

- 2.19.3 The requesting Party may cancel a Network Element Special Request at any time, but will pay the other Party's reasonable and demonstrable costs of processing and/or implementing the Network Element Special Request up to the date of cancellation.
- 2.19.4 Within ten (10) business days of its receipt, the receiving Party will acknowledge receipt of the Network Element Special Request.
- 2.19.5 Except under extraordinary circumstances, within thirty (30) days of its receipt of a Network Element Special Request, the receiving Party will provide to the requesting Party a preliminary analysis of such Network Element Special Request. The preliminary analysis will confirm that the receiving Party will offer access to the Network Element or will provide a detailed explanation that access to the Network Element is not technically feasible and/or that the request does not qualify as a Network Element that is required to be provided under the Act.
- 2.19.6 If the receiving Party determines that the Network Element Special Request is technically feasible and otherwise qualifies under the Act, it will promptly proceed with developing the Network Element Special Request upon receipt of written authorization from the requesting Party. When it receives such authorization, the receiving Party shall promptly develop the requested services, determine their availability, calculate the applicable prices and establish installation intervals.
- 2.19.7 Unless the Parties otherwise agree, the Network Element Special Request must be priced in accordance with Section 252(d)(1) of the Act.
- 2.19.8 As soon as feasible, but not more than ninety (90) days after its receipt of authorization to proceed with developing the Network Element Special Request, the receiving Party shall provide to the requesting Party a Network Element Special Request quote which will include, at a minimum, a description of each Network Element, the availability, the applicable rates and the installation intervals.
- 2.19.9 Within thirty (30) days of its receipt of the Network Element Special Request quote, the requesting Party must either confirm its order for the Network Element Special Request pursuant to the Network Element Special Request quote or seek arbitration by the Commission pursuant to Section 252 of the Act.
- 2.19.10 If a Party to a Network Element Special Request believes that the other Party is not requesting, negotiating or processing the Network Element

Special Request in good faith, or disputes a determination, or price or cost quote, such Party may seek mediation or arbitration by the Commission pursuant to Section 252 of the Act.

3. Network Interface Device

- 3.1 The Network Interface Device (NID) is a cross-connect used to connect loop facilities to inside wiring. The fundamental function of the NID is to establish the official network demarcation point between a carrier and its end-user customer. The NID contains the appropriate and accessible connection points or posts to which the service provider and the end-user customer each make its connections.
- 3.2 Advanced Communications Group, Inc. may connect to the customer's inside wire at the SWBT NID, as is, at no charge. Any repairs, upgrade and rearrangements required by Advanced Communications Group, Inc. will be performed by SWBT based on time and material charges.
- 3.3 To the extent a SWBT NID exists, it will be the interface to customers' premises wiring unless Advanced Communications Group, Inc. and the customer agree to an interface that bypasses the SWBT NID
- 3.4 Advanced Communications Group, Inc. will provide its own NID and will interface to the customer's premises wiring through connections in the customer chamber, if available, of the SWBT NID, unless Advanced Communications Group, Inc. and the customer agree to an alternate interface as provided for in section 3.3.
- 3.5 With respect to multiple dwelling units or multiple-unit business premises, Advanced Communications Group, Inc. will provide its own NID, will connect directly with the customer's inside wire and will not require any connection to the SWBT NID, unless such premises are served by "single subscriber" type NIDs.
- 3.6 The SWBT NIDs that Advanced Communications Group, Inc. uses under this Attachment will be those installed by SWBT to serve its customers.
- 3.7 Advanced Communications Group, Inc. will not attach to or disconnect SWBT's ground. Advanced Communications Group, Inc. will not cut or disconnect SWBT's loop from its protector. Advanced Communications Group, Inc. will not cut any other leads in the NID. Advanced Communications Group, Inc. will protect all disconnected leads with plastic sleeves and will store them within the NID enclosure. Advanced

Communications Group, Inc. will tighten all screws or lugs loosened by Advanced Communications Group, Inc. in the NID's enclosure and replace all protective covers.

4. Local Loop

4.1 Definition

A "loop" is a dedicated transmission facility between a distribution frame (or its equivalent) in a SWBT central office and an end user customer premises.

4.2 SWBT will provide at the rates, terms, and conditions set out in Appendix Pricing-Unbundled Network Elements the following types of unbundled loops:

4.2.1 The 2-Wire analog loop supports analog voice frequency, voice band services with loop start signaling within the frequency spectrum of approximately 300 Hz and 3000 Hz.

4.2.1.1 SWBT will offer 5 dB conditioning on a 2-wire analog loop as the standard conditioning option available.

4.2.2 The 4-Wire analog loop provides a non-signaling voice band frequency spectrum of approximately 300 Hz to 3000 Hz. The 4-Wire analog loop provides separate transmit and receive paths.

4.2.3 The 2-Wire digital loop 160 Kbps supports Basic Rate ISDN (BRI) digital exchange services. The 2-Wire digital loop 160 Kbps supports usable bandwidth up to 160 Kbps.

4.2.4 The 4-Wire digital loop 1.544 Mbps loop will support DS1 service including Primary Rate ISDN (PRI). The 4-wire digital loop 1.544 Mbps supports usable bandwidth up to 1.544 Mbps.

4.3 Advanced Communications Group, Inc. may request and, to the extent technically feasible, SWBT will provide additional loop types and conditioning, including, without limitation, loops capable of carrying DS3 signals, pursuant to the Special Request process.

4.4 If Advanced Communications Group, Inc. requests one or more unbundled Loops serviced by Integrated Digital Loop Carrier (IDLC) or Remote

Switching technology, SWBT will, where available, move the requested unbundled Loop(s) to a spare, existing physical or a universal digital loop carrier unbundled Loop at no additional charge to Advanced Communications Group, Inc. If, however, no spare unbundled Loop is available, SWBT will within forty-eight (48) hours, excluding weekends and holidays, of Advanced Communications Group, Inc.'s request notify Advanced Communications Group, Inc. of the lack of available facilities. Advanced Communications Group, Inc. may request alternative arrangements through the Special Request process.

