Telecommunications Act of 1996. The term "Telecommunications Act of 1996" refers to the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-104, 110 Stat. 56, enacted February 8, 1996.

3.45 Third party. The terms "third party" and "third parties" refer to persons and entities other than the parties to this Agreement (that is, persons and entities other than Applicant and SWBT).

3.46 Utility Liaison Supervisor ("ULS"). The terms "Utility Liaison Supervisor" and "ULS" refer to the person or persons designated by SWBT to be responsible for handling and processing requests for access to SWBT's poles, ducts, conduits, and rights-of-way in this State. The term "ULS" connotes responsibility for handling a function and is not a job title. Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement or in the parties' interconnection agreement, if any, the ULS shall serve as Applicant's single point of contact for arranging access to SWBT's poles, ducts, conduits, and rights-of-way and

access to SWBT's records relating to SWBT's poles, ducts, conduits, and rights-of-way. The Utility Liaison Supervisor for this State is identified in APPENDIX VIII.

3.47 Vault. The term "vault" includes central office vaults and controlled environment vaults ("CEVs"). Vaults may be connected to, but are not considered part of, SWBT's conduit system. Access, if any, to vaults (and to ducts, conduits, and risers which serve no purpose other than to provide a means of entry to and exit from such vaults) shall be governed by the tariffs, agreements, or commission orders, if any, establishing arrangements for interconnection, collocation, and access to unbundled network elements, and not by this Agreement.

3.48 "Vicinity of ...". When used in terms such as "vicinity of SWBT's conduit system," "vicinity of SWBT's poles," "vicinity of SWBT's rights-of-way," or "vicinity of SWBT's poles, ducts, conduits, or rights-of-way," the term "vicinity of ..." includes sites on, within, near to, surrounding, or adjoining SWBT's poles, ducts, conduits, and rights-of-way. These sites include, but are not limited to, all sites within a distance of 10 feet of any SWBT pole, duct, conduit, or right-of-way.

ARTICLE 4: NATURE AND SCOPE OF AGREEMENT

4.01 Scope of Agreement. This Agreement establishes the rates, terms, conditions, and procedures for access to SWBT's poles, ducts, conduits, and rights-of-way located within this State, without regard to whether such poles, ducts, conduits, or rights-of-way are located on public or private property; provided, however, that nothing contained in this Agreement shall be construed as a grant of access to any facilities which are not poles, ducts, conduits, or rights-of-way subject to the Pole Attachment Act or to any poles, ducts, conduits, rights-of-way, facilities, or property owned and controlled by parties other than SWBT. Separate tariffs or agreements, including other portions of the parties' interconnection agreement, and not this Agreement, shall govern Applicant's access, if any, to the following facilities which require special security, technical, and construction arrangements outside the scope of this Agreement:

- (a) SWBT's central office vaults and ducts and conduits which serve no purpose other than to provide a means of entry to and exit from SWBT's central offices;
- (b) controlled environment vaults (CEVs), huts, cabinets, and other similar outside plant structures and ducts and conduits which serve no purpose other than to provide a means of entry to and exit from such vaults, huts, cabinets, and structures;
- (c) ducts and conduits located within buildings owned by SWBT; and
- (d) ducts, conduits, equipment rooms, and similar spaces located in space leased by SWBT from third-party property owners for purposes other

than to house cables and other equipment in active service as part of SWBT's network distribution operations.

4.02 No Transfer of Property Rights to Applicant. Nothing contained in this Agreement or any license subject to this Agreement shall create or vest (or be construed as creating or vesting) in either party any right, title, or interest in or to any real or personal property owned by the other. The payment of fees and charges as provided by this Agreement and licenses subject to this Agreement shall not create or vest (or be construed as creating or vesting) in either party any right, title, or interest in or to any real or personal property owned by the other. No use, however extended, of SWBT's poles, ducts, conduits, or rights-of-way shall create or vest (or be construed as creating or vesting) in Applicant any right, title, or interest in or to any real or personal property owned by SWBT, and the placement of Applicant's facilities on or in SWBT's poles, ducts, conduits and rights-of-way shall not create or vest in SWBT any right, title, or interest in such facilities.

4.03 No Effect on SWBT's Right to Abandon, Convey or Transfer Poles, Ducts, Conduits, or Rights-of-Way. Except as provided in subsections (a)-(d) of this section, nothing contained in this Agreement or any license subject to this Agreement shall in any way affect SWBT's right to abandon, convey, or transfer to any other person or entity SWBT's interest in any of SWBT's poles, ducts, conduits, or rights-of-way.

- (a) SWBT shall give Applicant no less than 60 days written notice prior to abandoning, conveying, or transferring any pole, duct, conduit, or right-of-way (1) to or in which Applicant has attached or placed facilities pursuant to this Agreement or (2) with respect to which Applicant has been assigned pole attachment or conduit occupancy space. The notice shall identify the transferee, if any, to whom any such pole, duct, conduit, or right-of-way is to be conveyed or transferred.
- (b) SWBT represents that prior to the effective date of this Agreement, and prior to enactment of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, SWBT entered into one or more "joint use pole agreements" with electric utilities located in this State and that such agreements may require SWBT to transfer or convey poles to such electric utilities from time to time. Nothing contained in this Agreement shall abridge the rights of SWBT or any electric utility under any contract executed prior to the effective date of this Agreement. In the event of any transfer or conveyance of poles to an electric utility pursuant to such a joint pole agreement, SWBT will, at Applicant's request, provide Applicant and the transferee utility with such information as may be necessary to minimize any burdens to Applicant which may arise out of or in connection with the transfer or conveyance.

- (c) Transfers of SWBT's poles, ducts, conduits, and rights-of-way shall be subject to Applicant's rights at the time of transfer. Applicant shall, at the request of SWBT or the transferee, provide SWBT or the transferee with all information required to assess Applicant's rights, post-transfer intentions with respect to continued occupancy, and willingness to negotiate new rates, terms, and conditions of access. Applicant shall not unreasonably refuse to negotiate with the transferee. If the transferee itself is a local exchange carrier or other utility subject to the Pole Attachment Act, Applicant shall, at the request of the transferee, negotiate in good faith new rates, terms, and conditions of access.
- (d) Transfers or conveyances of poles, ducts, conduits, or rights-of-way to any entity controlling, controlled by, or under common control with SWBT or to any entity which acquires or succeeds to ownership of substantially all of SWBT's assets shall be subject to Applicant's rights under this Agreement and licenses subject to this Agreement.

4.04 No Effect on SWBT's Rights to Manage its Poles, Ducts, Conduits, and Rights-of-Way. Subject to Applicant's rights under this Agreement and applicable federal and state laws, rules, regulations, and commission orders, including, but not limited to, 47 C.F.R. §1.1403 (requiring 60 days' notice of contemplated modifications), SWBT may (a) locate, relocate, move, replace, modify, maintain, and remove all poles, ducts, conduits, and rights-of-way subject to this Agreement at any time and in any manner as SWBT deems appropriate and (b) enter into new agreements or arrangements with other persons or entities permitting them to attach facilities to SWBT's poles or place facilities in or on SWBT's ducts, conduits, or rights-of-way.

