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August 11, 2008

Via Electronic Filing

Ms. Julie Veach
Deputy Chief
Wireline Competition Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 08-56
Written Ex Parte

Dear Ms. Veach:

As a follow-up to Comcast's meeting with you on July 29, 2008, please find below a list of interconnection agreements that Comcast Corporation's competitive local exchange carrier (CLEC) affiliates currently maintain with incumbent LECs that are classified as "rural" under section 251(f)(1). 47 U.S.C. § 251(f). The list is divided into 2 groupings: (1) interconnection agreements with rural carrier subsidiaries of larger parent companies or holding companies; and (2) interconnection agreements with smaller rural carriers.¹ In addition, enclosed are two examples of such agreements, one between Consolidated Communications of Texas Company and Comcast Phone of Texas, LLC, and the other between TDS Telecom and Comcast Phone of Vermont, LLC.

Interconnection agreements with entities that are subsidiaries of larger parents or holding companies:

CenturyTel of Alabama, LLC
CenturyTel of Arkansas, Inc.
CenturyTel of Central Arkansas, Inc.
CenturyTel of Mountain Home, Inc.
CenturyTel of Northwest Arkansas, LLC
CenturyTel of Redfield, Inc.
CenturyTel of South Arkansas, Inc.
Citizens Telecommunications Company of California, Inc.
Coastal Utilities, Inc. (Georgia – CenturyTel-owned)

¹ The list excludes interconnection agreements that Comcast's CLEC affiliates have with AT&T, Embarq, Qwest, and Verizon.

Frontier Communications of Georgia, Inc.
Frontier Communications of Fairmount, Inc. (Georgia)
Gallatin River Communications, LLC (Illinois – CenturyTel-owned)
CenturyTel of Indiana, Inc.
CenturyTel of Oden, Inc. (Indiana)
Cincinnati Bell Telephone Company, LLC (Indiana)
Communications Corporation of Indiana (Indiana – TDS-owned)
Tri-County Telephone Company, Inc. (Indiana – TDS-owned)
Tipton Telephone Company (Indiana – TDS-owned)
CenturyTel of Michigan, Inc.
CenturyTel Midwest-Michigan, Inc.
CenturyTel of Northern Michigan, Inc.
CenturyTel of Upper Michigan, Inc.
Frontier Communications of Michigan, Inc.
Frontier Communications of Minnesota, Inc.
CenturyTel of North Mississippi, Inc.
Frontier Communications of Mississippi, Inc.
Citizens Telephone Company of New York, Inc.
Frontier Communications of Sylvan Lake. Inc. (New York)
Frontier Communications of New York, Inc.
CenturyTel of Ohio, Inc.
CenturyTel of Oregon, Inc.
CenturyTel of Eastern Oregon, Inc.
Frontier Communications of Breezewood, LLC (Pennsylvania)
Frontier Communications of Pennsylvania, LLC
Commonwealth Telephone Company (Pennsylvania - Frontier-owned)
CenturyTel of Claiborne, Inc. (Tennessee)
CenturyTel of Adamsville, Inc. (Tennessee)
CenturyTel of Ooltewah-Collegedale, Inc. (Tennessee)
Citizens Telecommunications Company of Tennessee, LLC
Citizens Telecommunications Company of the Volunteer State, LLC (Tennessee)
Concord Telephone Exchange, Inc. (Tennessee – TDS-owned)
Tennessee Telephone Company (TDS-owned)
Humphreys County Telephone Company (Tennessee – TDS-owned)
Tellico Telephone Company, Inc. (Tennessee – TDS-owned)
Ludlow Telephone Company (Vermont – TDS-owned)
Northfield Telephone Company (Vermont – TDS-owned)
Perkinsville Telephone Company (Vermont – TDS-owned)
CenturyTel of Washington, Inc.
CenturyTel of Inter Island, Inc. (Washington)
CenturyTel of Cowiche, Inc. (Washington)
Citizens Telephone Company of West Virginia
CenturyTel of Central Wisconsin, LLC
CenturyTel of Fairwater-Brandon-Alto, LLC (Wisconsin)
CenturyTel of Forestville, LLC (Wisconsin)

CenturyTel of Larsen-Readfield, LLC (Wisconsin)
CenturyTel of Monroe County (Wisconsin)
CenturyTel of Northern Wisconsin, LLC
CenturyTel of Northwest Wisconsin, LLC
CenturyTel of Southern Wisconsin, LLC
CenturyTel of Midwest-Kendall, LLC (Wisconsin)
CenturyTel of Midwest-Wisconsin, LLC
CenturyTel of Wisconsin, LLC
Telephone USA of Wisconsin, LLC (CenturyTel-owned)
YCOM Networks, Inc. (Washington - Fairpoint-owned)
Alltel Florida, Inc. (now Windstream)
Alltel Georgia Communications Corporation (now Windstream)
Alltel Georgia, Inc. (now Windstream)
Georgia Alltel Telecom, Inc. (now Windstream)
Georgia Telephone Corporation (was Alltel - now Windstream)
Standard Telephone Company (Georgia - was Alltel - now Windstream)
Accucomm (Georgia - was Alltel - now Windstream)
Alltel Mississippi, Inc. (now Windstream)
Alltel Ohio, Inc. (now Windstream)
The Western Reserve Telephone Company (Ohio - was Alltel - now Windstream)
Windstream Kentucky East, Inc.
Windstream Kentucky West, Inc.
Windstream Pennsylvania, Inc.
Texas Windstream, Inc.
Windstream Sugar Land, Inc. (Texas)

Interconnection agreements with smaller independent carriers:

SureWest Telephone (California)
Northeast Florida Telephone Company, Inc.
Planters Rural Telephone Cooperative (Georgia)
Ringgold Telephone Company (Georgia)
Hancock Rural Telephone Corporation (Indiana)
Rochester Telephone, Inc. (Indiana)
Reserve Telephone Company (Louisiana)
Pioneer Telephone Cooperative (Oregon)
United Telephone Cooperative (Tennessee)
Consolidated Communications of Fort Bend Company (Texas)
Consolidated Communications of Texas Company
NTELOS Telephone Inc. (Virginia)

In addition to these agreements that are currently in effect, Comcast is also in the process of negotiating interconnection agreements with other rural carriers throughout the country.

Ms. Julie Veach
August 11, 2008
Page 4 of 4

Pursuant to the Federal Communications Commission's rules, this letter is being submitted for inclusion in the public record in the above-referenced proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Mary P. McManus

Mary P. McManus
Senior Director, FCC and Regulatory Policy

Attachments (2)

cc: William Dever
Marlene Dortch
William Kehoe
Melissa Kirkel

Interconnection Agreement

Between

Consolidated Communications of Texas Company

&

Comcast Phone of Texas, LLC

Table of Contents**Interconnection Agreement****Between****Consolidated Communications of Texas Company
&
Comcast Phone of Texas, LLC****GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

1.	Introduction	1
2.	Effective Date	1
3.	Applicable Law.....	2
4.	Term of Agreement.....	2
5.	Assignment.....	4
6.	Confidentiality and Proprietary Information.....	4
7.	Liability and Indemnification.....	5
8.	Payment of Rates and Late Payment Charges.....	9
9.	Dispute Resolution.....	9
10.	Voice Over Internet Protocol Traffic	11
11.	Notices.....	12
12.	Taxes.....	13
13.	Force Majeure.....	14
14.	Publicity	14
15.	Network Maintenance and Management	15
16.	Law Enforcement and Civil Process.....	15
17.	Changes in End User Subscriber Carrier Selection.....	16
18.	Amendments or Waivers.....	17
19.	Authority	17
20.	Binding Effect	17
21.	Consent	17
22.	Expenses.....	17
23.	Headings.....	17
24.	Relationship of Parties	17
25.	Conflict of Interest	17
26.	Multiple Counterparts.....	18
27.	Third Party Beneficiaries	18
28.	Regulatory Approval.....	18
29.	Trademarks and Trade Names	18
30.	Regulatory Authority	18
31.	Verification Reviews.....	18
32.	Complete Terms	19
33.	Cooperation on Preventing End User Fraud	20
34.	Notice of Network Changes.....	20
35.	Performance Measures.....	20
36.	Responsibility of Each Party.....	20
37.	Governmental Compliance.....	20
38.	Responsibility for Environmental Contamination.....	21
39.	Subcontracting.....	21
40.	Referenced Documents.....	21
41.	Severability.....	21

42.	Survival of Obligations	22
43.	Provision of CLEC's OCN	22
44.	Customer Inquiries	22
45.	Disclaimer of Warranties	22
46.	Definitions and Acronyms	23
55.	Telecommunications Carrier and Certification Requirements.....	23
56.	Other Requirements and Attachments.....	23

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1:	Routing, Exchange, and Completion of Traffic
Attachment 2:	Compensation
Attachment 3:	Network Interconnection Architecture
Attachment 4:	Implementation of Interconnection Arrangements
Attachment 5:	Definitions
Attachment 6:	Acronyms
Attachment 7:	Directories
Attachment 8:	Number Portability
Attachment 9:	Enhanced 9-1-1 Service

AGREEMENT

This Agreement (“Agreement”) is between Consolidated Communications of Texas Company, the Incumbent Local Exchange Company (“ILEC”), a Texas corporation, having an office at 121 South 17th Street, Mattoon, Illinois 61938 and Comcast Phone of Texas, LLC, the Competitive Local Exchange Company (“CLEC”), a Delaware Limited Liability Company, having an office at 1500 Market Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102 (each a “Party” and collectively the “Parties”).

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (the “Act”), the Parties wish to establish terms for the provision of certain services and Ancillary Services, as designated in the Attachments hereto for the purpose of determining the rates, terms, and conditions for the Interconnection of the Parties’ telecommunications networks; and

WHEREAS, the ILEC is a rural carrier now offering video programming and the CLEC is a cable operator providing video programming who desires to enter the ILEC’s local exchange market; and

WHEREAS, the Parties desire to enter into this Agreement pursuant to section 251(f)(1)(C) of the Act.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and the mutual covenants of this Agreement, the Parties hereby agree as follows:

1.0 **Introduction**

- 1.1 This Agreement, in accordance with §251 and §252 of the Act, sets forth the terms, conditions and prices under which ILEC may provide (a) services for Interconnection, and (b) Ancillary Services to CLEC. The specific services, functions, or facilities that ILEC agrees to provide are those specifically identified in Attachments to this Agreement. Further, this Agreement sets forth the terms, conditions, and prices under which CLEC will provide services to ILEC, where applicable.
- 1.2 This Agreement includes and incorporates herein the Attachments of this Agreement.
- 1.3 Notwithstanding the entering into and performing in accordance with this Agreement, ILEC reserves all rights and does not hereby waive or relinquish any applicable exemptions that are provided by or available under the Act, including but not limited to those described in §251(f) of the Act.
- 1.4 The Parties enter into this Agreement without prejudice to any position they have taken previously or may take in the future in any legislative, regulatory, judicial or other public forum addressing any matters, including without limitation matters related specifically to this Agreement, or other types of arrangements prescribed in this Agreement.
- 1.5 The parties are entering into this Agreement pursuant to section 251(f)(1)(C) of the Act.

2.0 **Effective Date**

- 2.1 The Effective Date of this Agreement will be the first business day following receipt of final approval of this Agreement by the Public Utility Commission of Texas (“PUC”), or such other date as specified in such order, or, where approval by the PUC is not required, the date that both Parties have executed the Agreement. Parties agree upon second signature of execution, network planning, trunk ordering/installation/testing and any other network-related setup will commence.

Both Parties agree that no actual traffic will be passed until final approval is granted by the PUC.

3.0 **Applicable Law**

- 3.1 The construction, interpretation and performance of this Agreement shall be governed by (a) the laws of the United States of America, including the Act, as then in effect and interpreted by the then effective rules and regulations of the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) and (b) the laws of the State of Texas, including the rules and regulations of the PUC as then in effect without regard to its conflicts of laws rules (“Applicable Law”). All disputes relating to this Agreement shall be resolved through the application of such laws.
- 3.2 Each Party shall comply with Applicable Law in the course of performing this Agreement.
- 3.3 Neither Party shall be liable for any delay or failure in performance by it that results from requirements of Applicable Law, or acts or failures to act of any governmental entity or official.
- 3.4 Each Party shall promptly notify the other Party in writing of any governmental action that limits, suspends, cancels, withdraws, or otherwise materially affects, the notifying Party’s ability to perform its obligations under this Agreement.
- 3.5 If any provision of this Agreement shall be invalid or unenforceable under Applicable Law, such invalidity or unenforceability shall not invalidate or render unenforceable any other provision of this Agreement, and this Agreement shall be construed as if it did not contain such invalid or unenforceable provision; provided, that if the invalid or unenforceable provision is a material provision of this Agreement, or the invalidity or unenforceability materially affects the rights or obligations of a Party hereunder or the ability of a Party to perform any material provision of this Agreement, the Parties shall promptly renegotiate in good faith and amend in writing this Agreement in order to make such mutually acceptable revisions to this Agreement as may be required in order to conform the Agreement to Applicable Law.
- 3.6 If any legislative, regulatory, judicial or other governmental decision, order, determination or action, or any change in Applicable Law, materially affects any material provision of this Agreement, the rights or obligations of a Party hereunder, or the ability of a Party to perform any material provision of this Agreement, to the extent then required under Applicable Law the Parties shall promptly renegotiate in good faith and amend in writing this Agreement in order to make such mutually acceptable revisions to this Agreement as may be required in order to conform the Agreement to Applicable Law.
- 3.7 Any amendments to the Agreement negotiated pursuant to Section 3.6 above shall be effective as of the date of the execution of such amendment or the date specified, if any, in the decision, order, determination or action that changed the ILEC’s obligations hereunder, subject to approval by the PUC of such effective date, or if the PUC does not approve such effective date, then on the date the PUC approves the amendment to the Agreement or such other date specified in the PUC order.

4.0 **Term of Agreement**

- 4.1 The Parties agree to the provisions of this Agreement for an initial term of one (1) year from the Effective Date of this Agreement, unless terminated or modified during such initial term pursuant to the terms and conditions of this Agreement. This Agreement shall continue in force and effect unless and until terminated as provided herein. Upon completion of the initial one (1) year term, this Agreement will automatically renew for successive one (1) year periods, unless either Party requests renegotiation in accordance with §4.2 or termination in accordance with § 4.3.

- 4.2 Either Party may request for this Agreement to be renegotiated pursuant to the provisions of the Act or for a new agreement to be negotiated to be effective upon the expiration of the initial one (1) year term or any extension thereof. Such notice shall be given no later than ninety (90) days prior to the expiration of the initial term or any extended term. Not later than thirty (30) days from receipt of said notice, the receiving Party will notify the sending Party in writing of receipt. Not later than forty-five (45) days from the receipt of initial request for renegotiations, the Parties will commence negotiation, which shall be conducted in good faith. If the Parties have not reached agreement on a new agreement within 160 days following the request for renegotiation, or other mutually agreed upon extension, this Agreement shall terminate unless either Party has filed a petition for arbitration of a successor agreement with the PUC or the FCC in accordance with § 252 of the Act, in which case this Agreement shall continue in effect until conclusion of the arbitration and approval of a new agreement by the PUC.
- 4.3 Unless a Party has requested renegotiation in accordance with § 4.2, after completion of the initial one (1) year term, this Agreement may be terminated by either Party for any reason not prohibited by law upon ninety (90) days written notice to the other Party.
- 4.4 In the event of Default, as defined in this §4.4, the non-defaulting Party may terminate this Agreement provided that the non-defaulting Party so advises the defaulting Party in writing (“Default Notice”) of the event of the alleged Default and the defaulting Party does not cure the alleged Default within thirty (30) days after receipt of the Default Notice thereof and subject to the allegedly defaulting Party’s right to invoke the Dispute Resolution provisions of this Agreement. Default is defined as:
- 4.4.1 Either Party’s insolvency or initiation of bankruptcy or receivership proceedings by or against the Party; or
- 4.4.2 A Party has notified the other Party in writing of the other Party’s material breach of any of the material terms hereof, and neither Party has commenced Dispute Resolution as prescribed in §9.0 of this Agreement by the end of the cure period. For purposes of this §4.4.2, a material breach shall include the failure of a Party to abide by the material terms of a settlement agreement or a non-stayed and non-appealable final judgment, decision or ruling executed or issued under the Dispute Resolution procedures outlined in §9.0 of this Agreement.
- 5.0 **Assignment**
- 5.1 This Agreement shall be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the Parties hereto and their respective successors and permitted assigns. Any assignment or transfer (whether by operation of law or otherwise) by either Party of any right, obligation, or duty, in whole or in part, or of any interest, without the written consent of the other Party shall be void ab initio, provided however that such consent shall not be unreasonably withheld, conditioned or delayed and shall not be required (i) if such assignment is to a corporate Affiliate or an entity under common control with the assignor, or to an entity acquiring all or substantially all of the assignor’s assets or equity whether through merger, sale, or consolidation, if (A) the assignee has an investment grade credit rating from a nationally recognized credit rating agency (e.g., Moody’s Investors Services or Standard & Poor’s) or (B) the assignee’s parent has an investment grade credit rating from a nationally recognized credit rating agency and the parent provides a parent guarantee for the performance of the assignee’s obligations under this Agreement, and (ii) for the pledge, mortgage or granting of a security interest in a Party’s assets in connection with a financing transaction. Nothing in this Section is intended to impair the right of either Party to utilize subcontractors. Any permitted assignee must be a Telecommunications Carrier and expressly agree in writing to be bound by the terms of this Agreement.

- 5.2 Each Party will notify the other in writing not less than sixty (60) days in advance of anticipated assignment.

6.0 **Confidential and Proprietary Information**

- 6.1 For the purposes of this Agreement, "Confidential Information" means confidential or proprietary technical, customer, end user, network, or business information disclosed in written, graphic, oral or other tangible or intangible forms by one Party (the "Discloser") to the other Party (the "Recipient"), which is disclosed by one Party to the other in connection with this Agreement, during negotiations or the term of this Agreement. In the case of oral information, such information shall be identified as Confidential Information when disclosed and confirmed in writing within thirty (30) business days thereafter. Confidential Information shall automatically be deemed proprietary to the Discloser and subject to this §6.0, unless otherwise confirmed in writing by the Discloser. All other information that is indicated and marked as Confidential Information at the time of disclosure shall also be treated as Confidential Information under §6.0 of this Agreement. The Recipient agrees (i) to use Confidential Information only for the purpose of performing under this Agreement, (ii) to hold it in confidence and disclose it to no one other than its employees or agents having a need to know for the purpose of performing under this Agreement, and (iii) to safeguard it from unauthorized use or disclosure using at least the same degree of care with which the Recipient safeguards its own Confidential Information. If the Recipient wishes to disclose the Discloser's Confidential Information to a third party agent or consultant, the Discloser must agree to such disclosure in writing, and the agent or consultant must have executed a written agreement of nondisclosure and nonuse comparable to the terms of this Section.
- 6.2 The Recipient may make copies of Confidential Information only as reasonably necessary to perform its obligations under this Agreement. All such copies will be subject to the same restrictions and protections as the original and will bear the same copyright and proprietary rights notices as are contained on the original.
- 6.3 The Recipient agrees to return all Confidential Information to the Discloser in tangible form received from the Discloser, including any copies made by the Recipient, within thirty (30) days after a written request is delivered to the Recipient, or to destroy all such Confidential Information if directed to do so by Discloser except for Confidential Information that the Recipient reasonably requires to perform its obligations under this Agreement. If either Party loses or makes an unauthorized disclosure of the other Party's Confidential Information, it will notify such other Party immediately and use reasonable efforts to retrieve the lost or wrongfully disclosed information.
- 6.4 The Recipient will have no obligation to safeguard Confidential Information: (i) which was in the possession of the Recipient free of restriction prior to its receipt from the Discloser; (ii) after it becomes publicly known or available through no breach of this Agreement by the Recipient, (iii) after it is rightfully acquired by the Recipient free of restrictions on its disclosure, or (iv) after it is independently developed by personnel of the Recipient to whom the Discloser's Confidential Information had not been previously disclosed. In addition, either Party will have the right to disclose Confidential Information to any mediator, arbitrator, state or federal regulatory body, or a court in the conduct of any mediation, arbitration or approval of this Agreement, as long as, in the absence of an applicable protective order, the Discloser has been previously notified by the Recipient in time sufficient for the Recipient to undertake lawful measures to avoid disclosing such information and for Discloser to have reasonable time to seek or negotiate a protective order before or with any applicable mediator, arbitrator, state or regulatory body or a court.

- 6.5 The Parties recognize that an individual End User may simultaneously seek to become or be a Customer of both Parties. Nothing in this Agreement is intended to limit the ability of either Party to use Customer specific information lawfully obtained from End Users or sources other than the Discloser, subject to applicable rules governing use of Customer Propriety Network Information (“CPNI”).
- 6.6 Each Party's obligations to safeguard Confidential Information disclosed prior to expiration or termination of this Agreement, as described in this §6, will survive such expiration or termination for a period of three years.
- 6.7 Except as otherwise expressly provided elsewhere in this Agreement, no license is hereby granted with respect to any patent, trademark, logo or copyright, nor is any such license implied solely by virtue of the disclosure of any Confidential Information.
- 6.8 Each Party agrees that the Discloser may be irreparably injured by a disclosure in breach of this Agreement by the Recipient or its representatives and the Discloser will be entitled to seek equitable relief, including injunctive relief and specific performance, in the event of any breach or threatened breach of the confidentiality provisions of this Agreement. Such remedies will not be deemed to be the exclusive remedies for a breach of this Agreement, but will be in addition to all other remedies available at law or in equity.

7.0 **Liability and Indemnification**

7.1 **Limitation of Liabilities**

- 7.1.1 As used in this Section 7, “Service Failure” means a failure to comply with a direction to install, restore or terminate services under this Agreement, a failure to provide services under this Agreement, and failures, mistakes, omissions, interruptions, delays, errors, defects or the like, occurring in the course of the provision of any services under this Agreement.
- 7.1.2 Except as otherwise stated in Section 7.1.5, the liability, if any, of a Party, a Party's Affiliates, and the directors, officers and employees of a Party and a Party's Affiliates, to the other Party, the other Party's Customers, and to any other person, for Claims arising out of a Service Failure shall not exceed an amount equal to the pro rata applicable monthly charge for the services that are subject to the Service Failure for the period in which such Service Failure occurs.
- 7.1.3 The limitations and exclusions of liability stated in Sections 7.1.1 through 7.1.3 shall apply regardless of the form of a claim or action, whether statutory, in contract, warranty, strict liability, tort (including, but not limited to, negligence of a Party), or otherwise.
- 7.1.4 Nothing contained in Sections 7.1.1 through 7.1.3 shall exclude or limit liability:
- 7.1.4.1 under Sections 7.3, Indemnification, or 12, Taxes.
 - 7.1.4.2 for any obligation to indemnify, defend and/or hold harmless that a Party may have under this Agreement.
 - 7.1.4.3 for damages arising out of or resulting from bodily injury to or death of any person, or damage to, or destruction or loss of, tangible real and/or personal

property of any person, or toxic or hazardous substance, to the extent such damages are otherwise recoverable under Applicable Law;

7.1.4.4 for a claim for infringement of any patent, copyright, trade name, trade mark, service mark, or other intellectual property interest;

7.1.4.5 under Section 258 of the Act or any order of FCC or the PUC implementing Section 258; or

7.1.4.6 under the financial incentive or remedy provisions of any service quality plan required by the FCC or the PUC.

7.1.5 In the event that the liability of a Party, a Party's Affiliate, or a director, officer or employee of a Party or a Party's Affiliate, is limited and/or excluded under both this Section 7 and a provision of an applicable tariff, the liability of the Party or other person shall be limited to the smaller of the amounts for which such Party or other person would be liable under this Section or the tariff provision.

7.1.6 Each Party may, in its tariffs and other contracts with its Customers, provide that in no case shall the other Party, the other Party's Affiliates, or the directors, officers or employees of the other Party or the other Party's Affiliates, be liable to such Customers or other third-persons for any special, indirect, incidental, consequential, reliance, exemplary, punitive or other damages, arising out of a Service Failure.

7.2 No Consequential Damages

EXCEPT AS SPECIFICALLY PROVIDED IN THIS AGREEMENT, NEITHER PARTY WILL BE LIABLE TO THE OTHER PARTY FOR ANY INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, CONSEQUENTIAL, RELIANCE OR SPECIAL DAMAGES SUFFERED BY SUCH OTHER PARTY (INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION DAMAGES FOR HARM TO BUSINESS, LOST REVENUES, LOST SAVINGS, OR LOST PROFITS SUFFERED BY SUCH OTHER PARTY), REGARDLESS OF THE FORM OF ACTION, WHETHER IN CONTRACT, WARRANTY, STRICT LIABILITY, OR TORT, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION NEGLIGENCE OF ANY KIND WHETHER ACTIVE OR PASSIVE, AND REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE PARTIES KNEW OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT SUCH DAMAGES COULD RESULT. EACH PARTY HEREBY RELEASES THE OTHER PARTY (AND SUCH OTHER PARTY'S SUBSIDIARIES AND AFFILIATES, AND THEIR RESPECTIVE OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, EMPLOYEES, AND AGENTS) FROM ANY SUCH CLAIM. NOTHING CONTAINED IN THIS SECTION WILL LIMIT EITHER PARTY'S LIABILITY TO THE OTHER PARTY FOR (i) WILLFUL OR INTENTIONAL MISCONDUCT (INCLUDING GROSS NEGLIGENCE) OR (ii) BODILY INJURY, DEATH, OR DAMAGE TO TANGIBLE REAL OR TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY.

7.3 Obligation to Indemnify

7.3.1 Each Party ("Indemnifying Party") shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the other Party ("Indemnified Person" or "Indemnitee"), the Indemnified Party's Affiliates, and the directors, officers and employees of the Indemnified Party and the Indemnified Party's Affiliates, from and against any and all Claims that arise out of bodily injury to or death of any person, or damage to, or destruction or loss of, tangible real and/or personal property of any person, to the extent such injury, death, damage, destruction or loss, was proximately caused by the grossly negligent or intentionally wrongful acts or

omissions of the Indemnifying Party, the Indemnifying Party's Affiliates, or the directors, officers, employees, agents or contractors (excluding the Indemnified Party) of the Indemnifying Party or the Indemnifying Party's Affiliates, in connection with this Agreement.

7.3.2 **Indemnification Process.**

7.3.2.1 As used in this Section 7, "Indemnified Person" means a person whom an Indemnifying Party is obligated to indemnify, defend and/or hold harmless under Section 7.3.

7.3.2.2 An Indemnifying Party's obligations under Section 7.3.1 shall be conditioned upon the following:

7.3.2.3 The Indemnified Person: (a) shall give the Indemnifying Party notice of the Claim promptly after becoming aware thereof (including a statement of facts known to the Indemnified Person related to the Claim and an estimate of the amount thereof); (b) prior to taking any material action with respect to a third party Claim, shall consult with the Indemnifying Party as to the procedure to be followed in defending, settling, or compromising the Claim; (c) shall not consent to any settlement or compromise of a third party Claim without the written consent of the Indemnifying Party; (d) shall permit the Indemnifying Party to assume the defense of a third party Claim (including, except as provided below, the compromise or settlement thereof) at the Indemnifying Party's own cost and expense, provided, however, that the Indemnified Person shall have the right to approve the Indemnifying Party's choice of legal counsel.

7.3.2.4 If the Indemnified Person fails to comply with Section 7.3.2.3 with respect to a Claim, to the extent such failure shall have a material adverse effect upon the Indemnifying Party, the Indemnifying Party shall be relieved of its obligation to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Indemnified Person with respect to such Claim under this Agreement.

7.3.2.5 Subject to 7.3.2.6 and 7.3.2.7, below, the Indemnifying Party shall have the authority to defend and settle any third party Claim.

7.3.2.6 With respect to any third party Claim, the Indemnified Person shall be entitled to participate with the Indemnifying Party in the defense of the Claim if the Claim requests equitable relief or other relief that could affect the rights of the Indemnified Person. In so participating, the Indemnified Person shall be entitled to employ separate counsel for the defense at the Indemnified Person's expense. The Indemnified Person shall also be entitled to participate, at its own expense, in the defense of any Claim, as to any portion of the Claim as to which it is not entitled to be indemnified, defended and held harmless by the Indemnifying Party.

7.3.2.7 In no event shall the Indemnifying Party settle a third party Claim or consent to any judgment with regard to a third party Claim without the prior written consent of the Indemnified Party, which shall not be unreasonably withheld, conditioned or delayed. In the event the settlement or judgment requires a contribution from or affects the rights of an Indemnified Person, the Indemnified Person shall have the right to refuse such settlement or judgment with respect to itself and, at its own cost and expense, take over the defense

against the third party Claim, provided that in such event the Indemnifying Party shall not be responsible for, nor shall it be obligated to indemnify or hold harmless the Indemnified Person against, the third party Claim for any amount in excess of such refused settlement or judgment.

7.3.2.8 The Indemnified Person shall, in all cases, assert any and all provisions in applicable tariffs and Customer contracts that limit liability to third persons as a bar to, or limitation on, any recovery by a third-person claimant.

7.3.2.9 The Indemnifying Party and the Indemnified Person shall offer each other all reasonable cooperation and assistance in the defense of any third party Claim.

7.3.3 Each Party's obligations under this Section 7 shall survive expiration, cancellation or termination of this Agreement.

7.4 **Obligation to Defend; Notice; Cooperation**

Whenever a claim arises for indemnification under this Section (the "Claim"), the relevant Indemnatee, as appropriate, will promptly notify the Indemnifying Party and request the Indemnifying Party to defend the same. Failure to so notify the Indemnifying Party will not relieve the Indemnifying Party of any liability that the Indemnifying Party might have, except to the extent that such failure prejudices the Indemnifying Party's ability to defend such Claim. The Indemnifying Party will have the right to defend against such Claim in which event the Indemnifying Party will give written notice to the Indemnatee of acceptance of the defense of such Claim and the identity of counsel selected by the Indemnifying Party. Except as set forth below, such notice to the relevant Indemnatee will give the Indemnifying Party full authority to defend, adjust, compromise, or settle such Claim with respect to which such notice has been given, except to the extent that any compromise or settlement might prejudice the intellectual property rights of the relevant Indemnities. The Indemnifying Party will consult with the relevant Indemnatee prior to any compromise or settlement that would affect the intellectual property rights or other rights of any Indemnatee, and the relevant Indemnatee will have the right to refuse such compromise or settlement and, at such Indemnatee's sole cost, to take over such defense of such Claim. Provided, however, that in such event the Indemnifying Party will not be responsible for, nor will it be obligated to indemnify the relevant Indemnatee against any damages, costs, expenses, or liabilities, including without limitation, attorneys' fees, in excess of such refused compromise or settlement. With respect to any defense accepted by the Indemnifying Party, the relevant Indemnatee will be entitled to participate with the Indemnifying Party in such defense if the Claim requests equitable relief or other relief that could affect the rights of the Indemnatee and also will be entitled to employ separate counsel for such defense at such Indemnatee's expense. In the event the Indemnifying Party does not accept the defense of any indemnified Claim as provided above, the relevant Indemnatee will have the right to employ counsel for such defense at the expense of the Indemnifying Party, and the Indemnifying Party shall be liable for all costs associated with Indemnatee's defense of such Claim including court costs, and any settlement or damages awarded the third party. Each Party agrees to cooperate and to cause its employees and agents to cooperate with the other Party in the defense of any such Claim.

8.0 **Payment of Rates and Late Payment Charges**

8.1 Except as otherwise specifically provided elsewhere in this Agreement, the Parties will pay all undisputed rates and charges due and owing under this Agreement within thirty (30) days of the invoice date in immediately available funds. The Parties represent and covenant to each other that all invoices will be promptly processed and mailed in accordance with the Parties' regular

procedures and billing systems. If the payment due date falls on a Sunday or on a holiday which is observed on a Monday, the payment due date shall be the first non-holiday following such Sunday or holiday. If the payment due date falls on a Saturday or on a holiday which is observed on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday, the payment due date shall be the last non-holiday preceding such Saturday or holiday. If payment is not received by the payment due date, a late penalty, as set forth in §8.3 below, will be assessed.

8.2 If the amount billed is received by the billing Party after the payment due date or if any portion of the payment is received by the billing Party in funds which are not immediately available to the billing Party, then a late payment charge will apply to the unpaid balance.

8.3 Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement interest on overdue invoices will apply at the lesser of (i) the highest interest rate (in decimal value) which may be levied by law for commercial transactions, compounded daily and applied for each month or portion thereof that an outstanding balance remains, and (ii) 0.000325 compounded daily and applied for each month or portion thereof that an outstanding balance remains.

9.0 **Dispute Resolution**

9.1 **Notice of Disputes**

Notice of a valid dispute, whether billing or contractual in nature, must be in writing specifically documenting the total dollar amount of the dispute and provide a detailed description of the underlying dispute (the “Dispute Notice”).

9.1.1 **Billing Disputes**

A Party must submit reasonable and valid billing disputes (“Billing Dispute”) to the other Party within twelve (12) months from the bill date. The Parties will endeavor to resolve all Billing Disputes within ninety (90) days from the receipt of the Dispute Notice. Examples of reasonable and valid Billing Disputes include, but are not limited to:

9.1.1.1 incorrect rate applied;

9.1.1.2 error in quantity (i.e. minutes or quantity of circuits or quantity of billable elements incorrect);

9.1.1.3 service did/does not exist;

9.1.1.4 invalid factors;

9.1.1.5 incorrect Customer being billed;

9.1.1.6 invalid purchase order number (“PON”);

9.1.1.7 untimely billing.

9.1.2 The Parties agree that those portions of bills that are not disputed shall be paid when due, that interest applies to all overdue invoices as set forth in §8.0 of this Agreement, and that no other late payment fee or charge applies to overdue invoices. The Parties further agree that if any billing dispute is resolved in favor of the billing Party, the

billing Party will receive interest applied to the disputed amount as set forth in §8.0 of this Agreement.

9.1.3 **All Other Disputes**

All other disputes (i.e., contractual disputes) shall be valid only if reasonable within the scope of this Agreement, and the applicable statute of limitations shall govern such disputes.

9.2 **Alternative to Litigation**

9.2.1 The Parties desire to resolve disputes arising out of this Agreement without litigation. Accordingly, except for action seeking a temporary restraining order, an injunction, or similar relief from the PUC related to the purposes of this Agreement, or suit to compel compliance with this dispute resolution process, the Parties agree to use the following dispute resolution procedure in §9.3 and §9.4 of this Agreement with respect to any controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this Agreement or its breach.

9.2.2 Each Party agrees to promptly notify the other Party in writing of a dispute and may in the Dispute Notice invoke the informal dispute resolution process described in § 9.3. The Parties will endeavor to resolve the dispute within thirty (30) days after the date of the Dispute Notice.

9.3 **Informal Resolution of Disputes**

In the case of any dispute and upon receipt of the Dispute Notice each Party will appoint a duly authorized representative knowledgeable in telecommunications matters, to meet and negotiate in good faith to resolve any dispute arising under this Agreement. The location, form, frequency, duration, and conclusion of these discussions will be left to the discretion of the representatives. Upon agreement, the representatives may, but are not obligated to, utilize other alternative dispute resolution procedures such as mediation to assist in the negotiations. Discussions and the correspondence among the representatives for purposes of settlement are exempt from discovery and production and will not be admissible in the arbitration described below or in any lawsuit without the concurrence of both Parties. Documents identified in or provided with such communications, which are not prepared for purposes of the negotiations, are not so exempted and, if otherwise admissible, may be admitted in evidence in the arbitration or lawsuit. Unless otherwise provided herein, or upon the Parties' agreement, either Party may invoke formal dispute resolution procedures including arbitration or other procedures as appropriate, not earlier than thirty (30) days after the date of the Dispute Notice, provided the Party invoking the formal dispute resolution process has in good faith negotiated, or attempted to negotiate, with the other Party.