- 4.5 In addition to any liability provisions in this agreement, SWBT does not guarantee or make any warranty with respect to unbundled loops or entrance facilities when used in an explosive atmosphere. Advanced Communications Group, Inc. will indemnify, defend and hold SWBT harmless from any and all claims by any person relating to Advanced Communications Group, Inc.'s or Advanced Communications Group, Inc. end user's use of unbundled loops in an explosive atmosphere, excluding claims of gross negligence or willful or intentional conduct by SWBT.

5. Local Switching

5.1 Definition

The local switching element encompasses line-side and trunk side facilities plus the features, functions and capabilities of the switch. The line side facilities include the connection between a loop termination at, for example, a main distribution frame (MDF), and a switch line card. Trunk-side facilities include the connection between, for example, trunk termination at a trunk-side cross-connect panel and a trunk card. The local switching element includes all features, functions, and capabilities of the local switch, including but not limited to the basic switching function of connecting lines to lines, lines to trunks, trunks to lines and trunks to trunks. It also includes the same basic capabilities that are available to SWBT customers, such as a telephone number, dial tone, signaling and access to 911, operator services, directory assistance, and features and functions necessary to provide services required by law. In addition, the local switching element includes all vertical features that the switch is capable of providing, including custom calling, CLASS features, and centrex-like capabilities, as well as any technically feasible customized routing functions.

5.2 Technical Requirements

- 5.2.1 SWBT will provide the local switching element so that the dialing plan associated with the port will be equal to the dialing plan established in the office for SWBT's own customers. When the established dialing plan calls for 10 digit dialing, it will apply equally to Unbundled Local Switching purchased by Advanced Communications Group, Inc.
- 5.2.2 When Advanced Communications Group, Inc. requests Unbundled Common Transport, SWBT's Local Switching element will route local calls on SWBT's common network to the appropriate trunk or lines for call origination or termination.
- 5.2.3 When Advanced Communications Group, Inc. requests Customized Routing, either through Unbundled Local Switching or Resale, SWBT will route local operator and directory assistance calls to Advanced Communications Group, Inc.'s Operator Services and Directory Assistance platforms. In addition, at Advanced Communications Group, Inc.'s request, for the Unbundled Local Switching element, SWBT will route local calls to Advanced Communications Group, Inc. designated facilities rather than to SWBT's common network.
- 5.2.3.1 Subject to the above, SWBT will provide Customized Routing with Unbundled Local Switching or Resale only according to the following conditions: Customized Routing will only be permitted on a class of call basis (i.e., all Directory Assistance Calls and/or all Operator Services calls (or all local calls for Unbundled Local Switching only) must be routed to the same dedicated facility.)
- 5.2.3.2 The establishment of Customized Routing in a SWBT end office will be subject to the rates and conditions specified on an individual case basis and will be provided in a non-discriminatory manner.
- 5.2.3.3 Customized Routing of Advanced Communications Group, Inc. Directory Assistance and Operator Services**
- 5.2.3.3.1 Where Advanced Communications Group, Inc. purchases Unbundled Local Switching or Resale and elects to provide Directory Assistance and Operator Services to its customers through its own Directory Assistance and Operator Services platforms, SWBT will provide the functionality and features required to route calls from Advanced Communications Group, Inc. customers for Directory Assistance and Operator Services to

Advanced Communications Group, Inc. designated trunks for the provision of Advanced Communications Group, Inc. Directory Assistance and Operator Services, in accordance with this Attachment.

- 5.2.3.3.2 Customized Routing of Directory Assistance and Operator Services will be provided to Advanced Communications Group, Inc. on an ICB basis in a non-discriminatory manner with respect to all aspects of availability, implementation, and pricing.
- 5.2.3.3.3 The Parties agree that, in the event of an emergency wherein an Advanced Communications Group, Inc. customer must reach a non-Advanced Communications Group, Inc. customer that has a non-published telephone number, the Advanced Communications Group, Inc. operator will contact SWBT's operator and request the assistance of a supervisor to the extent done by SWBT's operators
- 5.2.3.3.4 SWBT will forward with Directory Assistance and Operator Services calls from Advanced Communications Group, Inc. customers the appropriate line data required by Advanced Communications Group, Inc. to identify the type of line for the purposes of call handling and recording.
- 5.2.3.3.5 Direct routing capabilities described herein will permit Advanced Communications Group, Inc. customers to dial the same telephone numbers for Advanced Communications Group, Inc. Directory Assistance and Operator Services that similarly-situated SWBT customers dial for reaching equivalent SWBT services.
- 5.2.3.3.6 SWBT, no later than five (5) days after the date Advanced Communications Group, Inc. requests the same, will provide to Advanced Communications Group, Inc. the emergency public agency (e.g., police, fire, ambulance) telephone numbers used by SWBT in each NPA-NXX. Such data will be transmitted via paper copies of all SWBT emergency listings reference documents from all of SWBT's Operator Services offices. Advanced Communications Group, Inc. agrees to indemnify and hold SWBT harmless from all claims, demands, suits or actions by third parties against SWBT, or jointly against Advanced Communications Group, Inc. and SWBT, arising out of its provision of such information to Advanced Communications Group, Inc.
- 5.2.4 SWBT will route InterLATA calls as defined by the exchange dialing plan via the existing PIC process when Advanced Communications Group, Inc. uses Local Switching elements. Until such time that the Commission mandates intraLATA presubscription, SWBT will route IntraLATA Toll

calls as defined by the exchange dialing plan when Advanced Communications Group, Inc. uses Local Switching elements. Additionally, SWBT will provide intraLATA toll to Advanced Communications Group, Inc. at the resale discount identified in the Resale Attachment and related appendices, without other usage sensitive charges. When the Commission mandates intraLATA presubscription, SWBT will route IntraLATA Toll calls to the presubscribed carrier.