4.05 No Right to Interfere. Except to the extent expressly provided by the provisions of this Agreement, the provisions of this Agreement shall not be construed as authorizing either party to this Agreement, or persons acting on their behalf, to rearrange or interfere in any way with (a) the facilities of the other party or joint users, (b) the use of or access to such facilities by the other party or joint users, or (c) the ability of either party or joint users to conduct normal business operations, serve their respective customers, or avail themselves of new business opportunities.

4.06 Required Franchises, Permits, Certificates, and Licenses. This Agreement shall not be construed as relieving either party from any obligations it may have to obtain legal authority to construct, operate, maintain, repair, and remove its facilities on public or private property (including but not limited to any required franchises, permits, certificates, licenses, easements, or the like) from all appropriate public authorities and private persons or entities.

4.07 DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTIES. SWBT MAKES NO REPRESENTATIONS THAT SWBT'S POLES, DUCTS, CONDUITS, OR RIGHTS-OF-WAY ARE SUITABLE FOR APPLICANT'S INTENDED USES. SWBT MAKES

NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. IN THIS AGREEMENT, SWBT MAKES NO IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF ANY KIND.

4.08 Third-party Beneficiaries. Except as may be specifically set forth in this Agreement, this Agreement does not provide and shall not be construed to provide third parties with any remedy, claim, liability, reimbursement, cause of action, or other privilege.

ARTICLE 5: ACCESS TO RIGHTS-OF-WAY

5.01 Public Rights-of-Way. SWBT and Applicant agree that neither party has the right to restrict or interfere with the other party's lawful access to and use of public rights-of-way, including public rights-of-way which pass over property owned by either party. Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement, SWBT and Applicant shall each be responsible for obtaining their own rights-of-way and permission to use real or personal property owned or controlled by any governmental body.

5.02 Private Rights-of-Way Not Owned or Controlled by Either Party. SWBT and Applicant agree that neither party shall restrict or interfere with the other party's access to or right to occupy property owned by third-parties which is not subject to the other party's control, including property as to which either party has access subject to non-exclusive rights-of-way. Subject to the procedures set forth in Section 5.04 below, each party shall make its own, independent legal assessment of its right to enter upon or use the property of third-party property owners and shall bear all expenses, including legal expenses, involved in making such determinations.

5.03 Access to Rights-of-Way Generally. Each pole attachment and conduit occupancy assignment or license made, issued, or subject to this Agreement shall include access to and use of all associated rights-of-way including, but not limited to, rights-of-way required by Applicant for ingress, egress, or other access to any sites where SWBT's poles or any part of SWBT's conduit system are located, but only to the extent, if any, that SWBT has the legal authority to grant such access and use. At locations where SWBT has access to third-party property pursuant to non-exclusive rights-of-way, SWBT shall not interfere with Applicant's negotiations with third-party property owners for similar access or with Applicant's access to such property pursuant to easements or other rights-of-ways obtained by Applicant from the property owner; provided, however, that neither party shall conduct activities on such right-of-way which interfere with the facilities of the other party or with the other party's access to and use of its own facilities. At locations where SWBT has obtained exclusive rights-of-way from third-party property owners or otherwise controls the right-of-way, SWBT shall, to the extent space is available, and subject to reasonable safety, reliability, and engineering conditions, provide access to Applicant and third parties on a nondiscriminatory, first-come, first-served basis, provided that the underlying agreement with the property owner permits SWBT to provide such access, and provided further that Applicant agrees to indemnify, on request

defend, and hold SWBT harmless from any injury, loss, damage, claim, or liability arising out of or in connection with such access or use. Such access shall be granted, on a case-by-case basis, in the form of a license, sublicense, sub-easement, or other mutually acceptable writing. Except as otherwise agreed to by the parties, SWBT's charges for such access (obtained from SWBT rather than from the third-party property owner) shall include (a) a pro rata portion of the charges (including but not limited to one-time charges and recurring charges), if any, paid by SWBT to obtain the right-of-way plus (b) any other documented legal, administrative, and engineering costs incurred by SWBT in obtaining the right-of-way and processing Applicant's request for access. Applicant's pro rata portion of the charge paid by SWBT shall be negotiated on a case-by-case basis and shall take into account the size of the area used by Applicant and the number of users occupying the right-of-way.

5.04 Special Procedures for Obtaining Access to Third-party Property. Although SWBT will afford access to rights-of-way owned or controlled by it and permit Applicant to utilize SWBT's rights-of-way to the extent that SWBT has legal authority to do so, Applicant acknowledges that SWBT may not own or control certain rights-of-way to the extent necessary to permit Applicant full access to such rights-of-way. The following general principles shall be applied with respect to access to rights-of-way on third-party property in those situations in which SWBT does not have authority to permit Applicant access or either party has a good faith belief that SWBT does not have such authority:

- (a) Applicant will first attempt to obtain right-of-way directly from the property owner.
- (b) If Applicant has the right of eminent domain under state law, Applicant will independently attempt to obtain the right-of-way it seeks through the exercise of that right.
- (c) If Applicant is unable to obtain access to a right-of-way under subsections (a) or (b) above, Applicant may request in writing that SWBT exercise its right of eminent domain to condemn the right-of-way for Applicant's use and SWBT will respond to Applicant's written request within 45 days. SWBT will exercise its right of eminent domain on Applicant's behalf only if permitted to do so under applicable state law, and only if Applicant agrees to bear all costs and expenses, including but not limited to legal fees, arising out of or in connection with the condemnation proceedings.

5.05 Access to Rights-of-Way Incident to the Use of CEVs and Similar Structures. SWBT will provide Applicant nondiscriminatory access, consistent with the requirements of the Pole Attachment Act and Telecommunications Act of 1996, and as provided in Sections 5.03 and 5.04 above, to rights-of-way containing Controlled Environment Vaults (CEVs), huts, cabinets, and other similar structures. SWBT will place no restrictions on access to such rights-of-way that are more restrictive than those

SWBT places on itself; provided, however, that neither party shall conduct activities on such rights-of-way which interfere with the facilities of the other party, with the privacy of communications carried over the other party's network, or with the other party's access to and use of its own facilities. This section relates only to access to rights-of-way and shall not be construed as granting access to the CEVs, huts, cabinets, and similar structures located on such rights-of-way. Access, if any, to CEVs, huts, cabinets, and similar structures, and to ducts, conduits, and risers which serve no purpose other than to provide a means of entering or exiting such structures, shall be governed by the tariff, agreement, or order, if any, granting Applicant access to such structures.