9.4 **Formal Dispute Resolution**

9.4.1 The Parties agree that all unresolved disputes arising under this Agreement, may be submitted to PUC or FCC for resolution in accordance with its dispute resolution process and the outcome of such process will be binding on the Parties, subject to any right to appeal a decision reached by the PUC or FCC under Applicable Law. A Party seeking to submit a dispute to the PUC for resolution shall do so by filing a complaint pursuant to PUC rules. If the PUC and/or FCC refuse jurisdiction, and not withstanding Section 9.4.2, the Parties agree that neither Party waives its rights to have disputes, arising under the Act or otherwise, addressed by a court of competent jurisdiction.

9.4.2 If the PUC and/or the FCC does not have or declines to accept jurisdiction over any dispute arising under this Agreement, the Parties may agree to submit the dispute to binding arbitration by a single arbitrator pursuant to the Commercial Arbitration Rules of the American Arbitration Association. Discovery shall be controlled by the arbitrator and shall be permitted to the extent set out in this section. Each Party may submit in writing to a Party, and that Party shall so respond, to a maximum of any combination of thirty-five (35) (none of which may have subparts) of the following: interrogatories; demands to produce documents; requests for admission. Additional discovery may be permitted upon mutual agreement of the Parties or at the direction of the arbitrator. The arbitration hearing shall be commenced within ninety (90) days of the Parties agreeing to arbitration. The arbitration shall be held in Houston, Texas unless otherwise agreed to by the Parties or required by the FCC. The arbitrator shall control the scheduling so as to process the matter expeditiously. The Parties shall submit written briefs five days before the hearing. The arbitrator shall rule on the dispute by issuing a written opinion within thirty (30) days after the close of hearings. The arbitrator shall have no authority to order punitive or consequential damages. The times specified in this section may be extended upon mutual agreement of the Parties or by the arbitrator upon a showing of good cause. Judgment upon the award rendered by the arbitrator may be entered in any court having jurisdiction.

9.4.3 Each Party shall bear its own costs of these procedures unless the PUC or other presiding arbitrator, if any, rules otherwise.

9.5 **Conflicts**

9.5.1 The Parties agree that the dispute resolution procedures set forth in this Agreement are not intended to conflict with applicable requirements of the Act or the state commission with regard to procedures for the resolution of disputes arising out of this Agreement and do not preclude a Party from seeking relief under applicable rules or procedures of the PUC.

10.0 **Voice Over Internet Protocol Traffic**

10.1 CLEC and ILEC agree that nothing in this Agreement or in any Attachments hereto constitutes agreement or shall be construed to affect or determine the appropriate treatment, for compensation and other purposes, of Voice Over Internet Protocol or other Internet protocol-enabled (“VoIP”) traffic. CLEC and ILEC further agree that nothing in this Agreement or in any Attachments hereto shall be construed against either Party with respect to whether VOIP traffic is or is not Telecommunications Services, Information Services or “Section 251(b)(5)” traffic that is subject to reciprocal compensation. Each Party expressly reserves its right to advocate its position or positions with respect to the appropriate treatment of VoIP traffic for compensation and other purposes, before the FCC, the PUC or other state regulatory commissions, whether in bilateral compliance dockets, arbitrations under Section 252 of the Act, or rulemaking or investigative proceedings, or before any legislative or judicial body.

10.2 This Agreement applies solely to traffic which is not Nomadic Traffic and which originates and terminates at a fixed location of the End User. None of the traffic exchanged by either party will be Nomadic Traffic except as provided pursuant to Section 3.1 of Attachment 2. The Parties agree that for Local Traffic exchanged under this Agreement, telephone numbers assigned to End Users will be associated with a physical address located within the appropriate Exchange.

11.0 **Notices**

- 11.1 Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement, all notice, consents, approvals, modifications, or other communications to be given under this Agreement shall be in writing and sent postage prepaid by registered mail return receipt requested. Notice may also be effected by personal delivery or by overnight courier. All notices will be effective upon receipt, and should be directed to the following:

ILEC:

Michael Shultz
Vice President, Regulatory and Public Policy
Consolidated Communications of Texas Company
350 S. Loop 336W
Conroe, Texas 77304
Tel: (936) 788-7414
Fax: (936) 788-1229

Copy to:

Ms. Joanie Ferrance
Manager, Industry Relations
Consolidated Communications of Texas Company
350 S. Loop 336W
Conroe, Texas 77304
Tel: (281) 396-5104
Fax: (281) 396-4538

If to CLEC:

Mr. Brian Rankin
Assistant General Counsel
Comcast Phone of Texas, LLC
1500 Market Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102
Tel: (215) 320-7325
Fax: (267) 675-5039

Copy to:

Ms. Beth Choroser
Senior Director of Regulatory Compliance
Comcast Phone of Texas, LLC
1500 Market Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102
Tel: (215) 981-7893
Fax: (267) 675-5039

- 11.2 Either Party may unilaterally change its designated representative and/or address, telephone contact number or facsimile number for the receipt of notices by giving seven (7) days prior written notice to the other Party in compliance with this Section.

12.0 **Taxes**

- 12.1 Each Party purchasing services hereunder shall pay or otherwise be responsible for all federal, state, or local sales, use, excise, gross receipts, transaction or similar taxes, fees or surcharges ("Tax") levied against or upon such purchasing Party (or the providing Party when such

providing Party is permitted to pass along to the purchasing Party such Tax), except for any Tax on either Party's corporate existence, status or income. Whenever possible, these amounts shall be billed as a separate item on the invoice. Purchasing Party may be exempted from certain Taxes if purchasing Party provides proper documentation, e.g., reseller certificate, from the appropriate taxing authority. Resale exemption certificates shall be effective retroactively as permitted by the applicable taxing jurisdiction, provided, that where purchasing Party presents a resale exemption certificate that is effective retroactively (i) providing Party shall have no obligation to refund to purchasing Party Tax previously collected from purchasing Party that providing Party has already remitted to the applicable taxing authority, and (ii) purchasing Party shall reimburse providing Party for any Taxes not previously remitted by purchasing Party that have already been paid by providing Party to the applicable taxing authority for which purchasing Party would have been responsible under this Agreement but for the resale exemption certification.

- 12.2 With respect to any purchase of services, facilities or other arrangements, if any Tax is required or permitted by Applicable Law to be collected from the purchasing Party by the providing Party, then (i) the providing Party shall bill the purchasing Party for such Tax, (ii) the purchasing Party shall remit such Tax to the providing Party and (iii) the providing Party shall remit such collected Tax to the applicable taxing authority, except as otherwise indicated below.
- 12.3 The Parties agree that each Party shall generally be responsible for collecting and remitting to the appropriate city, any franchise fees or Taxes for use of city rights of way, in accordance with the terms of that Party's franchise agreement. In the event a city attempts to require both Parties to pay franchise fees on the same revenues with respect to resold services or unbundled network elements then the Parties agree to cooperate in opposing such imposition.
- 12.4 With respect to any purchase hereunder of services, facilities or arrangements that are resold to a third party, if any Tax is imposed by Applicable Law on the End User in connection with any such purchase, then (i) the purchasing Party shall be required to impose and/or collect such Tax from the End User and (ii) the purchasing Party shall remit such Tax to the applicable taxing authority. The purchasing Party agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the providing Party for any costs incurred by the providing Party as a result of actions taken by the applicable taxing authority to collect the Tax from the providing Party due to the failure of the purchasing Party to pay or collect and remit such Tax to such authority.
- 12.5 If the providing Party fails to collect any Tax as required herein, then, as between the providing Party and the purchasing Party, (i) the purchasing Party shall remain liable for such uncollected Tax and (ii) the providing Party shall be liable for any penalty and interest assessed with respect to such uncollected Tax by such authority. However, if (i) the purchasing Party fails to pay any Tax properly billed, or (ii) the providing Party fails to collect any Tax in reliance on documentation supplied by the purchasing Party to demonstrate that such Tax is not applicable or that purchasing Party is not subject to such Tax, which documentation subsequently is found to be erroneous, invalid or inapplicable, then, as between the providing Party and the purchasing Party, the purchasing Party will be solely responsible for payment of the Tax, penalty and interest.
- 12.6 If the purchasing Party fails to impose and/or collect any Tax from End Users as required herein, then, as between the providing Party and the purchasing Party, the purchasing Party shall remain liable for such uncollected Tax and any interest and penalty assessed thereon with respect to the uncollected Tax by the applicable taxing authority. With respect to any Tax that the purchasing Party has agreed to pay or impose on and/or collect from End Users, the purchasing Party agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the providing Party for any costs incurred by the providing Party as a result of actions taken by the applicable taxing authority to collect the Tax from the

providing Party due to the failure of the purchasing Party to pay or collect and remit such Tax to such authority.

12.7 In the event either Party is audited by a taxing jurisdiction, the other Party agrees to cooperate with the Party being audited in order to respond to any audit inquiries in a proper and timely manner so that the audit and/or any resulting controversy may be resolved expeditiously.

12.8 All notices, affidavits, exemption certificates or other communications required or permitted to be given by either Party to the other in connection with this Section 12.0, Taxes, shall be made in writing and shall be sent in accordance with Section 11.0, Notices.

13.0 **Force Majeure**

13.1 Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement, neither Party shall be liable for delays or failures in performance resulting from acts or occurrences beyond the reasonable control of such Party, regardless of whether such delays or failures in performance were foreseen or foreseeable as of the date of this Agreement, including, without limitation: fire, explosion, power failure, acts of God, war, revolution, civil commotion, acts of civil or military authority, embargoes, epidemics, terrorist acts, riots, insurrections, earthquakes, nuclear accidents, floods, or acts of public enemies; or labor unrest, including, without limitation strikes, slowdowns, picketing or boycotts; or any other similar circumstances beyond the Party's reasonable control. In such event, the Party affected shall, upon giving prompt notice to the other Party, be excused from such performance on a day-to-day basis to the extent of such interference (and the other Party shall likewise be excused from performance of its obligations on a day-for-day basis to the extent such Party's obligations relate to the performance so interfered with). The affected Party shall use its reasonable commercial efforts to avoid or remove the cause of nonperformance and both Parties shall proceed to perform with dispatch once the causes are removed or cease.

14.0 **Publicity**

14.1 The Parties agree not to use in any advertising or sales promotion, press releases or other publicity matters, any endorsements, direct or indirect quotes or pictures implying endorsement by the other Party or any of its employees without such Party's prior written approval. The Parties will submit to each other for written approval, prior to publication, all such publicity endorsement matters that mention or display the other's name and/or marks or contain language from which a connection to said name and/or marks may be inferred or implied.

14.2 Neither Party will offer any services using the trademarks, service marks, trade names, brand names, logos, insignia, symbols or decorative designs of the other Party or its Affiliates without the other Party's written authorization.

15.0 **Network Maintenance and Management**

15.1 The Parties will work cooperatively to implement this Agreement. The Parties will exchange appropriate information (e.g., maintenance contact numbers, network information, information required to comply with law enforcement and other security agencies of the government as reasonably necessary) to achieve this objective, subject to the confidentiality provisions herein.

15.2 Each Party will provide to the other Party a 24-hour contact number for network traffic management issues and to facilitate event notifications for planned mass calling events. Additionally, both Parties agree that they will work cooperatively to attempt to ensure that all such events will be conducted in such a manner as to avoid disruption or loss of service to other End Users.

15.2.1 24 Hour Network Management Contact:**For ILEC:****Contact Number: 888-800-1611****Fax Number: 936-671-4902****For CLEC****Contact Number : 800-777-9824**

- 15.3 Neither Party will use any service provided under this Agreement in a manner that impairs the quality of service to other carriers or to either Party's End Users. Either Party will provide the other Party notice of any such impairment at the earliest practicable time.

16.0 Law Enforcement and Civil Process**16.1 Intercept Devices**

Local and federal law enforcement agencies periodically request information or assistance from local telephone service providers. When either Party receives a request associated with an End User of the other Party, the receiving Party will refer such request to the appropriate Party, unless the request directs the receiving Party to attach a pen register, trap-and-trace or form of intercept on the Party's own facilities, in which case that Party will comply with any valid requirement, to the extent the receiving Party is able to do so; if such compliance requires the assistance of the other Party such assistance will be provided upon notice to the other Party.

16.2 Subpoenas

If a Party receives a subpoena for information concerning an End User the Party knows to be an End User of the other Party, the receiving Party will advise the requesting entity that the other Party is the entity in position to respond to the subpoena.

16.3 Law Enforcement Emergencies

If a Party receives a request from a law enforcement agency to implement at its switch a temporary number change, temporary disconnect, or one-way denial of outbound calls for an End User of the other Party, the receiving Party will comply. Neither Party will be held liable for any claims or damages arising from compliance with such requests, and the Party serving the End User agrees to indemnify and hold the other Party harmless against any and all such claims.

- 16.4 The Parties will provide five (5) day a week 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. installation and information retrieval pertaining to lawful, manual traps and information retrieval on Customer invoked Custom Local Area Signaling Services ("CLASS) pertaining to non-emergency calls such as annoyance calls. The Parties will provide assistance twenty-four (24) hours per day for situations involving immediate threat of life or at the request of law enforcement officials. The Parties will provide a twenty-four (24) hour contact number to administer this process.

- 16.5 Each Party will be responsible for all costs it incurs in complying with the terms of this Section 16.

17.0 Changes in End User Subscriber Carrier Selection

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- 17.1 Each Party will abide by applicable state or federal laws and regulations in obtaining end user authorization prior to changing end user's Local Service Provider ("LSP") to itself and in assuming responsibility for any applicable charges as specified in §258 (b) of the Act. Either Party shall make authorization available to the other Party upon reasonable requests and at no charge.
- 17.2 Only an End User can initiate a challenge to a change in the End User's local exchange service provider. If an End User notifies either Party that the End User requests local exchange service, the Party receiving such request shall be free to immediately provide service to such End User, subject to the applicable rules of the Commission, the FCC, and this Agreement.
- 17.3 When an End User changes or withdraws authorization, each Party will release Customer specific facilities in accordance with directions of the End User or the End User's authorized agent.
- 17.4 Subject to applicable statutes, rules, orders, and decisions, each Party will provide to the other Party access to the Customer Service Records ("CSR") for an End User of the receiving Party upon the requesting Party providing the receiving Party proof of End User authorization consistent with industry standards and legal requirements to obtain such CSR.
- 17.4.1 The Parties agree that they will conform to FCC and/or state regulations regarding the placing of requests for new service between the Parties, and regarding the use of customer-specific CPNI.
- 17.4.2 The requesting Party will document End User permission obtained to receive CSR, whether or not the End User has agreed to change LSPs. For End Users changing service from one Party to the other, proof of End User authorization consistent with legal requirements may be requested by the Party receiving the CSR if the End User has alleged slamming incidents, and for other reasons agreed to by the Parties. The receiving Party may also request documentation of proof of End User authorization consistent with industry standards and legal requirements if CSR is requested and a subsequent service order for the change of local service is not received. Absent evidence of unauthorized requests for transfer or other requirement or other governmental or auditing requirements, neither Party will generally seek documented verification of more than ten percent (10%) of submitted CSRs.
- 17.4.3 CSR requests will be processed in accordance with the following:
- 17.4.3.1 For End Users with 1-25 lines: two (2) business days.
- 17.4.3.2 For End Users with 26+ lines: three (3) business days.
- 17.4.4 If the Parties do not agree that CSR was requested for a specific End User, or that a Party has erred in not accepting proof of End User authorization consistent with industry standards and legal requirements, the Parties may immediately request dispute resolution in accordance with General Terms and Conditions, §9.0, Dispute Resolution.
- 18.0 **Amendments or Waivers**
- 18.1 Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, no amendment or waiver of any provision of this Agreement and no consent to any default under this Agreement will be effective unless the same is in writing and signed by an authorized representative of each Party. In addition, no

course of dealing or failure of a Party strictly to enforce any term, right or condition of this Agreement will be construed as a waiver of such term, right, or condition. By entering into this Agreement, the Parties do not waive any right granted to them pursuant to the Act or the Texas Public Utilities Regulatory Act; and, the Parties enter into this Agreement without prejudice to any positions they have taken previously, or may take in the future in any legislative, regulatory, other public forum, contract negotiation, bona fide request, or arbitration addressing any matters, including matters related to the types of arrangements prescribed by this Agreement.

19.0 **Authority**

19.1 Each person whose signature appears below represents and warrants that they have the authority to bind the Party on whose behalf they executed this Agreement.

20.0 **Binding Effect**

20.1 This Agreement will be binding on and inure to the benefit of the respective successors and permitted assigns of the Parties.

21.0 **Consent**

21.1 Where consent, approval, or mutual agreement is required of a Party, it will not be unreasonably withheld or delayed.

22.0 **Expenses**

22.1 Except as expressly set out in this Agreement, each Party will be solely responsible for its own expenses involved in all activities related to the subject of this Agreement.

23.0 **Headings**

23.1 The headings in this Agreement are inserted for convenience and identification only and will not be considered in the interpretation of this Agreement.

24.0 **Relationship of Parties**

24.1 This Agreement will not establish, be interpreted as establishing, or be used by either Party to establish or to represent their relationship as any form of agency, partnership or joint venture. Neither Party will have any authority to bind the other Party, nor to act as an agent for the other Party unless written authority, separate from this Agreement, is provided. Nothing in the Agreement will be construed as providing for the sharing of profits or losses arising out of the efforts of either or both of the Parties. Nothing herein will be construed as making either Party responsible or liable for the obligations and undertakings of the other Party.

25.0 **Conflict of Interest**

25.1 The Parties represent that no employee or agent of either Party has been or will be employed, retained, paid a fee, or otherwise received or will receive any personal compensation or consideration from the other Party, or any of the other Party's employees or agents in connection with the arranging or negotiation of this Agreement or associated documents.

26.0 Multiple Counterparts

26.1 This Agreement may be executed in multiple counterparts, each of which will be deemed an original but all of which will together constitute but one, and the same document.

27.0 Third Party Beneficiaries

27.1 Except as may be specifically set forth in this Agreement, this Agreement does not provide and will not be construed to provide third parties with any benefit, remedy, claim, liability, reimbursement, cause of action, or other right or privilege.

28.0 Regulatory Approval

28.1 Each Party agrees to cooperate with the other Party and with any regulatory agency to obtain regulatory approval. During the term of this Agreement, each Party agrees to continue to cooperate with the other Party and any regulatory agency so that the benefits of this Agreement may be achieved.

28.2 Upon execution of this Agreement, it shall be filed by ILEC with the PUC for approval pursuant to the requirements of §252 of the Act. All costs associated with the aforementioned filing(s) or notice(s) shall borne by CLEC.

29.0 Trademarks and Trade Names

29.1 Each Party warrants that, to the best of its knowledge, the services provided under this Agreement do not and will not violate or infringe upon any patent, copyright, trademark, or trade secret rights of any other persons.

29.2 Except as specifically set out in this Agreement, nothing in this Agreement will grant, suggest, or imply any authority for one Party to use the name, trademarks, service marks, or trade names of the other Party for any purpose whatsoever, absent written consent of the other Party.

30.0 Regulatory Authority

30.1 Each Party will be responsible for obtaining and keeping in effect all FCC, state regulatory commission, franchise authority and other regulatory approvals that may be required in connection with the performance of its obligations under this Agreement. Each Party will reasonably cooperate with the other Party in obtaining and maintaining any required approvals necessary for fulfilling its obligations under this Agreement.

31.0 Verification Reviews

31.1 Subject to each Party's reasonable security requirements and except as may be otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement, either Party may audit the other Party's relevant books, records and other documents pertaining to services provided under this Agreement no more than once in each Contract Year and/or following termination of the Agreement to evaluate the accuracy of the other Party's billing, data and invoicing, including usage data, source data, and other information and documents in accordance with this Agreement. The relevant books, records and other documents include, but are not limited to, usage data, source data, traffic reports and associated data and other information and documents in accordance with this Agreement. Such audit will take place at a time and place agreed on by the Parties no later than sixty (60) days after notice thereof.

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- 31.2 The review will consist of an examination and verification of data involving usage data, records, systems, procedures and other information related to the traffic delivered or services performed by either Party as related to settlement charges or payments made in connection with this Agreement as determined by either Party to be reasonably required. Each Party shall maintain reasonable records for a minimum of twelve (12) months and provide the other Party with reasonable access to such information as is necessary to determine amounts receivable or payable under this Agreement. Such records shall include usage records for the traffic delivered by the Party to the other Party.
- 31.3 Adjustments, credits, or payments shall be made and any corrective action shall commence within thirty (30) days from the requesting Party's receipt of the final audit report to compensate for any errors or omissions which are disclosed by such audit and are agreed to by the Parties. Audit findings may be applied retroactively for no more than twelve (12) months from the date the audit began. Interest shall be paid by the Party required to make or provide any adjustment, credit or payment identified by the audit, at the rate specified in §8.0 of this Agreement, and shall be computed by compounding daily from the time of the overcharge or undercharge, as applicable, not to exceed twelve (12) months from the date the audit began to the day of payment or credit. Any disputes concerning audit results will be resolved pursuant to the dispute resolution procedures described in §9.0 of this Agreement.
- 31.4 Each Party will cooperate fully in any such audit, providing reasonable access to any and all appropriate employees, subcontractors and other agents and books, records and other documents reasonably necessary to assess the accuracy of the Party's billings, data and invoices.
- 31.5 Verification reviews will be limited in frequency to once per twelve (12) month period, with provision for staged reviews, as mutually agreed, so that all subject matters are not required to be reviewed at the same time. Verification reviews will be scheduled subject to the reasonable requirements and limitations of the audited Party and will be conducted in a manner that will not interfere with the audited Party's business operations.
- 31.6 The Party requesting a verification review shall fully bear its costs associated with conducting a review. The Party being reviewed will provide access to required information, as outlined in this Section, at no charge to the reviewing Party. Should the reviewing Party request information or assistance beyond that reasonably required to conduct such a review, the Party being reviewed may, at its option, decline to comply with such request or after providing notice and receiving assent from the other Party, may bill actual costs incurred in complying subsequent to the concurrence of the reviewing Party.
- 31.7 For purposes of conducting the audit pursuant to this Agreement, a Party shall employ an accounting firm or telecommunications consulting firm, so long as such accounting firm or telecommunications consulting firm agrees in writing prior to commencement of the audit to be bound by the confidentiality provisions contained in this Agreement. Each Party will bear its own expenses associated with the audit unless a Party incurs excessive expenses as a result of failure or delay in cooperation by the other Party, in which case the latter Party shall reimburse the former Party for such excessive expenses.
- 31.8 Information obtained or received by either Party in conducting the audit described in §31.0 shall be subject to the confidentiality provisions of §6.0 of this Agreement, whether or not marked as confidential.
- 32.0 **Complete Terms**

32.1 This Agreement sets forth the entire understanding and supersedes prior agreements between the Parties relating to the subject matter contained herein and merges all prior discussions between them, and neither Party shall be bound by any definition, condition, provision, representation, warranty, covenant or promise other than as expressly stated in this Agreement or as is contemporaneously or subsequently set forth in writing and executed by a duly authorized officer or representative of the Party to be bound thereby.

33.0 **Cooperation on Preventing Fraud**

33.1 The Parties agree to cooperate with one another to investigate, minimize, and take corrective action in cases of fraud. The Parties' fraud minimization procedures are to be cost-effective and implemented so as not to unduly burden or harm one Party as compared to the other Party.

33.2 In cases of suspected fraudulent activity by an End User or other person or entity, at a minimum, the cooperation referenced in the above paragraph will include providing to the other Party, upon request, information concerning End Users or other persons or entities who terminate services to that Party without paying all appropriate or outstanding charges. The Party seeking such information is responsible for securing the End User's permission to obtain such information.

34.0 **Notice of Network Changes**

34.1 The Parties agree to provide each other with reasonable notice consistent with applicable FCC rules of changes in the information necessary for the transmission and routing of services using the other Party's facilities or networks, as well as other changes that affect the interoperability of those respective facilities and networks. Nothing in this Agreement is intended to limit either Party's ability to upgrade or modify its network, including without limitation, the incorporation of new equipment, new software or otherwise so long as such upgrades are not inconsistent with the Parties' obligations under this Agreement.

35.0 **Performance Measures**

35.1 The Services provided by ILEC to CLEC pursuant to this Agreement will be equal in quality and performance as that which ILEC provides itself and other carriers.

36.0 **Responsibility of Each Party**

36.1 Each Party is an independent contractor, and has and hereby retains the right to exercise full control of and supervision over its own performance of its obligations under this Agreement and retains full control over the employment, direction, compensation and discharge of its employees assisting in the performance of such obligations. Each Party will be solely responsible for all matters relating to payment of such employees, including compliance with social security taxes, withholding taxes and all other regulations governing such matters. Each Party will be solely responsible for proper handling, storage, transport and disposal at its own expense of all (i) substances or materials that it or its contractors or agents bring to, create or assume control over at Work Locations or, (ii) waste resulting therefrom or otherwise generated in connection with its or its contractors' or agents' activities at the Work Locations. Subject to the limitations on liability and except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, each Party will be responsible for (i) its own acts and performance of all obligations imposed by Applicable Law in connection with its activities, legal status and property, real or personal and, (ii) the acts of its own Affiliates, employees, agents and contractors during the performance of the Party's obligations hereunder.

37.0 **Governmental Compliance**

37.1 Each Party will comply at its own expense with all Applicable Law that relates to i) its obligations under or activities in connection with this Agreement; of ii) its activities undertaken at, in connection with or relating to Work Locations. The Parties agree to indemnify, defend (at the other Party's request) and save harmless the other Party, each of its officers, directors and employees from and against any losses, damages, claims, demands, suits, liabilities, fines, penalties, and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees) that arise out of or result from i) its failure or the failure of its contractors or agents to so comply or ii) any activity, duty or status of it or its contractors or agents that triggers any legal obligation to investigate or remediate environmental contamination.

38.0 **Responsibility for Environmental Contamination**

38.1 CLEC will in no event be liable to ILEC for any costs whatsoever resulting from the presence or release of any environmental hazard that CLEC did not introduce to the affected Work Location. ILEC will indemnify, defend (at CLEC's request) and hold harmless CLEC, each of its officers, directors and employees from and against any losses, damages, claims, demands, suits, liabilities, fines, penalties and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees) that arise out of or result from (i) any environmental hazard that ILEC, its contractors or agents introduce to the Work Locations or (ii) the presence or release of any environmental hazard for which ILEC is responsible under Applicable Law.

38.2 ILEC will in no event be liable to CLEC for any costs whatsoever resulting from the presence or release of any environmental hazard that ILEC did not introduce to the affected Work Location. CLEC will indemnify, defend (at ILEC's request) and hold harmless ILEC, each of its officers, directors and employees from and against any losses, damages, claims, demands, suits, liabilities, fines, penalties and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees) that arise out of or result from i) any environmental hazard that CLEC, its contractors or agents introduce to the Work Locations or ii) the presence or release of any environmental hazard for which CLEC is responsible under Applicable Law.

39.0 **Subcontracting**

39.1 If a Party through a subcontractor performs any obligation under this Agreement, such Party will remain fully responsible for the performance of this Agreement in accordance with its terms, including any obligations either Party performs through subcontractors, and each Party will be solely responsible for payments due the Party's subcontractors. No subcontractor will be deemed a third party beneficiary for any purposes under this Agreement. No subcontractor shall be provided access to Confidential Information covered by this Agreement unless the subcontracting Party has first obtained the subcontractor's written agreement to protect such Confidential Information to the same extent the subcontracting Party is required to protect the Confidential Information under the terms of this Agreement.

40.0 **Referenced Documents**

40.1 The Parties agree that any reference to a technical reference, technical publication, telecommunications industry administrative or technical standard or any other document specifically incorporated into this Agreement, shall be to the version in effect on the Effective Date of this Agreement, unless the Parties in writing agree to adopt a later version.

41.0 **Severability**

41.1 If any term, condition or provision of this Agreement is held to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, such invalidity or unenforceability will not invalidate the entire Agreement. The

Agreement will be construed as if it did not contain the invalid or unenforceable provision or provisions, and the rights and obligations of each Party will be construed and enforced accordingly, unless such construction would be unreasonable; provided, however, that in the event such invalid or unenforceable provision or provisions are essential elements of this Agreement and substantially impair the rights or obligations of either Party, the Parties will promptly negotiate a replacement provision or provisions. If impasse is reached, the Parties will resolve said impasse under §9.0, Dispute Resolution.

42.0 **Survival of Obligations**

42.1 Any liabilities or obligations of a Party for acts or omissions prior to the cancellation or termination of this Agreement, any obligation of a Party under the provisions regarding indemnification, limitations on liability, and any other provisions of this Agreement which, by their terms, are contemplated to survive (or to be performed after) termination of this Agreement, will survive cancellation or termination thereof for a period of three years. Any obligations of a Party under the provisions of this Agreement regarding Confidential Information shall survive cancellation or termination of this Agreement for a period of three years.

43.0 **Provision of CLEC's OCN**

43.1 For the purposes of establishing service and the provision of efficient and consolidated billing, the Parties will provide to one another their National Exchange Carrier Association ("NECA") authorized Operating Company Number ("OCN").

44.0 **Customer Inquiries**

44.1 Neither Party will contact the other Party's Customers concerning matters under this Agreement that are the subject of a current dispute. Each Party will refer all questions regarding the other Party's services or products directly to the other Party at a telephone number specified by that Party.

44.2 Each Party will ensure that all of its representatives who receive inquiries regarding the other Party's services or products: (i) provide the numbers described in §44.1; and (ii) do not in any way disparage or discriminate against the other Party or its services or products.

45.0 **Disclaimer of Warranties**

45.1 **EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE SPECIFICALLY PROVIDED IN THIS AGREEMENT, NEITHER PARTY MAKES ANY REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ANY WARRANTY AS TO MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR INTENDED OR PARTICULAR PURPOSE WITH RESPECT TO SERVICES PROVIDED HEREUNDER. ADDITIONALLY, NEITHER PARTY ASSUMES ANY RESPONSIBILITY WITH REGARD TO THE CORRECTNESS OF DATA OR INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY THE OTHER PARTY WHEN THIS DATA OR INFORMATION IS ACCESSED AND USED BY A THIRD PARTY.**

46.0 **Definitions and Acronyms**

46.1 **Definitions**

For purposes of this Agreement, certain terms have been defined in Attachment 5: Definitions and elsewhere in this Agreement to encompass meanings that may differ from, or be in addition

to, the normal connotation of the defined word. Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, any term defined or used in the singular will include the plural. The words "will" and "shall" are used interchangeably throughout this Agreement and the use of either connotes a mandatory requirement. The use of one or the other will not mean a different degree of right or obligation for either Party. A defined word intended to convey its special meaning is capitalized when used.

46.2 **Acronyms**

Other terms that are capitalized and not defined in this Agreement will have the meaning in the Act. For convenience of reference only, Attachment 6: Acronyms provides a list of acronyms used throughout this Agreement.

47.0 **Telecommunications Carrier and Certification Requirements**

47.1 Each Party warrants that, for purposes of this Agreement and the utilization of services provided pursuant to this Agreement, the Party is a Telecommunications Carrier providing Telecommunications Services in accordance with the Act.

47.2 Each Party warrants that it will have obtained by the Effective Date and maintain all necessary jurisdictional certification(s) required in Texas to perform its obligations under this Agreement. Upon request each Party shall provide proof of certification to the other Party.

48.0 **Other Requirements and Attachments**

48.1 This Agreement incorporates a number of listed Attachments which together constitute the entire Agreement between the Parties.

48.1.1 Each Party agrees that if at any time conflict arises between the General Terms and Conditions and one of the Attachments, the Attachments will control.

48.1.2 To the extent that any definitions, terms or conditions in any given Attachment differ from those contained in the main body of this Agreement, those definitions, terms or conditions will supersede those contained in the main body of this Agreement, but only in regard to the services or activities listed in that particular Attachment. In particular, if an Attachment contains a term length that differs from the term length in the main body of this Agreement, the term length of that Attachment will control the length of time that services or activities are to occur under the Attachment, but will not affect the term length of other attachments.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have caused this Agreement and Attachments to be executed as of this ____ day of _____, 200_.

COMCAST PHONE OF TEXAS, LLC

**CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS OF
TEXAS COMPANY**

Print Name

Print Name

ATTACHMENT 1:

ROUTING, EXCHANGE, AND COMPLETION OF TRAFFIC

1.0 **Introduction**

Pursuant to Section 251 of the Act, the Parties shall negotiate in good faith and in a prompt manner to implement effective and cost-efficient routing of calls between their respective End Users and networks. The Parties shall exchange traffic by Interconnection of the Parties' networks pursuant to 251 (a) and 251(f)(1)(c) and in accordance with Section 3.0 of this Attachment 1, subject to the requirements of Attachment 3, Network Interconnection Architecture of this Agreement.

2.0 **Rating and Routing**

Regardless of the means of traffic exchange being employed pursuant to this Agreement, each Party will ensure that calls to the other Party's NXX codes are associated with the appropriate Rate Centers and are correctly rated for purposes of intercarrier compensation as a local or Extended Area Service ("EAS") call. At least once each month, each Party shall review the Local Exchange Routing Guide ("LERG") and ensure that it has entered the other Party's NXXs in its switches and billing systems. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to limit or otherwise adversely affect in any manner either Party's right to employ, to request and be assigned, and to utilize by assignment to End Users, any NXX code or telephone numbers pursuant to the Central Office Code Assignment Guidelines and Applicable Law. Neither Party shall impose any fees or charges whatsoever on the other Party in connection with the obligations set forth in this Section 2.0.

3.0 **Interconnection**

The Parties shall implement arrangements for Interconnection of their respective networks according to Attachment 3, Network Interconnection Architecture. Such Interconnection may be achieved by any technically feasible means, including but not limited to the use of either Party's own facilities or the leasing of facilities from a third party carrier. The Parties shall negotiate in good faith and in a prompt manner to establish a mutually agreeable Point of Interconnection ("POI") where their owned or leased facilities will be interconnected for the routing of all Traffic between them pursuant to Section 2.0 of Attachment 3 of this Agreement.

4.0 **Dispute Resolution**

Should any dispute arise with respect to the establishment of the POI under Section 2.3 of Attachment 3, the Parties will pursue dispute resolution as set forth in the General Terms and Conditions of this Agreement, and will continue to exchange Traffic without disruption pursuant to the existing means of traffic exchange pending resolution of the dispute.

ATTACHMENT 2:
COMPENSATION

1.0 General

- 1.1 For purposes of compensation under this Agreement, the telecommunications traffic exchanged between the Parties will be classified as Local Traffic, EAS traffic, Foreign Exchange Traffic, IntraLATA Toll Traffic, Transit Traffic, or Local Internet Service Provider (“ISP”)-Bound Traffic (collectively, “Traffic”). The Parties agree that, notwithstanding the classification of Traffic by CLEC with respect to its End Users, the classification of Traffic provided in this Agreement shall control with respect to compensation between the Parties under the terms of this Agreement. The provisions of this Attachment shall not apply to services provisioned by ILEC to CLEC as local resale services.
- 1.2 “Local Traffic” means Telecommunication Service consisting of two-way telephone exchange traffic exchanged between the Parties that originates and terminates between End Users physically located within the ILEC’s Local Calling Area boundary as established and defined by the PUC and includes mandatory EAS and EMS (i.e. ILEC’s extended metro service plans approved by the PUC) traffic only. Optional EAS and one-way EAS and other such expanded local calling scope arrangements are not considered Local Traffic for compensation purposes. Local Traffic also does not include Local ISP-Bound Traffic.
- 1.3 Each Party agrees that it will not knowingly provision any of its services or exchange any traffic hereunder in a manner that permits the unlawful avoidance of the application of intrastate or interstate switched access charges by the Party and/or any other party including, but not limited to, third party carriers, aggregators, resellers, information services providers, and the FCC-defined lawful resale of Local Traffic, Local ISP Bound Traffic and EAS Traffic. Each Party also agrees that it will not knowingly allow the utilization of the physical connecting arrangements described in this Agreement to permit the delivery to the other Party of any traffic other than Local Traffic, Local ISP Bound Traffic or EAS Traffic (such other traffic is hereinafter referred to as “Excluded Traffic”) through the POI. If any such delivery of Excluded Traffic through the POI is identified, each Party also agrees to take all reasonable and necessary steps to terminate and/or reroute any service to one of its End Users that permits that End User or any entity to circumvent the application of applicable switched access charges by the other Party or that permits the End User or any entity to utilize the POI for the delivery or receipt of Excluded Traffic through the POI; provided, however, that until such time as the delivery of Excluded Traffic is resolved, the Party that is allowing the POI to be used for the delivery of Excluded Traffic shall pay terminating access charges pursuant to the applicable tariff of the other Party.
- 1.4 Each Party shall identify and make available to the other Party, at no additional charge, a contact person for the handling of any billing questions or problems that may arise during the implementation and performance of this Attachment.