- 5.2.5 SWBT will provide the Local Switching element only with standard central office treatments (e.g., busy tones, vacant codes, fast busy, etc.), supervision and announcements.
- 5.2.6 SWBT will control congestion points such as those caused by radio station call-ins, and network routing abnormalities, using capabilities such as Automatic Call Gapping, Automatic Code Gapping, Automatic Congestion Control, and Network Routing Overflow. Advanced Communications Group, Inc. agrees to respond to SWBT's notifications regarding network congestion.
- 5.2.7 SWBT will perform, according to its own procedures and applicable law, manual traps as requested by designated Advanced Communications Group, Inc. personnel (Attachment 16: Network Security) and permit customer originated call trace (Attachment 1: Resale, Appendix Services/Pricing). Advanced Communications Group, Inc. will obtain all necessary legal authorization for the call trace.
- 5.2.8 SWBT will record billable events, where technically feasible, and send the appropriate billing data to Advanced Communications Group, Inc. as outlined in Attachments 9: and Attachment: 10 .
- 5.2.9 SWBT will provide switch interfaces to adjuncts in the same manner it provides them to itself. Advanced Communications Group, Inc. requests for use of SWBT adjuncts will be handled through the Special Request process.
- 5.2.10 SWBT will provide Usage Data and trouble history regarding a customer line, upon Advanced Communications Group, Inc.'s request as provided in Attachment: 8 and Attachment: 10.
- 5.2.11 SWBT will allow Advanced Communications Group, Inc. to designate the features and functions that are activated on a particular unbundled switch

port to the extent such features and functions are available or as may be requested by the Special Request process.

5.3 Interface Requirements:

5.3.1 SWBT will provide the following interfaces to loops:

5.3.1.1 Analog Line Port: A line-side switch connection available in either a loop or ground start signaling configuration used primarily for Switched voice communications.

5.3.1.2 Analog (DID) Trunk Port: A trunk-side switch connection used for voice communications via customer premises equipment primarily provided by a Private Branch Exchange (PBX) switch.

5.3.1.3 DS1 Trunk Port: A digital trunk side switch connection that provides the equivalent of 24 paths used primarily for voice communications via customer premises equipment provided by a PBX switch (4 wire).

5.3.1.4 ISDN Basic Rate Interface (BRI) Port: A line side switch connection which provides ISDN Basic Rate Interface (BRI) based capabilities.

5.3.1.5 ISDN Primary Rate Interface (PRI) Trunk Side Port: trunk side switch connection which provides Primary Rate Interface (PRI) ISDN Exchange Service capabilities.

5.3.1.6 Advanced Communications Group, Inc. May request additional port types from SWBT through the Special Request process.

6. **Tandem Switching**

6.1 **Definition**

Tandem Switching is defined as: (1) trunk-connect facilities, including but not limited to the connection between trunk termination at a cross-connect panel and a switch trunk card, (2) the basic switching function of connecting trunks to trunks; and (3) all technically feasible functions that are centralized in tandem switches (as distinguished from separate end-office switches), including but not limited to call recording, the routing of calls to operator services, and signaling conversion features.

6.2 **Technical Requirements**

6.2.1 Tandem Switching will provide trunk to trunk connections for local calls between two end offices including two offices belonging to different

CLEC's (e.g., between an Advanced Communications Group, Inc. end office and the end office of another CLEC).

- 6.2.2 To the extent all signaling is SS7, Tandem Switching will preserve CLASS/LASS features and Caller ID as traffic is processed. Additional signaling information and requirements are provided in Section 9.
- 6.2.3 To the extent that SWBT manages congestion from the Tandem Switching element for itself, it will control congestion points such as those caused by radio station call-ins, and network routing abnormalities, using capabilities such as Automatic Call Gapping, Automatic Code Gapping, Automatic Congestion Control, and Network Routing Overflow. Advanced Communications Group, Inc. agrees to respond to SWBT's notifications regarding network congestion.
- 6.2.4 Where SWBT provides the Local Switching Network element and the Tandem Switching Network element to Advanced Communications Group, Inc. from a single switch, both Local Switching and Tandem Switching will provide all of the functionality required of each of these Network Elements in this Agreement.

7. Operator Services and Directory Assistance

7.1 **Definition:**

Operator Services and Directory Assistance (OS/DA) is the Network Element that provides operator and automated call handling and billing, special services, customer telephone listings and optional call completion services. The OS/DA, Network Element provides two types of functions: Operator Service functions and Directory Service functions, each of which is described in Attachments OS (Other) and DA (Other).

8. Interoffice Transport

The Interoffice Transport network element is defined as SWBT interoffice transmission facilities dedicated to a particular customer or carrier, or shared by more than one customer or carrier, that provide telecommunications between wire centers owned by SWBT or Advanced Communications Group, Inc. or third parties acting on behalf of Advanced Communications Group, Inc., or between switches owned by SWBT or Advanced Communications Group, Inc. or third parties acting on behalf of Advanced Communications Group, Inc. Interoffice Transport includes Common Transport and Dedicated Transport.

8.1 Common Transport

- 8.1.1 Definition: Common Transport is a shared interoffice transmission path between SWBT switches. Common Transport will permit Advanced Communications Group, Inc. to connect its Local Switching element with Common Transport to transport the local call dialed by the Local Switching element to its destination through the use of SWBT's common transport network. Common Transport will also permit Advanced Communications Group, Inc. to utilize SWBT's common network between a SWBT tandem and a SWBT end office.
- 8.1.2 SWBT will be responsible for the engineering, provisioning, and maintenance of the underlying equipment and facilities that are used to provide Common Transport.