5.06 Access to Building Entrance Facilities, Building Distribution Facilities, and Equipment Rooms. The parties acknowledge that ownership and control of building entrance and distribution ducts, building entrance and distribution conduits, building entrance and building distribution space, equipment rooms, equipment closets, mechanical rooms, telephone communications rooms, and similar spaces will vary from location to location and that the respective rights of third-party property owners, tenants in buildings owned by third-party property owners, telecommunications carriers, cable television systems, and other providers of telecommunications services with respect to such ducts, conduits, and spaces must be determined on a case-by-case basis. Each party shall, when feasible, directly obtain from third-party property owners such access to building entrance and building distribution ducts, building entrance and building distribution conduits, building entrance and distribution space, equipment rooms, equipment closets, mechanical rooms, telephone communications rooms, and other similar areas as may be needed by such party to serve the building owner and tenants located within buildings owned by third parties or to access other space in the building occupied or to be occupied by such party. In those situations in which Applicant cannot obtain from the building owner access on terms satisfactory to Applicant, Applicant may request access from SWBT as provided in Sections 5.03-5.04 of this Agreement; provided, however, that a separate, building-specific notice of intent to occupy under Section 8.02(b) or license application under Section 9.02, including such additional information as may be necessary to identify the space to be occupied and the facilities to be placed in such space, shall be required for access to the facilities and space subject to this section. Any such notice or application shall conspicuously note on its face that access to building entrance or building distribution facilities or space is being sought. Applicant acknowledges that SWBT must, before providing access to building space and facilities located on or within third-party property, review applicable legal documents and physical arrangements relating to the property, including physical arrangements within the building. Upon completion of that review, SWBT will notify Applicant whether Applicant's request can be granted under this Agreement, will require access arrangements under a tariff or other applicable agreement, or will require other special handling (e.g., direct negotiations with the third-party property owner). Pending such notice, Applicant may not occupy any duct, conduit, or space subject to this section pursuant to Section 8.03 without SWBT's express written consent but may exercise occupancy rights obtained directly from the building owner. If SWBT has lawful authority to provide such access and is required by the Pole Attachment Act to do so,

SWBT shall provide Applicant access under this Agreement. Such access shall be negotiated on a case-by-case basis taking into account any special legal, technical, security, or construction considerations applicable to the ducts, conduits, or space which Applicant seeks to access. Such access, when provided, shall only include access to ducts, conduits, and available space (as distinguished from access to cables and other equipment not subject to the Pole Attachment Act). Such access shall be subject to such reasonable terms and conditions as may be appropriate to protect the equipment and other property of the parties and third parties, the reliability of the parties' networks and the networks of third parties, and the privacy of communications carried over the parties' networks and networks of third parties.

- (a) Applicant's access, if any, to building entrance ducts and building entrance conduits entering SWBT-owned buildings (including but not limited to central offices) and access, if any, to other building entrance and building distribution facilities and space located within such buildings shall be arranged under and shall be subject to tariffs, agreements, and, if applicable, commission or court orders establishing such access rights rather than this Agreement.

- (b) Applicant's access to and use of building entrance ducts, building entrance conduits, building entrance space, and other building entrance facilities owned and controlled by third-parties shall be obtained by Applicant through direct negotiations between Applicant and the third-party property owners who own and control access to such facilities. If SWBT owns a building entrance duct, building entrance conduit, or other building entrance space, or if SWBT has sufficient control over a building entrance duct, building entrance conduit, or other building entrance space to permit other telecommunications carriers or cable television systems to have access to such ducts, conduits, or space without approval or consent from the third-party property owner, SWBT shall, if adequate capacity is available, and subject to reasonable safety, reliability, and engineering conditions, provide access to Applicant and other telecommunications carriers and cable television systems on a nondiscriminatory, first-come, first-served basis; provided, however, that Applicant agrees to indemnify, on request defend, and hold SWBT harmless from any injury, loss, damage, claim or liability arising out of or in connection with Applicant's access to or use of such building entrance ducts, building entrance conduits, or other building entrance space. Such access shall be granted, on a case-by-case basis, in the form of a license, sublicense, easement, sub-easement, or other mutually acceptable writing and shall not include access to or the right to use SWBT's cables or other SWBT telecommunications equipment occupying such ducts, conduits, or space. Except as otherwise agreed to by the parties, SWBT's charge for such access (obtained from SWBT rather than from the third-party property owner) shall include (1) a pro

rata portion of all charges (including but not limited to one-time charges and recurring charges), if any, paid by SWBT to obtain the building entrance duct, building entrance conduit, or building entrance space and (2) any other documented legal, administrative, engineering and construction costs incurred by SWBT to obtain such duct, conduit, or space, process Applicant's request for access, or prepare the facilities for Applicant's occupancy or use. SWBT's charges to Applicant under this subsection shall be calculated and negotiated on a case-by-case basis.

- (c) Applicant's access to and use of building distribution ducts, building distribution conduits, building distribution space, and other building distribution facilities owned and controlled by third-parties shall be obtained by Applicant through direct negotiations between Applicant and the third-party property owners who own and control access to such facilities. If SWBT owns a building distribution duct, building distribution conduit, or other building distribution space, or if SWBT has sufficient control over a building distribution duct, building distribution conduit, or other building distribution space to permit other telecommunications carriers or cable television systems to have access to such duct, conduit, or space without approval or consent from the third-party property owner, SWBT shall, if adequate capacity is available, and subject to reasonable safety, reliability, and engineering conditions, provide access to Applicant and other telecommunications carriers and cable television systems on a nondiscriminatory, first-come, first-served basis; provided, however, that Applicant agrees to indemnify, on request defend, and hold SWBT harmless from any injury, loss, damage, claim or liability arising out of or in connection with Applicant's access to or use of such building distribution ducts, building distribution conduits, or other building distribution space. Such access shall be granted, on a case-by-case basis, in the form of a license, sublicense, easement, sub-easement, or other mutually acceptable writing and shall not include access to or the right to use SWBT's cables or other SWBT telecommunications equipment occupying such ducts, conduits, or space. Except as otherwise agreed to by the parties, SWBT's charges for such access (obtained from SWBT rather than from the third-party property owner) shall include (1) a pro rata portion of all charges (including but not limited to one-time charges and recurring charges) paid by SWBT to obtain the building distribution duct, building distribution conduit, or building distribution space and (2) any other documented legal, administrative, engineering costs and construction costs incurred by SWBT to obtain such duct, conduit, or space, process Applicant's request for access, or prepare the facilities for Applicant's occupancy or use. SWBT's charges to Applicant under this subsection shall be calculated and negotiated on a case-by-case basis.

- (d) Access to equipment rooms, equipment closets, mechanical rooms, telephone communications rooms, and similar areas located in buildings owned and controlled by third-parties shall be subject to access as provided in subsection (c); provided, however, that when any such room or space is leased to SWBT on an exclusive basis (as may be the case if the room or space will be used to house remote switching equipment, pair gain equipment, or other network equipment used to provide or support telecommunications services to customers at locations outside the building in which such room is located), access, if any, shall be also subject to facilities collocation tariffs, agreements, or arrangements.
- (e) Nothing contained in this section shall be construed as authorizing Applicant to occupy space owned or controlled by third parties or to utilize third-party facilities or property without permission or authority from the owner of such property, where such permission or authority is required. Neither this section nor any license or permission granted under or subject to this section shall be construed as a representation by SWBT to Applicant that Applicant has the right to have access to or occupy any duct, conduit, or space owned and controlled by a third-party property owner or to utilize any telecommunications equipment owned or controlled by SWBT or any third party (including but not limited to owner- or tenant-owned cables, wires, and equipment located on the customer side of any network interface device).
- (f) If Applicant has been granted access to a building entrance or building distribution duct, conduit, or space pursuant to this section, Applicant shall, at SWBT's request, relinquish such access to SWBT if it is subsequently determined that Applicant's use of such space will preclude SWBT from meeting carrier- or provider-of-last-resort obligations to customers on the premises affected.