2.0 Traffic Identifiers

- 2.1 Each Party will be responsible for the accuracy and quality of the data it submits to the other Party.
- 2.2 To ensure proper implementation of this Agreement, the Party delivering traffic to the other Party shall provide the Automatic Number Identification (“ANI”) and/or accurate Calling Party Number (“CPN”) (and/or additional industry standard traffic elements) in accordance with the requirements of Attachment 3, Section 3.0 (the “Traffic Identifiers”) in order that the terminating

Party can properly identify the telephone number associated with the End User placing the call. Each Party will transmit Traffic Identifiers for each call being terminated on the other Party's network. All calls transmitted without adequate or appropriate Traffic Identifiers will be billed in accordance with §3.5 of this Attachment.

- 2.3 On all Traffic exchanged pursuant to this Agreement, neither Party shall substitute nor implement any arrangement within its switch(es) that omits, substitutes or generates an incorrect ANI, CPN or other SS7 parameter other than those associated with the originating End User. Upon determination that a Party has intentionally omitted, substituted or generated such incorrect parameters on traffic exchanged pursuant to this Agreement, the offending Party shall pay the other Party intrastate access rates with respect to all such traffic. The omission, substitution or generation of incorrect parameters shall constitute a default of this Agreement.

3.0 **Compensation for Termination of Traffic Originated by the Parties**

- 3.1 The Parties agree that all Traffic exchanged between the Parties shall be non-Nomadic, and compensation for Traffic exchanged under this Section 3 of Attachment 2 shall only apply to Traffic exchanged between the parties that is not Nomadic Traffic. None of the Traffic exchanged by either party will be Nomadic Traffic unless otherwise certified in writing in advance by the Party responsible for that Traffic. Upon notification by a Party that it intends to exchange Nomadic Traffic, the Parties will in good faith negotiate within the next sixty (60) days following notification the rate of compensation for the Nomadic Traffic. During the sixty (60) day negotiation period, an originating Party of Nomadic Traffic may exchange Nomadic Traffic with the other Party and will use commercially reasonable efforts to compensate the other Party for Nomadic Traffic consistent with the existing terms of this Agreement. If the Parties have not established a rate of compensation for Nomadic Traffic within the sixty (60) day period, unless the Parties otherwise agree, the originating Party of Nomadic Traffic will thereafter escrow a mutually agreed amount for each minute of use of originated Nomadic Traffic, not to exceed terminating access rates for Traffic described in §3.5 of this Attachment, as a fund for payment of compensation for Nomadic Traffic exchanged.
- 3.2 The Parties agree to reciprocally exchange Local Traffic, as defined in §1.2 of this Attachment, EAS Traffic and Local ISP-Bound Traffic between their networks.
- 3.3 The total compensation each Party shall pay to the other Party for the transport, switching and Termination of Local Traffic shall from the initiation of this Agreement be Bill and Keep and shall continue as Bill and Keep so long as the Local Traffic between the Parties is approximately balanced, which for purposes of this Agreement shall mean that the split of Local Traffic is within the range of 55%/45% in either direction. If the split of Local Traffic between the Parties is outside the range of 55%/45% for three consecutive months, the Parties agree to negotiate a rate for the reciprocal compensation of Local Traffic which shall be effective retroactively to the first such month that the split of Local Traffic was outside the range of 55%/45%, and the terminating Party shall thereafter record and issue bills for Local Traffic using call detail information which the originating Party shall provide pursuant to §2.3 of this Attachment. If subsequently the split of Local Traffic between the Parties is again within the range of 55%/45% for three consecutive months, the Parties shall return to Bill and Keep retroactive to the first such month that the split of Local Traffic was within the range of 55%/45%.
- 3.4 The Parties agree to exchange Local ISP Bound Traffic, if at all, on a Bill and Keep basis in accordance with the Order on Remand by the FCC in CC Docket No. 96-98 on April 27, 2001. It shall be the terminating Party's responsibility to identify Local ISP Bound Traffic by the telephone number of the ISPs to which the calls are made in the Rate Center and to ensure that the originating Party is not billed for calls made to those ISP telephone numbers.

- 3.5 Compensation for Termination of intrastate IntraLATA Toll Traffic (including Traffic originating from optional EAS and one-way EAS and other such arrangements providing an expanded local calling scope for the originating Party's customers other than mandatory EAS and EMS arrangements) will be at the applicable terminating access rates for Message Telephone Service and originating access rates for 800 Service, including the Carrier Common Line Charge, as set forth in the relevant Party's intrastate access service tariff or price list. In the event that CLEC does not have a filed IntraLATA Toll tariff for access service, CLEC agrees to utilize rates that do not exceed ILEC's tariffed access rates.

4.0 **Compensation for Transit Traffic**

- 4.1 Transit Traffic is Traffic exchanged between the Parties that originates or terminates on the network of a third party ILEC, CLEC or CMRS provider over the interconnection trunks (the "Non-Party Provider"), where one of the Parties or the Non-Party Provider performs a transiting function to complete the Traffic between the others.
- 4.2 Where the transiting function is performed by the Non-Party Provider to complete Local Traffic, EAS Traffic, and Local ISP-Bound Traffic between the Parties, the Parties agree that the originating Party will compensate the Non-Party Provider for any transit fees applicable to the exchange of Local Traffic, EAS Traffic, and Local ISP-Bound Traffic and that compensation between the Parties for the exchange of Local Traffic, EAS Traffic and Local ISP-Bound Traffic performed indirectly will be as specified in §3.0 of this Attachment.
- 4.2.1 The Party originating Traffic will pay a negotiated Transit Traffic rate element of \$.004931 per MOU to compensate the Transit Service Provider.
- 4.2.2 Each Party acknowledges that the Transit Service Provider does not have any responsibility to pay any third party Telecommunications Carrier charges for Termination of any identifiable Transit Traffic from the originating Party. Both Parties reserve the right not to pay such charges on behalf of the originating Party.
- 4.2.3 Each Party acknowledges that it is the originating Party's responsibility to enter into arrangements with each third party ILEC, CLEC, or CMRS provider for the exchange of traffic to that third party. Except as required in connection with the ILEC's role as a tandem provider for certain exchanges in the ILEC's service area, the Parties will not send each other CMRS traffic. In the event CMRS traffic is sent from one Party to the other Party, the Party sending such traffic will compensate the other Party at the intrastate switched access rate.
- 4.2.4 The Transit Service Provider will use reasonable effort to deliver each call to the other Party's network with SS7 Common Channel Interoffice Signaling ("CCIS") and other appropriate Transaction Capabilities Application Part ("TCAP") messages in order to facilitate full interoperability and billing functions. The Transit Service Provider agrees to send all message indicators according to industry standards and to provide the terminating Party information on traffic originated by a third party CLEC, ILEC, or CMRS provider.
- 4.3 All traffic, other than Local Traffic, EAS Traffic, and Local ISP-Bound Traffic, that transits a tandem will be classified and treated as "Exchange Access" Traffic as defined under the Act, unless otherwise agreed in writing between the Parties.

5.0 **Alternate Billed Traffic**

- 5.1 All alternate billed call types routed between the networks must be accounted for, and revenues settled among the Parties. Certain types of calls will require exchange of billing records between the Parties including IntraLATA alternate billed calls (e.g. calling card, bill-to-third party, and collect records and LEC-provided toll free service records). The Parties will utilize, where possible existing accounting and settlement systems to bill, exchange records and settle revenue.
- 5.1.1 The exchange of billing records for alternate billed calls (e.g., calling card, bill-to-third, and collect) will be through the existing Centralized Message Distribution System (“CMDS”) processes, or similar processes as agreed to by the Parties.
- 5.1.2 Inter-Company Settlements (“ICS”) revenues will be settled through the Calling Card and Third Number Settlement System (“CATS”). Each Party will make its own arrangements with respect to participation in the CATS processes, through direct participation or a hosting arrangement with a direct participant.
- 5.1.3 Non-ICS revenue is defined as revenues associated with collect calls, calling card calls, and billed to third number calls which originate, terminate and are billed within the same Telcordia Client Company Territory. Each Party will make its own arrangements with respect to participation in the non-ICS process, through direct participation or a hosting arrangement with a direct participant. This separate arrangement is necessary since existing CATS processes do not permit the use of CATS for non-ICS revenue. The Parties agree that the CMDS system can be used to transport the call records for this traffic.
- 5.1.4 Each Party will provide the appropriate call records to the other for toll free IntraLATA Toll Traffic, thus permitting the Party to bill its End Users for the inbound Toll Free Service. Each Party may charge its tariffed rate for such record provision. No adjustments to data contained in tapes, disks, or network data mover will be made by a Party without the mutual agreement of the Parties. The Parties may utilize the CMDS system to transport the call records.

ATTACHMENT 3:

NETWORK INTERCONNECTION ARCHITECTURE

1.0 **Scope**

- 1.1 This Attachment describes the arrangements that may be utilized by the Parties for Interconnection of their respective networks for the transmission and routing of Telephone Exchange Service and Exchange Access Service pursuant to §251 of the Act. In each ILEC area where the Parties interconnect their networks, the Parties will utilize the Interconnection method(s) specified below unless otherwise mutually agreed to in writing by the Parties.
- 1.2 A Point of Interconnection ("POI"), as defined in §2.0 of this Attachment will be designated for each Interconnection arrangement established pursuant to this Agreement. The POI is the location where one Party's operational and financial responsibility begins and the other Party's operational and financial responsibility ends. Each Party is responsible for all recurring and non-recurring charges associated with providing equipment, facilities and trunking, and for transporting its traffic to the POI.
- 1.3 Each Party is responsible for the appropriate sizing, operation, and maintenance of the facilities utilized for transmission and routing to the POI. Neither Party will bill the other for transmission and routing for facilities on its side of the POI.
- 1.4 This Attachment is based on the network configuration and capabilities of the Parties, as they exist on the date of this Agreement. If those factors change (i.e., ILEC deploys a new tandem office), the Parties will negotiate in good faith to modify this Agreement in order to accommodate the changes and to provide the services made possible by such additional capabilities to CLEC.

2.0 **Interconnection Methods**

2.1 Direct Interconnection

Direct Interconnection provides for network Interconnection between the Parties at a technically feasible point on ILEC's network as described in Section 2.1.1. Direct interconnection facilities shall be accomplished by, including but not limited to, one or more of the following methods: 1) lease arrangements, and 2) jointly provisioned facilities arrangements.

2.1.1 In order to gain connectivity, the POI is required at one of the following locations:

- a) POI at the ILEC Tandem Office where available;
- b) POI at the ILEC End Office or host office or remote; and
- c) Meet point arrangements as either party may request.

The Parties shall designate a POI in the tandem serving area of each ILEC tandem pursuant to Section 2.3 of this attachment. Each Party will be responsible for the engineering and construction of its own network facilities, and for the transport and termination of all traffic, on its side of the POI. CLEC may lease from ILEC facilities between the required POI in that area and CLEC's point of presence (e.g., End Office or wire center), subject to the applicable ILEC interstate, intrastate or local, special access or private line tariffs under which CLEC orders service; provided, that ILEC shall not be required to install additional facilities in order to have sufficient capacity to lease facilities to CLEC. In lieu of leasing facilities from ILEC or in addition to leasing facilities from ILEC, CLEC may lease third party facilities or provision its own facilities to interconnect with ILEC at any POI required under this Section. If CLEC's End

Office or wire center is within ILEC's local exchange boundary where direct Interconnection is requested, either Party may lease from the other Party facilities between ILEC's End Office or wire center location and CLEC End Office or wire center location, subject to availability. Lease arrangements will be governed by the applicable Party's interstate, intrastate or local, special access or private line tariffs under which CLEC orders service.

2.2 Indirect Interconnection

The Parties agree to permit the indirect interconnection, via third parties, of their respective networks for the exchange of traffic under this Agreement. Unless otherwise agreed by the Parties, Direct Interconnection pursuant to terms set forth herein shall be established when the Parties' aggregate traffic passing through the appropriate third-party tandem transit switch exceeds one (1) DS1 at busy hour peak over three (3) consecutive months. It is the responsibility of the originating Party to enter into the appropriate transiting arrangements with the third party tandem provider. This Indirect Interconnection arrangement is subject to renegotiation if by change of law or for any other reason the third party tandem switch provider no longer allows the transiting service.

2.3 A POI shall be established by Parties at the appropriate ILEC Tandem Switching Office serving the rate center where Local Traffic, EAS Traffic, and Local ISP-Bound Traffic will be exchanged.

2.4 Dialing Parity. The Parties shall provide local and toll dialing parity, as defined in FCC and Commission rules and regulations, with no unreasonable dialing delays.

3.0 Signaling Requirements

3.1 Signaling protocol. The Parties will interconnect their networks using SS7 signaling where technically feasible and available as defined in FR 905 Telcordia Standards including Integrated Digital Services Network ("ISDN") User Part for trunk signaling and TCAP for Custom Channel Signaling ("CCS")-based features in the Interconnection of their networks. All Network Interoperability Interface Forum adopted standards shall be adhered to.

3.2 Where available, CCS signaling shall be used by the Parties to set up calls between the Parties' Telephone Exchange Service networks. If CCS signaling is unavailable, the Parties shall use multi-frequency signaling.

3.3 The following list of publications describe the practices, procedures and specifications generally utilized by the industry for signaling purposes and are listed herein to assist the Parties in meeting their respective Interconnection responsibilities related to signaling:

GR-000246-CORE, Bell Communications Research Specifications of Signaling System 7 ("SS7")

GR-000317-CORE, Switching System Requirements for Call Control Using the Integrated Services Digital Network User Part

GR-000394-CORE, Switching System Requirements for Interexchange Carrier Interconnection Using the Integrated Services Digital Network User Part

GR-000606-CORE, LATA Switching Systems Generic Requirements-Common Channel Signaling-§6.5

GR-000905-CORE, Common Channel Signaling Network Interface
Specification Supporting Network Interconnection Message Transfer
Part and Integrated Digital Services Network User Part

- 3.4 The Parties will cooperate on the exchange of TCAP messages to facilitate interoperability of CCS-based features between their respective networks, including all CLASS features and functions, to the extent each Party offers such features and functions to its End Users. All original CCS signaling parameters will be provided including, without limitation, CPN, originating line information, originating company information, calling party category and charge number. Jurisdictional indicator parameters will be provided where available and already populated in the originating Party's system.
- 3.5 Each Party shall cooperate to ensure that all of its trunk groups are configured utilizing the B8ZS ESF protocol for 64 kbps clear channel transmission, where available, to allow for ISDN interoperability between the Parties' respective networks.
- 3.6 The Parties shall jointly develop a grooming plan (the "Joint Grooming Plan") which shall define and detail, inter alia,
- 3.6.1 disaster recovery provisions and escalations;
 - 3.6.2 direct/high usage trunk engineering guidelines; and
 - 3.6.3 such other matters as the Parties may agree.
- 3.7 If a Party makes a change in its network, which it believes will materially affect the interoperability of its network with the other Party, the Party making the change shall provide sixty (60) days advance written notice of such change to the other Party.

4.0 **Interconnection and Trunking Requirements**

4.1 **Local Traffic, Local ISP-Bound Traffic and IntraLATA Toll Traffic**

- 4.1.1 The Parties shall reciprocally terminate Traffic originating on each other's networks as follows:
- 4.1.1.1 Where technically feasible, the Parties shall make available to each other two-way trunks for the reciprocal exchange of combined Traffic or one way trunks upon mutual agreement. If at any time during the term of this Agreement, the average monthly number of minutes of use (combined Traffic) terminated by either Party on the network of the other exceeds the generally accepted engineering practices as mutually agreed to by the Parties, the Party on whose network those minutes have been terminated may elect to require jurisdictionally separate trunks for Local Traffic and IntraLATA Toll Traffic.

4.2 **Trunking**

- 4.2.1 As agreed upon by the Parties, trunking will be established at the DS-1 level or DS-0 level, or higher as necessitated by traffic levels, and facilities will be established at the DS-1/DS-3/OC-3 level, or higher, as agreed upon by the Parties.

- 4.2.2 Separate trunks will be utilized for connecting CLEC's network to appropriate tandems to comply with /E911 standards.

5.0 **Network Management**

5.1 **Protective Protocols**

Either Party may use protective network traffic management controls such as 7-digit and 10-digit code gaps on Traffic toward each other's network, when required to protect the public switched network from congestion due to facility failures, switch congestion or failure or focused overload. The Parties will immediately notify each other of any protective control action planned or executed.

5.2 **Expansive Protocols**

Where the capability exists, originating or terminating Traffic reroutes may be implemented by either Party to temporarily relieve network congestion due to facility failures or abnormal calling patterns. Reroutes will not be used to circumvent normal trunk servicing.

6.0 **Forecasting/Serviceing Responsibilities**

- 6.1 Each Party agrees to provide an initial Traffic forecast for establishing the initial Interconnection facilities. Subsequent forecasts will be provided on a semi-annual basis.
- 6.2 ILEC shall be responsible for forecasting and servicing the trunk groups terminating to CLEC. CLEC shall be responsible for forecasting and servicing the trunk groups terminating to ILEC End Users. Each Party shall monitor over-all traffic levels, as appropriate, and provide notice to the other, as necessary, to assure the uninterrupted flow of traffic. Standard trunk traffic engineering methods will be used as described in Bell Communications Research, Inc. (Telcordia) document SR-TAP-000191, Trunk Traffic Engineering Concepts and Applications.
- 6.3 The Parties shall both be responsible for efficient planning and utilization of the network and shall employ all reasonable means of forecasting, monitoring and correcting for inefficient use of the network. The Parties will conduct facility planning meetings to determine initial and subsequent utilization standards subsequent to execution of this Agreement but prior to implementing direct Interconnection in accordance with §3.5 of this Attachment.
- 6.4 Each Party shall provide a specified point of contact for planning, forecasting and trunk servicing purposes.

7.0 **Trunk Serviceing**

- 7.1 Orders between the Parties to establish, add, change or disconnect trunks shall be processed by use of an Access Service Request ("ASR") or another industry standard method subsequently adopted by the Parties to replace the ASR for local trunk ordering. If trunks are available, orders to add trunks will normally be processed and installed within ten (10) business days. If trunks are not available at the time of the request, the parties will work together to implement additional trunks as soon as reasonably possible.
- 7.2 The Parties shall jointly manage the capacity of Local Interconnection Trunk Groups. Either Party may send the other Party an ASR to initiate changes to the Local Interconnection Trunk Groups that the ordering Party desires based on the ordering Party's capacity assessment.

- 7.3 Orders that comprise a major project (i.e., new switch deployment) shall be submitted in a timely fashion, and their implementation shall be jointly planned and coordinated.
- 7.4 Each Party shall be responsible for engineering its networks on its side of the POI.
- 7.5 Each Party will provide trained personnel with adequate and compatible test equipment to work with each other's technicians.
- 7.6 The Parties will coordinate and schedule testing activities of their own personnel, and others as applicable, to ensure that Interconnection trunks/Trunk Groups are installed per the Interconnection trunk order or ASR, meet agreed-upon acceptance test requirements, and are placed in service by the due date.
- 7.7 Each Party will perform sectionalization to determine if a trouble is located in its facility or its portion of the Interconnection trunks prior to referring the trouble to each other.
- 7.8 The Parties will advise each other's control office if there is an equipment failure that may affect the Interconnection trunks.
- 7.9 Each Party will provide to each other test-line numbers and access to test lines.
- 7.10 The Parties will cooperatively plan and implement coordinated repair procedures for the local Interconnection trunks to ensure trouble reports are resolved in a timely and appropriate manner.
- 7.11 All final trunk groups shall be engineered with a blocking standard of one percent (.01) during the average busy hour.

ATTACHMENT 4:

IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERCONNECTION ARRANGEMENTS

1.0 **Introduction**

CLEC and ILEC shall work cooperatively to install and maintain a reliable Interconnection architecture. CLEC and ILEC shall exchange appropriate information (*including, but not limited to* maintenance contact numbers and escalation contact information) to achieve reliability. In implementing Interconnection pursuant to Attachment 3, the Parties agree to ensure the deployment of sufficient trunking capacity at all times at the POI to accommodate the exchange of Traffic and to minimize the likelihood of call blocking.

2.0 **Implementation Team**

To optimize the exchange of traffic under this Agreement, the Parties agree to meet and to form a team (the "Implementation Team") that shall identify the standards, specifications and processes needed for implementation of this Agreement. The Parties will meet within ninety (90) days, absent extenuating technical issues or other such extenuating circumstances, of either Party's request for such a meeting. The Parties will endeavor to complete implementation within ninety (90) days thereafter, subject to either Party's right to invoke the dispute resolution provisions of this Agreement. Among other things, the Implementation Team shall address the following matters as promptly as possible:

- a. Mutual understanding of the Interconnection architecture as defined in Attachment 3, including trunk management and overflow contingencies;
- b. Respective duties and responsibilities of the Parties with respect to the administration and maintenance of the Interconnections including signaling;
- c. Disaster recovery and escalation provisions;
- d. Points of contact and escalation procedures for ordering, provisioning, billing, and maintenance;
- e. Service ordering and provisioning procedures, including provision of the trunks and facilities;
- f. Other network planning components including testing and provisioning intervals; and
- g. The appropriate file format and other requirements for the exchange of directory listing information.

ATTACHMENT 5:

DEFINITIONS

Definitions of the terms used in this Agreement are listed below. The Parties agree that certain terms may be defined elsewhere in this Agreement. Capitalized terms not defined shall be construed in accordance with their customary meaning in the telecommunications industry as of the Effective Date of this Agreement.

“Access Service Request” or “ASR” means the industry standard forms and supporting documentation used for ordering access services. The ASR may be used to order trunking and facilities between ILEC and CLEC for local Interconnection.

“Act” means the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. §151 et seq.), as amended, and as interpreted in the duly authorized rules and regulations of the FCC or the Commission having authority to interpret the Act within its state of jurisdiction.

“Affiliate” is as defined in the Act.

“Ancillary Services” are services which support but are not required for Interconnection of telecommunications networks between two or more parties, e.g., 911, DA, and Directory Services, except that the classification of a service as “ancillary” shall not affect a Party’s obligation to provide such service under the Agreement.

“Applicable Law” is defined in section 3.1.

"Bill and Keep" means that neither ILEC or CLEC will charge the other Party for transporting (on its side of the POI) or terminating Traffic that originates on the other Party's network. Instead, ILEC and CLEC will each recover from its own End Users the cost of both originating and transporting (to the POI) Traffic that it delivers to the other Party's network and transporting (from the POI) and terminating Traffic that it receives from the other Party's network, and shall have no right to receive compensation from the other Party for performing these functions so long as the Traffic between the Parties is approximately balanced.

“Billing Dispute” is defined in section 9.1.1.

"Calling Party Number" or "CPN" is a feature of Signaling System 7 ("SS7") protocol whereby the 10-digit number of the calling party is forwarded from the End Office. CPN is also referred to as “Automatic Number Identification (“ANI”).

“Claim” is defined in section 7.4.

“CLASS (“Custom Local Area Signaling Service”) and Custom Features” means a grouping of optional enhancements to basic local exchange service that offers special call handling features to residential and single-line business customers (e.g., call waiting, call forwarding and automatic redial).

"Common Channel Signaling" or "CCS" means a special network, fully separate from the transmission path of the public switched network that digitally transmits call setup and network control data.

“Confidential Information” has the meaning set forth in §6.0 of the General Terms and Conditions.

“Contract Year” means a twelve (12) month period during the term of the contract commencing on the Effective Date and each anniversary thereof.

“CSR” means Customer service records of the applicable customer that includes CPNI for the customer.

"Customer" means, whether or not capitalized, any business, residential or governmental customer of services covered by the Agreement. More specific meanings of either of such terms are dependent upon the context in which they appear in the Agreement and the provisions of the Act.

"Customer Proprietary Network Information" or **"CPNI"** is as defined in the Act.

"Default" is defined in §4.4.

"Default Notice" is the notice given when the non-defaulting Party advises the defaulting Party in writing that it is terminating this Agreement.

"Discloser" means that Party to this Agreement which has disclosed Confidential Information to the other Party.

"Dispute Notice" is defined in section 9.1.

"EAS" means Extended Area Service as defined in ILEC's tariffs.

"Effective Date" is the date indicated in the Preface on which the Agreement shall become effective.

"End Office" means a CLEC or ILEC switching point where End User Customer station loops are terminated for purposes of Interconnection to each other and to the network.

"End User" means, whether or not capitalized, the residence or business subscriber that is the ultimate user of Telecommunications Services provided directly to such individual or entity by ILEC or CLEC. Such subscribers shall be physically located within the Rate Center within the ILEC's certificated area either directly or by means of a dedicated facility from the subscriber's physical location to a location within the Rate Center (such as FX service).

"Enhanced 9-1-1" or **"E9-1-1"** – A general term that refers to an emergency telephone system with specific electronically controlled features such as ALI, ANI, or Selective Routing and that uses the MSAG geographic files.

"Exchange" is the geographic territory delineated as an exchange area for ILEC by official commission boundary maps.

"Exchange Access" is as defined in the Act.

"FX Telephone Numbers" or **"NPA-NXX codes"** are those telephone numbers with different rating and routing points relative to a given mandatory local calling area.

"Foreign Exchange Traffic" or **"FX-Type Traffic"** means calls delivered to telephone numbers that are rated as local to the other telephone numbers in a given mandatory local calling area, but where the recipient End User's station assigned that telephone number is physically located outside of that mandatory local calling area.

"ILEC Directories" means White Pages directories for which ILEC obtains publication.

"Implementation Team" means a group formed by the Parties that shall identify the standards, specifications and processes needed for implementation of this Agreement.

"Indemnifying Party" is defined in section 7.3.1.

"Indemnified Person" or **"Indemnitee"** is defined in section 7.3.1.

“Indemnified Person” means a person whom an Indemnifying Party is obligated to indemnify, defend and/or hold harmless under Section 7.3.

“Indirect Interconnection” means network Interconnection between the Parties through a third party performing a transit function.

“Information Service” is as defined in the Act.

“Interconnection” is as defined in the Act.

“Internet Service Provider (ISP) Traffic” means traffic routed by an ILEC or CLEC to an Internet Service Provider.

“InterLATA” is as defined in the Act.

“IntraLATA Toll Traffic” means all IntraLATA calls provided by a LEC other than traffic completed in the LEC’s local exchange boundary.

“Joint Grooming Plan” is defined in Attachment 3, Section 3.6.

“Local Access and Transport Area” or “LATA” is as defined in the Act.

“Local Calling Area” means a geographic area within ILEC’s certificated area which may be dialed and connected from the ILEC’s local office without a separate toll charge as defined in the applicable local service tariff.

“Local ISP-Bound Traffic” means Telecommunications Service traffic that originates from or is directed to or through an information service provider or Internet Service Provider (ISP) who is physically located within the Local Calling Area of ILEC and the originating End User. Traffic originated from or directed to an ISP physically located out of the Local Calling Area of ILEC and the originating End User will be considered switched toll traffic and subject to access charges.

“Local Traffic” is defined in Attachment 2, Section 1.2.

“Local Service Provider” or “LSP” means a Telecommunications Carrier licensed by the PUC with the appropriate certification and authority necessary to provide Exchange Services.

“Local Service Request” or “LSR” means an industry standard form used by the Parties to add, establish, change or disconnect trunks, circuits and/or facilities associated with unbundled network elements.

“9-1-1 Service” means a universal telephone number which gives the public direct access to the PSAP. 911 calls from one or more local exchange switches serving a geographic area are selectively routed to the correct authority designated to receive such calls.

“Nomadic Traffic” means traffic that originates from an IP device other than at the End User service location.

“Operating Company Number” or “OCN” means nationally recognized company codes as assigned by NECA and set forth in Telcordia’s LERG that will be used as the official identification code for each company that provides local exchange telephone service.

“Parties” means ILEC and CLEC collectively.

“Party” means either ILEC or CLEC as applicable.

“**Point of Interconnection**” or “**POI**” is a mutually agreed upon point of demarcation where the networks of ILEC and CLEC interconnect for the exchange of Traffic.

“**Public Safety Answering Point**” is the public safety communications center where 911 calls placed by the public for a specific geographic area will be answered.

“**Rate Center**” means the specific geographic point (“Vertical and Horizontal” (“V&H”) coordinates) and corresponding geographic area which are associated with one or more particular NPA-NXX codes which have been assigned to a LEC for its provision of basic exchange telecommunications services. The “rate center point” is the finite geographic point identified by a specific V&H coordinate, which is used to measure distance-sensitive End User traffic to/from the particular NPA-NXX designations associated with the specific Rate Center.

“**Recipient**” means the Party to this Agreement, which has received Confidential Information from the other Party.

“**Service Failure**” means a failure to comply with a direction to install, restore or terminate Services under this Agreement, a failure to provide Services under this Agreement, and failures, mistakes, omissions, interruptions, delays, errors, defects or the like, occurring in the course of the provision of any Services under this Agreement.

“**Signaling System 7**” or “**SS7**” means a signaling protocol used by the CCS network.

“**Tax**” includes all federal, state, or local sales, use, excise, gross receipts, transaction or similar taxes, fees or surcharges

“**Telephone Exchange Service**” is as defined in the Act.

“**Telecommunications**” is as defined in the Act.

“**Telecommunications Carrier**” is as defined in the Act..

“**Telecommunications Service**” is as defined in the Act.

“**Termination**” means the switching of Local Traffic at the terminating carrier's End Office switch, or equivalent facility, and delivery of such traffic to the called party premises.

“**Territory**” means the incumbent local exchange areas.

“**Traffic**” includes Local Traffic, EAS Traffic, Foreign Exchange Traffic, IntraLATA Toll Traffic, Transit Traffic, and Local Internet Service Provider (“ISP”)-Bound Traffic.

“**Traffic Identifiers**” is defined in Section 2.2 of Attachment 2.

“**Transit Service Provider**” means the Party whose network is transited by Transit Traffic.

“**Transit Traffic**” means the delivery of Local Traffic or ISP Bound Traffic by CLEC or ILEC originated and/or terminated by the End User of one Party and originated and/or terminated to a third party ILEC or CLEC over the interconnection trunks.

“**VoIP**” means voice over internet protocol technology.

“**Work Locations**” means any real estate that ILEC owns, leases or licenses or in which it holds easements or other rights to use, or does use, in connection with this Agreement.

ATTACHMENT 6:

ACRONYMS

ASR	Access Service Request
CATS	Calling Card and Third Number Settlement System
CCS	Common Channel Signaling
CLASS	Custom Local Area Signaling Service
CLEC	Competitive Local Exchange Carrier
CMDS	Centralized Message Distribution System
CMRS	Commercial Mobile Radio System
CPN	Calling Party Number
CPNI	Customer Propriety Network Information
CSR	Customer Service Records
DA	Directory Assistance
EAS	Extended Area Service
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
FX	Foreign Exchange
ICS	Inter-Company Settlements
ILEC	Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier
ISDN	Integrated Digital Services Network
ISP	Internet Service Provider
LATA	Local Access and Transport Area
LEC	Local Exchange Carrier
LERG	Local Exchange Routing Guide
LNP	Local Number Portability
LSP	Local Service Provider
LSR	Local Service Request
MSAG	Master Street Address Guide
MOU	Minutes of Use
NANC	North American Numbering Council
NECA	National Exchange Carrier Association
NPA	Numbering Plan Area
NPAC	Number Portability Administration Center
OCN	Operating Company Number
POI	Point of Interconnection
PON	Purchase Order Number
PUC	Public Utility Commission of Texas
SPNP	Service Provider Number Portability
SS7	Signaling System 7
TCAP	Transaction Capabilities Application Part
VOIP	Voice Over Internet Protocol or other Internet protocol-enabled

ATTACHMENT 7:
DIRECTORIES

This Attachment 7: Directories sets forth terms and conditions with respect to the printing and distribution of White Pages directory in addition to the General Terms and Conditions.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 ILEC obtains the publication of White Pages directories (“ILEC Directories”) for geographic areas in which CLEC may also provide local exchange telephone service, and CLEC wishes to include listing information for its Customers in the appropriate ILEC Directories.
- 1.2 ILEC will include CLEC’s Customer listings in the appropriate ILEC White Pages directory in accordance with § 2.0 Service Provided, as specified in this Attachment.
- 1.3 Any references in this Attachment to ILEC procedures, practices, requirements, or words of similar meaning, shall also be construed to include those of ILEC’s contractors that produce directories on its behalf.
- 1.4 CLEC agrees to provide to ILEC or its publisher, as specified by ILEC, all End User subscriber list information (including additions, changes and deletions) for its End Users of CLEC services, located within ILEC’s operating areas. It is the responsibility of CLEC to submit directory listings in the prescribed manner to ILEC prior to the directory listing publication cut-off date, which will be provided by ILEC to CLEC.
- 1.5 CLEC agrees to make yellow pages listings available to ILEC’s yellow pages affiliate on the same purchase terms the listings are provided to independent yellow pages publishers.

2.0 Service Provided

- 2.1 ILEC will include in appropriate White Pages directories the primary alphabetical listings of all CLEC End Users located within the local directory scope.
- 2.2 At no charge to CLEC, ILEC agrees to include one basic White Pages listing for each CLEC Customer located within the geographic scope of its White Page Directories, and a courtesy Yellow Page listing for each CLEC business Customer located within the geographical scope of its Yellow Page directories.
 - 2.2.1 A basic White Page listing is defined as a Customer name, address, zip code, and either the CLEC assigned number for a Customer or the number for which number portability is provided, but not both numbers. Basic White Pages listings of CLEC Customers will be inter-filed with listings of ILEC and other LEC Customers.
 - 2.2.2 ILEC agrees to provide CLEC’s Customers secondary White Page listings at the rate listed in the applicable General Exchange Tariff.
- 2.3 CLEC will furnish to ILEC subscriber listing information pertaining to CLEC End Users located within the local directory scope, along with such additional information as ILEC may require to prepare and print the alphabetical listings of said directory.
- 2.4 CLEC will provide its individual End User subscriber listing information to ILEC, once annually in an Excel format thirty (30) days prior to the publication date as outlined in Section 2.5 of this

Attachment. The file may be sent via email or CD. This listing will include Customer name, address, telephone number with area code and a residence or business indicator. Business listings should also include the yellow pages classified hearing (i.e., Beauty Salon) for the free yellow page listing.