8.2 Dedicated Transport

- 8.2.1 Dedicated Transport is an interoffice transmission path dedicated to a particular customer or carrier that provides telecommunications between wire centers owned by SWBT or Advanced Communications Group, Inc. or third parties acting on behalf of Advanced Communications Group, Inc., or between switches owned by SWBT or Advanced Communications Group, Inc. or third parties acting on behalf of Advanced Communications Group, Inc. Dedicated Transport includes Digital cross-connect system (DCS) functionality as specified below.
- 8.2.1.1 SWBT will offer Dedicated Transport as a circuit (e.g., DS1, DS3) dedicated to Advanced Communications Group, Inc.
- 8.2.1.2 SWBT will offer Dedicated Transport using then-existing infrastructure facilities and equipment. To the extent facilities and equipment are not presently available, Advanced Communications Group, Inc. may request them pursuant to the Special Request process.
- 8.2.1.3 SWBT will provide Dedicated Transport at the following speeds: DS1(1.544Mbps), DS3(45Mbps), OC3(155.520Mbps) and OC12(622.080Mbps). In addition, SWBT offers OC48(2488.320Mbps) bandwidth as an option for interoffice capacity. Advanced Communications Group, Inc. may request other interface options pursuant to the Special Request process.

- 8.2.1.4 Dedicated Transport elements are provided over such routes as SWBT may elect in its own discretion. If Advanced Communications Group, Inc. requests special routing of Dedicated Transports, SWBT will respond to such requests under the Special Request process.
- 8.2.1.5 Multiplexing/demultiplexing allows the conversion of higher capacity facilities to lower capacity facilities or vice versa.
- 8.2.1.5.1 Advanced Communications Group, Inc. will use multiplexing/demultiplexing when connecting a DS1 or greater bandwidth Dedicated Transport element to a SWBT analog end office switch.

8.2.2 Technical Requirements For All Dedicated Transport

This Section sets forth technical requirements for all Dedicated Transport.

- 8.2.2.1 When provided by SWBT to itself or when requested by Advanced Communications Group, Inc. pursuant to the Special Request process, and when technically feasible, Dedicated Transport will provide physical diversity. Physical diversity means that two circuits are provisioned in such a way that no single failure of facilities or equipment will cause a failure on both circuits.

8.2.3 Digital Cross-Connect System (DCS)

- 8.2.3.1 SWBT will offer Digital Cross-Connect System (DCS) as part of the unbundled dedicated transport element with the same functionality that is offered to interexchange carriers or additional functionality as the Parties may agree.
- 8.2.3.2 The DCS is a central office cross-connect system for the remote reconfiguration of Dedicated Transport facilities.
- 8.2.3.3 Advanced Communications Group, Inc. may utilize the DCS Dedicated Transport element through the use of a terminal on Advanced Communications Group, Inc. premises to access a database maintained by SWBT to reconfigure Advanced Communications Group, Inc.'s Dedicated Transport facilities.
- 8.2.3.4 Advanced Communications Group, Inc. may use the DCS to directly access and control Advanced Communications Group, Inc.'s 45Mbps or 1.544Mbps facilities or unbundled Dedicated Transport, subtending channels, and Internodal Facilities (the facilities that connect a DCS in one

central office with a DCS in another central office). DCS devices will perform 3/3, 3/1, and 1/0 type functions. To the extent technically feasible and made available to interexchange carriers, DCS devices will be SONET capable and will terminate SONET signals.

- 8.2.3.5 Advanced Communications Group, Inc. will remotely access the DCS by using a terminal on Advanced Communications Group, Inc.'s premises in conjunction with Advanced Communications Group, Inc.'s facilities or SWBT Dedicated Transport elements (Entrance Facility and/or I/O Transport), or in conjunction with a local telephone line with a seven digit telephone number.
- 8.2.3.6 SWBT will make DCS available at those hubs where SWBT cross-connect systems are located. SWBT will provide a list of those hubs to Advanced Communications Group, Inc.
- 8.2.3.7 SWBT will make two DCS options available to Advanced Communications Group, Inc.: On-demand; and Reservation. The on-demand option allows Advanced Communications Group, Inc. to make immediate changes to the network, while the reservation option allows Advanced Communications Group, Inc. to execute a change at a specified time designated by the Advanced Communications Group, Inc.
- 8.2.3.8 Advanced Communications Group, Inc. may use DCS to perform the following functions:
 - 8.2.3.8.1 Routing/Rerouting - The routing feature allows Advanced Communications Group, Inc. to select the routes that will be used to connect circuits between DCSs. Advanced Communications Group, Inc. may control the route selection process by various parameters according to the Advanced Communications Group, Inc.'s needs. Advanced Communications Group, Inc. may also reroute circuits from a failed internodal facility to a working one.
 - 8.2.3.8.2 Renaming-Advanced Communications Group, Inc. may rename its network locations, circuits, and facilities.
 - 8.2.3.8.3 Special Day Definition - Advanced Communications Group, Inc. may specify circuit reconfiguration on special days, e.g., payday, holidays.
 - 8.2.3.8.4 Resource Verification - Advanced Communications Group, Inc. may verify the resource availability for the reservation period in its

reconfiguration request prior to the system's confirmation or denial of the request.