ARTICLE 6: SPECIFICATIONS

6.01 Compliance with Requirements, Specifications, and Standards. Applicant agrees that Applicant's facilities attached to SWBT's poles or occupying space in SWBT's ducts, conduits, and rights-of-way shall be attached, placed, constructed, maintained, repaired, and removed in full compliance with the requirements, specifications, and standards specified in this Agreement.

6.02 Design to Minimize the Need for Access to SWBT's Poles, Ducts, and Conduits. The parties shall each design their facilities to minimize the need for the parties to access SWBT's poles, ducts, and conduits.

6.03 Infrequent Construction Techniques and Connectivity Solutions. Unless precluded by documented engineering criteria or written guidelines SWBT applied to

itself as of January 1, 1996, and consistent with considerations of safety, reliability, and sound engineering practice, SWBT will permit Applicant at its own expense to utilize the following techniques to avoid high or unusual expenditures: (a) placement of pole attachments on both the "field" side and "road" side of a pole; (b) placement of extension arms or stand-off brackets on poles; and (c) building conduit branches into SWBT's conduit systems. Applicant acknowledges that use of the above techniques will be rare, will be permitted only on a case-by-case basis, and must be performed in a manner which does not jeopardize the structural integrity of SWBT's facilities, the safety of personnel working on or in SWBT's poles, ducts, or conduits, and does not render unusable other available space on the pole or in the duct or conduit. Except as otherwise agreed to by the parties in writing, extension arms or stand-off brackets, if utilized, shall be installed as make-ready work in accordance with SWBT's specifications and at Applicant's expense. Once installed, extension arms and stand-off brackets shall become part of the pole and shall be owned by SWBT. Unused capacity on any such extension arms or stand-off brackets shall be deemed "available" (as defined in Section 3.07) for assignment.

6.04 Published Standards. SWBT and Applicant agree that the following standards equally apply to either party with respect to facilities attached to or placed in SWBT's poles, ducts, conduits, and rights-of-way and further agree that facilities shall be placed, constructed, maintained, repaired, and removed in accordance with current (as of the date when such work is performed) editions of the following publications:

- (a) the Blue Book Manual of Construction Procedures, Special Report SR-TAP-001421, published by Bell Communications Research, Inc. ("Bellcore"), and sometimes referred to as the "Blue Book";
- (b) the National Electrical Safety Code ("NESC"), published by the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, Inc. ("IEEE"); and
- (c) the National Electrical Code ("NEC"), published by the National Fire Protection Association ("NFPA").

6.05 Additional Electrical Design Specifications: Conduit. The parties agree that, in addition to the specifications and requirements referred to in Sections 6.01-6.04 above, facilities placed in SWBT's conduit system after the effective date of this Agreement shall meet the electrical design specifications set forth in this section.

- (a) No facilities shall be placed in SWBT's conduit system in violation of FCC regulations, including regulations relating to electrical interference. In addition, neither party shall place any facility in SWBT's conduit system which causes or may cause electrical interference with the facilities of the other party or joint users sufficient to jeopardize network integrity or degrade the quality of any communications services offered by either party or a joint user. If either party is notified by the other party or a joint user that its facilities are causing, or have the potential to

cause, unacceptable levels of electrical interference, the party notified shall either correct the problem, remove the facility, or initiate good faith negotiations with the complaining party or joint user to resolve the issue.

- (b) Facilities placed in SWBT's conduit system shall not be designed to use the earth as the sole conductor for any part of the circuits.
- (c) Facilities placed in SWBT's conduit system and carrying more than 50 volts AC (rms) to ground or 135 volts DC to ground shall be enclosed in an effectively grounded sheath or shield.
- (d) No coaxial cable shall be placed in SWBT's conduit system unless such cable meets the voltage limitations of Article 820 of the National Electrical Code.
- (e) Coaxial cable placed in SWBT's conduit system may carry continuous DC voltages up to 1800 volts to ground where the conductor current will not exceed one-half ampere and where such cable has two separate grounded metal sheaths or shields and a suitable insulating jacket over the outer sheath or shield. The power supply shall be so designed and maintained that the total current carried over the outer sheath shall not exceed 200 microamperes under normal conditions. Conditions which would increase the current over this level shall be cleared promptly.
- (f) The integrity of SWBT's conduit system and overall safety of personnel require that "dielectric cable" be used within SWBT's conduit system when a cable facility utilizes a duct or route shared in the same trench by any electric transmission facilities such as the facilities of a power utility.

6.06 Additional Physical Design Specifications: Conduit. Facilities placed in SWBT's conduit system following the effective date of this Agreement shall meet all of the following physical design specifications:

- (a) Except as otherwise specifically agreed in this Agreement or licenses subject to this Agreement, Applicant's facilities shall enter SWBT's conduit system at locations consistent with the physical design specifications that SWBT applies to itself (typically through a manhole) or at such other designated locations agreed upon in writing (e.g., through the licensing process) by the parties in accordance with Section 6.03 (infrequent construction techniques and connectivity solutions).
- (b) Cables bound or wrapped with cloth or having any kind of fibrous coverings or impregnated with an adhesive material shall not be placed in SWBT's conduit or ducts.

- (c) Neither party shall circumvent the corrosion mitigation measures of the other party or joint users.
- (d) New construction splices in cables (including but not limited to fiber optic and twisted pair cables) shall be located in manholes, pull boxes or handholes.

6.07 Efficient Use of Conduit. To ensure efficient use of conduits, SWBT will, when cable diameters permit, install inner ducts in multiples that fully utilize duct space (typically three or four inner ducts in a full four-inch duct) as needed for SWBT's own business purposes and to accommodate Applicant and other joint users; provided, however, that SWBT will not be required to install inner duct in advance of need or in anticipation of potential future requests for access by Applicant and other joint users. In addition, the parties shall, in accordance with SWBT's duct selection standards, install cables in inner duct when cable diameters permit.

6.08 Specifications Applicable to Connections: Conduit. Except as otherwise specifically agreed in this Agreement or licenses subject to this Agreement, or as mutually agreed upon by the parties in writing, the following specifications apply to connections of Applicant's ducts and conduits to SWBT's conduit system:

- (a) Applicant shall not bore, make, or enlarge any hole in, or otherwise structurally modify or alter any manhole, handhole, duct, conduit, or other facility which is part of SWBT's conduit system except as provided in this Agreement, in licenses subject to this Agreement, or as mutually agreed upon by the parties in writing.
- (b) Nothing contained in subsection (a) shall be construed as precluding Applicant or qualified personnel acting on Applicant's behalf from reattaching cable racks or performing similar routine work which is minor in nature and associated with the placement and splicing of Applicant's cable.
- (c) Where Applicant's duct or facility physically connects with SWBT's conduit system, the section of Applicant's duct or facility which connects to SWBT's conduit system shall be installed by SWBT or its contractor at Applicant's expense (which will be SWBT's actual costs or the price charged SWBT by the contractor performing such work). SWBT will perform this work in an interval consistent with the intervals SWBT performs the same or similar types of work for itself. If SWBT's interval for beginning or completing this work does not meet Applicant's needs, Applicant may arrange for the work to be performed by an authorized contractor selected by Applicant from a list, jointly developed by Applicant and SWBT, of mutually agreed contractors qualified to

perform such work. Work performed by an authorized contractor selected by Applicant to perform work under this subsection shall be performed in accordance with both parties' specifications and in accordance with both parties' standards and practices. Each party shall indemnify, on request defend, and hold the other party harmless from any injuries, losses, damages, claims, or liabilities resulting from the performance of work by the indemnifying party or by persons acting on the indemnifying party's behalf under this subsection.