- 2.5 CLEC will provide to ILEC a forecasted amount of the number of directories which CLEC will need for its Customers (including a reserve) at least 60 days prior to directory closeout, which is currently January 15 of each year.
 - 2.6 ILEC will charge an initial book charge based on the initial order from CLEC. From the Effective Date of this Agreement to the subsequent directory distribution date in each area listed above, CLEC may purchase books from ILEC reserves, subject to availability, at the wholesale rate listed in Exhibit A: Directories Price List. based on available books ILEC has in reserve. If no books are available from ILEC's reserve, CLEC may purchase books from Logis Tech, Inc. at the YPPA retail rate on file.
 - 2.7 If CLEC desires subsequent directories after the initial distribution, ILEC, subject to the availability of such directories, agrees to provide subsequent directories at the YPPA wholesale rates in Exhibit A: Directories Price List. Subsequent books may also be purchased directly from Logis Tech, Inc. at the YPPA retail rate on file.
 - 2.8 ILEC will deliver White Pages directories to CLEC End Users. The timing of delivery and the determination of which White Pages directories will be delivered (by End User address, NPA/NXX or other criteria), and the number of White Pages directories to be provided per End User, will be provided under the same terms that ILEC delivers White Pages directories to its own End Users.
 - 2.9 CLEC will distribute any subsequent directories from its reserve.
 - 2.10 ILEC will include CLEC specific information (i.e., business office, residence office, repair bureau, etc.) in the White Pages directory on an "index-type" information page, in alphabetical order along with other local service providers, at no charge. The space available to CLEC on such page will be 1/8th page in size. In order to have such information published, CLEC will provide ILEC with its logo and information in the form of a camera ready copy, sized at 1/8th of a page. CLEC will be limited to a maximum of 1/8th of a page in any single edition of an ILEC White Pages directory.
 - 2.11 The Parties shall cooperate so that Yellow Page advertisements purchased by End Users who switch to CLEC as their local service provider (including End Users utilizing CLEC-assigned telephone numbers and CLEC End Users utilizing LNP) are provided in accordance with standard ILEC practices. Yellow Page services will be offered to CLEC's End Users on the same basis that they are offered to ILEC's End Users. Such services will be provided through ILEC's yellow pages affiliate, its agent or assignee. CLEC agrees to be responsible for updating its own listings with its Directory Assistance ("DA") provider.
 - 2.12 CLEC will identify any End Users that are "non-published" or unlisted Customers.
- 3.0 **Limitation Of Liability And Indemnification**
- 3.1 ILEC will not be liable to CLEC for any losses or damages arising out of errors, interruptions, defects, failures, delays, or malfunctions of the White Pages services, including any and all associated equipment and data processing systems, unless said losses or damages result from ILEC's gross negligence or willful or wanton or intentional misconduct. Any losses or damages

for which ILEC is held liable under this Agreement to CLEC, shall in no event exceed the amount of the charges billed to CLEC for White Pages services with respect to the period beginning at the time notice of the error, interruption, defect, failure, or malfunction is received by ILEC to the time service is restored.

- 3.2 CLEC agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless ILEC from any and all losses, damages, or other liability that ILEC may incur as a result of claims, demands, wrongful death actions, or other claims by any Party that arise out of CLEC's End User Customers' use of the White Pages services, or the negligence or wrongful act of CLEC except to the extent any such losses, damages or other liability solely from ILEC's gross negligence or willful misconduct. CLEC will defend ILEC against all customer claims just as if CLEC had provided such service to its Customer with CLEC's own employees and will assert its contractual or tariff limitation of liability, if any, for the benefit of both ILEC and CLEC.
- 3.3 CLEC agrees to release, defend, indemnify, and hold harmless ILEC from any claims, demands, or suits with respect to any infringement or invasion of privacy or confidentiality of any person or persons caused or claimed to be caused, directly, or indirectly, by ILEC employees or equipment associated with provision of the White Pages services, except to the extent any such losses, damages or other liability is based on or results from ILEC's gross negligence or willful misconduct. This provision includes but is not limited to suits arising from disclosure of the telephone number, address, or name associated with the telephone called or the telephone used in connection with White Pages services.

4.0 Pricing

- 4.1 Prices for White Pages services are as contained on Exhibit A: Directories Price List, attached hereto and incorporated herein.

Exhibit A: Directories Price List

Combined Service Order Charge for Local Service Request, Number Porting, and Directory Service Request: \$15.03 per number, charged by ILEC for numbers ported from ILEC to CLEC or by CLEC from numbers ported from CLEC to ILEC.

Directory Service Request Only for CLEC numbers that were not originally ported from ILEC but which CLEC wants included in the ILEC Directory: \$12.63 per number.

Price Per Book Copy: (See Below)

St	Directory Name	YPPA Code	2007-2008	
			Retail Price	
TX	Lufkin and Surrounding Communities	071694	\$15.00	
TX	Conroe and Surrounding Communities	069974	\$15.00	

ATTACHMENT 8:
NUMBER PORTABILITY

1.0 Service Provider Number Portability (“SPNP”)

1.1 The parties acknowledge that ILEC has implemented number portability throughout its service areas. Upon receipt of a Bona Fide Request for SPNP from the other Party, each Party shall implement number portability without delay and as required by Applicable Law.

2.0 Local Number Portability

2.1 LNP means the ability of users of Telecommunications Services to retain, at the same location, existing Telecommunications numbers without impairment of quality, reliability or convenience when switching from one Telecommunications Carrier to another. Under this arrangement, the new Telecommunications Carrier must directly provide Telephone Exchange Service to the End User porting the telephone number. In order for a port request to be valid under this Agreement, the End User must retain the original number at the same location and be served directly by CLEC or ILEC requesting the port.

2.2 The Parties shall provide LNP query, routing, and transport services in accordance with rules and regulations as prescribed by the FCC and the guidelines set forth by the North American Numbering Council (“NANC”). The applicable charges for LNP query, routing, and transport services shall be billed in accordance with each Party's applicable tariff.

2.3 The Parties will mutually provide LNP services from properly equipped central offices. LNP applies only when a Customer with an active account wishes to change local carriers while retaining the telephone number or numbers associated with the account.

2.4 Both Parties will perform testing as specified in industry guidelines and cooperate in conducting any additional testing to ensure interoperability between networks and systems. Each Party shall inform the other Party of any system updates that may affect the other Party's network and each Party shall, at the other Party's request, perform tests to validate the operation of the network.

2.5 ILEC and CLEC shall each be entitled to collect a non-recurring service order charge of \$15.03 for each Local Service Request (“LSR”) as described in Section 4 of Attachment 7 submitted to the other Party where the telephone number is in ILEC's billing system, but otherwise at no charge. Non-recurring Service Order charges shall be applied in a competitively neutral and non-discriminatory fashion.

3.0 Coordination of Transfer of Service

3.1 The Parties agree to establish mutually acceptable, reasonable, and efficient transfer of service procedures that utilize the industry standard LSR format for the exchange of necessary information for coordination of service transfers between the Parties. In addition, the Parties agree to follow the LNP ordering procedures established at the Ordering and Billing Forum. The Parties shall provide LNP on a reciprocal basis.

3.2 Each Party is responsible for following FCC rules for obtaining Customer authorization from each End User initiating transfer of service from one Party to the other Party.

3.3 Each Party will accept transfer of service requests from the other Party for one Customer that includes multiple requests for transfers where the Customer will retain one or more telephone

numbers so long as it's the same Customer at the same location. A service order charge applies to each telephone number.

- 3.4 The Party porting a number to the other Party will not disconnect service to the applicable Customers transferring service until at least twenty-four hours after the numbers have been ported.

4.0 **Obligations Of Both Parties**

- 4.1 Each Party will be certified with the applicable regional Number Portability Administration Center ("NPAC") prior to requesting SPNP from the other Party.
- 3.2 Each Party must advise the NPAC of telephone numbers that it imports and the associated data identified in industry forums as is required for SPNP.
- 3.3 Each Party shall conform to NANC guidelines and LERG administration rules in its request for opening an NPA-NXX for portability.
- 3.4 When a ported telephone number becomes vacant, e.g., the telephone number is no longer in service by the original End User, the ported telephone number shall be released back to the LSP owning the switch in which the telephone number's NXX is native.
- 3.5 The Parties shall conform to industry guidelines referenced herein in preparing their networks for SPNP and in porting numbers from one network to another.
- 4.6 The Parties shall perform all standard SPNP intra-company testing prior to scheduling intercompany testing between the Parties' interconnected networks.
- 4.7 Each Party shall designate a single point of contact to schedule and perform required test. These tests shall be performed during a mutually agreed time frame and must conform to industry portability testing and implementation criteria in force in the NPAC region.

5.0 **Limitations Of Service**

- 5.1 Telephone numbers shall be ported only within PUC approved ILEC rate centers.
- 5.2 ILEC and CLEC porting rate center areas must comprise identical geographic locations and boundaries.
- 5.3 Telephone numbers associated with ILEC Official Communications Services NXXs shall not be ported.
- 5.4 Telephone numbers in NXX dedicated to choke networks shall not be ported.

ATTACHMENT 9:
ENHANCED 9-1-1 SERVICE

1.0 **9-1-1 Rules**

1.1 CLEC shall adhere to the rules applicable to the provisioning of 9-1-1 emergency services as defined by the Commission on State Emergency Communications (CSEC).

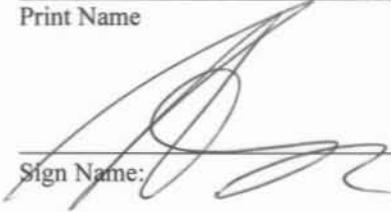
2.0 **24 Hour Contact Information**

2.1 CLEC shall contact each Public Safety Answering Point in the respective exchanges or communities where CLEC will be providing local service in order to provide 24 hour contact information and NENA company ID.

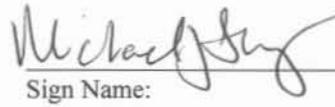
3.0 **9-1-1 Surcharge**

3.1 CLEC shall coordinate with 9-1-1 system management surcharge end-user billing and remittance to 9-1-1 system management.

Susan Jin-Davis
Print Name

 12/14/07
Sign Name: Date

Michael J. Skultz
Print Name

 11/4/08
Sign Name: Date

Vice President Corporate Development
Position/Title

Vice President Regulatory & Public Policy
Position/Title

**INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT- UNDER SECTIONS 251
AND 252 OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996**

Between

TDS TELECOM

and

**COMCAST Phone of Vermont, LLC
d/b/a Comcast Digital Phone**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE OF AGREEMENT	4
2.	DEFINITIONS	5
3.	EFFECTIVE DATE	14
4.	INTERVENING LAW	14
5.	TERM OF AGREEMENT	15
6.	ASSIGNMENT	16
7.	DELEGATION TO AFFILIATE	17
8.	CONFIDENTIALITY AND PROPRIETARY INFORMATION	17
9.	LIABILITY AND INDEMNIFICATION	22
10.	REMEDIES	23
11.	INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY	23
12.	INDEMNITY	23
13.	OSHA STATEMENT	26
14.	DEPOSITS	26
15.	BILLING AND PAYMENT OF RATES AND CHARGES	27
16.	DISPUTE RESOLUTION	28
17.	TERMINATION OF SERVICE TO CLEC	31
18.	NOTICES	32
19.	TAXES	34
20.	FORCE MAJEURE	35
21.	PUBLICITY	35
22.	NETWORK MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT	36
23.	LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CIVIL PROCESS	37
24.	CHANGES IN SUBSCRIBER CARRIER SELECTION	38
25.	AMENDMENTS OR WAIVERS	38
26.	GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES	39
27.	AUTHORITY	42
28.	BINDING EFFECT	42
29.	CONSENT	42
30.	EXPENSES	42
31.	HEADINGS	43
32.	RELATIONSHIP OF PARTIES/INDEPENDANT CONTRACTOR	43
33.	MULTIPLE COUNTERPARTS	43
34.	THIRD PARTY BENEFICIARIES	43
35.	REGULATORY APPROVAL	44
36.	REGULATORY AUTHORITY	44
37.	COMPLIANCE AND CERTIFICATION	44
38.	AUDITS	45
39.	COMPLETE TERMS	46
40.	COOPERATION ON PREVENTING END USER FRAUD	46
41.	NOTICE OF NETWORK CHANGES	47
42.	GOOD FAITH PERFORMANCE	47
43.	GOVERNMENTAL COMPLIANCE	47
44.	RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION	48
45.	SUBCONTRACTING	48
46.	REFERENCED DOCUMENTS	49
47.	SEVERABILITY	50
48.	SURVIVAL OF OBLIGATIONS	51
49.	GOVERNING LAW	51
50.	OTHER REQUIREMENTS	51

51. APPENDICES INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE52
52. CUSTOMER INQUIRIES53
53. DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTIES.....54

INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT

This Interconnection Agreement - under Sections 251 and 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (“Agreement”) is dated as of May 1, 2008 by and between TDS Telecommunications Corporation, a Delaware corporation, as agent for the Vermont operating companies listed in Appendix A, (“TDS TELECOM”) and, Comcast Phone of Vermont, LLC, d/b/a Comcast Digital Phone, (“COMCAST”), a Delaware Limited Liability Company, with its principal place of business at 1500 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102.

WHEREAS, the Parties desire to interconnect their networks at mutually agreed upon points of interconnection to provide, directly or indirectly, Telephone Exchange Services and Exchange Access to residential and/or business End Users in the state of Vermont; and

WHEREAS, the Parties are entering into this Agreement to set forth the respective obligations of the Parties and the terms and conditions under which the Parties will interconnect their networks and facilities and provide to each other services as required by Sections 251(a) and (b) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 as specifically set forth herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and the mutual covenants of this Agreement COMCAST and TDS TELECOM hereby agree as follows:

This Agreement is composed of General Terms and Conditions, which are set forth below, together with certain Appendices, Schedules, Exhibits and Addenda which immediately follow this Agreement, all of which are hereby incorporated in this Agreement by this reference and constitute a part of this Agreement.

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE OF AGREEMENT

1.1 Pursuant to Sections 251(a) and (b) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (“Act”), this Agreement sets forth the terms and conditions for the interconnection of COMCAST's network to TDS TELECOM's network, compensation for the transport and termination of telecommunications traffic between TDS TELECOM and COMCAST, and the provision of ancillary functions by TDS TELECOM and COMCAST.

1.2 The Parties acknowledge and agree that by entering into and performing in accordance with this Agreement, the Parties have not waived any applicable

exemptions that are provided by or available under the Act, including but not limited to those described in 47 USC 251(f), or under state law, if any.

- 1.3 Either Party may fulfill the requirements imposed upon it by this Agreement by itself or may cause its Affiliates to take such actions to fulfill the responsibilities.

2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 Capitalized Terms used in this Agreement shall have the respective meanings specified below, in Section 2.2.x of each Appendix attached hereto, and/or as defined elsewhere in this Agreement.

2.2 GENERAL DEFINITIONS

- 2.2.1 **“Access Service Request” (ASR)** is an industry standard form used by the Parties to add, establish, change or disconnect trunks for the purposes of Interconnection.
- 2.2.2 **“Act”** means the Communications Act of 1934 [47 U.S.C. 153(R)], as amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Public Law 104-104, 110 Stat. 56 (1996) codified throughout 47 U.S.C.
- 2.2.3 **“Advanced Services”** means intrastate or Interstate wireline Telecommunications Services, such as ADSL, xDSL, that rely on packetized technology and have the capability of supporting transmissions speeds of at least 56 kilobits per second in both directions. This definition of Advanced Services does not include:
- 2.2.3.1 Data services that are not primarily based on packetized technology, such as ISDN,
- 2.2.3.2 x.25-based and x.75-based packet technologies, or
- 2.2.3.3 Circuit switched services (such as circuit switched voice grade service) regardless of the technology, protocols or speeds used for the transmission of such services.
- 2.2.4 **“Affiliate”** is As Defined in the Act.
- 2.2.5 **“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.

- 2.2.6 **“Applicable Law”** means all laws, statutes, common law, regulations, ordinances, codes, rules, guidelines, orders, permits, tariffs and approvals, including those relating to the environment or health and safety, of any Governmental Authority that apply to the Parties or the subject matter of this Agreement.
- 2.2.7 **“As Defined in the Act”** means as specifically defined by the Act.
- 2.2.8 **“As Described in the Act”** means as described in or required by the Act.
- 2.2.9 **“Automatic Message Accounting” (AMA)** is a structure inherent in switch technology that initially records Telecommunication message information. AMA format is contained in the Automated Message Accounting document published by Telcordia (formerly known as Bellcore) as GR-1100-CORE, which defines and amends the industry standard for message recording.
- 2.2.10 **“Business Day”** means Monday through Friday, excluding holidays observed by either Party. A list of recognized holidays will be exchanged between the Parties. Either Party will provide notice of any changes to the recognized holidays.
- 2.2.11 **“Calling Party Number” (CPN)** means a Signaling System 7 “SS7” parameter whereby the seven (7) or ten (10) digit number of the calling Party is forwarded from the End Office.
- 2.2.12 **“Central Office switch” (Central Office)** is a switching entity within the public switched telecommunications network, including but not limited to:
- 2.2.12.1 **“End Office Switch” or “End Office”** is a switching machine that directly terminates traffic to and receives traffic from purchasers of local exchange services. An End Office Switch does not include a PBX.
- 2.2.12.2 **“Tandem Office Switch” or “Tandem(s)”** are used to connect and switch trunk circuits between and among other Central Office Switches. A Tandem Switch does not include a PBX.
- 2.2.13 **“Commission”** means the Vermont Public Service Board.
- 2.2.14 **“Common Channel Signaling” (CCS)** means an out-of-band, packet-switched, signaling network used to transport supervision signals, control signals, and data messages. It is a special network, fully separate from the

transmission path of the public switched network. Unless otherwise agreed by the Parties, the CCS protocol used by the Parties shall be SS7.

- 2.2.15 **“Common Language Location Identifier” (CLLI)** codes provide a unique 11-character representation of a network interconnection point. The first 8 characters identify the city, state and building location, while the last 3 characters identify the network component.
- 2.2.16 **“Consequential Damages”** means Losses claimed to have resulted from any indirect, incidental, reliance, special, consequential, punitive, exemplary, multiple or any other Loss, including damages claimed to have resulted from harm to business, loss of anticipated revenues, savings, or profits, or other economic Loss claimed to have been suffered not measured by the prevailing Party's actual damages, and regardless of whether the Parties knew or had been advised of the possibility that such damages could result in connection with or arising from anything said, omitted, or done hereunder or related hereto, including willful acts or omissions.
- 2.2.17 **“Custom Local Area Signaling Service Features” (CLASS Features)** means certain Common Channel Signaling based features available to End Users, including: Automatic Call Back; Call Trace; Distinctive Ringing/Call Waiting; Selective Call Forward; and Selective Call Rejection.
- 2.2.18 **“Customer” or “End Users”** means a third-party residence or business that subscribes to Telecommunications Services provided by any of the Parties. As used herein, the term "End Users" does not include any of the Parties to this Agreement with respect to any item or service obtained under this Agreement.
- 2.2.19 **“Delaying Event”** means (a) any failure of a Party to perform any of its obligations set forth in this Agreement, caused in whole or in part by:
- 2.2.19.1 the failure of the other Party to perform any of its obligations set forth in this Agreement, including but not limited to a Party's failure to provide the other Party with accurate and complete Service Orders;
- 2.2.19.2 any delay, act or failure to act by the other Party or its End User, agent or subcontractor; or
- 2.2.19.3 any Force Majeure Event.

- 2.2.20 **“Dialing Parity”** is As Defined in the Act. As used in this Agreement, Dialing Parity refers to both Local Dialing Parity and Toll Dialing Parity.
- 2.2.21 **“Digital Signal Level”** is one of several transmission rates in the time-division multiplex hierarchy.
- 2.2.21.1 **“Digital Signal Level 0” (DS-0)** is the 64 Kbps zero-level signal in the time-division multiplex hierarchy.
- 2.2.21.2 **“Digital Signal Level 1” (DS-1)** is the 1.544 Mbps first-level signal in the time-division multiplex hierarchy.
- 2.2.21.3 **“Digital Signal Level 3” (DS-3)** is the 44.736 Mbps third-level signal in the time-division multiplex hierarchy.
- 2.2.22 **“Exchange Access”** is As Defined in the Act.
- 2.2.23 **“Exchange Area”** means an area, defined by the Commission, for which a distinct local rate schedule is in effect.
- 2.2.24 **“Exchange Service”** means Telephone Exchange Service, As Defined in the Act.
- 2.2.25 **“FCC”** means the Federal Communications Commission.
- 2.2.26 **“Feature Group D” (FG-D)** is access available to all customers, providing trunk side access to a Party’s End Office Switches with an associated uniform 101XXXX access code for customer’s use in originating and terminating communications.
- 2.2.27 **“Fiber Meet”** means an Interconnection architecture method whereby the Parties physically interconnect their networks via an optical fiber interface (as opposed to an electrical interface) at a mutually agreed upon location, which is the demarcation point for each Party’s financial and operational responsibility.
- 2.2.28 **“Governmental Authority”** means any federal, state, local, foreign, or international court, government, department, commission, board, bureau, agency, official, or other regulatory, administrative, legislative, or judicial authority with jurisdiction over the subject matter at issue.
- 2.2.29 **“Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier” (ILEC)** is As Defined in the Act.

- 2.2.30 **“Indirect Interconnection”** provides for network interconnection between the Parties through a third party tandem provider performing a transit function.
- 2.2.31 **“Integrated Services Digital Network” (ISDN)** means a switched network service that provides end-to-end digital connectivity for the simultaneous transmission of voice and data.
- 2.2.32 **“Intellectual Property”** means copyrights, patents, trademarks, trade secrets, mask works and all other intellectual property rights.
- 2.2.33 **“Interconnection”** is As Defined in the Act.
- 2.2.34 **“Interconnection Activation Date”** is the date that the construction of the joint facility Interconnection arrangement has been completed, trunk groups have been established, joint trunk testing is completed and trunks have been mutually accepted by the Parties.
- 2.2.35 **“Interexchange Carrier” (IXC)** means a carrier that provides, directly or indirectly, interLATA or intraLATA Telephone Toll Services.
- 2.2.36 **“InterLATA”** is As Defined in the Act.
- 2.2.37 **“Internet Service Provider” (ISP)** is an Enhanced Service Provider that provides Internet Services, and is defined in paragraph 341 of the FCC’s First Report and Order in CC Docket No. 97-158.
- 2.2.38 **“Inter-wire Center Transport”** means the transmission facilities between serving wire centers.
- 2.2.39 **“IntraLATA Toll Traffic”** means the IntraLATA traffic between two locations within one LATA where one of the locations lies outside of the normal local calling area as defined by the applicable Commission. Optional extended local calling area service within a LATA is IntraLATA Toll Traffic, with the exception of Optional Local Measured Calling Service in effect in TDS Telecom’s tariffs as of the Effective date of this Agreement.
- 2.2.40 **“Line Information Data Base” (LIDB)** means a transaction-oriented database system that functions as a centralized repository for data storage and retrieval. LIDB is accessible through CCS networks. LIDB contains records associated with End User 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. Examples of information that Data Owners might store in LIDB and in their Line Records are: ABS Validation Data, Originating Line Number Screening (OLNS) data, ZIP Code data, and Calling Name Information.

- 2.2.41 **“Line Record”** means information in LIDB and/or the LIDB administrative system that is specific to a single telephone number or Special Billing Number.
- 2.2.42 **“Local Access Transport Area” (LATA)** is As Defined in the Act.
- 2.2.43 **“Local Traffic”**, for purposes of intercarrier compensation, is Telecommunications traffic originated by a End User Customer of one Party in an exchange on that Party’s network and terminated to a End User Customer of the other Party on that other Party’s network located within the same exchange or other non-optional extended local calling area associated with the originating customer’s exchange as defined by TDS TELECOM’s applicable local exchange tariff. Local Traffic does not include: (1) any ISP-Bound Traffic; (2) traffic that does not originate and terminate within the same TDS TELECOM local calling area as such local calling area is defined by TDS TELECOM’s applicable local exchange tariff; (3) Toll Traffic, including, but not limited to, calls originated on a 1+ presubscription basis, or on a casual dialed (10XXX/101XXXX) basis; (4) optional extended local calling area traffic; (5) special access, private line, Frame Relay, ATM, or any other traffic that is not switched by the terminating Party; or, (6) Tandem Transit Traffic.
- 2.2.44 **“Local Exchange Carrier” (LEC)** is As Defined in the Act.
- 2.2.45 **“Local Exchange Routing Guide” (LERG)** is a Telcordia Reference document used by Telecommunications Carriers to identify NPA-NXX routing and homing information as well as equipment designations.
- 2.2.46 **“Local Number Portability” (LNP)** means the ability of users of Telecommunications Services to retain, at the same location, the presence of a previously existing telephone number(s).
- 2.2.47 **“Location Routing Number” (LRN)** is a ten (10) digit number that is assigned to the network switching elements (Central Office – Host and Remotes as required) for the routing of calls in the network. The first six (6) digits of the LRN will be one of the assigned NPA NXX of the switching element. The purpose and functionality of the last four (4) digits of the LRN have not yet been defined but are passed across the network to the terminating switch.

- 2.2.48 **“Loss”** or **“Losses”** means any and all losses, costs (including court costs), claims, damages (including fines, penalties, and criminal or civil judgments and settlements), injuries, liabilities and expenses (including attorneys’ fees).
- 2.2.49 **“MECAB”** refers to the Multiple Exchange Carrier Access Billing document prepared by the Billing Committee of the Ordering and Billing Forum “OBF”, which functions under the auspices of the Carrier Liaison Committee “CLC of the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions “ATIS”. The MECAB document, published by ATIS as ATIS/OBF- MECAB- Issue 6, February 1998, contains the recommended guidelines for the billing of access services provided to an IXC by two or more LECs, or by one LEC in two or more states within a single LATA.
- 2.2.50 **“Meet-Point Billing” (MPB)** refers to the billing associated with interconnection of facilities between two or more LECs for the routing of traffic to and from an IXC with which one of the LECs does not have a direct connection. In a multi-bill environment, each Party bills the appropriate tariffed rate for its portion of a jointly provided Switched Exchange Access Service.
- 2.2.51 **“Multiple Bill/Single Tariff”** is the meet-point billing method where each LEC prepares and renders its own meet point bill to the IXC in accordance with its own tariff for that portion of the jointly provided Switched Access Service which that LEC provides. The MECAB documents refer to this method as Multiple Bill/reflecting a single tariff (MM).
- 2.2.52 **“Mutual Compensation”** is the compensation agreed upon by the Parties for “Local Calls” that originate on one network and terminate on the other network.
- 2.2.53 **“North American Numbering Plan” (NANP)** A numbering architecture in which every station in the NANP Area is identified by a unique ten-digit address consisting of a three-digit NPA code, a three digit central office code of the form NXX, and a four-digit line number of the form XXXX.
- 2.2.54 **“Number Portability”** is As Defined in the Act.
- 2.2.55 **“Numbering Plan Area” (NPA)** also called area code. An NPA is the 3-digit code that occupies the A, B, C positions in the 10-digit NANP format that applies throughout the NANP Area. NPAs are of the form NXX, where N represents the digits 2-9 and X represents any digit 0-9. In the NANP, NPAs are classified as either geographic or non-geographic. a)

Geographic NPAs are NPAs that correspond to discrete geographic areas within the NANP Area. b) Non-geographic NPAs are NPAs that do not correspond to discrete geographic areas, but which are instead assigned for services with attributes, functionalities, or requirements that transcend specific geographic boundaries. The common examples are NPAs in the N00 or 8xx format, e.g., 800, 866, 877 or 888.

- 2.2.56 **“NXX” or “Central Office Code”** is the three-digit switch entity indicator that is defined by the fourth through sixth digits of a 10-digit telephone number within the NANP. Each NXX Code contains 10,000 station numbers.
- 2.2.57 **“Ordering and Billing Forum” (OBF)** is a forum comprised of local telephone companies and interexchange carriers whose responsibility is to create and document Telecommunication industry guidelines and standards.
- 2.2.58 **“Party”** means either COMCAST or TDS TELECOM that is a party to this Agreement. **“Parties”** means both COMCAST and TDS TELECOM.
- 2.2.59 **“Permanent Number Portability” (PNP)** is a long-term method of providing LNP using LRN.
- 2.2.60 **“Point of Interconnection” (POI)** is a physical location at which the Parties’ networks meet for the purpose of establishing Interconnection and serve as the operational responsibility hand-off between the Parties’ networks. POIs include a number of different technologies and technical interfaces based on the Parties’ mutual agreement.
- 2.2.61 **“Rate Center”** means the specific geographic point that has been designated by a given LEC as being associated with a particular NPA-NXX code that has been assigned to the LEC for its provision of Telephone Exchange Service. The Rate Center is the finite geographic point identified by a specific V&H coordinate, which is used by that LEC to measure, for billing purposes, distance sensitive transmission services associated with the specific Rate Center.
- 2.2.62 **“Rating Point”** means the V&H coordinates associated with a particular telephone number for rating purposes.
- 2.2.63 **“Referral Announcement”** refers to a process by which calls are routed to an announcement that states the new telephone number of an End User.

- 2.2.64 **“Routing Point”** is a location which a LEC has designated on its own network as the homing or routing point for traffic inbound to Exchange Service provided by the LEC which bears a certain NPA-NXX designation. The Routing Point is employed to calculate mileage measurements for the distance-sensitive transport element charges of Switched Access services. The Routing Point need not be the same as the Rating Point, nor must it be located within the Rate Center area, but must be in the same LATA as the NPA-NXX.
- 2.2.65 **“Signal Transfer Point” (STP)** performs a packet switching function that routes signaling messages among Service Switching Points (SSP), Service Control Points (SCP), Signaling Points (SP), and other STPs in order to set up calls and to query databases for Advanced Services.
- 2.2.66 **Signaling Transport Signal level (STS-n)** is an electrical signal that is converted to or from SONET’s optically based signal. Level 1 is 51.84 Mb/s or the electrical equivalent to OC-1 optical signal, level 2 is 155.52 Mb/s or the electrical equivalent to OC-3.
- 2.2.67 **“Signaling System 7” (SS7)** means a signaling protocol used by the CCS Network.
- 2.2.68 **“Switched Exchange Access Service”** means the offering of transmission or switching services to Telecommunications Carriers for the purpose of the origination or termination of telephone toll service. Switched Exchange Access Services include: Feature Group A, Feature Group B, Feature Group D, 800/8xx access, and 900 access and their successors or similar Switched Exchange Access Services.
- 2.2.69 **“Synchronous Optical Network” (SONET)** is an optical interface standard that allows inter-networking of transmission products from multiple vendors. The base rate is 51.84 Mbps (“OC-1/STS-1”) and higher rates are direct multiples of the base rate, up to 13.22 Gbps.
- 2.2.70 **“Tandem Transit Traffic”** is defined as local traffic or ISP-bound traffic originated on one Party's network, transited through the other Party's network, and terminated to a third party telecommunications carrier's network or that is originated on a third party telecommunications carrier's network, transited through a Party's network and terminated to the other Party's network. For purposes of this Agreement, Tandem Transit Traffic does not include overflow traffic between the Parties that is routed through a third party tandem provider.
- 2.2.71 **“Telecommunications”** is As Defined in the Act.

2.2.72 **“Telecommunications Carrier”** is As Defined in the Act.

2.2.73 **“Telecommunications Service”** is As Defined in the Act.

2.2.74 **“Telephone Exchange Service”** is As Defined in the Act.

2.2.75 **“Telephone Toll Service”** is As Defined in the Act.

2.2.76 **“Trunk”** means a communication line between two switching systems.

2.2.77 **“Wire Center”** is the location of one or more local switching systems. A point at which End User’s loops within a defined geographic area converge. Such local loops may be served by one (1) or more Central Office Switches within such premises.

2.3 For purposes of this Agreement, certain terms have been defined in this Agreement to encompass meanings that may differ from, or be in addition to, the normal connotation of the defined word. Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, any term defined or used in the singular will include the plural. The words “include,” “includes,” and “including” shall be deemed to be followed by the phrase “without limitation” and/or “but not limited to.” The words “will” and “shall” are used interchangeably throughout this Agreement and the use of either connotes a mandatory requirement. The use of one or the other will not mean a different degree of right or obligation for either Party. A defined word intended to convey its special meaning is capitalized when used. Other terms that are capitalized and not defined in this Agreement will have the meaning in the Act, or in the absence of their inclusion in the Act, their customary usage in the Telecommunications industry as of the Effective Date.

3. EFFECTIVE DATE

3.1 This Agreement becomes effective (“Effective Date”) (1) when executed by each Party and after approval by the Commission under Section 252(e) of the Act; or (2) absent such Commission approval, by operation of law pursuant to Section 252(e)(4) of the Act.

4. INTERVENING LAW

4.1 The Parties acknowledge that the respective rights and obligations of each Party as set forth in this Agreement are based upon the Act and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder by the FCC and the Commission as of the Effective Date (“Applicable Rules”). In the event of any amendment of the Act, any effective legislative action or any effective regulatory or judicial order, rule, regulation, arbitration award, Commission or court decision pursuant to dispute resolution procedures under this Agreement or other legal action purporting to

apply the provisions of the Act to the Parties or in which the court, FCC or the Commission makes a generic determination that is generally applicable which revises, modifies or reverses the Applicable Rules (individually, "Amended Rules"), either Party may, by providing written notice to the other Party, require that the affected provisions of this Agreement be renegotiated in good faith and this Agreement shall be amended accordingly to reflect the pricing, terms and conditions of each such Amended Rules relating to any of the provisions in this Agreement. If negotiations fail, disputes between the Parties concerning the interpretation of the actions required or provisions affected by such governmental actions shall be resolved pursuant to the dispute resolution process provided for in this Agreement. The Parties further acknowledge and agree that by executing this Agreement, neither Party waives any of its rights, remedies, or arguments with respect to such decisions and any remand thereof, including its right to seek legal review or a stay pending appeal of such decisions or its rights under this Intervening Law paragraph.

5. TERM OF AGREEMENT

- 5.1 This Agreement will become effective as of the Effective Date stated above, and unless terminated earlier in accordance with the terms hereof, shall continue in effect until April 30, 2010 (the "Initial Term"), and thereafter the Agreement shall continue in force and effect unless and until terminated as provided herein.
- 5.2 Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, either Party (the "Terminating Party") may terminate this Agreement and the provision of any Interconnection, functions, facilities, products or services provided pursuant to this Agreement in the event that the other Party fails to perform a material obligation or breaches a material term of this Agreement and the other Party (i) fails to cure such nonperformance or breach within forty-five (45) calendar days after receiving written notice thereof pursuant to this Section 5.2; and (ii) has not commenced a dispute regarding the subject of the breach pursuant to Section 16.2.1 within the same forty-five (45) calendar days; and (iii) fails to obtain and provide to the Terminating Party within that same forty-five (45) calendar days an Order by the Commission prohibiting or delaying such termination. Any termination pursuant to this Section 5.2 shall take effect on or after the forty-fifth (45th) calendar day where conditions (i), (ii), and (iii) above pertain.
- 5.3 Upon the expiration of the Initial Term or any time thereafter, either Party may terminate this Agreement by providing written notice to the other Party of its intention to terminate, such written notice to be received at least ninety (90) days in advance of the date of termination. Neither Party shall have any liability to the other Party for termination of this Agreement pursuant to this Section 5.3 other than its obligations under Sections 5.4, 5.5, 5.6 and 5.7.
- 5.4 Upon termination or expiration of this Agreement in accordance with Section 5.2:

- 5.4.1 Each Party shall continue to comply with its obligations set forth in Section 44; and
- 5.4.2 Each Party shall promptly pay all amounts owed under this Agreement, or follow the procedures for billing disputes as set forth herein.
- 5.4.3 Each Party's confidentiality obligations shall survive; and
- 5.4.4 Each Party 's indemnification obligations shall survive.
- 5.5 In the event of termination of this Agreement pursuant to Section 5.3, where neither Party has requested renegotiation under Section 5.6, TDS TELECOM and COMCAST shall cooperate in good faith to effect an orderly transition of service under this Agreement; provided that each Party shall be solely responsible (from a financial, operational and administrative standpoint) to ensure that its End Users have been transitioned to a new LEC by the expiration date or termination date of this Agreement.
- 5.6 If either Party terminates this Agreement pursuant to Section 5.3, the other Party may request renegotiation of the Agreement by providing written notice thereof to the terminating Party within thirty (30) days of the other Party's receipt of the termination notice. Any such request shall be deemed by both Parties to be a good faith request for Interconnection pursuant to Section 252 of the Act (or any successor provision), regardless of which Party made such request. If the Parties do not execute a new interconnection agreement within the respective periods set under the Act, either Party may exercise its applicable rights under the Act.
- 5.7 If either Party requests renegotiation of this Agreement pursuant to Sections 4.1 or 5.6 above, the rates, terms and conditions of this Agreement shall continue in full force and effect until the effective date of its successor agreement, whether such successor agreement is established via negotiation, arbitration or pursuant to Section 252(i) of the Act; provided, however, when a successor agreement becomes effective and the Parties agree that the terms, rates and charges of such successor Agreement shall apply retroactively back to the date this Agreement is terminated or expires, whichever is later, and that the retro-active true-up shall be completed within ninety (90) calendar days following the effective date of such successor Agreement. Notwithstanding the forgoing, no retroactive true-up shall be made for any charges that were incurred more than twelve (12) months prior to the true-up date.