- 8.2.3.8.5 Transaction Log - Advanced Communications Group, Inc. is provided database log that contains every transaction involving reconfigurations.
- 8.2.3.8.6 Compatibility Table - Advanced Communications Group, Inc. may view the allowable access line combinations that can be used with the DCS.
- 8.2.3.8.7 Path Priority - Advanced Communications Group, Inc. may arrange its circuit paths in order of priority when multiple routes exist.
- 8.2.3.8.8 Reservation Summary Screen - Advanced Communications Group, Inc. may view the status of its reconfiguration reservations.
- 8.2.3.8.9 MACRO Command/Network Modeling - Advanced Communications Group, Inc. may initiate with one command, multiple two-point cross-connections. Advanced Communications Group, Inc. can build separate network models, such as day-time models, night-time models, and disaster recovery models and invoke their activation or switch from one to the other.
- 8.2.3.8.10 Variable Bandwidth - On Internodal Facilities, Advanced Communications Group, Inc. may use the variable bandwidth feature interchangeably to connect full 45Mbps or 1.544Mbps circuits, or to connect one or more individual subtending channels.

8.2.3.9 Technical Specifications

- 8.2.3.9.1 Advanced Communications Group, Inc. will only cross-connect with DCS that have identical technical characteristics for compatibility and proper operations, e.g., Data to Data, Voice to Voice.
- 8.2.3.9.2 DCS functionality includes wiring or other cabling from the DCS device to a distribution frame or its equivalent.
- 8.2.3.9.3 To the extent technically feasible and made available to interexchange carriers, DCS will perform facility grooming, multipoint bridging, one-way broadcast, two-way broadcast, facility test functions, multiplexing, format conversion, signaling conversion, or other functions.

9.0 Signaling Networks and Call-Related and other Databases

Signaling Networks and Call-Related Databases is the Network Element that includes Signaling Link Transport, Signaling Transfer Points, and Service Control Points and Call-Related Databases. This section also describes access to SWBT's Directory Assistance Database.

9.1 Signaling Link Transport

9.1.1 Definition:

Signaling Link Transport is a set of multiples of two (A-links) or four (B- or D-links) dedicated full duplex mode 56 Kbps. (or higher speeds when suitably equipped) transmission paths between Advanced Communications Group, Inc.-designated Signaling Points of Interconnection (SPOI) and the SWBT STP pair that provides appropriate physical diversity when available.

9.1.2 Technical Requirements

9.1.2.1 Of the various options available, unbundled Signaling Link Transport will perform in the following two ways:

9.1.2.1.1 As an "A-link" which is a connection between a switch and a home Signaling Transfer Point Switch (STPS) pair; and

9.1.2.1.2 As a "B-link" or "D-link" which is an inter-connection between STPs in different signaling networks.

9.1.3 Advanced Communications Group, Inc. will identify to SWBT the Signaling Point Codes (SPCs) associated with the Advanced Communications Group, Inc. set of links.

9.1.4 When Advanced Communications Group, Inc. provides its own switching, and purchases signaling link transport Advanced Communications Group, Inc. will furnish to SWBT, at the time such transport is ordered and annually thereafter, an updated three year forecast of usage of the SS7 Signaling network. The forecast will include total annual volume and busy hour month volume. SWBT will utilize the forecast in its own efforts to project further facility requirements. Advanced Communications Group, Inc. will furnish such forecasts in good faith, but will not be restricted in its use of the signaling network based on such forecasts.

9.1.5 Advanced Communications Group, Inc. will inform SWBT in writing thirty (30) days in advance of any material expected change in Advanced Communications Group, Inc.'s use of such SS7 Signaling Network. Advanced Communications Group, Inc. will provide an explanation of the reasons for the expected change.

9.2 Signaling Transfer Points (STPs)

9.2.1 Definition: The Signaling Transfer Point element is a signaling network function that includes all of the capabilities provided by the Signaling Transfer Point (STPs) switches which enable the exchange of SS7 messages between switching elements, database elements and signaling transfer point switches via associated signaling links. Signaling Transfer Point includes the associated link interfaces.

Advanced Communications Group, Inc. may use the STP under three options, as follows:

1. Signaling for Advanced Communications Group, Inc. with its own Signaling Point, utilizing its own set of links: Use of the STP routes signaling traffic generated by action of Advanced Communications Group, Inc. to the destination defined by SWBT's signaling network, excluding messages to and from a SWBT Local Switching unbundled Network Element. MTP, ISUP, SCCP, TCAP and OMAP signaling traffic addressed to signaling points associated with Advanced Communications Group, Inc. set of links will be routed to Advanced Communications Group, Inc.

2. Signaling for Advanced Communications Group, Inc. with its own Signaling Point, utilizing a set of links of another party: Advanced Communications Group, Inc. may order signaling associated with the set of links of another party by including a Letter of Authorization (LOA) from the owner of the set of links at the time service is ordered. The LOA will indicate that the owner of the set of links will accept SWBT charges for SS7 signaling ordered by Advanced Communications Group, Inc.

3. Signaling for Advanced Communications Group, Inc. utilizing SWBT's Local Switching Unbundled Network Element (UNE): Use of SWBT's SS7 signaling network will be provided as set forth in an order for the Local Switching unbundled network element. Advanced Communications Group, Inc. does not separately order SS7 signaling under this method. Advanced Communications Group, Inc. will be

charged for the use of the SWBT SS7 signaling in accordance with Appendix Pricing - UNE.

9.2.2 Technical Requirements

9.2.2.1 STPs will provide signaling connectivity to Network Elements connected to the SWBT SS7 network. These include:

9.2.2.1.1 SWBT Local Switching or Tandem Switching;

9.2.2.1.2 SWBT Service Control Points/Call Related Databases;

9.2.2.1.3 Third-party local or tandem switching systems; and

9.2.2.1.4 Third-party-provided STPs.

9.2.2.2 The Parties will indicate to each other the signaling point codes and other screening parameters associated with each Link Set ordered by Advanced Communications Group, Inc. at the SWBT STPs, and each Party will provision in accordance with these parameters where technically feasible. Advanced Communications Group, Inc. may specify screening parameters so as to allow transient messages to cross the SWBT SS7 Network.

The Parties will identify to each other the Global Title and Translation Type information for message routing.