- (d) SWBT will have the option to monitor the entrance and exit of Applicant's facilities into SWBT's conduit system and the physical placement of Applicant's facilities in and removal of such facilities from any part of SWBT's conduit system. Notice requirements for such monitoring are addressed in Section 6.11 of this Agreement.
- (e) If Applicant constructs or utilizes a duct (other than a duct owned or controlled by SWBT) which is connected to SWBT's conduit system, the duct and all connections between that duct and SWBT's conduit system shall be sealed to prevent the entry of gases or liquids into SWBT's conduit system. If Applicant's duct enters a building, it shall also be sealed where it enters the building and at all other locations necessary to prevent the entry of gases and liquids into SWBT's conduit system.

6.09 General Requirements Relating to Personnel, Equipment, Materials, and Public Safety. Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement, Applicant shall be responsible for selecting the employees and contractors who will perform work on Applicant's behalf on, within, and in the vicinity of SWBT's poles, ducts, conduits, and rights-of-way. Applicant, its contractors, subcontractors, and other vendors acting on Applicant's behalf shall also be responsible for selecting the personnel who perform work on Applicant's behalf at such sites, directing the work performed by such personnel, compensating their respective employees, and complying with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, and agency orders relating to withholding taxes, social security taxes, and other employment-related taxes. The provisions of this section are intended to protect the integrity of the networks, facilities and operations of SWBT, Applicant and joint users, to protect the health and safety of persons working on, within, or in the vicinity of SWBT's poles, ducts, conduits, and rights-of-way, to assure the financial responsibility of all persons and entities performing work on, within, or in the vicinity of SWBT's poles, ducts, conduits, and rights-of-way, and to protect the public at large. The requirements of this section (other than the provisions of subsection (h)) shall be reciprocal and shall apply to SWBT and personnel acting on SWBT's behalf to the same extent they apply to Applicant.

- (a) Contractors, subcontractors, and other vendors, including authorized contractors, performing work on Applicant's behalf on, within, or in the

vicinity of SWBT's poles, ducts, conduits, or rights-of-way shall meet the same financial responsibility (insurance and bonding) requirements generally applicable to contractors, subcontractors, and vendors performing work on SWBT's behalf on, within, or in the vicinity of such poles, ducts, conduits, or rights-of-way. SWBT shall advise Applicant of SWBT's requirements and any changes in such requirements. Applicant shall be solely responsible for assuring compliance with such requirements by contractors, subcontractors, and other vendors acting on Applicant's behalf and shall be liable to SWBT for any injury, loss, or damage suffered by SWBT as a result of its failure to do so.

- (b) Only properly trained persons shall work on, within, or in the vicinity of SWBT's poles, ducts, conduits, and rights-of-way. Applicant shall be responsible for determining that all such persons acting on Applicant's behalf have proper training.
- (c) Neither Applicant nor any person acting on Applicant's behalf shall permit any person to climb or work on SWBT's poles or in the vicinity of SWBT's poles, or enter SWBT's manholes or work within or in the vicinity of SWBT's conduit system, unless such person has the training, skill, and experience required to recognize potentially dangerous conditions relating to the pole or conduit system and to perform the work safely.
- (d) Neither Applicant nor any person acting on Applicant's behalf shall permit any person acting on Applicant's behalf to perform any work on, within, or in the vicinity of SWBT's poles, ducts, conduits, or rights-of-way without first verifying, to the extent practicable, on each date when such work is to be performed, that conditions at the work site (including but not limited to the physical condition of the pole or any part of SWBT's conduit system) are sufficiently safe for the work to be performed. If Applicant or any person acting on Applicant's behalf determines that the condition of any pole, duct, conduit, conduit system, or right-of-way is not safe enough for the work to be performed, Applicant shall notify SWBT of conditions at the site and shall not proceed with the work until Applicant is satisfied that the work can be safely performed.
- (e) Neither Applicant nor any person acting on Applicant's behalf shall knowingly permit defective equipment or materials to be used on, within, or in the vicinity of SWBT's poles, ducts, conduits, or rights-of-way.
- (f) When Applicant or personnel performing work on Applicant's behalf are working on, within, or in the vicinity of SWBT's poles, ducts, conduits,

or rights-of-way located within, under, over, adjacent to, or in the vicinity of streets, highways, alleys or other traveled rights-of-way, such personnel shall follow procedures which Applicant deems appropriate for the protection of persons and property. Applicant and its contractors shall be responsible, at all times, for determining and implementing the specific steps required to protect persons and property at the site. Applicant and its contractors shall provide all traffic control and warning devices required to protect pedestrian and vehicular traffic, workers, and property from danger. Applicant and its contractors shall have sole responsibility for the safety of all personnel performing work on Applicant's behalf, for the safety of bystanders, and for insuring that all operations performed by persons acting on Applicant's behalf conform to current OSHA regulations and all other governmental rules, ordinances or statutes.

- (g) Neither Applicant nor any persons acting on Applicant's behalf shall engage in any conduct which damages public or private property in the vicinity of SWBT's poles, ducts, conduits, or rights-of-way, interferes with the use or enjoyment of such public or private property except as expressly permitted by the owner of such property, or creates a hazard or nuisance on such property (including but not limited to a hazard or nuisance resulting from any abandonment of Applicant's facilities, failure to remove such facilities or any construction debris from the property, failure to erect warning signs or barricades as may be necessary to exclude others from the premises or give notice to others of unsafe conditions on the premises while work performed on Applicant's behalf is in progress, or failure to restore the property to a safe condition after such work has been completed).
- (h) Applicant shall promptly suspend activities on, within, or in the vicinity of SWBT's poles, ducts, conduits, or rights-of-way (other than sites owned or controlled by Applicant) if notified by SWBT that such activities create an unreasonable risk of injury to persons or property (including unreasonable risks of service interruptions). Applicant shall not resume such activities on or in the vicinity of SWBT's poles or rights-of-way until Applicant is satisfied that the work may safely proceed and that any hazardous conditions at the site have been rectified and shall not resume such activities within or in the vicinity of SWBT's conduit system until both Applicant and SWBT are satisfied that the work may safely proceed and that hazardous conditions at the site have been rectified. In the event that SWBT requires Applicant to suspend work activities and it is later determined that there was no reasonable basis for the work suspension, SWBT shall reimburse Applicant for actual costs resulting from the delay.

- (i) All personnel acting on Applicant's behalf shall, while working on or in SWBT's poles, ducts, conduits, or rights-of-way, carry with them suitable identification and shall, upon the request of any SWBT employee or representative, produce such identification.
- (j) Applicant and persons acting on Applicant's behalf are encouraged to report unsafe conditions on, within, or in the vicinity of SWBT's poles or conduit system to SWBT.
- (k) Applicant shall establish sufficient controls and safeguards to assure compliance with all provisions of this section.