6. ASSIGNMENT

- 6.1 Neither Party hereto may assign or otherwise transfer its rights or obligations under this Agreement, except with the prior written consent of the other Party

hereto, which consent will not be unreasonably withheld; provided, that either Party may assign its rights and delegate its benefits, duties and obligations under this Agreement without the consent of the other Party to any Affiliate, provided the obligations and duties of either Party under this Agreement shall be binding on all successors in interest and assigns of such Party. Nothing in this Section is intended to impair the right of either Party to utilize subcontractors.

- 6.2 Each Party will notify the other in writing not less than thirty (30) days in advance of anticipated assignment.

7. DELEGATION TO AFFILIATE

- 7.1 Each Party may, without the consent of the other Party, fulfill its obligations under this Agreement by itself or may cause its Affiliate(s) to take some or all of such actions to fulfill such obligations. Upon such delegation, the Affiliate shall become a primary obligor hereunder with respect to the delegated matter, but such delegation shall not relieve the delegating Party of its obligations as co-obligor hereunder. Any Party which elects to perform its obligations through an Affiliate shall cause its Affiliate to take all action necessary for the performance of such Party's obligations hereunder. Each Party represents and warrants that if an obligation under this Agreement is to be performed by an Affiliate, such Party has the authority to cause such Affiliate to perform such obligation and such Affiliate will have the resources required to accomplish the delegated performance.

8. CONFIDENTIALITY AND PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

- 8.1 For the purposes of this Agreement, "Proprietary Information" means confidential or proprietary technical or business information given by one Party ("the Disclosing Party") or its agent, employee, representative or Affiliate to the other Party ("the Receiving Party") in connection with this Agreement, during negotiations and the term of this Agreement:

8.1.1 In written, graphic, electromagnetic, or other tangible form and marked at the time of delivery as "Confidential" or "Proprietary" however, regardless of whether so marked, any non-public information which, because of legends or other markings, the circumstances of disclosure or the information itself, is otherwise reasonably understood by the Receiving Party to be proprietary and confidential to the Disclosing Party, shall be deemed to be Proprietary Information; or

8.1.2 Any portion of any notes, analyses, data, compilations, studies, interpretations or other documents prepared by any Receiving Party to the extent the same contain, reflect, are derived from, or are based upon, any of the information described in this Section 8, unless such information

contained or reflected in such notes, analyses, etc. is so commingled with the Receiving Party's information that disclosure could not possibly disclose the underlying proprietary or confidential information (such portions of such notes, analyses, etc. referred to herein as "**Derivative Information**").

8.2 Proprietary Information Shall be Held in Confidence

8.2.1 Each Receiving Party agrees that:

8.2.1.1 all Proprietary Information communicated to it or any of its agents, attorneys, employees, representatives and Affiliates in connection with this Agreement shall be held in confidence to the same extent as such Receiving Party holds its own confidential information of like importance; provided that such Receiving Party and its agents, attorneys, employees, representatives and Affiliates shall not use less than a reasonable standard of care in maintaining the confidentiality of such information;

8.2.1.2 it will not, and it will not permit any of its agents, attorneys, employees, representatives and Affiliates to disclose such Proprietary Information to any non-party to this Agreement ("Third Party");

8.2.1.3 it will disclose Proprietary Information only to those of its agents, attorneys, employees, representatives and Affiliates who have a need for it in connection with the use or provision of any services required to fulfill this Agreement; and

8.2.1.4 it will, and will cause each of its agents, attorneys, employees, representatives and Affiliates, to use such Proprietary Information only to perform its obligations under this Agreement or to use services provided by the Disclosing Party hereunder and for no other purpose, including its own marketing purposes.

8.2.2 A Receiving Party may disclose Proprietary Information of a Disclosing Party to the Receiving Party's agents, attorneys, employees, representatives and Affiliates who need to know such information to perform their obligations under this Agreement; provided that before disclosing any Proprietary Information to any agent, employee, representative or Affiliate, the Receiving Party shall notify such agent, employee, representative or Affiliate of such Party's obligation to comply with this Agreement. Each Receiving Party making such disclosure shall notify the Disclosing Party as soon as possible if it has knowledge of a breach of this Agreement in any material respect.

- 8.2.3 Proprietary Information shall not be reproduced by any Receiving Party in any form except to the extent (i) necessary to comply with the provisions of Section 8.5 and (ii) reasonably necessary to perform its obligations under this Agreement.
- 8.3 Unless otherwise agreed, the obligations of confidentiality and non-use set forth in this Agreement do not apply to such Proprietary Information that:
- 8.3.1 Was at the time of receipt, already known to the Receiving Party, free of any obligation to keep confidential and evidenced by written records prepared prior to delivery by the Disclosing Party; or
- 8.3.2 Is, or becomes publicly known through no wrongful act of the Receiving Party; or
- 8.3.3 Is rightfully received from a Third Party having no direct or indirect secrecy or confidentiality obligation to the Disclosing Party with respect to such information; provided that such Receiving Party has exercised commercially reasonable efforts to determine whether such Third Party has any such obligation; or
- 8.3.4 Is independently developed by an agent, employee representative or Affiliate of the Receiving Party and such Party is not involved in any manner with the provision of services pursuant to this Agreement and does not have any direct or indirect access to the Proprietary Information; or
- 8.3.5 Is disclosed to a Third Party by the Disclosing Party without similar restrictions on such Third Party's rights; or
- 8.3.6 Is approved for release by written authorization of the Disclosing Party, but only to the extent of the authorization granted; or
- 8.3.7 Is required to be made public by the Receiving Party pursuant to Applicable Law or regulation, provided that such production or disclosure shall have been made in accordance with Section 8.5.
- 8.4 Proposed Disclosure of Proprietary Information to a Governmental Authority
- 8.4.1 If a Receiving Party desires to disclose or provide to a Commission, the FCC or any other governmental authority any Proprietary Information of the Disclosing Party, such Receiving Party shall, prior to and as a condition of such disclosure, (i) provide the Disclosing Party with written notice and the form of such proposed disclosure as soon as possible but in any event early enough to allow the Disclosing Party to protect its

interests in the Proprietary Information to be disclosed and (ii) attempt to obtain in accordance with the applicable procedures of the intended recipient of such Proprietary Information an appropriate order for protective relief or other reliable assurance that confidential treatment shall be accorded to such Proprietary Information.

8.4.2 If a Receiving Party is required by any Governmental Authority or by Applicable Law to disclose any Proprietary Information, then such Receiving Party shall provide the Disclosing Party with written notice of such requirement as soon as possible, and in no event later than five (5) calendar days after receipt of such requirement, and prior to such disclosure. Upon receipt of written notice of the requirement to disclose Proprietary Information, the Disclosing Party at its expense, may then either seek appropriate protective relief in advance of such requirement to prevent all or part of such disclosure or waive the Receiving Party's compliance with this Section 8.4 with respect to all or part of such requirement.

8.4.3 The Receiving Party shall use all commercially reasonable efforts to cooperate with the Disclosing Party in attempting to obtain any protective relief which such Disclosing Party chooses to seek pursuant to this Section 8.4. In the absence of such relief, if the Receiving Party is legally compelled to disclose any Proprietary Information, then the Receiving Party shall exercise all commercially reasonable efforts to preserve the confidentiality of the Proprietary information, including cooperating with the Disclosing Party to obtain an appropriate order for protective relief or other reliable assurance that confidential treatment will be accorded the Proprietary Information.

8.5 Notwithstanding any of the foregoing, each Party shall be entitled to disclose Proprietary Information on a confidential basis to regulatory agencies upon request for information as to a Disclosing Party's activities under the Act if the Party has provided reasonable prior written notice to the other Party and obtained an appropriate order for protective relief or other reliable assurance that confidential treatment shall be accorded to such Proprietary Information.

8.6 Return of Proprietary Information

8.6.1 All Proprietary Information, other than Derivative Information, shall remain the property of the Disclosing Party, and all documents or other tangible media delivered to the Receiving Party that embody such Proprietary Information shall be, at the option of the Disclosing Party, either promptly returned to Disclosing Party or destroyed, except as otherwise may be required from time to time by Applicable Law (in which case the use and disclosure of such Proprietary Information will continue

to be subject to this Agreement), upon the earlier of (i) the date on which the Receiving Party's need for it has expired and (ii) the expiration or termination of this Agreement.

8.6.2 At the request of the Disclosing Party, any Derivative Information shall be, at the option of the Receiving Party, either promptly returned to the Disclosing Party or destroyed, except as otherwise may be required from time to time by Applicable Law (in which case the use and disclosure of such Derivative Information will continue to be subject to this Agreement), upon the earlier of (i) the date on which the Receiving Party's need for it has expired and (ii) the expiration or termination of this Agreement.

8.6.3 The Receiving Party may at any time either return the Proprietary Information to the Disclosing Party or destroy such Proprietary Information. If the Receiving Party elects to destroy Proprietary Information, all copies of such information shall be destroyed and upon the written request of the Disclosing Party, the Receiving Party shall provide to the Disclosing Party written certification of such destruction. The destruction or return of Proprietary information shall not relieve any Receiving Party of its obligation to continue to treat such Proprietary Information in the manner required by this Agreement.

8.7 Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, the Proprietary Information provisions of this Agreement shall apply to all information furnished by either Party to the other in furtherance of the purpose of this Agreement, even if furnished before the date of this Agreement and each Party's obligation to safeguard Proprietary Information disclosed prior to expiration or termination of this Agreement will survive such expiration or termination.

8.8 Pursuant to Section 222(b) of the Act, both Parties agree to limit their use of Proprietary Information received from the other to the permitted purposes identified in the Act.

8.9 Each Party has the right to refuse to accept any Confidential Information under this Agreement, and nothing in this Section 8 shall obligate either Party to disclose to the other Party any particular information.

8.10 The Parties agree that an impending or existing violation of any provision of this Section 8 would cause the Disclosing Party irreparable injury for which it would have no adequate remedy at law, and agree that Disclosing Party shall be entitled to obtain immediate injunctive relief prohibiting such violation, in addition to any other rights and remedies available to it at law or in equity, including both specific performance and monetary damages. In the event of any breach of this Section 8 for which legal or equitable relief is sought, all reasonable attorney's

fees and other reasonable costs associated therewith shall be recoverable by the prevailing Party.

9. LIABILITY AND INDEMNIFICATION

9.1 Limitation of Liabilities

9.1.1 Except for indemnity obligations expressly set forth herein, each Party's liability to the other Party for any Loss relating to or arising out of such Party's performance under this Agreement, including any negligent act or omission (whether willful or inadvertent), whether in contract, tort or otherwise, including alleged breaches of this Agreement and causes of action alleged to arise from allegations that breach of this Agreement also constitute a violation of a statute, including the Act, shall not exceed in total the amount TDS TELECOM or COMCAST has charged or would have charged to the other Party for the affected Interconnection, functions, facilities, products and service(s) that were not performed or were improperly performed.

9.1.2 Except for losses alleged or made by an end user of either Party, in the case of any loss alleged or made by a third party arising under the negligence or willful misconduct of both Parties, each Party shall bear, and its obligation under this section shall be limited to, that portion (as mutually agreed to by the Parties) of the resulting expense caused by its own negligence or willful misconduct or that of its agents, servants, contractors, or others acting in aid or concert with it.

9.2 NO CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES

9.2.1 NEITHER COMCAST NOR TDS TELECOM WILL BE LIABLE TO THE OTHER PARTY FOR ANY INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL CONSEQUENTIAL, RELIANCE, OR SPECIAL DAMAGES SUFFERED BY SUCH OTHER PARTIES (INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION DAMAGES FOR HARM TO BUSINESS, LOST REVENUES, LOST SAVINGS, OR LOST PROFITS SUFFERED BY SUCH OTHER PARTIES), REGARDLESS OF THE FORM OF ACTION, WHETHER IN CONTRACT, WARRANTY, STRICT LIABILITY, OR TORT, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION NEGLIGENCE OF ANY KIND WHETHER ACTIVE OR PASSIVE, AND REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE PARTIES KNEW OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT SUCH DAMAGES COULD RESULT. EACH PARTY HEREBY RELEASES THE OTHER PARTY (AND SUCH OTHER PARTY'S SUBSIDIARIES AND AFFILIATES, AND THEIR RESPECTIVE OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, EMPLOYEES, AND AGENTS FROM ANY SUCH CLAIM. NOTHING CONTAINED IN

THIS SECTION WILL LIMIT TDS TELECOM'S OR COMCAST'S LIABILITY TO THE OTHER FOR (i) WILLFUL OR INTENTIONAL MISCONDUCT (INCLUDING GROSS NEGLIGENCE); AND (ii) BODILY INJURY, DEATH, OR DAMAGE TO TANGIBLE REAL OR TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY PROXIMATELY CAUSED BY TDS TELECOM'S OR COMCAST'S NEGLIGENT ACT OR OMISSION OR THAT OF THEIR RESPECTIVE AGENTS, SUBCONTRACTORS OR EMPLOYEES, NOR WILL ANYTHING CONTAINED IN THIS SECTION LIMIT THE PARTIES' INDEMNIFICATION OBLIGATIONS, AS SPECIFIED BELOW.

10. REMEDIES

10.1 Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, no remedy set forth herein is intended to be exclusive and each and every remedy shall be cumulative and in addition to any other rights or remedies now or hereafter existing under Applicable Law or otherwise.

11. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

11.1 Any Intellectual Property originating from or developed by a Party shall remain in the exclusive ownership of that Party.

12. INDEMNITY

12.1 Except as otherwise expressly provided herein, and to the extent not prohibited by Applicable Law, each Party (the "Indemnifying Party") shall release, defend and indemnify the other Party (the "Indemnified Party") and hold such Indemnified Party harmless against any Loss to a Third Party arising out of the negligence or willful misconduct ("Fault") of such Indemnifying Party, its agents, its End Users, contractors, or others retained by such Parties, in connection with the Indemnifying Party's provision of Interconnection, functions, facilities, products and services under this Agreement; provided, however, that (i) with respect to employees or agents of the Indemnifying Party, such Fault occurs while performing within the scope of their employment, (ii) with respect to subcontractors of the Indemnifying Party, such Fault occurs in the course of performing duties of the subcontractor under its subcontract with the Indemnifying Party, and (iii) with respect to the Fault of employees or agents of such subcontractor, such Fault occurs while performing within the scope of their employment by the subcontractor with respect to such duties of the subcontractor under the subcontract.

12.2 A Party (the "**Indemnifying Party**") shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the other Party ("**Indemnified Party**") against any claim or Loss arising from the

Indemnifying Party's use of Interconnection, functions, facilities, products and services provided under this Agreement involving:

12.2.1 Any claim or Loss arising from such Indemnifying Party's use of Interconnection, functions, facilities, products and services offered under this Agreement, involving any claim for libel, slander, invasion of privacy, or infringement of Intellectual Property rights arising from the Indemnifying Party's or its End User's use.

12.2.2 The foregoing includes any claims or Losses arising from disclosure of any End User-specific information associated with either the originating or terminating numbers used to provision Interconnection, functions, facilities, products or services provided hereunder and all other claims arising out of any act or omission of the End User in the course of using any Interconnection, functions, facilities, products or services provided pursuant to this Agreement.

12.2.3 The foregoing includes any Losses arising from claims for actual or alleged infringement of any Intellectual Property right of a Third Party to the extent that such Loss arises from an Indemnifying Party's or an Indemnifying Party's End User's use of Interconnection, functions, facilities, products or services provided under this Agreement; provided, however, that an Indemnifying Party's obligation to defend and indemnify the Indemnified Party shall not apply:

12.2.3.1 where an Indemnified Party or its End User modifies Interconnection, functions, facilities, products or services; provided under this Agreement without authorization of the Indemnifying Party; and

12.2.3.2 no infringement would have occurred without such modification.

12.3 Consistent with and subject to the waiver of subrogation set forth under Section 26.6.2, COMCAST shall reimburse TDS TELECOM for damages to TDS TELECOM's facilities utilized to provide Interconnection hereunder caused by the negligence or willful act of COMCAST, its agents or subcontractors or COMCAST's End User or resulting from COMCAST's improper use of TDS TELECOM's facilities, or due to malfunction of any facilities, functions, products, services or equipment provided by COMCAST, its agents or subcontractors or COMCAST's End User. Upon reimbursement for damages, TDS TELECOM will cooperate with COMCAST in prosecuting a claim against the person causing such damage. COMCAST shall be subrogated to the right of recovery by TDS TELECOM for the damages to the extent of such payment.

12.4 Consistent with and subject to the waiver of subrogation set forth under Section 26.6.2, TDS TELECOM shall reimburse COMCAST for damages to COMCAST's facilities utilized to provide or access Interconnection hereunder caused by the negligence or willful act of TDS TELECOM, its agents or subcontractors or End User or resulting from TDS TELECOM's improper use of COMCAST's facilities, or due to malfunction of any facilities, functions, products, services or equipment provided by TDS TELECOM, its agents or subcontractors or TDS TELECOM's End User. Upon reimbursement for damages, COMCAST will cooperate with TDS TELECOM in prosecuting a claim against the person causing such damage. TDS TELECOM shall be subrogated to the right of recovery by COMCAST for the damages to the extent of such payment.

12.5 Obligation to Defend; Notice; Cooperation

12.5.1 Should a claim arise for indemnification under this Section, the relevant Indemnified Party, as appropriate, will promptly notify the Indemnifying Party and request in writing the Indemnifying Party to defend the same. Failure to so notify the Indemnifying Party will not relieve the Indemnifying Party of any liability that the Indemnifying Party might have, except to the extent that such failure prejudices the Indemnifying Party's ability to defend such claim. The Indemnifying Party will have the right to defend against such liability or assertion in which event the Indemnifying Party will give written notice to the Indemnified Party of acceptance of the defense of such claim and the identity of counsel selected by the Indemnifying Party.

12.5.2 Until such time as Indemnifying Party provides written notice of acceptance of the defense of such claim, the Indemnified Party shall defend such claim, at the expense of the Indemnifying Party, subject to any right of the Indemnifying Party to seek reimbursement for the costs of such defense in the event that it is determined that Indemnifying Party had no obligation to indemnify the Indemnified Party for such claim.

12.5.3 Upon accepting the defense, the Indemnifying Party shall have exclusive right to control and conduct the defense and settlement of any such claims, subject to consultation with the Indemnified Party. So long as the Indemnifying Party is controlling and conducting the defense, the Indemnifying Party shall not be liable for any settlement by the Indemnified Party unless such Indemnifying Party has approved such settlement in advance and agrees to be bound by the agreement incorporating such settlement.

12.6 At any time, an Indemnified Party will have the right to refuse such compromise or settlement and, at the refusing Party's cost, to take over such defense, provided

that in such event the Indemnifying Party will not be responsible for, nor will it be obligated to indemnify the refusing Party against any cost or liability in excess of such refused compromise or settlement.

- 12.7 In the event the Indemnifying Party does not accept the defense of any indemnified claim as provided above, the Indemnified Party will have the right to employ counsel for such defense at the expense of the Indemnifying Party unless it is determined that Indemnifying Party had no obligation to indemnify the Indemnified Party for such claim.
- 12.8 Each Party agrees to cooperate and to cause its employees and agents to cooperate with the other Party in the defense of any such claim and the relevant records of each Party shall be available to the other Party with respect to any such defense, subject to the restrictions and limitations set forth in Section 8.

13. OSHA STATEMENT

- 13.1 Each Party, in recognition of the other Party's status as an employer, agrees to abide by and to undertake the duty of compliance with all federal, state and local laws, safety and health regulations relating to the space which Party has assumed the duty to maintain pursuant to this Agreement, and to indemnify and hold the other Party harmless for any judgments, citations, fines, or other penalties which are assessed against the indemnified Party as the result of the indemnifying Party's failure to comply with any of the foregoing.

14. DEPOSITS

- 14.1 The Parties will, in order to safeguard their interests, only require the billed Party which has a proven history of late payments, defined as two consecutive late payments within a twelve (12) month period, or does not have established credit to make a deposit, prior to or at any time after the provision of service, to be held by the billing Party as a guarantee of the payment of rates and charges. No such deposit will be required of the billed Party which is a successor of a company which has established credit and has no history of late payments to the billing Party. Such deposit may not exceed the actual or estimated rates and charges for the service for a two-month period. The fact that a deposit has been made in no way relieves the billed Party from complying with the billing Party's regulations as to the prompt payment of bills. At such time as the provision of the service to the billed Party is terminated, the amount of the deposit, plus any interest accrued on a cash deposit pursuant to Section 14.2 below, will be credited to the billed Party's account and any credit balance which may remain will be refunded.

- 14.2 Such a deposit will be refunded or credited to the billed Party's account when the billed Party has established credit or, in any event, after the billed Party has established a one-year prompt payment record at any time prior to the termination of the provision of the service to the billed Party. In the case of a cash deposit, for the period the deposit is held by the billing Party, the billed Party will receive simple interest at the lower of: the rate of 1% per month (12% annually) or the highest rate allowed by applicable law. The rate will be calculated from the date the billed Party's deposit is received by the billing Party up to and including the date such deposit is credited to the billed Party's account or the date the deposit is refunded by the billing Party. Should a deposit be credited to the billed Party's account, as indicated above, no interest will accrue on the deposit from the date such deposit is credited to the customer's account.

15. BILLING AND PAYMENT OF RATES AND CHARGES

- 15.1 Unless otherwise stated, each Party will render monthly bill(s) to the other for Interconnection, functions, facilities, products and services provided hereunder at the rates set forth in the applicable Appendix Pricing, as set forth in applicable tariffs or other documents specifically referenced herein and, as applicable, as agreed upon by the Parties or authorized by a Party.

15.1.1 Remittance in full of all bills rendered by TDS TELECOM is due within thirty (30) calendar days of each bill date (the "**Bill Due Date**").

15.1.2 Remittance in full of all bills rendered by COMCAST is due within thirty (30) calendar days of each bill date (the "**Bill Due Date**").

15.1.3 If either Party fails to remit payment for any undisputed charges for services by the Bill Due Date, or if a payment or any portion of a payment is received after the Bill Due Date, or if a payment or any portion of a payment is received in funds which are not immediately available as of the Bill Due Date (individually and collectively, "**Past Due**"), then a late payment charge shall be assessed as provided in Section 15.1.3.1 as applicable.

15.1.3.1 If any charge incurred under this Agreement is Past Due by fifteen days or more, the unpaid amounts shall accrue interest from the Bill Due Date at the lesser of (i) one and one-half percent (1 ½%) per month and (ii) the highest rate of interest that may be charged under Applicable Law, to and including the date that the payment is actually made and available.

- 15.2 If any portion of an amount due to a Party (the "**Billing Party**") under this Agreement is subject to a bona fide dispute between the Parties, the Party billed (the "**Non-Paying Party**") shall give written notice to the Billing Party of the

amounts it disputes (“**Disputed Amounts**”) and include in such written notice the specific details and reasons for disputing each item listed in Section 16.3.1.1. The Non-Paying Party shall pay when due all undisputed amounts to the Billing Party.

- 15.3 Issues related to Disputed Amounts shall be resolved in accordance with the procedures identified in the Dispute Resolution provisions set forth in Section 16.
- 15.4 If the Non-Paying Party disputes any charges and any portion of the dispute is resolved in favor of such Non-Paying Party, the Parties shall cooperate to ensure that all of the following actions are taken:
- 15.4.1 the Billing Party shall credit the invoice of the Non-Paying Party for that portion of the Disputed Amounts resolved in favor of the Non-Paying Party, together with any Late Payment Charges assessed with respect thereto no later than the second Bill Due Date after the resolution of the Dispute; and
- 15.4.2 no later than the third Bill Due Date after the resolution of the dispute regarding the Disputed Amounts, the Non-Paying Party shall pay the Billing Party for that portion of the Disputed Amounts resolved in favor of the Billing Party, together with any Late Payment Charges such Billing Party is entitled to receive pursuant to this Section.
- 15.5 Failure by the Non-Paying Party to pay any charges determined by final non-appealable order resulting from the dispute resolution process to be owed to the Billing Party within the time specified in the order or if no time is specified, then within the time set forth in Section 15.4.2 shall be grounds for termination of this Agreement.
- 15.6 If either Party request one or more additional copies of a bill, the requesting Party will pay the Billing Party a reasonable fee for each additional copy, unless such copy was requested due to failure in delivery of the original bill or correction(s) to the original bill.

16. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

16.1 Finality of Disputes

16.1.1 Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement, no claims will be brought for disputes arising from this Agreement more than twenty-four (24) months from the date the occurrence which gives rise to the dispute is discovered or reasonably should have been discovered with the exercise of due care and attention.

16.1.2 The Parties desire to resolve disputes arising out of this Agreement without litigation. Accordingly, except for action seeking a temporary restraining order or an injunction related to the purposes of this Agreement, or suit to compel compliance with this Dispute Resolution process, the Parties agree to use the following Dispute Resolution procedure with respect to any controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this Agreement or its breach. Services as provided under this Agreement shall continue during the pendency of a dispute pursuant to this Section 16.

16.2 Commencing Dispute Resolution

16.2.1 Dispute Resolution shall commence upon one Party's receipt of written notice of a controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this Agreement or its breach. No Party may pursue any claim unless such written notice has first been given to the other Party. There are three (3) separate Dispute Resolution methods each of which is described below:

16.2.1.1 Service Center;

16.2.1.2 Informal Dispute Resolution; and

16.2.1.3 Formal Dispute Resolution.

16.3 Service Center Dispute Resolution

16.3.1 The following Dispute Resolution procedures will apply with respect to any billing dispute arising out of or relating to the Agreement.

16.3.1.1 If the written notice given pursuant to Section 15.2 discloses that a dispute relates to billing, then the procedures set forth in this Section 16.3.1 shall be used and the dispute shall first be referred to the appropriate service center for resolution. In order to resolve a billing dispute, one Party shall furnish the other Party written notice of (i) the date of the bill in question, (ii) BAN number of the bill in question, (iii) telephone number, circuit ID number or trunk number in question, (iv) any USOC information relating to the item questioned, (v) amount billed, (vi) amount in question, and (vii) the reason that the Party disputes the billed amount.

16.3.1.2 The Parties shall attempt to resolve Disputed Amounts appearing on current billing statements thirty (30) to sixty (60) calendar days from the Bill Due Date (provided the disputing Party furnishes all requisite information and evidence under Section

16.3.1.1 by the Bill Due Date). If not resolved within thirty (30) calendar days, upon request, the Parties will notify each other of the status of the dispute and the expected resolution date.

16.3.1.3 The Parties shall attempt to resolve Disputed Amounts appearing on statements prior to the current billing statement within thirty (30) to ninety (90) calendar days, but resolution may take longer depending on the complexity of the dispute. Either Party may initiate Informal Resolution of Disputes identified in Section 16.4 prior to initiating Formal Resolution of Disputes identified in Section 16.5 if the Parties are unable to resolve the Disputed Amounts.

16.4 Informal Resolution of Disputes

16.4.1 Upon receipt by one Party of notice of a dispute by the other Party pursuant to Section 16.2 or Section 16.3, each Party will appoint a knowledgeable, responsible representative to meet and negotiate in good faith to resolve any dispute arising under this Agreement. The location, form, frequency, duration, and conclusion of these discussions will be left to the discretion of the representatives. Upon agreement, the representatives may utilize other alternative Dispute Resolution procedures such as mediation to assist in the negotiations. Discussions and the correspondence among the representatives for purposes of settlement are exempt from discovery and production and will not be admissible in the arbitration described below or in any lawsuit without the concurrence of both Parties. Documents identified in or provided with such communications that were not prepared for purposes of the negotiations are not so exempted, and, if otherwise admissible, may be admitted in evidence in the arbitration or lawsuit.

16.5 Formal Resolution of Disputes

16.5.1 Except as otherwise specifically set forth in this Agreement, for all disputes arising out of or pertaining to this Agreement, including but not limited to matters not specifically addressed elsewhere in this Agreement which require clarification, re-negotiation, modifications or additions to this Agreement, either Party may invoke dispute resolution procedures available pursuant to the dispute resolution rules, as amended from time to time, of the Commission. Also, upon mutual agreement, the Parties may seek commercial binding arbitration as specified in Section 16.6.1.

16.5.2 The Parties agree that the Dispute Resolution procedures set forth in this Agreement are not intended to conflict with applicable requirements of the

Act or the Commission with regard to procedures for the resolution of disputes arising out of this Agreement.

16.6 Arbitration

16.6.1 When both Parties agree to binding arbitration, disputes will be submitted to a single arbitrator pursuant to the Commercial Arbitration Rules of the American Arbitration Association or pursuant to such other provider of arbitration services or rules as the Parties may agree. The arbitrator shall be a person knowledgeable in the area of telecommunications. The place where each separate arbitration will be held will be Philadelphia, PA, unless the Parties agree otherwise. The arbitration hearing will be requested to commence within sixty (60) days of the demand for arbitration. The arbitrator will control the scheduling so as to process the matter expeditiously. The Parties may submit written briefs upon a schedule determined by the arbitrator. The Parties will request that the arbitrator rule on the dispute by issuing a written opinion within thirty (30) days after the close of hearings. The arbitrator has no authority to order punitive or consequential damages. The times specified in this Section may be extended or shortened upon mutual agreement of the Parties or by the arbitrator upon a showing of good cause. Each Party will bear its own costs of these procedures. The Parties will equally split the fees of the arbitration and the arbitrator. Judgment upon the award rendered by the arbitrator may be entered in any court having jurisdiction.

17. **TERMINATION OF SERVICE FOR NON-PAYMENT**

- 17.1 Unless otherwise specified therein, Sections 17.1, 17.2, 17.3, and 17.4 shall apply to all charges billed for all products and services furnished under this Agreement.
- 17.2 Failure of a Party to pay charges or, by the due date, provide reasonably specific notice of any disputed charges, may be grounds for disconnection of Interconnection, functions, facilities, products and services furnished under this Agreement. If a Party fails to pay by the Bill Due Date, any and all undisputed charges billed to them under this Agreement, including any Late Payment Charges as provided for in Section 15.1.3 or miscellaneous charges (“**Unpaid Charges**”), and any portion of such Unpaid Charges remain unpaid after the Bill Due Date, the Billing Party shall notify the Non-Paying Party in writing that in order to avoid disruption or disconnection of the applicable Interconnection, functions, facilities, products and services furnished under this Agreement, the Non-Paying Party must remit all undisputed Unpaid Charges to the Billing Party.
- 17.3 Disputes hereunder will be resolved in accordance with the Dispute Resolution Procedures set out in Section 16 of this Agreement.

- 17.4 If any the Non-Paying Party's undisputed charges remain unpaid at the conclusion of the time period as set forth in Section 15.1.1 above (thirty (30) calendar days from the due date of such unpaid charges), the Billing Party will notify the Non-paying Party and the appropriate commission(s) in writing, that unless all charges are paid within thirty (30) calendar days from the date of such notice, all services rendered to may be disconnected in accordance with the appropriate commission(s) rules for discontinuance.
- 17.5 In the event the Billing Party discontinues service to the Non-Paying Party upon failure to pay undisputed charges only as provided in this section, the Billing Party will have no liability to the Non-Paying Party in the event of such disconnection.
- 17.6 After disconnect procedures have begun, the Billing Party will not accept service orders from the Non-Paying Party until all unpaid, undisputed charges are paid. The Non-Paying Party will have the right to require a deposit equal to one month's charges (based on the highest previous month of service from the Billing Party) prior to resuming service after disconnect for nonpayment.
- 17.7 Beyond the specifically set out limitations in this section and the appropriate commission(s) rules, nothing herein will be interpreted to obligate the Billing Party to continue to provide service to any such end users or to limit any and all disconnection rights the Billing Party may have with regard to such end users.
- 17.8 If the Non-Paying Party desires to dispute any portion of the Unpaid Charges, such Party shall take all of the following actions not later than fourteen (14) calendar days following receipt of notice of Unpaid Charges:
- 17.8.1 The Non-Paying Party shall notify the Billing Party in writing which portion(s) of the Unpaid Charges it disputes, including the total amount disputed ("**Disputed Amounts**") and the specific details listed in Section 16.3.1 of this Agreement, together with the reasons for its dispute; and
- 17.8.2 The Non-Paying Party shall immediately pay all undisputed Unpaid Charges.

18. NOTICES

- 18.1 In the event any notices are required to be sent under the terms of this Agreement, they may be sent by mail and are deemed to have been given on the date received. Notice may also be effected by personal delivery or by overnight courier, and will be effective upon receipt. Notice may also be provided by facsimile, which will be effective on the next business day following the date of transmission; provided,

however, notices to a Party's 24-hour maintenance contact number will be by telephone and/or facsimile and will be deemed to have been received on the date transmitted. The Parties will provide the appropriate telephone and facsimile numbers to each other. Unless otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement, notice will be directed as follows:

18.2 If to COMCAST

:

ATTN: Mr. Brian Rankin
Assistant General Counsel
1500 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102

with a copy to:

Ms. Beth Choroser
Senior Director of Regulatory Compliance
1500 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102

18.3 If to TDS TELECOM:

TDS TELECOM
ATTN: Carrier Relations
10025 Investment Dr., Suite 200
Knoxville, TN 37932
Fax: (865)966-4720

With a copy to:

TDS TELECOM
ATTN: Regulatory & Corporate Counsel
P.O. Box 5366
Madison, WI 53705-0366
Fax: (608) 664-4519

18.4 Either Party may unilaterally change its designated representative and/or address, telephone contact number or facsimile number for the receipt of notices by giving written notice to the other Party in compliance with this Section. Any notice to change the designated contact, address, telephone and/or facsimile number for receipt of notices will be deemed effective ten (10) calendar days following receipt by the other Party.

19. TAXES

- 19.1 With respect to any purchase of service under this Agreement, if any Federal, state or local government tax, fee, surcharge, or other tax-like charge (a "Tax") is required or permitted by applicable law, ordinance or tariff to be collected from a purchasing Party by the providing Party, then (i) the providing Party will bill, as a separately stated item, the purchasing Party for such Tax, (ii) the purchasing Party will timely remit such Tax to the providing Party, and (iii) the providing Party will remit such collected Tax to the applicable taxing authority.
- 19.2 If the providing Party does not collect a Tax because the purchasing Party asserts that it is not responsible for the tax, or is otherwise excepted from the obligation which is later determined by formal action to be wrong then, as between the providing Party and the purchasing Party, the purchasing Party will be liable for such uncollected Tax and any interest due and/or penalty assessed on the uncollected Tax by the applicable taxing authority or governmental entity.
- 19.3 If either Party is audited by a taxing authority or other governmental entity, the other Party agrees to reasonably cooperate with the Party being audited in order to respond to any audit inquiries in a proper and timely manner so that the audit and/or any resulting controversy may be resolved expeditiously.
- 19.4 If applicable law excludes or exempts a purchase of services under this Agreement from a Tax, and if such applicable law also provides an exemption procedure, such as an exemption certificate requirement, then, if the purchasing Party complies with such procedure, the providing Party, subject to Section 19.2, will not collect such Tax during the effective period of the exemption. Such exemption will be effective upon receipt of the exemption certificate or affidavit in accordance with Section 19.6.
- 19.5 If applicable law excludes or exempts a purchase of services under this Agreement from a Tax, including but not limited to Taxes levied on the providing Party's gross revenue or Taxes that do not apply to carrier's carrier revenue, then the providing Party will not collect such Tax. Where a Tax is required to be levied on the purchasing Party if the purchasing Party meets a *de minimis* threshold (e.g., the federal Universal Service Fund surcharge), the purchasing Party may be asked to supply the providing Party with a letter or form signed by an officer of the purchasing Party claiming an exemption.
- 19.6 To the extent a sale is claimed to be for resale and thus subject to tax exemption, the purchasing Party shall furnish the providing Party a proper resale tax exemption certificate as authorized or required by statute or regulation of the jurisdiction providing said resale tax exemption. Failure to timely provide said resale tax exemption certificate will result in no exemption being available to the purchasing Party for any period prior to the date that the purchasing Party

presents a valid certificate. If Applicable Law excludes or exempts a purchase of Interconnection, functions, facilities, products and services under this Agreement from a Tax, but does not also provide an exemption procedure, then the providing Party will not collect such Tax. Where a Tax is required to be levied on the purchasing Party if the purchasing Party meets a *de minimis* threshold (e.g., the federal Universal Service Fund surcharge), the purchasing Party may be asked to supply the providing Party with a letter or form signed by an officer of the purchasing Party claiming an exemption.