9.2.2.3 The connectivity provided by STPs will fully support the functions of all other Network Elements connected to the SWBT SS7 network. This explicitly includes the use of the SWBT SS7 network to convey messages which neither originate nor terminate at a signaling end point directly connected to the SWBT SS7 network. When the SWBT SS7 network is used to convey such messages, there will be no intentional alteration of the Integrated Services Digital Network User Part (ISDNUP) or Transaction Capabilities Application Part (TCAP) user data that constitutes the content of the message. In their capacity as a local service providers, Advanced Communications Group, Inc. and SWBT will transfer Calling Party Number Parameter information unchanged, including the "privacy indicator" information, when ISUP Initial Address Messages are interchanged with the SWBT signaling network.

- 9.2.2.4 If the SWBT STP does not have a route to the desired Signaling Point Code, Advanced Communications Group, Inc. will submit a request indicating the proposed route. If the proposed route uses a set of links not associated with Advanced Communications Group, Inc., Advanced Communications Group, Inc. will include a letter of agency that indicates the third party is willing to receive the messages and pay any applicable charges. Use of the STP provides a signaling route for messages only to signaling points to which SWBT has a route. SWBT will add the SPC to the STP translations if technically feasible.
- 9.2.2.5 In cases where the destination signaling point is a SWBT local or tandem switching system or DB, or is an Advanced Communications Group, Inc. or third party local or tandem switching system directly connected to the SWBT SS7 network, STPs will perform MRVT and SRVT to the destination signaling point, if and to the extent these capabilities exist on the particular SWBT STPs. In all other cases, STPs will perform MRVT and SRVT to a gateway pair of STPs in an SS7 network connected with the SWBT SS7 network, if and to the extent these capabilities exist on the particular SWBT STPs. This requirement will be superseded by the specifications for Internetwork MRVT and SRVT if and when these become approved ANSI standards and if and to the extent these capabilities exist on the particular SWBT STPs.
- 9.2.3 Interface Requirements
- 9.2.3.1 SWBT will provide STP interfaces to terminate A-links, B-links, and D-links.
- 9.2.3.2 Advanced Communications Group, Inc. will designate the Signaling Point of Interconnection (SPOI) for each link. Advanced Communications Group, Inc. will provide a DS1 or higher rate transport interface at each SPOI.
- 9.2.3.3 SWBT will provide intraoffice diversity to the same extent as it provides itself between the SPOIs and the SWBT STPs. Advanced Communications Group, Inc. may request and SWBT will provide, to the extent technically feasible, greater diversity through the Special Request process.

9.3 Service Control Points/Call-Related Databases

9.3.1 Definition:

9.3.1.1 Call-related databases are the Network Elements that provide the functionality for storage of, access to, and manipulation of information required to offer a particular telecommunications service and/or capability.

9.3.1.2 A Service Control Point (SCP) is a specific type of Network Element where call related databases can reside. SCPs deployed in a Signaling System 7 (SS7) network execute service application logic in response to SS7 queries sent to them by a switching system also connected to the SS7 network. SCPs also provide operational interfaces to allow for provisioning, administration and maintenance of subscriber data and service application data. (e.g., an 800 database stores customer record data that provides information necessary to route 800 calls).

9.3.2 Technical Requirements for SCPs/Call-Related Databases

Requirements for SCPs/Call-Related Databases within this section address storage of information, access to information (e.g. signaling protocols, response times), and administration of information (e.g., provisioning, administration, and maintenance). All SCPs/Call-Related Databases will be provided to Advanced Communications Group, Inc. in accordance with the following requirements, except where such a requirement is superseded by specific requirements set forth in Subsections 9.3.3 through 9.3.7:

9.3.2.1 SWBT will provide physical interconnection to SCPs via its STPs through the SS7 network and protocols, as specified in Section 9.2 of this Attachment, with TCAP as the application layer protocol.

9.3.2.2 SWBT will make its database functionality available to Advanced Communications Group, Inc. using the same performance criteria as is applied to SWBT's use. To the extent those performance criteria exist in written form, they will be shared with Advanced Communications Group, Inc. and SWBT will provide Advanced Communications Group, Inc. with the opportunity to comment on such criteria.

The Parties will provide Permanent Local Number Portability (PLNP) as soon as it is technically feasible in conformance with FCC rules and the Act. will participate in development of PLNP in the state in accordance

with the FCC's First Report and Order in Docket No. 95-116, and will negotiate terms and conditions concerning access to PLNP as database requirements and plans are finalized.

9.3.3 Line Information Database (LIDB)

9.3.3.1 The Line Information Data Base (LIDB) is a transaction-oriented database that functions as a centralized repository for data storage and retrieval. LIDB is accessible through Common Channel Signaling (CCS) networks. It contains records associated with customer Line Numbers and Special Billing Numbers. LIDB accepts queries from other Network Elements and provides return result, return error and return reject responses as appropriate. LIDB queries include functions such as screening billed numbers that provides the ability to accept Collect or Third Number Billing calls and validation of Telephone Line Number based non-proprietary calling cards. The interface for the LIDB functionality is SWBT's regional STP. LIDB also interfaces with a service management system as defined below.

9.3.3.1.2 Alternate Billing Service (ABS) means a service that allows end users to bill calls to accounts that may not be associated with the originating line. There are three types of ABS calls: calling card, collect, and third number billed calls.

Billed Number Screening (BNS) means a validation of toll billing exception (TBE) data.

Calling Card Service (CCD) means a service that enables a calling customer to bill a telephone call to a calling card number with or without the help of an operator.

Common Channel Signaling (CCS) Network means an out-of-band, packet-switched, signaling network used to transport supervision signals, control signals, and data messages. Validation Queries and Response messages are transported across the CCS network.

Data Owner means telecommunications companies that administer their own validation data in a party's LIDB or LIDB-like database.