6.10 Specific Requirements Relating to Personnel, Equipment, Materials, and Construction Practices Within or in the Vicinity of SWBT's Conduit Systems. When Applicant, its contractors, and other persons acting on Applicant's behalf perform work for Applicant within or in the vicinity of SWBT's ducts, conduits, and rights-of-way where such ducts or conduits are located, they will be guided by the following:

- (a) Except as may be mutually agreed upon by the parties in writing, Applicant shall not "rod" or clear any duct or inner duct in SWBT's conduit system other than a duct or inner duct assigned to Applicant. Following the assignment of a specific duct or inner duct to Applicant, Applicant may request that SWBT rod or clear the duct or inner duct. If the duct or inner duct cannot be cleared, SWBT will assign the next available duct or inner duct to Applicant. Applicant's request for assignment of the next available duct shall be in writing, may be transmitted to SWBT via fax or other transmission media mutually agreed upon by the parties, and shall be processed within the same intervals applicable to the processing of similar requests by SWBT's own personnel.
- (b) Personnel performing work within SWBT's conduit system on either party's behalf shall not climb on, step on, or otherwise disturb the cables, air pipes, equipment, or other facilities located in any manhole or other part of SWBT's conduit system.
- (c) Personnel performing work within or in the vicinity of SWBT's conduit system (including any manhole) on either party's behalf shall, upon completing their work, make reasonable efforts to remove all tools, unused materials, wire clippings, cable sheathing and other materials brought by them to the work site.
- (d) All of Applicant's facilities shall be firmly secured and supported in accordance with Bellcore and industry standards and any applicable

construction standards adopted by SWBT and applicable to SWBT's own facilities.

- (e) Applicant's facilities shall be plainly identified with Applicant's name in each manhole with a firmly affixed permanent tag that meets the identification standards set by SWBT for its own facilities.
- (f) Manhole pumping and purging required in order to allow Applicant's work operations to proceed shall be performed by Applicant or its contractor in accordance with the requirements of Sections 6.14 and 6.15 of this Agreement.
- (g) Planks or other types of platforms shall be supported only by cable racks.
- (h) Any leak detection liquid or device used by Applicant or personnel performing work on Applicant's behalf within or in the vicinity of SWBT's conduit system shall be of a type approved by SWBT and included on SWBT's then-current list of approved types of leak-detection liquids and devices; provided, however, that Applicant may use any type of leak detection liquid or device which meets Bellcore's published standards if SWBT has not provided Applicant SWBT's list of approved types of leak detection liquids or devices at least 60 days in advance of Applicant's work.
- (i) Applicant and its contractors shall be responsible for providing proper ventilation while work is being performed in SWBT's conduit system on Applicant's behalf. Except for protective screens, no temporary cover shall be placed over an open manhole unless it is at least four feet above the surface level of the manhole opening.
- (j) Smoking or the use of any open flame is prohibited in manholes, in any other portion of the conduit system, or within 10 feet of any open manhole entrance.
- (k) Artificial lighting, when required by Applicant, will be provided by Applicant. Only explosion-proof lighting fixtures shall be used.
- (l) Neither Applicant nor personnel performing work on Applicant's behalf shall allow any combustible gas, vapor, liquid, or material to accumulate in SWBT's conduit system (including any manhole) during work operations performed within or in the vicinity of SWBT's conduit system.
- (m) Applicant shall comply with the standards set by SWBT for its own personnel restricting the use of spark producing tools, equipment, and

devices (including but not limited to such tools as electric drills and hammers, meggers, breakdown sets, induction sets, and the like) in manholes and other portions of SWBT's conduit system, provided that such standards have been communicated in writing to Applicant at least 60 days in advance of the construction, installation, or placement of Applicant's facilities within SWBT's conduit system.

- (n) Cable lubricants used in conduit systems shall be of a type or types approved by SWBT and included on SWBT's then-current list of approved types of cable lubricants; provided, however, that Applicant may use any type of cable lubricant which meets Bellcore's published standards if SWBT has not provided Applicant SWBT's list of approved types of cable lubricants at least 60 days in advance of Applicant's work.

6.11 Opening of Manholes and Access to Conduit. The following requirements apply to the opening of SWBT's manholes and access to SWBT's conduit system.

- (a) Applicant will notify SWBT not less than 48 hours in advance before entering SWBT's conduit system to perform non-emergency work operations. Such operations shall be conducted during normal business hours except as otherwise agreed by the parties. The notice shall state the general nature of the work to be performed. As a courtesy, Applicant shall, when feasible, provide SWBT with 10 working days advance notice before entering SWBT's conduit system. SWBT shall, within 10 working days after the effective date of this Agreement, advise Applicant of the manner in which notices required by this section shall be given.
- (b) An authorized employee or representative of SWBT may be present as a construction inspector at any time when Applicant or personnel acting on Applicant's behalf enter or perform work within SWBT's conduit system. Such inspectors may inspect the performance and quality of the work and monitor the work for compliance with the terms, conditions, and specifications of this Agreement or, in the case of facilities modification, capacity expansion or make-ready work, the plans and specifications of the facilities modification, capacity expansion, or make-ready project. When SWBT inspectors are present, Applicant and its contractors shall have sole authority, responsibility, and control over the method or manner by which the work is to be performed. SWBT's inspectors may call violations to Applicant's attention but shall have no authority to direct or advise Applicant or personnel acting on Applicant's behalf concerning the method or manner by which the work is to be performed; provided, however, that nothing contained in this subsection shall relieve Applicant from complying with any requirements of this Agreement.

- (c) The parties contemplate that Applicant may need to perform operations in SWBT's conduit system other than during normal business hours and may on occasion require access to manholes on shorter notice than contemplated in subsection (a) above. Under these circumstances, Applicant shall notify SWBT as soon as is reasonably possible of its intent to enter and perform work in the conduit system and SWBT shall not, without due cause and justification, insist on literal compliance with scheduling requirements of subsection (a). SWBT will establish procedures enabling SWBT to receive notices from Applicant under this subsection 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- (d) Each party must obtain any necessary authorization from appropriate authorities to open manholes for such party's own conduit work and operations therein.
- (e) Applicant shall reimburse SWBT for costs associated with the presence of construction inspectors only as specified in APPENDIX I and only as permitted by applicable laws, rules, regulations, and commission orders. SWBT shall not charge Applicant for more than one such construction inspector per site at any given time.
- (f) If the presence of SWBT personnel at the site is requested by Applicant or, in Applicant's opinion, is integral to successful completion of the work, Applicant shall pay the costs of having such personnel present.

6.12 OSHA Compliance. The parties agree that:

- (a) facilities attached to SWBT's poles or placed in SWBT's ducts, conduits, and rights-of-way shall be constructed, placed, maintained, repaired, and removed in accordance with the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) and all rules and regulations promulgated thereunder;
- (b) all persons acting on such party's behalf shall, when working on, within, or in the vicinity of SWBT's poles, ducts, conduits, or rights-of-way, comply with OSHA and all rules and regulations thereunder; and
- (c) Applicant shall establish appropriate procedures and controls to assure compliance with all requirements of this section.

6.13 Hazardous Substances. Applicant acknowledges that, from time to time, hazardous substances (as defined in Section 3.19 of this Agreement) may enter SWBT's conduit system and accumulate in manholes or other conduit facilities and that hazardous substances may be present at other sites where SWBT's poles, ducts, conduits, or rights-of-way are located.