- 19.7 With respect to any Tax or Tax controversy covered by this Section 19, the purchasing Party is entitled to contest with the imposing jurisdiction, pursuant to Applicable Law and at its own expense, any Tax that it is ultimately obligated to pay or collect. The purchasing Party will ensure that no lien is attached to any asset of the providing Party as a result of any contest. The purchasing Party shall be entitled to the benefit of any refund or recovery of amounts that it had previously paid resulting from such a contest. Amounts previously paid by the providing Party shall be refunded to the providing Party. The providing Party will cooperate in any such contest.
- 19.8 All notices, affidavits, exemption certificates or other communications required or permitted to be given by either Party to the other under this Section shall be sent in accordance with Section 18 hereof.

20. FORCE MAJEURE

- 20.1 Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement, neither Party will be liable for any delay or failure in performance of any part of this Agreement caused by a Force Majeure condition, including acts of the United States of America or any state, territory, or political subdivision thereof, acts of God or a public enemy, fires, floods, labor disputes such as strikes and lockouts, freight embargoes, earthquakes, volcanic actions, wars, acts of terrorism, civil disturbances, cable cuts, or other causes beyond the reasonable control of the Party claiming excusable delay or other failure to perform. Provided, Force Majeure will not include acts of any Governmental Authority relating to environmental, health, or safety conditions at work locations. If any Force Majeure condition occurs the Party whose performance fails or is delayed because of such Force Majeure conditions will give prompt notice to the other Party, and upon cessation of such Force Majeure condition, will give like notice and commence performance hereunder as promptly as reasonably practicable.

21. PUBLICITY

- 21.1 The Parties agree not to use in any advertising or sales promotion, press releases or other publicity matters, any endorsements, direct or indirect quotes or pictures

implying endorsement by the other Party or any of its employees without such Party's prior written approval. The Parties will submit to each other for written approval, prior to publication, all such publicity endorsement matters that mention or display the other's name and/or marks or contain language from which a connection to said name and/or marks may be inferred or implied; the Party to whom a request is directed shall respond promptly. Nothing herein, however, shall be construed as preventing either Party from publicly stating the fact that it has executed this Agreement with the other Party. This does not prohibit the use of valid comparison advertising.

- 21.2 Nothing in this Agreement shall grant, suggest, or imply any authority for either Party to use the name, trademarks, service marks, trade names, brand names, logos, proprietary trade dress or trade names, insignia, symbols or decorative designs of the other Party or its affiliates without the other Party's prior written authorization.

22. NETWORK MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT

- 22.1 The Parties will work cooperatively to implement this Agreement. The Parties will exchange appropriate information (e.g., maintenance contact numbers, network information, information required to comply with law enforcement and other security agencies of the federal and state governments, etc.) to achieve this desired result.
- 22.2 Each Party will provide a 24-hour contact number for Network Traffic Management issues to the other's surveillance management center. Each Party will administer its network to ensure acceptable service levels to all users of its network services. Service levels are generally considered acceptable only when End Users are able to establish connections with little or no delay encountered in the network. A facsimile (FAX) number must also be provided to facilitate event notifications for planned mass calling events. Each Party will maintain the right to implement protective network traffic management controls such as "cancel to" or "call gapping" or 7-digit and 10-digit code gaps, to selectively cancel the completion of traffic over its network, including traffic destined for the other Party's network, when required to protect the public-switched network from congestion as a result of occurrences such as facility failures, switch congestion or failure or focused overload. Each Party shall immediately notify the other Party of any protective control action planned or executed.
- 22.3 Where the capability exists, originating or terminating traffic reroutes may be implemented by either Party to temporarily relieve network congestion due to facility failures or abnormal calling patterns. Reroutes shall not be used to circumvent normal trunk servicing. Expansive controls shall be used only when mutually agreed to by the Parties.

- 22.4 The Parties shall cooperate and share pre-planning information regarding cross-network call-ins expected to generate large or focused temporary increases in call volumes to prevent or mitigate the impact of these events on the public-switched network, including any disruption or loss of service to the other Party's End Users.
- 22.5 In the event of interference or impairment of the quality of service between services or facilities of COMCAST and TDS TELECOM the Parties agree to the following:
- 22.5.1 The Party that first becomes aware of the interference will provide notice to the other Party as soon as possible.
- 22.5.2 The Parties will work cooperatively to determine the source of the interference and to implement mutually agreeable solutions that provide for the minimum negative impact to either Party's products and services. However, COMCAST acknowledges that multiple carriers connect to TDS TELECOM's network and in some instances the solution that minimizes the impact to the greatest number of carriers and end users may require that a facility, product, or service of COMCAST be temporarily disconnected until the interference can be corrected.
- 22.5.3 If the Parties are unable to agree upon a solution, either Party may invoke the dispute resolution provisions of the Agreement, provided that a Party may apply for injunctive relief immediately if such is required to prevent irreparable harm.

23. LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CIVIL PROCESS

- 23.1 TDS TELECOM and COMCAST shall reasonably cooperate with the other Party in handling law enforcement requests as follows:

23.1.1 Intercept Devices

Local and federal law enforcement agencies periodically request information or assistance from local telephone service providers. When either Party receives a request associated with a customer of the other Party, the receiving Party will refer such request to the appropriate Party, unless the request directs the receiving Party to attach a pen register, trap-and-trace or form of intercept on the Party's own facilities, in which case that Party will comply with any valid request, to the extent the receiving Party is able to do so; if such compliance requires the assistance of the other Party such assistance will be provided.

23.1.2 Subpoenas

If a Party receives a subpoena for information concerning an end user the Party knows to be an end user of the other Party, the receiving Party will refer the subpoena to the requesting entity with an indication that the other Party is the responsible company. Provided, however, if the subpoena requests records for a period of time during which the receiving Party was the end user's service provider, the receiving Party will respond to any valid request to the extent the receiving Party is able to do so; if response requires the assistance of the other Party such assistance will be provided.

23.1.3 Law Enforcement Emergencies

If a Party receives a request from a law enforcement agency to implement at its switch a temporary number change, temporary disconnect, or one-way denial of outbound calls for an end user of the other Party, the receiving Party will comply so long as it is a valid emergency request. Neither Party will be held liable for any claims or damages arising from compliance with such requests, and the Party serving the end user agrees to indemnify and hold the other Party harmless against any and all such claims.

24. **CHANGES IN SUBSCRIBER CARRIER SELECTION**

24.1 Each Party will abide by applicable federal and state laws and regulations in obtaining End User authorization prior to changing an End User's Local Exchange Carrier to itself and in assuming responsibility for any applicable charges as specified in Section 258(b) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and as implemented by the relevant orders of the FCC. Each Party shall deliver to the other Party a blanket letter of authorization that applies to all orders submitted by a Party under this Agreement requiring a LEC change. A Party's representation of authorization shall be delivered to the other Party prior to the first order submitted to the other Party. Each Party shall retain on file all applicable letters and other documentation of authorization relating to its End User's selection of such Party as its LEC, which documentation shall be available for inspection by the other Party at its request during normal business hours and at no charge. Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. Section 64.1120, neither Party may request to view an individual End-User authorization before releasing a customer service record (CSR) to the other Party, nor may such authorization be requested before processing a local service request (LSR).

25. **AMENDMENTS OR WAIVERS**

25.1 Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, no amendment or waiver of any provision of this Agreement and no consent to any default under this Agreement

will be effective unless the same is in writing and signed by an officer of the Party against whom such amendment, waiver or consent is claimed. In addition, no course of dealing or failure of a Party strictly to enforce any term, right or condition of this Agreement will be construed as a waiver of such term, right, or condition. Waiver by either Party of any default by the other Party shall not be deemed a waiver of any other default. Failure of either Party to insist on performance of any term or condition of this Agreement or to exercise any right or privilege hereunder shall not be construed as a continuing or future waiver of such term, condition, right or privilege. By entering into this Agreement, the Parties do not waive any right granted to them pursuant to the Act; however, the Parties enter into this Agreement without prejudice to any positions they have taken previously, or may take in the future in any legislative, regulatory or other public forum addressing any matters, including matters related to the types of arrangements prescribed by this Agreement.

- 25.2 At anytime during the effective term of this Agreement and upon request by the COMCAST, COMCAST shall be entitled to obtain from TDS TELECOM any interconnection agreement in its entirety provided by TDS TELECOM to any other telecommunications provider that has been filed and approved by the Commission on the same terms and conditions. The Parties agree that such terms and conditions shall be effective immediately upon request by the COMCAST.

26. GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

- 26.1 TDS TELECOM and COMCAST shall each use commercially reasonable efforts to meet the Interconnection Activation Dates.
- 26.2 Each Party is individually responsible to provide facilities within its network that are necessary for routing, transporting, measuring, and billing traffic from the other Party's network and for delivering such traffic to the other Party's network in the standard format and to terminate the traffic it receives in that standard format to the proper address on its network. The Parties are each solely responsible for participation in and compliance with national network plans, including the Telecommunications Service Priority (TSP) System for National Security Emergency Preparedness (NSEP).
- 26.3 The Parties shall exchange technical descriptions and forecasts of their Interconnection and traffic requirements in sufficient detail necessary to establish the facilities required to assure traffic completion to and from all End Users in their respective designated service areas.
- 26.4 Each Party is solely responsible for all products and services it provides to its End Users and to other Telecommunications Carriers.

- 26.5 Facilities-based carriers are responsible for administering their End User records in a LIDB.
- 26.6 At all times during the term of this Agreement, each Party shall keep and maintain in force at its own expense the following minimum insurance coverage and limits and any additional insurance and/or bonds required by Applicable Law:
- 26.6.1 Workers' Compensation insurance with benefits afforded under the laws of each state covered by this Agreement and Employers Liability insurance with minimum limits of \$1,000,000 for Bodily Injury-each accident, \$1,000,000 for Bodily Injury by disease-policy limits and \$1,000,000 for Bodily Injury by disease-each employee.
- 26.6.2 Commercial General Liability insurance with minimum limits of: \$5,000,000 General Aggregate limit; \$1,000,000 each occurrence sub-limit for all bodily injury or property damage incurred in any one occurrence; \$1,000,000 each occurrence sub-limit for Personal Injury and Advertising; \$5,000,000 Products/Completed Operations Aggregate limit, with a \$1,000,000 each occurrence sub-limit for Products/Completed Operations. The other Party must be named as an Additional Insured on the Commercial General Liability policy. Each Party agrees to waive its respective rights of subrogation in favor of the other Party on the Commercial General Liability policy.
- 26.6.3 If use of an automobile is required, Automobile Liability insurance with minimum limits of \$1,000,000 combined single limits per occurrence for bodily injury and property damage, which coverage shall extend to all owned, hired and non-owned vehicles.
- 26.6.4 Each Party shall require subcontractors providing services under this Agreement to maintain in force the insurance coverage and limits required in Sections 26.6 through 26.6.3 of this Agreement provided that a Party may, with consent of the other Party, utilize a subcontractor with different limits of insurance if appropriate to the scope of work to be performed, consent not to be unreasonably withheld.
- 26.6.5 The Parties agree that companies affording the insurance coverage required under Section 26.6 shall have a rating of A- or better and a Financial Size Category rating of VII or better, as rated in the A.M. Best Key Rating Guide for Property and Casualty Insurance Companies. Upon request from the other Party, each Party shall provide to the other Party evidence of such insurance coverage.

- 26.6.6 Each Party agrees to provide the other Party with at least thirty (30) calendar days advance written notice of cancellation, material reduction or non-renewal of any of the insurance policies required herein.
- 26.6.7 This Section 26.6 is a general statement of insurance requirements and shall be in addition to any specific requirement of insurance referenced elsewhere in this Agreement or a Referenced Instrument.
- 26.7 Upon the Parties' signature of this Agreement, the Parties shall exchange state-specific authorized and nationally recognized OCN/AOCNs for facilities-based Interconnection.
- 26.8 In the event that either Party makes any corporate name change (including addition or deletion of a d/b/a), change in OCN/AOCN, or makes or accepts a transfer or assignment of interconnection trunks or facilities (including leased facilities), or a change in any other identifier (collectively, a "**Party Change**"), changing Party shall submit written notice to the other Party within thirty (30) calendar days of the first action taken to implement such Party Change. Within thirty (30) calendar days following receipt of that notice, the Parties shall negotiate rates to compensate the non-changed Party for the costs to be incurred to make the change to the applicable non-changed Party's databases, systems, records and/or recording announcement(s). In addition, the Party requesting the change shall compensate the other Party for any service order charges and/or service request charges associated with such Party Change. The Party's agreement to implement a Party Change is conditioned upon the requesting Party's agreement to pay all reasonable charges billed for such Party Change.
- 26.9 When an End User changes its service provider from TDS TELECOM to COMCAST or from COMCAST to TDS TELECOM and does not retain its original telephone number, the Party formerly providing service to such End User shall furnish, upon request, a referral announcement ("**Referral Announcement**") on the original telephone number that specifies the End User's new telephone number.
- 26.9.1 Referral Announcements shall be provided by a Party to the other Party for the period of time and at the rates set forth in the referring Party's tariff(s); provided, however, if either Party provides Referral Announcements for a period different (either shorter or longer) than the period(s) stated in its tariff(s) when its End Users change their telephone numbers, such Party shall provide the same level of service to End Users of the other Party.
- 26.10 Each Party shall be responsible for labor relations with its own employees. Each Party agrees to notify the other Party as soon as practicable whenever such Party has knowledge that a labor dispute concerning its employees is delaying or

threatens to delay such Party's timely performance of its obligations under this Agreement and shall endeavor to minimize impairment of service to the other Party.

27. AUTHORITY

- 27.1 Each person whose signature appears below represents that he or she has authority to bind the Party on whose behalf he or she has executed this Agreement.
- 27.2 Each of the TDS TELECOM operating companies, for which this Agreement is executed represents and warrants that it is a corporation duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the State of Vermont.
- 27.3 COMCAST represents that it is a corporation duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the State of Vermont and has full power and authority to execute and deliver this Agreement and to perform its obligations hereunder. COMCAST represents that it has been certified to provide intrastate telecommunications in Vermont, including local exchange service, by the Commission prior to submitting any orders hereunder and is or will be authorized to provide the Telecommunications Services contemplated hereunder in the territory contemplated hereunder prior to submission of orders for such Service.

28. BINDING EFFECT

- 28.1 This Agreement will be binding on and inure to the benefit of the respective successors and permitted assigns of the Parties.

29. CONSENT

- 29.1 Where consent, approval, or mutual agreement is required of a Party, it will not be unreasonably withheld, conditioned or delayed.

30. EXPENSES

- 30.1 Except as specifically set out in this Agreement, each Party will be solely responsible for its own expenses involved in all activities related to the subject of this Agreement.
- 30.2 TDS TELECOM and COMCAST shall each be responsible for one-half (1/2) of any applicable expenses payable to a Third Party for Commission fees or other charges (including regulatory fees and any costs of notice or publication, but not including attorney's fees) associated with the filing of this agreement.

31. HEADINGS

31.1 The headings and number of Sections, Parts, Appendices, Schedules and Exhibits to this Agreement are inserted for convenience and identification only and will not be considered to define or limit any of the terms herein or affect the meaning or interpretation of this Agreement.

32. RELATIONSHIP OF PARTIES/INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR

32.1 Each Party is an independent contractor, and has and hereby retains the right to exercise full control of and supervision over its own performance of its obligations under this Agreement and retains full control over the employment, direction, compensation and discharge of its employees assisting in the performance of such obligations. Each Party and each Party's contractor(s) shall be solely responsible for all matters relating to payment of such employees, including the withholding or payment of all applicable federal, state and local income taxes, social security taxes and other payroll taxes with respect to its employees, as well as any taxes, contributions or other obligations imposed by applicable state unemployment or workers' compensation acts and all other regulations governing such matters. Each Party has sole authority and responsibility to hire, fire and otherwise control its employees.

32.2 Nothing contained herein shall constitute the Parties as joint venturers, partners, employees or agents of one another, and neither Party shall have the right or power to bind or obligate the other. Nothing herein will be construed as making either Party responsible or liable for the obligations and undertakings of the other Party. Except for provisions herein expressly authorizing a Party to act for another, nothing in this Agreement shall constitute a Party as a legal representative or agent of the other Party, nor shall a Party have the right or authority to assume, create or incur any liability or any obligation of any kind, express or implied, against or in the name or on behalf of the other Party unless otherwise expressly permitted by such other Party. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Agreement, no Party undertakes to perform any obligation of the other Party, whether regulatory or contractual, or to assume any responsibility for the management of the other Party's business.

33. MULTIPLE COUNTERPARTS

33.1 This Agreement may be executed in multiple counterparts, each of which will be deemed an original but all of which will together constitute but one, and the same document.

34. THIRD PARTY BENEFICIARIES

- 34.1 This Agreement is for the sole benefit of the Parties and their permitted assigns, and nothing herein expressed or implied shall create or be construed to create any Third Party beneficiary rights hereunder. This Agreement shall not provide and will not be construed to provide any Person not a party hereto with any remedy, claim, liability, reimbursement, cause of action, or other right in excess of those existing without reference hereto.

35. REGULATORY APPROVAL

- 35.1 The Parties understand and agree that this Agreement and any amendment or modification hereto will be filed with the Commission for approval in accordance with Section 252 of the Act and may thereafter be filed with the FCC. Each Party covenants and agrees to fully support approval of this Agreement by the Commission or the FCC under Section 252 of the Act without modification.

36. REGULATORY AUTHORITY

- 36.1 TDS TELECOM will be responsible for obtaining and keeping in effect all FCC, state regulatory commission, franchise authority and other regulatory approvals that may be required in connection with the performance of its obligations under this Agreement. COMCAST will be responsible for obtaining and keeping in effect all FCC, state regulatory commission, franchise authority and other regulatory approvals that may be required in connection with its obligations under this Agreement. COMCAST will reasonably cooperate with TDS TELECOM in obtaining and maintaining any required approvals for which TDS TELECOM is responsible, and TDS TELECOM will reasonably cooperate with COMCAST in obtaining and maintaining any required approvals for which COMCAST is responsible.

37. COMPLIANCE AND CERTIFICATION

- 37.1 Each Party shall comply at its own expense with all Applicable Laws that relate to that Party's obligations to the other Party under this Agreement. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as requiring or permitting either Party to contravene any mandatory requirement of Applicable Law.
- 37.2 Each Party represents that it has obtained all necessary state certification prior to ordering any Interconnection, functions, facilities, products and services from the other Party pursuant to this Agreement. Upon request, each Party shall provide proof of certification.
- 37.3 Each Party shall be responsible for obtaining and keeping in effect all approvals from, and rights granted by, Governmental Authorities, building and property

owners, other carriers, and any other Third Parties that may be required in connection with the performance of its obligations under this Agreement.

38. AUDITS

38.1 Subject to the restrictions set forth in Section 8 and except as may be otherwise expressly provided in this Agreement, a Party (the "Auditing Party") may audit the other Party's (the "Audited Party") books, records, data and other documents, as provided herein, once annually, with the audit period commencing not earlier than the date on which services were first supplied under this Agreement ("service start date") for the purpose of evaluating (i) the accuracy of Audited Party's billing and invoicing of the services provided hereunder and (ii) verification of compliance with any provision of this Agreement that affects the accuracy of Auditing Party's billing and invoicing of the services provided to Audited Party hereunder. Notwithstanding the foregoing, an Auditing Party may audit the Audited Party's books, records and documents more than once annually if the previous audit found (i) previously uncorrected net variances or errors in invoices in Audited Party's favor with an aggregate value of at least ten percent (10%) of the amounts payable by Auditing Party for audited services provided during the period covered by the audit or (ii) non-compliance by Audited Party with any provision of this Agreement affecting Auditing Party's billing and invoicing of the services provided to Audited Party with an aggregate value of at least ten percent (10%) of the amounts payable by Audited Party for audited services provided during the period covered by the audit.

38.1.1 The scope of the audit shall be limited to the period which is the shorter of (i) the period subsequent to the last day of the period covered by the audit which was last performed (or if no audit has been performed, the service start date) and (ii) the twelve (12) month period immediately preceding the date the Audited Party received notice of such requested audit, but in any event not prior to the service start date. Such audit shall begin no fewer than thirty (30) calendar days after Audited Party receives a written notice requesting an audit and shall be completed no later than thirty (30) calendar days after the start of such audit.

38.1.2 Such audit shall be conducted either by the Auditing Party's employee(s) or an independent auditor acceptable to both Parties. If an independent auditor is to be engaged, the Parties shall select an auditor by the thirtieth (30th) day following Audited Party's receipt of a written audit notice. Auditing Party shall cause the independent auditor to execute a nondisclosure agreement in a form agreed upon by the Parties. Audits shall be performed at Auditing Party's expense.

- 38.1.3 Each audit shall be conducted on the premises of the Audited Party during normal business hours. Audited Party shall cooperate fully in any such audit and shall provide the auditor reasonable access to any and all appropriate Audited Party employees and any books, records and other documents reasonably necessary to assess (i) the accuracy of Audited Party's bills and (ii) Audited Party's compliance with the provisions of this Agreement that affect the accuracy of Audited Party's billing and invoicing of the services provided to Audited Party hereunder. Audited Party may redact from the books, records and other documents provided to the auditor any Audited Party Proprietary Information that reveals the identity of End Users of Audited Party.
- 38.1.4 Each Party shall maintain reports, records and data relevant to the billing of any services that are the subject matter of this Agreement for a period of not less than twenty-four (24) months after creation thereof, unless a longer period is required by Applicable Law.
- 38.1.5 If any audit confirms any undercharge or overcharge, then Audited Party shall (i) promptly correct any billing error, including making refund of any overpayment by Auditing Party in the form of a credit on the invoice for the first full billing cycle after the Parties have agreed upon the accuracy of the audit results and (ii) for any undercharge caused by the actions of the Audited Party, immediately compensate Auditing Party for such undercharge, and (iii) in each case, calculate and pay interest as provided in Section 15.1.3.1 for the number of calendar days from the date on which such undercharge or overcharge originated until the date on which such credit is issued or payment is made and available.
- 38.1.6 Any disputes concerning audit results shall be referred to the Parties' respective personnel responsible for informal resolution. If these individuals cannot resolve the dispute within thirty (30) calendar days of the referral, either Party may request in writing that an additional audit shall be conducted by an independent auditor acceptable to both Parties, subject to the requirements set out in this section. Any additional audit shall be at the requesting Party's expense.

39. COMPLETE TERMS

- 39.1 The terms contained in this Agreement and any Appendices, Attachments, Exhibits, Schedules, and Addenda constitute the entire agreement between the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof, superseding all prior understandings, proposals and other communications, oral or written.

40. COOPERATION ON PREVENTING END USER FRAUD

- 40.1 Neither Party shall be liable for any fraud associated with the other Party's End User's account, including 1+ IntraLATA toll, ported numbers, and Alternate Billing Service (ABS). ABS is a service that allows End Users to bill calls to account(s) that might not be associated with the originating line. There are three (3) types of ABS calls: calling card, collect, and third number billed calls.
- 40.2 The Parties agree to cooperate with one another to investigate, minimize, and take corrective action in cases of fraud. The Parties' fraud minimization procedures are to be cost-effective and implemented so as not to unduly burden or harm one Party as compared to the other.

41. NOTICE OF NETWORK CHANGES

- 41.1 Nothing in this Agreement shall limit either Party's ability to upgrade its network through the incorporation of new equipment, new software or otherwise. Each Party agrees to provide reasonable notice of changes in the information necessary for the transmission and routing of services using facilities or networks, as well as other changes that affect the interoperability of those respective facilities and networks.

42. GOOD FAITH PERFORMANCE

- 42.1 In the performance of their obligations under this Agreement the Parties will act in good faith and consistently with the intent of the Act. Where notice, approval or similar action by a Party is permitted or required by any provision of this Agreement, (including, without limitation, the obligation of the Parties to further negotiate the resolution of new or open issues under this Agreement) such action will not be unreasonably delayed, withheld or conditioned.

43. GOVERNMENTAL COMPLIANCE

- 43.1 COMCAST and TDS TELECOM each will comply at its own expense with all applicable law related to (i) its obligations under or activities in connection with this Agreement; of (ii) its activities undertaken at, in connection with or relating to work locations. COMCAST and TDS TELECOM each agree to indemnify, defend, (at the other Party's request) and save harmless the other, each of its officers, directors and employees from and against any losses, damages, claims, demands, suits, liabilities, fines, penalties, and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees) that arise out of or result from its failure or the failure of its contractors or agents to so comply. Except as expressly specified in this Agreement, TDS TELECOM, at its own expense, will be solely responsible for obtaining from governmental authorities, building owners, other carriers, and any other persons or entities, all rights and privileges (including, but not limited to,

space and power), which are necessary for TDS TELECOM to provide services pursuant to this Agreement.

44. RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION

44.1 Each Party will be solely responsible at its own expense for the proper handling, storage, transport, treatment, disposal and use of all Hazardous Substances by such Party and its contractors and agents. "Hazardous Substances" includes those substances:

44.1.1 included within the definition of hazardous substance, hazardous waste, hazardous material, toxic substance, solid waste or pollutant or contaminant under any Applicable Law, and

44.1.2 listed by any governmental agency as a hazardous substance.

44.2 COMCAST will in no event be liable to TDS TELECOM for any costs whatsoever resulting from the presence or Release of any Environmental Hazard, including Hazardous Substances, that COMCAST did not introduce to the affected work location. TDS TELECOM will indemnify, defend (at COMCAST's request) and hold harmless COMCAST, each of its officers, directors and employees from and against any losses, damages, claims, demands, suits, liabilities, fines, penalties and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees) that arises out of or result from (i) any Environmental Hazard that TDS TELECOM, its contractors or agents introduce to the work locations or (ii) the presence or Release of any Environmental Hazard for which TDS TELECOM is responsible under Applicable Law.

44.3 TDS TELECOM will in no event be liable to COMCAST for any costs whatsoever resulting from the presence or Release of any Environmental Hazard that TDS TELECOM did not introduce to the affected work location. COMCAST will indemnify, defend (at TDS TELECOM's request) and hold harmless TDS TELECOM, each of its officers, directors and employees from and against any losses, damages, claims, demands, suits, liabilities, fines, penalties and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees) that arise out of or result from i) any Environmental Hazard that COMCAST, its contractors or agents introduce to the work locations or ii) the presence or Release of any Environmental Hazard for which COMCAST is responsible under Applicable Law.

45. SUBCONTRACTING

- 45.1 If any obligation is performed through a subcontractor, each Party will remain fully responsible for the performance of this Agreement in accordance with its terms, including any obligations either Party performs through subcontractors, and each Party will be solely responsible for payments due the Party's subcontractors. No subcontractor will be deemed a third party beneficiary for any purposes under this Agreement. Any subcontractor who gains access to CPNI or Confidential Information covered by this Agreement will be required by the subcontracting Party to protect such CPNI or Confidential Information to the same extent the subcontracting Party is required to protect the same under the terms of this Agreement.

46. REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

- 46.1 Unless the context shall otherwise specifically require, and subject to Section 21, whenever any provision of this Agreement refers to a technical reference, technical publication, any publication of telecommunications industry administrative or technical standards, or any other document specifically incorporated into this Agreement, it will be deemed to be a reference to the most recent version or edition (including any amendments, supplements, addenda, or successors) of each document that is in effect, and will include the most recent version or edition (including any amendments, supplements, addenda, or successors) of each document incorporated by reference in such a technical reference, technical publication, or publication of industry standards.

46.2 References

References herein to Sections, Paragraphs, Exhibits, Parts, Schedules, and Appendices shall be deemed to be references to Sections, Paragraphs and Parts of, and Exhibits, Schedules and Appendices to, this Agreement unless the context shall otherwise require.

46.3 Tariff References

46.3.1 Wherever any Commission ordered tariff provision or rate is cited or quoted herein, it is understood that said cite encompasses any revisions or modifications to said tariff.

46.3.2 Wherever any Commission ordered tariff provision or rate is incorporated, cited or quoted herein, it is understood that said incorporation or reference applies only to the entity within the state whose Commission ordered that tariff.

46.4 Conflict in Provisions

46.4.1 In the event of a conflict between the provisions of this Agreement and the Act, the provisions of the Act shall govern.

46.4.2 If any definitions, terms or conditions in any given Appendix, Attachment, Exhibit, Schedule or Addenda differ from those contained in the main body of this Agreement, the definitions, terms or conditions in the main body of this Agreement will supersede those contained in any given Appendix, Attachment, Exhibit, Schedule or Addenda; provided, however unless the Appendix, Attachment, Exhibit, Schedule or Addenda explicitly calls for its definition, terms or conditions to control, which effect shall be limited to that particular Appendix, Attachment, Exhibit, Schedule or Addenda and such Appendix, Attachment, Exhibit, Schedule or Addenda is executed by an officer (at the vice president level or higher) of both parties). If an Appendix contains a Term length that differs from the Term length in the main body of this Agreement, the Term length of that Appendix will control the length of time that services or activities are to occur under that Appendix, but will not affect the Term length of the remainder of this Agreement. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions in this subsection 46.4.2, the provisions of Section 5 (Liability and Indemnification) and Section 6 (Breach of Contract) of Appendix WP (White Pages Directory) shall supersede the liability, indemnification and breach provisions contained in the main body of this Agreement with respect to services or activities that are to occur under Appendix WP.

46.5 Joint Work Product

46.5.1 This Agreement is the joint work product of the Parties and has been negotiated by the Parties and their respective counsel and shall be fairly interpreted in accordance with its terms and, in the event of any ambiguities, no inferences shall be drawn against either Party.

47. SEVERABILITY

47.1 Subject to the provisions set forth in Section 4 of the General Terms and Conditions, if any term, condition or provision of this Agreement is held to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, each Party agrees that such provision shall be enforced to the maximum extent permissible so as to effect the intent of the Parties, and the validity, legality and enforceability of the remaining provisions of this Agreement shall not in any way be impaired or affected thereby. If necessary to effectuate the intent of the Parties, the Parties will promptly negotiate in good faith to amend this Agreement with a replacement provision or provisions for the unenforceable language that reflects such intent as closely as possible. If impasse is reached, the Parties will resolve said impasse under the dispute resolution procedures set forth in Section 16.

47.2 Incorporation by Reference

The General Terms and Conditions of this Agreement, and every Interconnection, function, facility, product or service provided hereunder, shall be subject to all rates, terms and conditions contained in the Appendices to this Agreement which are legitimately related to such Interconnection, function, facility, product or service.

48. SURVIVAL OF OBLIGATIONS

48.1 Any liabilities or obligations of a Party for acts or omissions prior to the cancellation or termination of this Agreement, any obligation of a Party under the provisions regarding indemnification, Confidential Information, limitations on liability, and any other provisions of this Agreement which, by their terms, are contemplated to survive (or to be performed after) termination of this Agreement, will survive cancellation or termination thereof.

49. GOVERNING LAW

49.1 Unless otherwise provided by Applicable Law, this Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the Act, the FCC Rules and Regulations interpreting the Act and other applicable federal law, as well as the laws of the State of Vermont, and the rules and regulations of the Commission. To the extent that federal law would apply state law in interpreting this Agreement, the domestic laws of the state in which the Interconnection, functions, facilities, products and services at issue are furnished or sought shall apply, without regard to that state's conflict of laws principles. The Parties submit to personal jurisdiction in Vermont, and waive any and all objection to any such venue.

50. OTHER REQUIREMENTS**50.1 ACCESS TO RIGHTS-OF-WAY - SECTION 251(b)(4)**

50.1.1 TDS TELECOM shall provide to COMCAST non-discriminatory access to Poles, Ducts, Conduits and Rights of Way owned or controlled by TDS TELECOM. Such access shall be provided in accordance with, but only to the extent required by, Applicable Law, pursuant to TDS TELECOM's applicable tariffs, or, in the absence of an applicable TDS TELECOM tariff, TDS TELECOM's generally offered form of license agreement or a mutually acceptable agreement negotiated, or to be negotiated, by the Parties.

50.2 DIALING PARITY – SECTION 251(b)(3)

50.2.1 The Parties shall provide Dialing Parity to each other as required under Section 251(b)(3) of the Act.

51. APPENDICES INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

51.1 This Agreement incorporates the following listed Appendices. These appendices along with their associated Attachments, Exhibits and Addenda constitute the entire Agreement between the Parties.

ITR- Interconnection Trunking Requirements
NIM- Network Interconnection Methods
Number Portability
Numbering
Pricing
Reciprocal Compensation
WP- White Pages
911

51.2 LOCAL NUMBER PORTABILITY- SECTION 251(b)(2)

51.2.1 The Parties shall provide to each other Local Number Portability (LNP) on a reciprocal basis as outlined in the applicable Appendix Number Portability, which is/are attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

51.3 INTERCONNECTION TRUNKING REQUIREMENTS- SECTION 251(a)

51.3.1 TDS TELECOM shall provide to COMCAST Interconnection of the Parties' facilities and equipment for the transmission and routing of Telephone Exchange Service traffic and Exchange Access traffic pursuant to the Appendix ITR, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference. Methods for Interconnection and Physical Architecture shall be as defined in the Appendix NIM, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

51.4 TRANSMISSION AND ROUTING OF TELEPHONE EXCHANGE SERVICE TRAFFIC

51.4.1 The Appendix Reciprocal Compensation, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, prescribe traffic routing parameters for Local Interconnection Trunk Group(s) the Parties shall establish over the Interconnections specified in the Appendix ITR, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

51.5 COMPENSATION FOR DELIVERY OF TRAFFIC- SECTION 251(b)(5)

51.5.1 The Parties agree to compensate each other for the transport and termination of traffic as provided in Appendix Reciprocal Compensation.

52. CUSTOMER INQUIRIES

52.1 Each Party will refer all questions regarding the other Party's services or products directly to the other Party at a telephone number specified by that Party.

52.2 Each Party will ensure that all of their representatives who receive inquiries regarding the other Party's services: (i) provide the numbers described in Section 52.1 to callers who inquire about the other Party's services or products; and (ii) do not in any way disparage or discriminate against the other Party or its products or services.

53. DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTIES

53.1 EXCEPT AS EXPRESSLY PROVIDED UNDER THIS AGREEMENT, NO PARTY MAKES OR RECEIVES ANY WARRANTY, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, WITH RESPECT TO THE INTERCONNECTION, FUNCTIONS, FACILITIES, PRODUCTS AND SERVICES IT PROVIDES UNDER OR IS CONTEMPLATED TO PROVIDE UNDER THIS AGREEMENT AND EACH PARTY DISCLAIMS THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND/OR OF FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. ADDITIONALLY, NO PARTY TO THIS AGREEMENT ASSUMES RESPONSIBILITY WITH REGARD TO THE CORRECTNESS OF DATA OR INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY ANY OTHER PARTY TO THIS AGREEMENT WHEN SUCH DATA OR INFORMATION IS ACCESSED AND USED BY A THIRD PARTY.