Line Record means information in LIDB that is specific to a single telephone number or special billing number.

Originating Point Code (OPC) means a code assigned to identify LSP's operator service system location(s).

Special Billing Number means line records in LIDB that are based on an NPA-RAO numbering format. NPA-RAO numbering formats are similar to NPA-NXX formats except that the fourth digit of an NPA-RAO line record is either a zero (0) or a one (1).

Toll Billing Exception (TBE) Service means a service that allows end users to restrict third number billing or collect calls to their lines.

Validation information means Data Owners' records of all their Calling Card Service and Toll Billing Exception Service.

9.3.3.2 LIDB Validation

- 9.3.3.2.1 SWBT will provide Advanced Communications Group, Inc. access to Validation information whenever Advanced Communications Group, Inc. initiates a query from an SSP for Validation information available in SWBT's LIDB.
- 9.3.3.2.2 All Advanced Communications Group, Inc. queries to SWBT's LIDB will use subsystem number 253 in the calling party address field and a translations type of 253. Advanced Communications Group, Inc. acknowledges that such subsystem number and translation type values are necessary for SWBT to properly process Validation queries to its LIDB.
- 9.3.3.2.3 SWBT may employ certain automatic and/or manual overload controls to protect SWBT's CCS/SS7 network. SWBT will report to Advanced Communications Group, Inc. any instances where overload controls are invoked due to Advanced Communications Group, Inc.'s CCS/SS7 network and Advanced Communications Group, Inc. agrees in such cases to take corrective action to the same extent SWBT prescribes for itself. Any network management controls found necessary to protect LIDB Validation from an overload condition will be applied based on non-discriminatory guidelines and procedures. Such management controls will be applied to the specific problem source to the extent technically feasible.
- 9.3.3.2.5 SWBT's LIDB will contain a record for every SWBT working line number and Special Billing Number served by SWBT. Other telecommunications companies, including Advanced Communications Group, Inc., may also store their data in SWBT's LIDB. SWBT will request such telecommunications companies to also provide a record for

every working line number and Special Billing Number served by those companies.

9.3.3.2.6 SWBT's LIDB Validation Service will provide the following functions on a per query basis: validation of a telecommunications calling card account number stored in LIDB; determination of whether the billed line has decided in advance to reject certain calls billed as collect or to a third number; and determination of billed line as a public (including those classified as semi public) or nonworking telephone number.

9.3.3.2.7 SWBT provides LIBD Validation Service as set forth in this Attachment only as such service is used for Advanced Communications Group, Inc.'s LSP activities on behalf of its local service customers where SWBT is the incumbent local exchange carrier. Advanced Communications Group, Inc. agrees that any other use of SWBT's LIDB for the provision of LIDB Validation Service by Advanced Communications Group, Inc. will be pursuant to the terms, conditions, rates, and charges of SWBT's effective tariffs, as revised, for LIDB Validation Service.

Prior to the time Advanced Communications Group, Inc. LSP begins to access SWBT's LIDB, the Parties will negotiate factors necessary to distinguish Advanced Communications Group, Inc. IXC activity from Advanced Communications Group, Inc. LSP activity in SWBT's incumbent LEC region.

9.3.3.2.8 LIDB Validation provided by SWBT to Advanced Communications Group, Inc. will meet applicable regulatory performance standards and requirements and be at least equal in quality and performance as that which SWBT provides to itself. LIDB Validation will be provided in accordance with SWBT Technical Publications or other like SWBT documents, as changed from time to time by SWBT at its sole discretion, to the extent consistent with the Act. Such publications and documents will be shared with Advanced Communications Group, Inc. and SWBT will provide Advanced Communications Group, Inc. with the opportunity to comment. Advanced Communications Group, Inc. may request and SWBT will provide, to the extent technically feasible, LIDB Validation that is superior or lesser in quality than SWBT provides to itself and such service will be requested pursuant to the Special Request process.

9.3.3.3 Ownership of Validation Information

9.3.3.3.1 Advanced Communications Group, Inc.'s access to any LIDB Validation information does not create any ownership interest that does not already

exist. Telecommunications companies, including Advanced Communications Group, Inc., depositing information in SWBT's LIDB may retain full and complete ownership and control over such information.

9.3.3.3.2 Unless expressly authorized in writing by parties, LIDB Validation is not to be used for purposes other than validating ABS-related calls. Advanced Communications Group, Inc. may use LIDB Validation for such functions only on a call-by-call basis.

9.3.3.3.3 Proprietary information residing in SWBT's LIDB is protected from unauthorized access and Advanced Communications Group, Inc. may not store such information in any table or database for any reason. All information related to alternate billing service is proprietary. Examples of proprietary information are as follows:

- Billed (Line/Regional Accounting Office (RAO)) Number
- PIN Number(s)
- Billed Number Screening (BNS) indicators
- Class of Service (also referred to as Service or Equipment)
- Reports on LIDB usage
- Information related to billing for LIDB usage
- LIDB usage statistics.

9.3.3.3.4 Advanced Communications Group, Inc. agrees that it will not copy, store, maintain, or create any table or database of any kind that is based upon a response to a query to SWBT's LIDB.

9.3.3.3.5 If Advanced Communications Group, Inc. acts on behalf of other carriers to access SWBT's LIDB Validation, Advanced Communications Group, Inc. will contractually prohibit such carriers from copying, storing, maintaining, or creating any table or database of any kind from any response provided by SWBT after a Validation query to SWBT's LIDB.

9.3.3.3.6 SWBT will share end user information, pertinent to fraud investigation, with Advanced Communications Group, Inc. when validation queries for the specific end user reaches SWBT's established fraud threshold level. This fraud threshold level will be applied uniformly to all end user information in SWBT's LIDB.