- (a) Applicant may, at its expense, perform such inspections and tests at the site of any pole, duct, conduit, or right-of-way occupied by or assigned to Applicant as Applicant may deem necessary to determine the presence at such sites of hazardous substances. SWBT will assist Applicant, at Applicant's request and expense, in the performance of such inspections and tests.
- (b) SWBT makes no representations to Applicant or personnel performing work on Applicant's behalf that SWBT's poles, ducts, conduits, or rights-of-way will be free from hazardous substances at any particular time. Before entering a manhole or performing any work within or in the vicinity of SWBT's conduit system or any other site subject to access under this Agreement, Applicant or personnel acting on Applicant's behalf shall independently determine, to their satisfaction, whether such hazardous substances are present and conduct their work operations accordingly.
- (c) Each party shall promptly notify the other of hazardous substances known by such party to be present on, within or in the vicinity of poles, ducts, conduits, or rights-of-way occupied by or assigned to Applicant pursuant to this Agreement if, in the sole judgment of such party, such hazardous substances create a serious danger to (1) the health or safety of personnel working within or in the vicinity of the conduit or (2) the physical condition of the other party's facilities placed or to be placed within the conduit.
- (d) Nothing contained in this Agreement (including but not limited to the acknowledgments and representations set forth in this section) shall relieve either party from its responsibility to comply with all applicable environmental laws or its responsibility for any liability arising out of such party's failure to comply with such laws. Nothing contained in this Agreement shall be construed as relieving SWBT of liability for hazardous substances present at any site subject to this Agreement or as relieving either party of liability for introducing hazardous substances to the site or causing or contributing to the release of any such substances. Failure to comply with the requirements of this section may, however, be considered in determining issues relating to negligence, causation of injury, and comparative responsibility for injuries to persons, property, and the environment.

6.14 Compliance with Environmental Laws and Regulations. Applicant and SWBT agree to comply with the following provisions relating to compliance with environmental laws and regulations.

- (a) Facilities attached to SWBT's poles or placed in SWBT's ducts, conduits, and rights-of-way following the effective date of this Agreement shall be constructed, placed, maintained, repaired, and removed in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local environmental statutes, ordinances, rules, regulations, and other laws.
- (b) All persons acting on Applicant's or SWBT's behalf, including but not limited to the parties' employees, agents, contractors, and subcontractors, shall, when working on, within or in the vicinity of SWBT's poles, ducts, conduits, or rights-of-way, comply with all applicable federal, state, and local environmental laws, including but not limited to all environmental statutes, ordinances, rules, and regulations. Applicant and personnel acting on Applicant's behalf are expected to be familiar with their obligations under environmental laws such as the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 9601 *et seq.*), the Toxic Substance Control Act (15 U.S.C. §§ 2601-2629), the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. §§ 1251 *et seq.*), and the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 300f-300j).
- (c) The parties shall each establish appropriate procedures and controls to assure compliance with all requirements of this section.
- (d) From and after the effective date of this Agreement, neither party nor personnel acting on either party's behalf shall discharge or release hazardous substances onto or from the site of any SWBT pole, duct, conduit, or right-of-way. Neither Applicant nor SWBT nor personnel acting on either party's behalf shall discharge water or any other substance from any SWBT manhole or other conduit facility onto public or private property, including but not limited to any storm water drainage system, without first determining that such discharge would not violate any environmental law, create any environmental risk or hazard, or damage the property of any person. Applicant will be expected to test such water or substance for hazardous substances in accordance with then-applicable SWBT standards and practices.
- (e) Applicant and SWBT and all personnel performing work on Applicant's or SWBT's behalf shall, when working on, within, or in the vicinity of SWBT's poles, ducts, conduits, and rights-of-way, comply with such additional standards, practices, and requirements as SWBT may from time to time adopt to comply with environmental laws, provided that such standards are communicated in writing to Applicant at least 60 days in advance of Applicant's work.

6.15 Compliance with Other Governmental Requirements (Including Aeronautical Navigation Safeguards). Facilities attached to SWBT's poles or placed in

SWBT's ducts, conduits, and rights-of-way shall be constructed, placed, maintained, repaired, and removed in accordance with the ordinances, rules, and regulations of any governing body having jurisdiction of the subject matter (including but not limited to any valid ordinances, rules, and regulations requiring permits, certificates, licenses or the like). Applicant and SWBT shall comply with all statutes, ordinances, rules, regulations, and other laws requiring the marking and lighting of aerial wires, cables, and other structures to ensure that such wires, cables, and structures are not a hazard to aeronautical navigation.

6.16 Differences in Specifications. To the extent that there may be differences in the specifications, the most stringent specification will apply except as otherwise specifically provided by SWBT in writing. Applicant will consult with SWBT when Applicant is uncertain as to which specification is to be followed.

6.17 Responsibility for the Condition of Facilities. Each party will be responsible at all times for the condition of its facilities (including but not limited to those extending from SWBT's poles, ducts, conduits, or rights-of-way directly to any other location) and for its compliance with the requirements and specifications of this article and all applicable laws, rules, regulations, and ordinances.

ARTICLE 7: PRIMARY POINTS OF CONTACT, ACCESS TO RECORDS, AND PRE-OCCUPANCY INSPECTIONS

7.01 Designation of Primary Points of Contact. Each party will, at the request of the other party, designate a primary point of contact to facilitate communications between the parties and the timely processing of Applicant's applications for access to SWBT's poles, ducts, conduits, and rights-of-way located within this State. Designations of primary points of contact will be made by written notices including the name, title, address, phone number, and fax number of the person designated as the primary point of contact; provided, however, that unless and until a different designation is made, SWBT's primary point of contact shall be the Utility Liaison Supervisor identified in APPENDIX VIII. Designation of primary points of contact pursuant to this section will not affect notice requirements or other legal requirements set forth in other provisions of this Agreement.

7.02 Determinations by Applicant of Suitability and Availability. Applicant shall make its own, independent assessment of the suitability of SWBT's poles, ducts, conduits, and rights-of-way for Applicant's intended purposes.

7.03 Access to Records Relating to SWBT's Poles, Ducts, Conduits, and Rights-of-Way. This section establishes procedures through which certain records and information relating to SWBT's poles, ducts, conduits, and rights-of-way will be made available to Applicant for planning and other purposes. Access to such records and information will be conditioned on Applicant's execution of a nondisclosure agreement equivalent in substance to the Nondisclosure Agreement attached to this Agreement as

APPENDIX V or such other nondisclosure agreement as shall be mutually acceptable to the parties, and no person acting on Applicant's behalf will be granted access to such records and information without first signing such a nondisclosure agreement. Applicant will reimburse SWBT for all reasonable costs incurred by SWBT in granting Applicant's requests for access to records and information under this section.