**Comcast Phone of Vermont, LLC
d/b/a Comcast Digital Phone**

**TDS Telecommunications Corporation,
agent**

Signature

Date

Signature

Date

Katherine S. Barnekow 4/21/08

Susan Jin-Davis

Printed Name

Katherine S. Barnekow

Printed Name

Vice President, Corp. Development

Position/Title

Director- Carrier Relations

Position/Title

Signature Page to the Interconnection Agreement TDS Telecommunications Corporation (Vermont Cos.) and Comcast Phone of Vermont, LLC d/b/a Comcast Digital Phone (COMCAST) dated the 1st day of April, 2008.

**Schedule of TDS Telecommunications Corporation
Vermont Companies**

Ludlow Telephone Company d/b/a TDS Telecom

Northfield Telephone Company d/b/a TDS Telecom

Perkinsville Telephone Company d/b/a TDS Telecom

APPENDIX ITR (Interconnection Trunking Requirements)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
2. DEFINITIONS	3
3. ONE-WAY AND TWO-WAY TRUNK GROUPS	3
4. DIRECT END OFFICE TRUNKING.....	4
5. TRUNK GROUPS.....	5
6. FORECASTING RESPONSIBILITIES	6
7. TRUNK DESIGN BLOCKING CRITERIA	7
8. TRUNK SERVICING.....	8
9. TRUNK DATA EXCHANGE.....	10
10. NETWORK MANAGEMENT.....	10
11. APPLICABILITY OF OTHER RATES, TERMS AND CONDITIONS	11

APPENDIX ITR

Interconnection Trunking Requirements

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Appendix sets forth terms and conditions for Interconnection provided by TDS TELECOM and COMCAST.
- 1.2 This Appendix provides descriptions of the trunking requirements between COMCAST and TDS TELECOM. All references to incoming and outgoing trunk groups are from the perspective of COMCAST. The paragraphs below describe the required and optional trunk groups for local and mass calling.
- 1.3 Local trunk groups may only be used to transport traffic between the Parties' End Users.

2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 "Network Interconnection Methods" (NIM) designates facilities established between the Parties' Networks.

3. ONE-WAY AND TWO-WAY TRUNK GROUPS

- 3.1 One-way trunk groups for ancillary services (e.g. mass calling) can be established between the Parties. Ancillary trunk groups will utilize Signaling System 7 (SS7) or multi-frequency (MF) signaling protocol, with SS7 signaling preferred whenever possible. The originating Party will have administrative control of one-way trunk groups.
- 3.2 Two-way trunk groups for local, IntraLATA and InterLATA traffic can be established between a COMCAST switch and a TDS TELECOM End Office switch. This trunk group will utilize Signaling System 7 (SS7) or multi-frequency (MF) signaling protocol, with SS7 signaling preferred whenever possible. Two-way trunking will be jointly provisioned and maintained, which shall include each Party being responsible for the cost of such trunks on its side of the mutually agreed upon POI identified in Appendix NIM. For administrative consistency COMCAST will have control for the purpose of issuing Access Service Requests (ASRs) on two-way groups. TDS TELECOM will use the Trunk Group Service Request (TGSR) as described in section 8.0 of this Appendix, to request changes in trunking. TDS TELECOM shall not assess any ordering or installation charges associated with two-way trunk groups COMCAST orders that shall carry shared traffic. Both Parties reserve the right to issue ASRs, if so required, in the normal course of business.

- 3.3 The Parties agree that two-way trunking shall be established when possible and appropriate for a given trunk group. However, certain technical and billing issues may necessitate the use of one-way trunking for an interim period. The Parties will negotiate the appropriate trunk configuration, whether one-way or two-way giving consideration to relevant factors, including but not limited to, existing network configuration, administrative ease, any billing system and/or technical limitations and network efficiency. Any disagreement regarding appropriate trunk configuration shall be subject to the dispute resolution process in Section 16 of the General Terms and Conditions.
- 3.4 The Parties agree to exchange traffic data on two-way trunks and to implement such an exchange within three (3) months of the date that two-way trunking is established and the trunk groups begin passing live traffic, or another date as agreed to by the Parties. Exchange of traffic data will permit each company to have knowledge of the offered and overflow load at each end of the two-way trunk group, and thereby enable accurate and independent determination of performance levels and trunk requirements. The Parties agree to the electronic exchange of data where possible.

4. TRUNKING

- 4.1 Direct End Office trunks terminate traffic from a COMCAST switch to a TDS TELECOM End Office and, except as otherwise provided herein, are not switched at a Tandem location. The Parties shall establish a direct End Office trunk group when End Office traffic requires twenty-four (24) or more trunks over a consecutive three (3) month period. Overflow from either end of the direct End Office trunk group will be alternate routed to the appropriate Tandem. The Parties will negotiate the appropriate trunk configuration, whether one-way or two-way to accommodate the present billing and technical limitations.
- 4.2 All traffic received by TDS TELECOM on the direct End Office trunk group from COMCAST must terminate in the End Office, i.e. no Tandem switching will be performed in the End Office. All traffic received by COMCAST on the direct End Office trunk group from TDS TELECOM must terminate in the End Office, i.e., no Tandem switching will be performed in the End Office. Where End Office functionality is provided in a remote End Office of a host/remote configuration, the Interconnection for that remote End Office is only available at the host switch. The number of digits to be received by the terminating Party shall conform to standard industry practices; but in no case shall the number of digits be less than seven (7).
- 4.3 Trunk Configuration
- 4.3.1 Trunk Configuration –

4.3.1.1 Where available and upon the request of the other Party, each Party shall cooperate to ensure that its trunk groups are configured utilizing the B8ZS ESF protocol for 64 kbps Clear Channel Capability (64CCC) transmission to allow for ISDN interoperability between the Parties' respective networks. Trunk groups configured for 64CCC and carrying Circuit Switched Data (CSD) ISDN calls shall carry the appropriate Trunk Type Modifier in the CLCI-Message code. Trunk groups configured for 64CCC and not used to carry CSD ISDN calls shall carry a different appropriate Trunk Type Modifier in the CLCI-Message code.

5. TRUNK GROUPS

5.1 The following trunk groups shall be used to exchange local traffic between COMCAST and TDS TELECOM.

5.2 Local Interconnection Trunk Group(s) in Each Exchange

5.2.1 Direct End Office Trunking

5.2.1.1 The Parties shall establish direct End Office primary high usage Local Interconnection trunk groups for the exchange of Local traffic where actual or projected traffic demand is or will be twenty four (24) or more trunks, as described in Sections 4.1 and 4.2.

5.3 For each NXX code used by either Party, the Party to whom the NXX is assigned must maintain network facilities (whether owned or leased) used to actively provide, in part, local Telecommunications Services in the geographic area assigned to such NXX code.

5.4 TDS TELECOM will not block switched access customer traffic delivered to any TDS TELECOM Office for completion on COMCAST's network. The Parties understand and agree that InterLATA trunking arrangements are available and functional only to/from switched access customers who directly connect with any TDS TELECOM End Office. TDS TELECOM shall have no responsibility to ensure that any switched access customer will accept traffic that COMCAST directs to the switched access customer. TDS TELECOM agrees to furnish COMCAST, upon request, a list of those IXCs which also interconnect with TDS TELECOM's End Office(s).

5.5 COMCAST shall provide all SS7 signaling information including, without limitation, charge number and originating line information (OLI). For terminating FGD, TDS TELECOM will pass all SS7 signaling information including, without limitation, CPN if it receives CPN from FGD carriers. All privacy indicators will be honored. Where available, network signaling information such as transit network selection (TNS) parameter, carrier

identification codes (CIC) (CCS platform) and CIC/OZZ information (non-SS7 environment) will be provided by COMCAST wherever such information is needed for call routing or billing. The Parties will follow all OBF adopted standards pertaining to TNS and CIC/OZZ codes.

5.6 High Volume Call In (HVCI) / Mass Calling (Choke) Trunk Group:

5.6.1 If COMCAST should acquire a HVCI/Mass Calling customer, i.e. a radio station, COMCAST shall provide written notification to TDS TELECOM. TDS TELECOM reserves the option to provide either a physical or “virtual” trunk group, with a virtual group preferred where technically feasible, for HVCI/Mass Calling Trunking.

6. FORECASTING RESPONSIBILITIES

6.1 COMCAST agrees to provide an initial forecast for establishing the initial Interconnection facilities. TDS TELECOM shall review this forecast, and if it has any additional information that will change the forecast shall provide this information to COMCAST. The Parties recognize that, to the extent historical traffic data can be shared between the Parties, the accuracy of the forecasts will improve. COMCAST shall provide subsequent forecasts on a semi-annual basis. COMCAST forecasts should include yearly forecasted trunk quantities for all appropriate trunk groups described in this Appendix for a minimum of three years. Forecasts shall be non-binding on both TDS TELECOM and COMCAST. TDS TELECOM shall take COMCAST’s forecasts into consideration in its network planning, and shall exercise its best efforts to provide the quantity of interconnection trunks and facilities forecasted by the COMCAST. However, the development and submission of forecasts shall not replace the ordering process in place for interconnection trunks and facilities, and the provision of the forecasted quantity of interconnection trunks and facilities is subject to capacity existing at the time the order is submitted. Furthermore, the development and receipt of forecasts does not imply any liability for failure to perform if capacity is not available for use at the forecasted time. The Parties agree to the use of Common Language Location Identification (CLLI) coding and Common Language Circuit Identification for Message Trunk coding (CLCI-MSG) which is described in TELCORDIA TECHNOLOGIES documents BR795-100-100 and BR795-400-100 respectively. Inquiries pertaining to use of TELCORDIA TECHNOLOGIES Common Language Standards and document availability should be directed to TELCORDIA TECHNOLOGIES at 1-800-521-2673. Analysis of trunk group performance, and ordering of relief if required, will be performed on a monthly basis at a minimum (trunk servicing).

6.2 The semi-annual forecasts shall include:

6.2.1 Yearly forecasted trunk quantities (which include measurements that reflect actual, End Office Local Interconnection trunks, and Tandem

subtending Local Interconnection End Office equivalent trunk requirements) for a minimum of three (current and plus 1 and plus 2) years; and

- 6.2.2 A description of major network projects anticipated for the following six (6) months. Major network projects include trunking or network rearrangements, shifts in anticipated traffic patterns, orders greater than four (4) DS1's, or other activities that are reflected by a significant increase or decrease in trunking demand for the following forecasting period.
- 6.3 The Parties shall agree on a forecast provided above to ensure efficient utilization of trunks. Orders for trunks that exceed forecasted quantities for forecasted locations will be accommodated as facilities and/or equipment becomes available. Parties shall make all reasonable efforts and cooperate in good faith to develop alternative solutions to accommodate orders when facilities are not available.
- 6.4 COMCAST shall be responsible for forecasting two-way trunk groups. TDS TELECOM shall be responsible for forecasting and servicing the one-way trunk groups terminating to COMCAST and COMCAST shall be responsible for forecasting and servicing the one-way trunk groups terminating to TDS TELECOM, unless otherwise specified in this Appendix. Standard trunk traffic engineering methods will be used by the Parties.
- 6.5 If forecast quantities are in dispute, the Parties shall meet, either in person or via conference call, to reconcile the differences.
- 6.6 Each Party shall provide a specified point of contact for planning, forecasting and trunk servicing purposes.

7. TRUNK DESIGN BLOCKING CRITERIA

- 7.1 Trunk requirements for forecasting and servicing shall be based on the blocking objectives shown in Table 1. Trunk requirements shall be based upon time consistent average busy season busy hour twenty-one (21) day averaged loads applied to industry standard Neal-Wilkinson Trunk Group Capacity algorithms (use Medium day-to-day Variation and 1.0 Peakedness factor until actual traffic data is available).

TABLE 1

<u>Trunk Group Type</u>	<u>Design Blocking Objective</u>
Local Direct End Office (Primary High)	as mutually agreed upon
Local Direct End Office (Final)	1%

8. TRUNK SERVICING

- 8.1 Orders between the Parties to establish, add, change or disconnect trunks shall be processed by using an Access Service Request (ASR). COMCAST will have administrative control for the purpose of issuing ASR's on two-way trunk groups. Where one-way trunks are used (as discussed in section 3.3), TDS TELECOM will issue ASRs for trunk groups for traffic that originates from TDS TELECOM and terminates to COMCAST. The Parties agree that neither Party shall alter trunk sizing on two-way trunk groups without first conferring with the other Party.
- 8.2 The Parties will jointly manage the capacity of two-way Local Interconnection Trunk Groups. Either Party may send a Trunk Group Service Request (TGSR) to the other Party to trigger changes to the Local Interconnection Trunk Groups based on capacity assessment. The TGSR is a standard industry support interface developed by the Ordering and Billing Forum of the Carrier Liaison Committee of the Alliance for Telecommunications Solutions (ATIS) organization. TELECORDIA TECHNOLOGIES Special Report STS000316 describes the format and use of the TGSR. The forms can be obtained from www.atis.org/atis/clc/obf/download.htm.
- 8.3 In A Blocking Situation:
- 8.3.1 In a blocking final situation, a TGSR will be issued by either Party when additional capacity is required to reduce measured blocking to objective design blocking levels based upon analysis of trunk group data. Either Party upon receipt of a TGSR in a blocking situation will issue an ASR to the other Party within three (3) business days after receipt of the TGSR, and upon review and in response to the TGSR received. The ordering Party will note "Service Affecting" on the ASR.
- 8.4 Underutilization:
- 8.4.1 Underutilization of Interconnection trunks and facilities exists when provisioned capacity is greater than the current need. This over provisioning is an inefficient deployment and use of network resources

and results in unnecessary costs. Those situations where more capacity exists than actual usage requires will be handled in the following manner:

- 8.4.1.1 If a trunk group is under 75 percent (75%) of CCS capacity on a monthly average basis, for each month of any three (3) consecutive months period, unless otherwise agreed due to forecasted demand, either Party may request the issuance of an order to resize the trunk group, which shall be left with not less than 25 percent (25%) excess capacity. In all cases grade of service objectives shall be maintained.
 - 8.4.1.2 Either Party may send a TGSR to the other Party to trigger changes to the Local Interconnection Trunk Groups based on capacity assessment.
 - 8.4.1.3 Upon review of the TGSR if a Party does not agree with the resizing, the Parties will schedule a joint planning discussion within twenty (20) business days. The Parties will meet to resolve and mutually agree to the disposition of the TGSR.
 - 8.4.1.4 Those situations where more capacity exists than actual usage requires, and the Parties disagree on the quantity of trunks to disconnect, will be handled via the dispute resolution process pursuant to Section 16 of the General Terms and Conditions.
- 8.5 In all cases except a blocking situation, either Party upon receipt of a TGSR will issue an ASR to the other Party:
- 8.5.1 Within ten (10) business days after receipt of the TGSR.
 - 8.5.2 At any time as a result of either Party's own capacity management assessment, in order to begin the provisioning process.
 - 8.5.3 In all cases, either Party upon receipt of an ASR will issue the FOC to the other Party within three (3) business days after receipt of the ASR.
- 8.6 Projects require the coordination and execution of multiple orders or related activities between and among TDS TELECOM and COMCAST work groups, including but not limited to the initial establishment of Local Interconnection or Meet Point Trunk Groups and service in an area, NXX code moves, re-homes, facility grooming, or network rearrangements.
- 8.6.1 Orders greater than four (4) DS-1's to a single Central Office, shall be submitted at the same time, and their implementation shall be jointly planned and coordinated.

- 8.7 COMCAST will be responsible for engineering its network on its side of the Point of Interconnection (POI). TDS TELECOM will be responsible for engineering its network on its side of the POI.
- 8.8 Where facilities are available, and unless otherwise agreed, due dates for the installation of Local Interconnection Trunks covered by this Appendix shall be no longer than ten (10) business days from receipt of a request by either Party. If either COMCAST or TDS TELECOM is unable to or not ready to perform Acceptance Tests, or is unable to accept the Local Interconnection Service Arrangement trunk(s) by the due date, the Parties will reschedule the date no more than seven (7) days from the original date.
- 8.9 Utilization shall be defined as Trunks Required as a percentage of Trunks In Service. Trunks Required shall be determined using methods described in Section 6.0 using Design Blocking Objectives stated in section 7.1.

9. TRUNK DATA EXCHANGE

- 9.1 Each Party agrees to service trunk groups to the foregoing blocking criteria in a timely manner when trunk groups exceed measured blocking thresholds on an average time consistent busy hour for a twenty-one (21) day study period. The Parties agree that twenty-one (21) days is the study period duration objective. However, a study period on occasion may be less than twenty-one (21) days but at minimum must be at least three (3) business days to be utilized for engineering purposes, although with less statistical confidence.
- 9.2 Exchange of traffic data enables each Party to make accurate and independent assessments of trunk group service levels and requirements. Parties agree to establish a timeline for implementing an exchange of traffic data. Implementation shall be within three (3) months of the date, or such date as agreed upon, that the trunk groups begin passing live traffic. The traffic data to be exchanged will be the Originating Attempt Peg Count, Usage (measured in Hundred Call Seconds), Overflow Peg Count, and Maintenance Usage (measured in Hundred Call Seconds) on a seven (7) day per week, twenty-four (24) hour per day, fifty-two (52) weeks per year basis. These reports shall be made available at a minimum on a semi-annual basis upon request. Exchange of data on one-way groups is optional.

10. NETWORK MANAGEMENT

10.1 Restrictive Controls

- 10.1.1 Either Party may use protective network traffic management controls such as 7-digit and 10-digit code gaps set at appropriate levels on traffic toward each other's network, when required, to protect the public switched network from congestion due to facility failures, switch congestion, or

failure or focused overload. COMCAST and TDS TELECOM will immediately notify each other of any protective control action planned or executed.

10.2 Expansive Controls

10.2.1 Where the capability exists, originating or terminating traffic reroutes may be implemented by either Party to temporarily relieve network congestion due to facility failures or abnormal calling patterns. Reroutes will not be used to circumvent normal trunk servicing. Expansive controls will only be used when mutually agreed to by the Parties.

10.3 Mass Calling

10.3.1 COMCAST and TDS TELECOM shall cooperate and share pre-planning information regarding cross-network call-ins expected to generate large or focused temporary increases in call volumes.

11. **APPLICABILITY OF OTHER RATES, TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

11.1 Every interconnection and service provided hereunder shall be subject to all rates, terms and conditions contained in this Agreement which are legitimately related to such interconnection or service.

**APPENDIX NIM
(NETWORK INTERCONNECTION METHODS)**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION3

2. PHYSICAL ARCHITECTURE.....3

3. METHODS OF INTERCONNECTION5

4. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES8

5. JOINT FACILITY GROWTH PLANNING9

6. APPLICABILITY OF OTHER RATES, TERMS AND CONDITIONS .10

**APPENDIX NIM
(NETWORK INTERCONNECTION METHODS)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Appendix sets forth the terms and conditions that Network Interconnection Methods (NIM) are provided by TDS TELECOM and COMCAST. This Appendix describes the physical architecture for Interconnection of the Parties' facilities and equipment for the transmission and routing of Telephone Exchange Service traffic and Exchange Access traffic between the respective Customers of the Parties; provided, however, Interconnection may not be used solely for the purpose of originating a Party's own interexchange traffic.
- 1.2 Network Interconnection Methods (NIMs) include, but are not limited to, Indirect Interconnection, Leased Facilities Interconnection; Fiber Meet Interconnection; and other methods as mutually agreed to by the Parties.
- 1.2.1 Trunking requirements associated with Interconnection are contained in Appendix ITR.
- 1.3 TDS TELECOM shall provide Interconnection for COMCAST's facilities and equipment for the transmission and routing of telephone exchange service and exchange access, at a level of quality equal to that which TDS TELECOM provides itself, a subsidiary, an affiliate, or any other party to which TDS TELECOM provides Interconnection and on rates, terms and conditions that are just, reasonable and non-discriminatory.
- 1.4 The Parties shall effect an Interconnection that is efficient, fair and in a manner that is mutually agreeable to the Parties.

2. PHYSICAL ARCHITECTURE

- 2.1 TDS TELECOM's network is partly comprised of End Office switches that serve IntraLATA, InterLATA, Local, and EAS traffic. TDS TELECOM's network architecture in any given local exchange area and/or LATA can vary markedly from another local exchange area/LATA. Using one or more of the NIMs herein, the Parties will agree to a physical architecture plan for the Vermont LATA 124. Where the Parties elect to interconnect indirectly, the physical architecture plan will be completed within thirty (30) days from COMCAST's written request for interconnection contingent upon the Parties' mutual agreement on the architecture. Where the Parties elect to interconnect directly, the physical architecture plan will be completed within sixty (60) days from COMCAST's written request for interconnection contingent upon the Parties' mutual agreement on the architecture. COMCAST and TDS TELECOM agree to Interconnect their networks through existing and/or new Interconnection facilities between COMCAST switch(es) and TDS TELECOM's End Office(s). Where the Parties

elect to interconnect via direct trunking, the physical architecture plan will, at a minimum, include the location of COMCAST's switch(es) and TDS TELECOM End Office switch(es) to be interconnected, the facilities that will connect the two networks, the timelines for completion of all major tasks, and which Party will provide (be financially responsible for) the Interconnection facilities. At the time of implementation in the LATA the plan will be documented and signed by appropriate representatives of the Parties, indicating their mutual agreement to the physical architecture plan.

- 2.2 Points of Interconnection (POIs): A Point of Interconnection (POI) is a point in the network where the Parties deliver Interconnection traffic to each other, and also serves as a demarcation point between the facilities that each Party is responsible to provide.
- 2.3 At least one POI must be established at or within the TDS TELECOM company's serving area boundary. Additional POIs may be established for each central office switch where COMCAST and TDS TELECOM interconnect directly, as specified in Appendix ITR Section 4. The Parties shall mutually agree on the selection of new POIs. In some cases, multiple POI(s) will be necessary to balance the facilities investment and provide the best technical implementation of Interconnection requirements to each End Office within a TDS TELECOM company's service area. Both Parties shall negotiate the architecture in each location that will seek to mutually minimize and equalize investment.
- 2.4 The Parties agree to meet as often as necessary to negotiate the selection of new POIs. The overall goal of POI selection will be to achieve a balance in the provision of facilities that is fair to both Parties. Criteria to be used in determining POIs include existing facility capacity, location of existing POIs, traffic volumes, relative costs, future capacity needs, etc. Agreement to the location of POIs will be based on the network architecture existing at the time the POI(s) is/are negotiated. In the event either Party makes subsequent changes to its network architecture, including but not limited to trunking changes or adding new switches, then the Parties will negotiate new POIs if required. The mutually agreed to POIs will be documented and distributed to both Parties.
- 2.5 Each Party is responsible for the facilities to its side of the POI(s) and may utilize any method of Interconnection described in this Appendix. Each Party is responsible for the appropriate sizing, operation, and maintenance of the transport facility to the POI(s).
- 2.6 Either Party, must provide thirty (30) days written notice of any changes to the physical architecture plan.
- 2.7 Each Party is solely responsible for the facilities that carry OS/DA, 911 or mass calling for their respective End Users.

2.8 Technical Interfaces

2.8.1 The Interconnection facilities provided by each Party shall be formatted using B8ZS with Extended Superframe format framing.

2.8.2 Electrical handoffs at the POI(s) will be DS1, DS3 or STS-1 as mutually agreed to by the parties. When a DS3 or STS-1 handoff is agreed to by the Parties, each Party will provide all required multiplexing at their respective end.

3. **METHODS OF INTERCONNECTION**

3.1 Leased Facility Interconnection (“LFI”)

3.1.1 Where facilities exist, either Party may lease facilities from the other Party pursuant to applicable tariff.

3.2 Fiber Meet Interconnection

3.2.1 Fiber Meet Interconnection between TDS TELECOM and COMCAST can occur at any mutually agreeable, economically and technically feasible point(s) between COMCASTs premises and a TDS TELECOM End Office.

3.2.2 Where the Parties interconnect their networks pursuant to a Fiber Meet, the Parties shall jointly engineer and operate this Interconnection as a Synchronous Optical NETWORK (SONET) ring or single point-to-point linear SONET system. Administrative control of the SONET system shall be mutually agreed upon by the Parties. Only Interconnection trunks or trunks used to provide ancillary services as described in Section 5 of Appendix ITR shall be provisioned over this facility.

3.2.3 Neither Party will be given the IP address or allowed to access the Data Communications Channel (DCC) of the other Party’s Fiber Optic Terminal (FOT). The Fiber Meet will be designed so that each Party may, as far as is technically feasible, independently select the transmission, multiplexing, and fiber terminating equipment to be used on its side of the POI(s). The Parties will work cooperatively to achieve equipment and vendor compatibility of the FOT equipment. Requirements for such Interconnection specifications will be defined in joint engineering planning sessions between the Parties. The Parties will share the investment of the fiber as mutually agreed such that neither Party bears a disproportionate share of the investment. The Parties will use good faith efforts to develop and agree on these facility arrangements within ninety (90) days of the determination by the Parties that such specifications shall

be implemented, and in any case, prior to the establishment of any Fiber Meet arrangements between them.

3.2.4 There are four basic Fiber Meet design options.

3.2.4.1 Design One: COMCAST's fiber cable (four, or some integral multiple thereof, fibers) and TDS TELECOM's fiber cable (four, or some integral multiple thereof, fibers) are connected at an economically and technically feasible point between the COMCAST and TDS TELECOM locations. This Interconnection point would be at a mutually agreeable location. The Parties' fiber cables would be terminated on fiber termination panel(s) and then cross-connected with jumpers jointly provided by the Parties. Each Party would supply a fiber optic terminal (FOT) at their respective end. The POI would be at the fiber termination panel at the mid-point meet.

3.2.4.2 Design Two: COMCAST will provide fiber cable to the last entrance (or TDS TELECOM designated) manhole at the TDS TELECOM's End Office switch. TDS TELECOM shall make all necessary preparations to receive and to allow and enable COMCAST to deliver fiber optic facilities into that manhole. COMCAST will provide a sufficient length of Optical Fire Resistant (OFR) cable for TDS TELECOM to pull the fiber cable through the TDS TELECOM cable vault and terminate on the TDS TELECOM fiber distribution frame (FDF) in TDS TELECOM's office. COMCAST shall deliver and maintain such strands wholly at its own expense up to the POI. TDS TELECOM shall take the fiber from the manhole and terminate it inside TDS TELECOM's office on the FDF at TDS TELECOM's expense. In this case the POI shall be at the TDS TELECOM designated manhole location.

3.2.4.3 Design Three: TDS TELECOM will provide fiber cable to the last entrance (or COMCAST designated) manhole at the COMCAST location. COMCAST shall make all necessary preparations to receive and to allow and enable TDS TELECOM to deliver fiber optic facilities into that manhole. TDS TELECOM will provide a sufficient length of Optical Fire Resistant (OFR) cable for COMCAST to run the fiber cable from the manhole and terminate on the COMCAST fiber distribution frame (FDF) in COMCAST's location. TDS TELECOM shall deliver and maintain such strands wholly at its own expense up to the POI. COMCAST shall take the fiber from the manhole and terminate it inside COMCAST's office on the FDF at COMCAST's expense. In this case the POI shall be at the COMCAST designated manhole location.

- 3.2.4.4 Design Four: Both COMCAST and TDS TELECOM each provide two fibers between their locations. This design may only be considered where existing fibers are available and there is a mutual benefit to both Parties. TDS TELECOM will provide the fibers associated with the “working” side of the system. COMCAST will provide the fibers associated with the “protection” side of the system. The Parties will work cooperatively to terminate each other’s fiber in order to provision this joint SONET ring or point-to-point linear system. Both Parties will work cooperatively to determine the appropriate technical handoff for purposes of demarcation and fault isolation. The POI will be defined as being at the TDS TELECOM location.
- 3.2.5 The COMCAST location includes FOTs, multiplexing and fiber required to terminate the optical signal provided from TDS TELECOM. This location is COMCAST’s responsibility to provision and maintain.
- 3.2.6 The TDS TELECOM location includes all TDS TELECOM FOTs, multiplexing and fiber required to terminate the optical signal provided from COMCAST. This location is TDS TELECOM’s responsibility to provision and maintain.
- 3.2.7 TDS TELECOM and COMCAST shall, solely at their own expense, procure, install, and maintain the agreed-upon FOT equipment in each of their locations where the Parties established a Fiber Meet. Capacity shall be sufficient to provision and maintain all trunk groups prescribed by Appendix ITR for the purposes of Interconnection.
- 3.2.8 Each Party shall provide its own, unique source for the synchronized timing of its FOT equipment. At a minimum, each timing source must be Stratum-3 traceable and cannot be provided over DS0/DS1 facilities, via Line Timing; or via a Derived DS1 off of FOT equipment. Both Parties agree to establish separate and distinct timing sources that are not derived from the other, and meet the criteria identified above.
- 3.2.9 COMCAST and TDS TELECOM will mutually agree on the capacity of the FOT(s) to be utilized based on equivalent DS1s, DS3s or STS-1s. Each Party will also agree upon the optical frequency and wavelength necessary to implement the Interconnection. The Parties will develop and agree upon methods for the capacity planning and management for these facilities, terms and conditions for over provisioning facilities, and the necessary processes to implement facilities as indicated below. These methods will meet quality standards as mutually agreed to by COMCAST and TDS TELECOM.

3.3 Indirect Interconnection

- 3.3.1 The Parties agree that where traffic volumes require less than twenty-four (24) trunks, such traffic shall be exchanged by transiting through third party LEC tandems (in this case Verizon, or its successor, Fairpoint) unless otherwise agreed by both Parties. Each Party shall be financially and operationally responsible for the costs incurred with providing facilities from its network to the Point of Interconnection (POI) for the exchange of such traffic.
- 3.3.2 Where the traffic exchanged between COMCAST and a specific TDS TELECOM host or end office switch requires twenty-four (24) or more trunks or the Parties agree it is otherwise economically advantageous, either Party may request to implement direct trunks to a POI associated with the specific host or end office switch in accordance with Appendix ITR Section 4. The Parties agree to negotiate in good faith to reach agreement to accommodate direct interconnection.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

- 4.1 If COMCAST determines to offer local exchange service within a TDS TELECOM area, COMCAST shall provide written notice to TDS TELECOM of the need to establish Interconnection. Such request shall include (i) COMCAST's Switch address, type, and CLLI; (ii) COMCAST's requested Interconnection activation date; and (iii) a non-binding forecast of COMCAST's trunking and facilities requirements.
- 4.2 Upon receipt of COMCAST's notice to interconnect, the Parties shall schedule a meeting to negotiate and mutually agree on the network architecture (including trunking) to be documented as discussed above. The Interconnection activation date for an Interconnect shall be established based on then-existing work force and load, the scope and complexity of the requested Interconnection and other relevant factors.
- 4.3 If COMCAST deploys additional switches after the Effective Date or otherwise wishes to establish Interconnection with additional TDS TELECOM Central Offices, COMCAST shall provide written notice to TDS TELECOM to establish such Interconnection. The terms and conditions of this Agreement shall apply to such Interconnection. If TDS TELECOM deploys additional End Office switches in a local exchange after the effective date or otherwise wishes to establish Interconnection with additional COMCAST Central Offices in such local exchange, TDS TELECOM shall be entitled, upon written notice to COMCAST, to establish such Interconnection and the terms and conditions of this Agreement shall apply to such Interconnection.
- 4.4 COMCAST and TDS TELECOM shall work cooperatively to install and maintain a reliable network. COMCAST and TDS TELECOM shall exchange appropriate

information (e.g., maintenance contact numbers, network information, information required to comply with law enforcement and other security agencies of the federal and state government and such other information as the Parties shall mutually agree) to achieve this desired reliability.

- 4.5 COMCAST and TDS TELECOM will review engineering requirements as required and establish semi-annual forecasts for facilities utilization provided under this Appendix.
- 4.6 COMCAST and TDS TELECOM shall:
 - 4.6.1 Provide trained personnel with adequate and compatible test equipment to work with each other's technicians.
 - 4.6.2 Notify each other when there is any change affecting the service requested, including the due date.
 - 4.6.3 Recognize that a facility handoff point must be agreed to that establishes the demarcation for maintenance and provisioning responsibilities for each party on their side of the POI.

5. JOINT FACILITY GROWTH PLANNING

- 5.1 Facilities will be planned for in accordance with the trunk forecasts exchanged between the Parties and are to be deployed in accordance with the processes described in Appendix ITR.
- 5.2 For a Fiber Meet Interconnection, an initial fiber optic system deployed for each Interconnection shall be agreed to by the Parties. The following lists the criteria and processes needed to satisfy additional capacity requirements beyond the initial system.
 - 5.2.1 Criteria:
 - 5.2.1.1 Investment is to be minimized.
 - 5.2.1.2 Facilities will be planned for in accordance with the trunk forecasts exchanged between the Parties as described in Appendix ITR and are to be deployed in accordance with the Processes described below.
 - 5.2.2 Processes:
 - 5.2.2.1 In addition to the semi-annual forecast process, discussions to provide relief to existing facilities can be initiated by either party.

Actual system augmentations will be initiated upon mutual agreement.

5.2.2.2 Both Parties will perform a joint validation to ensure current Interconnection facilities and associated trunks have not been over-provisioned. If any facilities and/or associated trunks are over-provisioned, they will be turned down where appropriate. Trunk design blocking criteria described in Appendix ITR will be used in determining trunk group sizing requirements and forecasts.

5.2.2.3 If, based on the forecasted equivalent DS-1 growth, the existing fiber optic system is not projected to exhaust within one year, the Parties will suspend further relief planning on this Interconnection until a date one (1) year prior to the projected exhaust date. If growth patterns change during the suspension period, either Party may re-initiate the joint planning process.

5.2.2.4 If the placement of a minimum size system will not provide adequate augmentation capacity for the joint forecast over a two-year period and the forecast appears reasonable, the next larger system may be deployed. If the forecast does not justify a move to the next larger system, another appropriately sized system could be placed. This criterion assumes both Parties have adequate fibers for either scenario. If adequate fibers do not exist, both Parties would negotiate placement of additional fibers.

5.2.2.5 Both Parties will negotiate a project service date and corresponding work schedule to construct relief facilities prior to facilities exhaust.

5.2.2.6 The joint planning process/negotiations should be completed within two months of the initiation of such discussion.

6. APPLICABILITY OF OTHER RATES, TERMS AND CONDITIONS

6.1 Every interconnection and service provided hereunder shall be subject to all rates, terms and conditions contained in this Agreement which are legitimately related to such interconnection or service.

APPENDIX NUMBER PORTABILITY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION..... 3

2. PERMANENT NUMBER PORTABILITY 3

3. MASS CALLING..... 6

4. APPLICABILITY OF OTHER RATES, TERMS AND CONDITIONS..... 6

**APPENDIX NP
NUMBER PORTABILITY**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Appendix sets forth terms and conditions for Number Portability provided by TDS TELECOM and COMCAST.
- 1.2 The prices at which each Party agrees to provide the other Party with Number Portability are contained in the applicable Appendix PRICING and/or the applicable tariff where stated.

2. PERMANENT NUMBER PORTABILITY

2.1 General Terms and Conditions

- 2.2 The Parties agree to at all times adhere to all FCC orders, NANC and Industry Numbering Committee guidelines that establish the technology and standards for Local Number Portability.

- 2.2.1 TDS TELECOM may cancel any line-based calling cards associated with telephone numbers ported from their switch.

- 2.2.2 Complex ports require project management and will require negotiation of due date intervals. Complex ports include:

- 2.2.2.1 Port requests of 51 or more numbers;

- 2.2.2.2 Porting of 15 or more access lines for the same customer at the same location;

- 2.2.2.3 Porting associated with complex services including but not limited to Centrex and ISDN.

- 2.2.3 The Parties shall adhere to reserved number standards as set by the FCC.

- 2.2.4 The Parties shall cooperate in performing activities required to port Customer telephone number(s). The primary responsibility for the coordination of such activities will be assumed by the Party acquiring the End User Customer (porting in the Customer telephone number(s)).