9.3.3.3.7 Nothing in Sections 9.3.3.3.1 through 9.3.3.3.7 is intended to restrict Advanced Communications Group, Inc.'s use or storage of Advanced Communications Group, Inc. data created or acquired independently of SWBT's LIDB Validation.

9.3.3.4. To the extent that Advanced Communications Group, Inc. stores its own Validation Information in a database, that Validation Information shall be available to SWBT on terms and conditions and platforms to be negotiated by the Parties.

9.3.3.5 **LIDB Storage and Administration**

9.3.3.5.1 Definitions:

- A) Data Base Administration Center (DBAC) -- A SWBT location where facility and administrative personnel are located for administering LIDB and/or Sleuth.
- B) Group -- For the purpose of this Appendix, a specific NPA-NXX and/or NPA-RAO combination.
- C) Group Record -- Information in LIDB or LVAS that is common to all lines or billing records in an NPA-NXX or NPA-RAO.
- D) LIDB Editor -- A database editor located at the SCP where LIDB resides. LIDB Editor provides emergency access to LIDB that bypasses the service management system for LIDB.
- E) Line Validation Administration System (LVAS) -- An off-line administrative system, used by SWBT to add, delete and change information in LIDB. For purposes of this Attachment, LVAS is SWBT's service management system for LIDB.
- F) Line Record -- Information in LIDB or LVAS that is specific to a single telephone number or Special Billing Number.
- G) Toll Billing Exception (TBE) -- A LIDB option that allows end users to restrict third number billing or collect calls to their lines.
- H) Service Management System (SMS) -- An off-line system used to access, create, modify, or update information in LIDB. For the purposes of this Attachment, the SMS for LIDB is LVAS.
- I) Sleuth -- An off-line administration system that SWBT uses to monitor suspected occurrences of ABS-related fraud. Sleuth uses a systematic pattern analysis of query message data to identify potential incidences of fraud that may require investigation. Detection parameters

are based upon vendor recommendations and SWBT's analysis of collected data and are subject to change from time to time.

J) Special Billing Number (SBN) Account Groups -- Line records in LIDB that are based on an NPA-RAO numbering format. NPA-RAO numbering formats are similar to NPA-NXX formats except that the fourth digit of an NPA-RAO line record is either a zero (0) or a one (1).

K) Tape Load Facility -- A separate data entry point at the SCP where LIDB resides. The tape load facility provides direct access to LIDB for data administration and bypasses the service management system of SWBT's LIDB.

L) Translation Type -- A code in the Signaling Connection Control Point (SCCP) of the SS7 signaling message. Translation Types are used for routing LIDB queries. Signal Transfer Points (STPs) use Translation Types to identify the routing table used to route a LIDB query. Currently, all LIDB queries against the same exchange and Translation Type are routed to the same LIDB.

9.3.3.5.2 General Description and Terms

(A) SWBT's LIDB is connected directly to a service management system (i.e., LVAS), a database editor (i.e., LIDB Editor), and a tape load facility. Each of these facilities, processes, or systems, provide SWBT with the capability of creating, modifying, changing, or deleting, line/billing records in LIDB. SWBT's LIDB is also connected directly to an adjunct fraud monitoring system (i.e., Sleuth).

(B) From time-to-time, SWBT enhances its LIDB to create new services and/or LIDB functionalities. Such enhancements may involve the creation of new line-level or group-level data elements in LIDB. SWBT will coordinate with LSP to provide LSP with the opportunity to update its data concurrent with SWBT's updates of SWBT's own data. Both parties understand and agree that some LIDB enhancements will require LSP to update its line/billing records with new or different information.

(C) Administration of the SCP on which LIDB resides, as well as any system or query processing logic that applies to all data resident on SWBT's LIDB is, and remains, the responsibility of SWBT. Advanced Communications Group, Inc. understands and agrees that SWBT, in its role as system administrator, may need to access any record in LIDB, including any such records of Advanced Communications Group, Inc.

SWBT will limit such access to those actions necessary to ensure the successful operation and administration of SWBT's SCP and LIDB.

(D) Advanced Communications Group, Inc. understands and agrees that SWBT is the sole determinant and negotiating party for any access to SWBT's LIDB. Advanced Communications Group, Inc. does not gain any ability, by virtue of this Attachment, to determine which telecommunications companies are allowed to access information in SWBT's LIDB. Advanced Communications Group, Inc. understands and agrees that when SWBT allows a query originator to access SWBT data in SWBT's LIDB, such query originators will also have access to Advanced Communications Group, Inc.'s data that is also stored in SWBT's LIDB.

(E) SWBT does not presently have data screening capability in LIDB. Data Screening is the ability of a LIDB owner to deny complete or partial access to LIDB data or processes. At such time as SWBT has LIDB Data Screening capability for individual data owners, including itself, it will make that capability available to Advanced Communications Group, Inc.

(F) On behalf of third parties who query LIDB for Advanced Communications Group, Inc. data and receive a response verifying the end user's willingness to accept the charges for the underlying call, Advanced Communications Group, Inc. at its election either will bill the appropriate charges to end users or will provide all necessary billing information needed by the third party to bill for the services provided.

(G) SWBT will provide the functionality needed to perform the following query/response functions, on a call-by-call basis, for the line/billing records residing in SWBT's LIDB to: (1) validate a 14-digit billing number where the first 10 digits are a telephone number or a special billing number assigned and the last four digits (PIN) are a security code assignment; (2) determine whether the billed line automatically rejects, accepts, or requires verification of certain calls billed as collect or third number; and (3) determine whether the billed line is a public telephone number using the Class of Service Information in LIDB.

9.3.3.5.3 Service Description

9.3.3.5.3.1 Line Validation Administration System (LVAS)

LVAS provides Advanced Communications Group, Inc. with the capability to access, create, modify, or update information in LIDB.