- (a) Applicant may, at any time after the effective date of this Agreement, request permission to inspect SWBT's pole and conduit maps and records, cable plat maps, and other plant location records, if any, recording or logging assignments of pole, duct, and conduit space. Applicant will be permitted to examine these records during regular business hours at a location where copies of such records are maintained or at such other location as may be mutually agreed upon by the parties. Access to such maps and records will be by appointment only, and SWBT will make such maps and records available for inspection by Applicant on two business days advance notice; provided, however, that Applicant will, as a courtesy, when feasible, provide SWBT with 10 business days advance notice of its intent to examine such records.
- (b) The access described in subsection (a) shall include the right to make copies, at Applicant's expense, except for cable plat maps, which shall be made available for inspection only. In all instances, such access shall include the ability to take notes and make drawings with references to those maps and records. No references to cable counts or circuit information may be included in any such copies, notes, or drawings. With respect to other cable-specific or customer-specific information, Applicant's copies, notes, or drawings may include only such information as needed for bona fide engineering and construction purposes (e.g., proposing cable consolidations and identifying plant discrepancies) and not for sales, marketing, competitive intelligence, competitive analysis, strategic planning, and similar activities. Applicant's copies, notes, and drawings may include estimates regarding the physical characteristics (such as size and weight) of cables when necessary to make engineering determinations regarding the capacity, safety, reliability, or suitability of SWBT's poles, ducts, conduits, and rights-of-way for Applicant's intended uses.
- (c) SWBT will provide Applicant the best information available from SWBT's current pole and conduit maps and records, cable plat maps, and other outside plant and construction records. SWBT represents that such records reflect approximate geographical locations of the facilities depicted and may not accurately reflect information such as:
 - (1) the exact location of the facilities depicted;

- (2) the physical size, characteristics, or condition of the facilities depicted;
- (3) the ducts or inner ducts presently occupied, assigned, or available within any particular conduit segment or manhole;
- (4) the arrangement of facilities attached to a pole, the position of facilities suspended between poles or their relationship to each other and to the ground, or the positioning of cables and other facilities housed within ducts, conduits, manholes or other portions of SWBT's conduit system; and
- (5) other information which must be assessed before it can be determined that space is available on or in a pole, duct, or conduit for the attachment or occupancy of Applicant's facilities or that the poles, ducts, or conduits depicted are suitable for Applicant's intended use.

7.04 Pre-occupancy Inspection of Poles, Ducts, Conduits, and Rights-of-Way.

Applicant shall be permitted to view and inspect specified poles, ducts, conduits, and rights-of-way on a pre-occupancy basis as provided in this section.

- (a) After the effective date of this Agreement, Applicant may view specified poles, ducts, conduits, and rights-of-way on a pre-occupancy basis. Nothing contained in this section shall preclude Applicant from visually inspecting SWBT's poles, ducts, conduits, or rights-of-way from any vantage point lawfully accessible to Applicant without SWBT's permission.
- (b) Applicant shall not enter any SWBT manhole for the purpose of performing a pre-occupancy inspection without complying with all applicable requirements set forth in Article 6 of this Agreement, including but not limited to the provisions of Section 6.11 relating to the opening of manholes.

ARTICLE 8: POLE, DUCT, AND CONDUIT SPACE ASSIGNMENTS

8.01 Selection of Space. Applicant will select the space Applicant will occupy on SWBT's poles or in SWBT's conduit systems. Applicant's selections will be based on the same criteria SWBT applies to itself. To enable Applicant to make such selections in accordance with SWBT's criteria, SWBT will provide Applicant information about the network guidelines and engineering protocols used by SWBT in determining the placement of facilities on SWBT's poles and in SWBT's conduit systems. In conduit systems owned or controlled by SWBT, maintenance ducts (as defined in Section 3.25) shall not be considered available for Applicant's use except as specifically provided

elsewhere in this Agreement. All other ducts, inner ducts, sub-ducts, and partitioned conduits which are not assigned or occupied shall be deemed available for use by SWBT, Applicant, and third parties entitled to access under the Pole Attachment Act.

8.02 Pole, Duct, and Conduit Space Assignments. Pole, duct, and conduit space selected by Applicant will be assigned to Applicant as provided in this section. Information received by SWBT in connection with this section shall be subject to the provisions of Article 28 of this Agreement (Confidentiality of Information).

- (a) After Applicant's application for a pole attachment or conduit occupancy license has been received by SWBT, the pole, duct, and conduit space selected by Applicant in such application will be assigned to Applicant for a pre-occupancy period not to exceed 12 months. The assignment (and date and time of assignment) will be logged and recorded in the appropriate SWBT records. If such space has been provisionally assigned to Applicant as authorized below in subsection (b), the 12-month pre-occupancy assignment period will begin on the date the provisional assignment is recorded in SWBT's records or the date of SWBT's receipt of Applicant's notice of intent to occupy under subsection (b), whichever date first occurs.

- (b) SWBT shall, within 60 days after the effective date of this Agreement, adopt interim procedures which will enable pole, duct, and conduit space to be provisionally assigned to Applicant and other applicants prior to the submission of formal applications required pursuant to Section 9.02 of this Agreement. Where indicated below, the interim procedures will apply to the assignment of space to SWBT as well as to Applicant and other applicants. SWBT may, on 60 days advance notice to Applicant, revise such interim procedures if such procedures prove to be unworkable, in which event Applicant may challenge SWBT's decision in accordance with procedures available to Applicant under applicable federal and state laws and regulations. The procedures will enable Applicant and other applicants, by written notice, to advise SWBT of their intent to occupy unassigned space which appears, from SWBT's records, to be available for assignment. Upon receipt of such notice, SWBT shall date-and-time stamp the notice and provisionally assign the space selected by Applicant or such other applicant by logging and recording the assignment (and date and time of assignment) in the appropriate SWBT records, which records will be available for inspection as provided in Section 7.03 of this Agreement. Space provisionally assigned to Applicant or such other applicant will not be available for assignment to any other person or entity, including SWBT. Notwithstanding such provisional assignment, Applicant shall not occupy such space without first obtaining a license, except as provided in Section 8.03. The following additional requirements shall apply.

- (1) Before giving SWBT notice of its intent to occupy unassigned space, Applicant shall make a good faith determination that it actually plans to occupy such space. The assignment process shall not be used by either party for the purpose of holding or reserving space which such party does not plan to use or for the purpose of precluding SWBT or any other person or entity from utilizing or having access to SWBT's poles, ducts, conduits, or rights-of-way.
- (2) With respect to unassigned conduit occupancy space, the notice must include all information required to enable SWBT and joint users, including other persons or entities which may from time to time seek space in the same ducts and conduits, to determine the specific space which Applicant desires to occupy. The notice must, therefore, include, at a minimum, the following information:
 - (i) the specific conduit sections, and each manhole, to be occupied;
 - (ii) the number of ducts, and number of inner ducts, to be occupied by Applicant within each conduit section;
 - (iii) the physical size (diameter) of the cables to be placed in such duct, if known, or the maximum and minimum sizes of the cables which may be placed if more than one size cable is being considered for the space to be occupied;
 - (iv) the anticipated use by Applicant of any infrequent construction techniques and connectivity solutions authorized under Section 6.03 to avoid high or unusual expenditures;
 - (v) Applicant's best estimates of the dates when Applicant plans to begin and complete construction at the sites specified in the notice;
 - (vi) if applicable, a conspicuous statement that Applicant intends to occupy the space before the issuance of a license, as provided in Section 8.03 of this Agreement; and
 - (vii) if applicable, a conspicuous statement, as required by Section 5.06 of this Agreement, that the notice pertains to a building entrance or building distribution duct or conduit or other space within a building.