2.3 Obligations of Both Parties

- 2.3.1 When a ported telephone number becomes vacant, e.g., the telephone number is no longer in service by the original End User, the ported telephone number will be released back to the carrier owning the switch in

which the telephone number's NXX is native after appropriate time has elapsed for intercept notification.

- 2.3.2 Each Party has the right to block default routed calls from entering a network in order to protect the public switched network from overload, congestion, or failure propagation.
- 2.3.3 Industry guidelines shall be followed regarding all aspects of porting numbers from one network to another.
- 2.3.4 Intercompany testing shall be performed prior to the submission of actual porting orders.
- 2.3.5 Each Party will designate a single point of contact (SPOC) to schedule and perform required testing. These tests will be performed during a mutually agreed time frame and must meet the criteria set forth by the InterIndustry LNP Regional Team for porting.
- 2.3.6 Each Party shall abide by NANC and the InterIndustry LNP Regional Team provisioning and implementation processes.
- 2.3.7 Each Party shall become responsible for the End User's other telecommunications related items, e.g. E911, Directory Listings, Operator Services, Line Information Database (LIDB), when they port the End User's telephone number to their switch.
- 2.3.8 The Parties will provide a 10-digit trigger on all LNP orders unless a coordinated conversion of numbers is requested on the PNP order. The 10-digit trigger will remain active on the porting-out Party's switch until the first business day following the port due date at which time the line shall be physically disconnected from the porting-out Party's switch.

2.4 Limitations of Service

- 2.4.1 Telephone numbers can be ported only within TDS TELECOM rate centers or rate districts, which ever is a smaller geographic area, as approved by the State Commission. If geographic number portability is ordered by the FCC or the Commission during the term of this Agreement, the Parties will promptly negotiate any necessary revisions to this appendix to accommodate geographic number portability. In the event the Parties are unable to negotiate such changes within thirty (30) days, either Party may invoke the dispute resolution procedures under this Agreement.
- 2.4.2 Telephone numbers with NXXs dedicated to choke/High Volume Call-In (HVCI) networks are not portable via LRN. Such numbers will be ported on an ICB basis upon request.

2.5 Service Descriptions

- 2.5.1 The N-1 carrier (N carrier is the responsible Party for terminating call to the End User) has the responsibility to determine if a query is required, to launch the query, and to route the call to the switch or network in which the telephone number resides.
- 2.5.2 If a Party chooses not to fulfill its N-1 carrier responsibility, the other Party will perform queries on calls to telephone numbers with portable NXXs received from the N-1 carrier and route the call to the switch or network in which the telephone number resides. TDS TELECOM will perform LNP Query Service for COMCAST pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth in National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA) Tariff FCC No. 5. COMCAST will perform N-1 responsibilities on the same terms as TDS TELECOM provides for in its applicable tariff.
- 2.5.3 A Party shall be responsible for payment of charges to the other Party for any queries made on the N-1 carrier's behalf when one or more telephone numbers have been ported in the called telephone number's NXX. Charges by each Party will be at the rate set forth in TDS TELECOM's applicable tariff.
- 2.5.4 Both Parties shall populate the Jurisdictional Identification Parameter (JIP) field with the first six (6) digits (NPA NXX format) of the appropriate LRN of the originating switch for any ported telephone number.

2.6 Pricing

- 2.6.1 The price of PNP queries shall be the same as those in NECA's FCC No. 5 Access Services Tariff in which TDS TELECOM is a concurring carrier. COMCAST will perform N-1 queries at prices no higher than TDS TELECOM provides for in its applicable tariff.
- 2.6.2 Other than standard Service Order charges for processing Local Service Requests (LSRs) as specified in Appendix Pricing, or a Party's applicable tariff, the Parties agree not to charge each other, or any of the other Party's End Users for the provisioning or conversion of ported telephone numbers during regular working hours. To the extent either Party requests porting to be performed outside of other Party's regular working hours, or the work requires the porting-out Party's technicians or project managers to work outside of regular working hours, premium time and material charges shall apply.

3. MASS CALLING

3.1 General Terms and Conditions

3.1.1 Mass calling codes, i.e., choke/HVCI NXXs, are used in a network serving arrangement in special circumstances where large numbers of incoming calls are solicited by an End User and the number of calls far exceeds the switching capacity of the terminating office, the number of lines available for terminating those calls, and/or the STP's query capacity to the PNP database. Number portability for mass calling codes will be done on an Individual Case Basis.

4. APPLICABILITY OF OTHER RATES, TERMS AND CONDITIONS

4.1 Every interconnection and service provided hereunder shall be subject to all rates, terms and conditions contained in this Agreement which are legitimately related to such interconnection or service.

APPENDIX NUMBERING

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	3
2. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS	3
3. APPLICABILITY OF OTHER RATES, TERMS AND CONDITIONS	4

APPENDIX NUMBERING

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Appendix sets forth the terms and conditions under which TDS TELECOM and COMCAST will coordinate with respect to NXX assignments.

2. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- 2.1. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to limit or otherwise adversely impact in any manner either Party's right to employ or to request and be assigned any North American Numbering Plan (NANP) number resources from the numbering administrator including, but not limited to, central office (NXX) codes pursuant to the Central Office Code Assignment Guidelines, or to establish, by tariff or otherwise, Exchanges and Rating Points corresponding to such NXX codes. Each Party is responsible for administering the NXX codes it is assigned.
- 2.2. Parties agree to adhere to all FCC orders, and NANC and INC Guidelines related to Central Office Code administration and Thousands-Block Number Pooling.
- 2.3. Each Party is responsible to program and update its own switches and network systems to recognize and route traffic to the other Party at all times.
- 2.4. Each Party is responsible to input required data into the Routing Data Base Systems (RDBS) and into the Telcordia Rating Administrative Data Systems (BRADS) or other appropriate system(s) necessary to update the Local Exchange Routing Guide (LERG).
- 2.5. Neither Party is responsible for notifying the other Parties' End Users of any changes in dialing arrangements, including those due to NPA exhaust.
- 2.6. Test Numbers
 - 2.6.1. Each Party is responsible for providing to the other, valid test numbers. One number terminating to a voice announcement identifying the Company and one number terminating to a milliwatt tone providing answer supervision and allowing simultaneous connection from multiple test lines. Both numbers

should remain in service indefinitely for regressive testing purposes.

3. APPLICABILITY OF OTHER RATES, TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- 3.1 Every interconnection and service provided hereunder shall be subject to all rates, terms and conditions contained in this Agreement which are legitimately related to such interconnection or service.

APPENDIX-PRICING

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION..... 3

2. RECURRING CHARGES 3

3. NON-RECURRING CHARGES 3

4. BILLING 4

5. APPLICABILITY OF OTHER RATES, TERMS AND CONDITIONS..... 4

APPENDIX PRICING

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Appendix sets forth the pricing terms and conditions for TDS TELECOM and COMCAST.
- 1.2 If a rate element and/or charge for a product or service contained in, referenced to or otherwise provided by a Party under this Agreement (including any attached or referenced Appendices) is not listed in this Appendix PRICING, such rates and charges shall be determined in accordance with Section 252(d) of the Act; provided however, if a Party provides a product or service that is not subject to the pricing principles of the Act, such rate(s) and/or charges shall be as negotiated by the Parties hereto.
- 1.3 Except as otherwise agreed upon by the Parties in writing or by the publication of or concurrence in tariffs or price lists filed with the FCC or the Commission, a Party shall not be required to provide the other Party a product or service under this Agreement unless and until the Parties have agreed upon a rate element or charge (whether a final rate/charge or, as agreed upon by the Parties, an interim rate/charge subject to a true-up, true-down) applicable to the requested product and/or service.
- 1.4 The pricing list is in Attachment A found in this Appendix PRICING.

2. RECURRING CHARGES

- 2.1 Unless otherwise identified in Attachment A of this Appendix PRICING, where rates are shown as monthly, a month will be defined as a 30-day calendar month. The minimum term for each monthly rated element will be one (1) month. After the initial month, billing will be on the basis of whole or fractional months used. The minimum term for non-monthly rated services, if applicable, will be specified in the rate table included in this Appendix.
- 2.2 Where rates are distance sensitive, the mileage will be calculated on the airline distance involved between the locations. To determine the rate to be billed, the Parties will first compute the mileage using the V&H coordinates method, as set forth in the National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc. Tariff FCC No 4. When the calculation results in a fraction of a mile, the fractional mileage will be rounded up to the next whole mile before determining the mileage and applying rates.

3. NON-RECURRING CHARGES

- 3.1 Where rates consist of usage sensitive charges or per occurrence charges, such rates are classified as “non-recurring charges.”
- 3.2 A party (“Submitting Party”) shall pay a service order processing/administration charge for each service order submitted by Submitting Party to the other Party.
- 3.3 Some items, which must be individually charged (e.g., extraordinary charges, COMCAST Changes, TDS TELECOM Changes, etc.), are billed as nonrecurring charges.
- 3.4 Time and Material charges (a.k.a. additional labor charges) are defined in the Pricing Attachment A.
- 3.5 All charges assume work performed during normal business hours (8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Friday). For work requested outside of normal business hours or on weekends and holidays, premium rates will apply.

4. BILLING

- 4.1 For information regarding billing, non-payment, disconnects and dispute resolution, see the General Terms and Conditions of this Agreement.

5. APPLICABILITY OF OTHER RATES, TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- 5.1 Every interconnection and service provided hereunder shall be subject to all rates, terms and conditions contained in this Agreement which are legitimately related to such interconnection or service.

**TDS TELECOM- Comcast
Contracted Interconnection Rates**

		TDS TELECOM-Comcast	
		Vermont	
		Monthly Recurring	Non Recurring
Local Service Non-Recurring Charges (see Appendix NP)			
Local Service Order (LSR)			
	Per Initial Order:		\$20.00
	Per Supplemental Order:		\$5.00
Directory Service Order (DSR)- per Order			
			\$5.00
Miscellaneous Testing and other Additional Labor- each half hour or fraction thereof			
	Overtime per employee	\$	34.97
	Premium Time per employee	\$	46.63
RECIPROCAL COMPENSATION (see Appendix Recip Comp)			
Local Traffic Termination**			
Should Local Traffic become out of balance (>60/40) a reciprocal Local Traffic Termination rate shall be developed and this Attachment shall be updated to incorporate such rate.			
Bill and Keep**			
WHITE PAGES (see Appendix WP)			
Directory			
	Per book copy delivered to COMCAST End User		\$5.00
	Per Book copy Delivered in Bulk to COMCAST <i>*5% discount on orders over 500</i>		\$5.00*
	Per Single Sided Informational Page		\$100.00
PERCENT LOCAL USAGE FACTOR (PLU) (See Appendix Recip Comp)			
	TDS Telecom Originated- COMCAST Terminated Traffic (PLU)		TBD
	COMCAST Originated- TDS Telecom Terminated Traffic (PLU)		TBD

APPENDIX RECIPROCAL COMPENSATION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION3

2. TRANSMISSION AND ROUTING OF TELEPHONE EXCHANGE SERVICE TRAFFIC RELEVANT TO
COMPENSATION3

3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES5

4. LOCAL TRAFFIC COMPENSATION.....6

5. BILLING FOR MUTUAL COMPENSATION7

6. APPLICABILITY OF OTHER RATES TERMS AND CONDITIONS.....8

APPENDIX RECIPROCAL COMPENSATION
(Mutual Compensation for Transport, Termination, and Transiting)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This Appendix sets forth terms and conditions for Reciprocal Compensation provided by TDS TELECOM and COMCAST.

2. TRANSMISSION AND ROUTING OF TELEPHONE EXCHANGE SERVICE TRAFFIC RELEVANT TO COMPENSATION

2.1 The Telecommunications traffic exchanged between COMCAST and TDS TELECOM will be classified as Local Traffic, ISP-Bound Traffic, IP-Enabled Voice Traffic, intraLATA Toll Traffic, or interLATA Toll Traffic.

2.1.1 “Local Traffic,” for purposes of intercarrier compensation, is Telecommunications traffic originated by a End User Customer of one Party in an exchange on that Party’s network and terminated to a End User Customer of the other Party on that other Party’s network located within the same exchange or other non-optional extended local calling area associated with the originating customer’s exchange as defined by TDS TELECOM’s applicable local exchange tariff. Local Traffic does not include: (1) any ISP-Bound Traffic; (2) traffic that does not originate and terminate within the same TDS TELECOM local calling area as such local calling area is defined by TDS TELECOM’s applicable local exchange tariff; (3) Toll Traffic, including, but not limited to, calls originated on a 1+ presubscription basis, or on a casual dialed (10XXX/101XXXX) basis; (4) optional extended local calling area traffic; (5) special access, private line, Frame Relay, ATM, or any other traffic that is not switched by the terminating Party; or, (6) Tandem Transit Traffic.

2.1.2 “ISP-Bound Traffic” means traffic that originates from or is directed, either directly or indirectly, to or through an information service provider or Internet service provider (ISP) who is physically located in an exchange within the local calling area of the originating End User. Traffic originated from, directed to or through an ISP physically located outside the originating End User’s local calling area will be considered toll traffic and subject to access charges. Subject to Section 4 of the General Terms and Conditions, the Parties rights and obligations with respect to intercarrier compensation that may be due in connection with their exchange of telecommunications traffic delivered to Internet Service Providers (ISPs) (Internet Traffic) shall be governed by the Order on Remand and Report and Order, *In the Matter of Implementation of the Local Competition Provisions in the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Intercarrier Compensation for ISP Bound Traffic*, FCC 01-131, CC Docket Nos. 96-98 and 99-68.

- 2.1.3 For purposes of this Agreement and subject to Section 4 of the General Terms and Conditions of this Agreement, "IP-Enabled Voice Traffic" means any IP-enabled, real-time, multi-directional voice call, including, but not limited to, service that mimics traditional telephony. IP-Enabled Voice Traffic includes:
- 2.1.3.1 Voice traffic originating on Internet Protocol Connection (IPC), and which terminates on the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN); and
 - 2.1.3.2 Voice traffic originated on the PSTN, and which terminates on IPC, and
 - 2.1.3.3 Voice traffic originating on the PSTN, which is transported through an IPC, and which ultimately, terminates on the PSTN.
- 2.2 Reciprocal compensation applies for transport and termination of Local Traffic terminated by either Party's switch. The Parties agree that the jurisdiction of a call is determined by its originating and terminating (end-to-end) points, including calls that originate to or terminate from virtual NXX ("VNXX") numbers. When an End User originates a call which terminates to an End User physically located in the same local calling area and served on the other Party's switch, the originating Party shall compensate the terminating Party for the transport and termination of Local Traffic in accordance with Section 4 of this Appendix.
- 2.3 Notwithstanding any other provision of the Agreement, Local Traffic does not include ISP-Bound Traffic. COMCAST and TDS TELECOM agree to terminate each other's ISP-Bound Traffic on a Bill and Keep basis of reciprocal compensation. "Bill and Keep" shall mean that the originating Party has no obligation to pay terminating charges to the terminating Party, regardless of any charges the originating Party may assess its End Users.
- 2.4 When COMCAST establishes service in a new area, the Parties' obligation for reciprocal compensation to each other shall commence on the date the Parties agree that the network is complete (i.e., each Party has established its originating trunks as well as any ancillary functions (e.g., 9-1-1)) and is capable of fully supporting originating and terminating End Users' (and not a Party's test) traffic. If there is no formal agreement as to the date of network completion, it shall be considered complete no later than the date that live traffic first passes through the network.
- 2.5 The compensation arrangements set forth in this Appendix are not applicable to (i) Exchange Access traffic, (ii) traffic originated by one Party on a number

ported to its network that terminates to another number ported on that same Party's network or (iii) any other type of traffic found to be exempt from reciprocal compensation by the FCC or the Commission. All Exchange Access traffic and intraLATA Toll Traffic shall continue to be governed by the terms and conditions of applicable federal and state access tariffs. Optional calling plans, where applicable, will be classified as toll traffic.

- 2.6 IP-Enabled Voice Traffic shall be assigned to the corresponding jurisdiction for compensation purposes, if all the signaling parameters are included with the traffic exchange. Calling Party Number ("CPN") and Jurisdictional Indicator Parameter ("JIP"), where applicable, of the originating IP-Enabled Voice Traffic shall indicate the geographical location of the actual IPC location, not the location where the call enters the PSTN. Where the CPN and the called party number are in the same exchange or other non-optional extended local calling area, the traffic shall be exchanged pursuant to Section 4 of this Appendix.
- 2.7 Private Line Services include private line-like and special access services and are not subject to local reciprocal compensation. Private Line Services are defined as dedicated Telecommunications channels provided between two points or switched among multiple points and are used for voice, data, audio or video transmission. Private Line services include, but are not limited to, Wide Area Telecommunications Services (WATS) access lines.
- 2.8 Except as provided otherwise in this Agreement, the Parties understand and agree that either Party, upon ten (10) days written notice to the other Party, may block any traffic that is improperly routed by the other Party over any trunk groups and/or which is routed outside of the mutual agreement of the Parties. Notwithstanding the forgoing, a denial by the noticed Party that traffic is being improperly routed shall invoke the dispute resolution procedures provided in Section 16 of the Agreement.
- 2.9 Neither Party shall be obligated to compensate the other Party or any Third Party for telecommunications traffic that is inappropriately routed.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

- 3.1 Each Party to this Appendix will be responsible for the accuracy and quality of its data as submitted to the respective Parties involved. It is the responsibility of each Party to originate and transmit complete and unaltered calling party number (CPN), as received by an originating party. Each Party is individually responsible to provide facilities within its network for routing, transporting, measuring, and billing traffic from the other Party's network and for delivering such traffic to the other Party's network as referenced in Telcordia Technologies BOC Notes on LEC Networks and to terminate the traffic it receives in that standard format to

the proper address on its network. The Parties are each solely responsible for participation in and compliance with national network plans, including the Telecommunications Service Priority (TSP) System for National Security Emergency Preparedness (NSEP).

- 3.2 Each Party is responsible to input required data into Routing Data Base Systems (RDBS) and into Telecordia Technologies Rating Administrative Data Systems (example: BRADS) or other appropriate system(s) necessary to update the Local Exchange Routing Guide.
- 3.3 Neither Party shall use any Interconnection, function, facility, product, network element, or service provided under this Agreement or any other service related thereto or used in combination therewith in any manner that interferes with or impairs service over any facilities of either Party, its affiliated companies or other connecting telecommunications carriers, prevents any carrier from using its Telecommunication Service, impairs the quality or privacy of Telecommunications Service to other carriers or to either Party's End Users, causes hazards to either Party's personnel or the public, damage to either Party's or any connecting carrier's facilities or equipment, including any malfunction of ordering or billing systems or equipment. Upon such occurrence, either Party may discontinue or refuse service for so long as the other Party is violating this provision. Upon any such violation, either Party shall provide the other Party notice of the violation at the earliest practicable time.
- 3.4 Each Party is solely responsible for the services it provides to its End Users and to other Telecommunications Carriers.
- 3.5 Where SS7 connections exist, each Party will provide the other with the proper signaling information (e.g., originating Calling Party Number, JIP, where applicable, and destination called party number, etc.), to enable each Party to issue bills in a complete and timely fashion. All CCS signaling parameters will be provided including CPN, JIP, where applicable, Originating Line Information Parameter (OLIP) on calls to 8XX telephone numbers, calling party category, Charge Number, etc. All privacy indicators will be honored.

4. LOCAL TRAFFIC COMPENSATION

- 4.1 The rates, terms, conditions contained herein apply only to the termination of Local Traffic on the Parties' networks. All applicable rate elements can be found in Appendix PRICING.
- 4.2 Based on the assumption that the Local Traffic exchanged by the Parties will be roughly balanced (i.e., neither Party is terminating more than sixty percent (60%) of the Parties' total terminated minutes for Local Traffic), the Parties shall initially terminate each other's Local Traffic on a Bill and Keep basis.

4.3 Either Party may request that a traffic study be performed no more frequently than once a quarter. Should such traffic study indicate, in the aggregate, that the traffic is no longer in balance, based on traffic exceeding the out-of-balance percentage for three (3) consecutive months, either Party may notify the other of their intent to bill for Local Traffic termination. At such time, the Parties shall mutually agree upon and amend Appendix PRICING to incorporate rates for transport and termination of Local Traffic which shall be utilized for the duration of the Term of this Agreement unless otherwise agreed by the Parties. A minimum of ninety (90) days written notice is required prior to the first billing of mutual compensation.

4.4 End Office Termination Rate

4.4.1 If the Parties invoke billing for Local Traffic termination pursuant to Section 4.3 of this Appendix, the End Office Termination rate applies to Local Traffic that is delivered to the Parties for termination at an End Office Switch. This includes direct-routed Local Traffic that terminates to offices that have combined Tandem Office Switch and End Office Switch functions.

5. BILLING FOR MUTUAL COMPENSATION

5.1 Direct Interconnection

5.1.1 Where the Parties utilize Direct Interconnection for the exchange of traffic between their respective networks, each Party will calculate terminating interconnection minutes of use based on standard Automatic Message Accounting (AMA) recordings made within each Party's network. These recordings are the basis for each Party to generate bills to the other Party. For purposes of reciprocal compensation only, measurement of minutes of use over Local Interconnection Trunk Groups shall be in actual conversation seconds. The total conversation seconds over each individual Local Interconnection Trunk Group will be totaled for the entire monthly bill and then rounded to the next whole minute.

5.1.2 Where SS7 connections exist between TDS TELECOM and COMCAST, if either Party fails to provide CPN (valid originating information) or JIP, where applicable, on at least ninety-five percent (95%) of total traffic, then traffic sent to the other Party without CPN or JIP (valid originating information) will be handled in the following manner.

5.1.2.1 The remaining five percent (5%) of unidentified traffic will be treated as having the same jurisdictional ratio as the ninety-five (95%) of identified traffic.

5.1.2.2 If the unidentified traffic exceeds five percent (5%) of the total traffic, fifty percent (50%) of the unidentified traffic shall be billed at a rate equal to interstate access charges and fifty percent (50%) shall be billed at a rate equal to intrastate access charges.

5.1.2.3 The Parties will coordinate and exchange data as necessary to determine the cause of the CPN or JIP failure and to assist its correction.

5.2 Indirect Interconnection

5.2.1 For any overflow traffic exchanged between the Parties via third party tandems, each Party shall utilize records provided by the tandem operator to invoice for traffic terminating on its network. The Parties agree to accept the billing records from the tandem operator as representative of the traffic exchanged between the Parties.

5.2.2 To calculate intrastate toll access charges, each Party shall provide to the other, within twenty (20) calendar days after the end of each quarter (commencing with the first full quarter after the effective date of this Agreement), a PLU (Percent Local Usage) factor. Each company should calculate the PLU factor on a LATA basis using their originating IntraLATA minutes of use. The Parties shall provide a separate PLU for each TDS TELECOM operating company covered under this Agreement. The percentage of originating Local Traffic plus ISP-Bound Traffic to total intrastate (Local Traffic, ISP-Bound Traffic, and intraLATA toll) originating traffic would represent the PLU factor.

5.3 Audits of usage associated with Reciprocal Compensation shall be performed as specified in § 38 of the General Terms and Conditions of this Agreement.

5.4 The Parties shall be governed by applicable state and federal rules, practices, and procedures regarding the provision and recording of billing records. Neither Party shall bill for records older than one hundred eighty (180) days.

6. **APPLICABILITY OF OTHER RATES TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

6.1 Every interconnection and service provided hereunder shall be subject to all rates, terms and conditions contained in this Agreement which are legitimately related to such interconnection or service.

APPENDIX WP

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION..... 3

2. SERVICE PROVIDED 3

3. USE OF SUBSCRIBER LISTING INFORMATION 6

4. PRICING 6

5. LIABILITY 7

6. BREACH OF CONTRACT 7

7. TERM..... 8

8. APPLICABILITY OF OTHER RATES, TERMS AND CONDITIONS..... 8

**APPENDIX WP
(WHITE PAGES DIRECTORY)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Appendix sets forth terms and conditions that shall apply to COMCAST for inclusion of End User Listings in TDS TELECOM White Page Telephone Directories and Directory Assistance databases provided by TDS TELECOM.
- 1.2 The prices at which TDS TELECOM agrees to provide COMCAST with White Page and Directory Assistance database services are contained in the applicable Appendix PRICING.

2. SERVICE PROVIDED

- 2.1 TDS TELECOM publishes White Pages (WP) directories for geographic areas in which COMCAST also provides local exchange telephone service, and COMCAST wishes to include alphabetical listings information for its End Users in the appropriate TDS TELECOM WP directories and/or Directory Assistance databases.
- 2.2 COMCAST also desires distribution to its End Users of the WP directories that include listings of COMCAST's End Users.
- 2.3 TDS TELECOM shall provide COMCAST and its End Users access to WP and/or directory listings under the following terms:
 - 2.3.1 COMCAST shall furnish to TDS TELECOM via a Local Service Request (LSR) or Directory Service Request (DSR) all new, changed and deleted subscriber listing information pertaining to COMCAST End Users located within the local directory scope, along with such additional information as TDS TELECOM may require to prepare and print the alphabetical listings of said directory. COMCAST may provide COMCAST's subscriber listing information to TDS TELECOM for inclusion in the WP directory up to ten (10) days prior to the business office close date. Applicable service order charges as set forth in Appendix PRICING shall apply. TDS TELECOM will provide the business office close date(s) to COMCAST for the WP directory immediately following the execution of this Agreement by both Parties and, following that, once annually at least one-hundred twenty (120) days in advance of future business office close dates.
 - 2.3.2 So long as COMCAST provides listing information to TDS TELECOM as set forth above, TDS TELECOM will include in appropriate WP directories the primary alphabetical listings of all COMCAST End Users located within the local directory scope. TDS TELECOM will also

include, where applicable for COMCAST business End Users, one alphabetical, non-bold yellow page listing on the same basis as provided for TDS TELECOM business End Users.

- 2.3.3 Additional, designer and foreign listings will be offered by TDS TELECOM upon request at tariffed rates as set forth in applicable TDS TELECOM General Subscriber Services Tariffs.
- 2.3.4 COMCAST's End User listings will be alphabetically interfiled with TDS TELECOM's subscriber listings of the WP directory. After the business office close date for a particular directory, TDS TELECOM shall provide COMCAST the directory publisher's interfiled proof of the subscriber listings as such listings are to appear in the directory. The verification list shall also include Directory Delivery Address information for each COMCAST End User. COMCAST shall review this verification list upon receipt and shall submit to TDS TELECOM any necessary additions, deletions or modifications within five (5) Business Days.
- 2.3.5 Each COMCAST subscriber will receive one copy per primary End User listing of TDS TELECOM's WP directory in the same manner and at the same time that they are delivered to TDS TELECOM's subscribers during the annual delivery of newly published directories. TDS TELECOM has no obligation to provide any additional WP directories above the directories provided to COMCAST or COMCAST customers after each annual distribution of newly published WP. For WP directories and/or WP directories that are co-bound with Yellow Pages, COMCAST may provide to TDS TELECOM written specifications of the total number of directories that it will require, at least sixty (60) days prior to the business office directory close date. In that event, TDS TELECOM will deliver the remaining directories included in the COMCAST's order in bulk to an address specified by COMCAST.
- 2.3.6 TDS TELECOM will provide COMCAST with 1/8th page in each directory (where COMCAST has or plans to have local telephone exchange customers) for COMCAST to include COMCAST specific-information (i.e., business office, residence office, repair bureau, etc.) in the WP directory on an "index-type" informational page. No advertising will be permitted on such informational page. This page will also include specific information pertaining to other CLECs. At its option, COMCAST shall provide TDS TELECOM with its logo and information in the form of a camera-ready copy, sized at 1/8th of a page. The content of COMCAST's camera-ready copy shall be subject to TDS TELECOM's approval, which shall not unreasonably be withheld.
- 2.3.7 At its request, COMCAST may purchase "Informational Page(s)" in the informational section of the WP directory covering a geographic area

where COMCAST provides local telecommunications exchange service. Such page(s) shall be no different in style, size, color and format than TDS TELECOM's "Informational Pages". Sixty (60) calendar days prior to the business office directory close date, COMCAST shall provide to TDS TELECOM the "Informational Page" in the form of camera-ready copy.

2.3.8 TDS TELECOM will include and maintain COMCAST End User listings in TDS TELECOM's Directory Assistance databases. To the extent that TDS TELECOM's directory assistance listings are maintained in a database administered by a third party, COMCAST shall cooperate with TDS TELECOM as needed to have COMCAST listings loaded into such database. COMCAST shall provide such Directory Assistance listings to TDS TELECOM at no charge.

2.3.8.1 The Parties acknowledge that at the time of execution of this Agreement, TDS TELECOM is unable to load CLEC End User listings into the Directory Assistance database administered by Verizon, or its successor Fairpoint.

2.3.8.2 TDS TELECOM agrees to use commercially reasonable efforts to establish a Directory Assistance database feed with Verizon (Fairpoint) and upon completion shall include CLEC listing information on the same basis as TDS TELECOM provides for its customer listings.

2.3.8.3 Until such time as TDS Telecom is able to load CLEC customer listings into the DA database administered by Verizon (Fairpoint) TDS Telecom shall process CLEC Local Service Orders at a reduced rate of \$10/LSR and Directory Service Orders at no charge. Upon written notice to CLEC indicating that the DA database feed has been established CLEC shall within thirty (30) days provide a written response to TDS Telecom as to whether CLEC will use the TDS Telecom interface of loading CLEC customer listings into the DA database and all subsequent service orders will be assessed the rates listed in Appendix Pricing. If no response is provided by the CLEC within thirty (30) days of such notice of availability from TDS Telecom, all subsequent service orders will be assessed the rates listed in Appendix Pricing. Notwithstanding the foregoing, CLEC, in its sole discretion, may elect in writing not to use the TDS Telecom interface for loading CLEC customer listings into the DA database in which case service order pricing shall continue at the reduced rate of \$10/LSR and Directory Service Orders at no charge.

2.3.9 COMCAST shall provide to TDS TELECOM, pursuant to the LSR or DSR provisioning process as described in Section 2.3.1 above, the names,

addresses and telephone numbers of all End Users who wish to be listed in the directory assistance database but omitted from publication in WP directories (Non-published). Non-Published listings will be subject to the rates as set forth in TDS TELECOM's applicable General Subscriber Services Tariff. Comcast is responsible to properly reflect in the LSRs or DSRs where the name, address and telephone number(s) of its End User is omitted from the directory assistance database, the WP directories, or both.

3. USE OF SUBSCRIBER LISTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 COMCAST authorizes TDS TELECOM to include and use the subscriber listing information provided to TDS TELECOM pursuant to this Appendix in TDS TELECOM's appropriate printed WP directory and Directory Assistance database(s). Included in this authorization is the exchange of extended area service listings TDS TELECOM provides for Independent Company directory publications and release of COMCAST listings to requesting competing carriers solely as required by Section 251(b)(3) and any applicable state regulations and orders. Also included in this authorization is TDS TELECOM's use of COMCAST's subscriber listing information in TDS TELECOM's current and future directory.
- 3.2 TDS TELECOM will take appropriate measures to guard against any unauthorized use of COMCAST's directory listing information using the same measures and at the same level of confidentiality that TDS TELECOM affords its own directory listing information.

4. PRICING

- 4.1 The rates for the services described herein are identified in Appendix PRICING. If COMCAST provides its subscriber listing information to TDS TELECOM's listings database, TDS TELECOM will assess a per book copy, per subscriber line, charge at the time newly published directories are distributed to COMCAST End Users listed in the directory, plus an annual, per book copy charge at the time directories are delivered in bulk to COMCAST. Included in this rate, COMCAST will receive for its End User, one primary listing in TDS TELECOM's WP directory; and, at the time of annual distribution of newly published directories, one copy of the directory provided to either COMCAST's End Users, or in bulk to the COMCAST location. TDS TELECOM has no obligation to warehouse WP directories for COMCAST or provide WP directories to COMCAST's End Users subsequent to the annual distribution of newly published directories.
- 4.2 TDS TELECOM has no obligation to provide any additional WP directories above the number of directories distributed to the COMCAST End Users or forecast by COMCAST per Section 2.3.5 above. While TDS TELECOM has no obligation to provide WP directories to COMCAST or COMCAST's End Users

after the annual distribution of newly published directories, TDS TELECOM will in good faith attempt to accommodate COMCAST requests for "Subsequent" directory orders (orders placed after the initial order/forecast is provided - see Section 2.3.5 above). Orders for directories above the forecast number(s) will be filled subject to availability. In such event, TDS TELECOM will provide the directories in bulk to COMCAST and will assess a per book charge.

5. LIABILITY & INDEMNIFICATION

- 5.1 COMCAST hereby releases TDS TELECOM from any and all liability for damages due to errors or omissions in COMCAST's subscriber listing information as provided to TDS TELECOM under this Appendix, and/or COMCAST's subscriber listing information as it appears in the WP directory, including, but not limited to, special, indirect, consequential, punitive or incidental damages. The above notwithstanding, TDS TELECOM shall indemnify COMCAST for claims by third parties for errors in directory listings to the extent, and only to the extent, such claims are caused by the intentionally wrongful acts or gross negligence of TDS TELECOM or its employees.
- 5.2 This Appendix shall not establish, be interpreted as establishing, or be used by either Party to establish or to represent their relationship as any form of agency, partnership or joint venture. Neither Party shall have any authority to bind the other nor to act as an agent for the other unless written authority, separate from this Appendix, is provided. Nothing in the Appendix shall be construed as providing for the sharing of profits or losses arising out of the efforts of either or both of the Parties. Nothing herein shall be construed as making either Party responsible or liable for the obligations and undertakings of the other Party.

6. BREACH OF CONTRACT

- 6.1 If either Party is found to have materially breached this Appendix and the breaching Party fails to cure the breach within thirty (30) calendar days after receipt of notice from the other Party, the non-breaching Party may terminate the Appendix by providing written notice to the breaching Party, whereupon this Appendix shall be null and void with respect to any issue of TDS TELECOM's WP directory published sixty (60) or more calendar days after the date of receipt of such written notice.

7. TERM

- 7.1 The term of this Appendix shall be coterminous with the term of the Interconnection Agreement. Upon termination, where no successor interconnection agreement is being negotiated, arbitrated or adopted, TDS TELECOM shall cease using, for any purpose whatsoever, the subscriber listing information provided hereunder by COMCAST, and shall promptly return such subscriber listing information to the COMCAST.
- 7.2 Upon termination of the Interconnection Agreement, where no successor interconnection agreement is being negotiated, arbitrated or adopted, this Appendix will be null and void with respect to any issue of directories published thereafter, except that the indemnification provided by Section 6 herein shall continue with respect to any directory published within one hundred and twenty (120) calendar days of termination.

8. APPLICABILITY OF OTHER RATES, TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- 8.1 Every interconnection and service provided hereunder shall be subject to all rates, terms and conditions contained in this Agreement which are legitimately related to such interconnection or service.

APPENDIX 911

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION..... 3

2. 911 SERVICE 3

APPENDIX E911**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 This Appendix sets forth terms and conditions that shall apply for 911 (E911) arrangements.

2. 911 SERVICE

2.1 911 Arrangements are arrangements for routing 911 calls from a Party's Customers to the appropriate Public Safety Answering Point ("PSAP"), passing certain customer information for display at the PSAP answering station based on the class of 911 service (Basic 911 or E911) deployed in the area.

2.2 As of the Effective Date of this Agreement, TDS Telecom is not the 911 service provider serving the PSAP and each party is solely responsible for making their own 911 Arrangements to connect to the current 911 service provider and for making updates on a timely basis to the ALI database for their respective Customers. In the event that TDS Telecom becomes the 911 service provider for any exchange where Comcast is providing service under this Agreement, TDS Telecom will provide Comcast advance notice of no less than one hundred eighty (180) days and the Parties agree to negotiate terms to amend this Agreement for the provision of 911 Arrangements by TDS Telecom to Comcast.