

Tariff Schedule Applicable to
Intrastate Access Service

Telecommunications Services Furnished by

Xchange Telecom Corp.

Between Points Within the State of Maryland

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TARIFF FORMAT

- A. **Page Numbering** - Page numbers appear in the upper right corner of the page. Pages are numbered sequentially. However, new pages are occasionally added to the tariff. When a new page is added between pages already in effect, a decimal is added. For example, a new page added between Page 14 and 15 would be 14.1.
- B. **Page Revision Numbers** - Revision numbers also appear in the upper right corner of each page. These numbers are used to determine the most current page version on file with the Commission. For example, the 4th revised Page 14 cancels the 3rd revised Page 14.
- C. **Paragraph Numbering Sequence** - There are various levels of paragraph coding. Each level of coding is subservient to its next higher level:
- 2
 - 2.1
 - 2.1.1
 - 2.1.1.1
- D. **Check Sheets** - When a tariff filing is made with the Commission, an updated Check Sheet accompanies the tariff filing. The Check Sheet lists the pages contained in the tariff, with a cross-reference to the current revision number. When new pages are added, the Check Sheet is changed to reflect the revision. An asterisk designates all revisions made in a given filing (*). There will be no other symbols used on this page if these are the only changes made to it (i.e., the format, etc. remain the same, just revised revision levels on some pages.) The tariff user should refer to the latest Check Sheet to find out if a particular page is the most current on file with the Commission.

CHECK SHEET

Sheets 1 through **(insert number)** inclusive of this tariff are effective as of the date shown at the bottom of the respective sheet(s). Original and revised sheets as named below comprise all changes from the original tariff and are currently in effect as of the date on the bottom of this sheet.

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1 GENERAL

1.1 Explanation of Symbols

- (C) – To signify a changed regulation
- (D) – To signify a discontinued rate or regulation
- (I) – To signify an increase in a rate
- (M) – To signify text or rates relocated without change
- (N) – To signify a new rate or regulation or other text
- (R) – To signify a reduction in a rate
- (S) – To signify reissued regulations
- (T) – To signify a change in text but no change in rate
- (Z) – To signify a correction

1.2 Application of the Tariff

- 1.2.1 This tariff governs the Carrier's services that originate and terminate in Maryland. Specific services and rates are described elsewhere in this tariff.
- 1.2.2 The Company's services are available to carrier customers.
- 1.2.3 The Company's service territory is the entire Verizon-MD service area.

1.3 Definitions

- 1.3.1 "Access Code" refers to a uniform seven digit code assigned by the Company to an individual Customer. The seven digit code has the form 950-XXXX or 101XXXX.
- 1.3.2 "Access Service" refers to Switched Access to the network of an Interexchange Carrier for the purpose of originating or terminating communications.
- 1.3.3 "Access Service Request (ASR)" refers to the industry service order format used by Access Service Customers and access providers as agreed to by the Ordering and Billing Forum.
- 1.3.4 "Authorized User" refers to a person, firm, corporation or other entity that either is authorized by the Customer to use Access Services or is placed in a position by the Customer, either through acts or omissions, to use Access Services.
- 1.3.5 "Carrier," "Company" or "Utility" refers to **Xchange Telecom Corp.**
- 1.3.6 "Commission" means the Maryland Public Service Commission.
- 1.3.8 "Common Channel Signaling (CCS)" means a high-speed packet switched communications network which is separate (out of band) from the public packet switched and message networks. It is used to carry addressed signaling messages for individual trunk circuits and/or database related services between signaling points in the CCS network.
- 1.3.9 "Completed call" is a call which the Company's network has determined has been answered by a person, answering machine, fax machine, computer modem device, or other answering device.
- 1.3.10 "Constructive Order" - Delivery of calls to or acceptance of calls from the Company's End User locations over Company-switched local exchange services constitutes a Constructive Order by the Customer to purchase services as described herein. Similarly the selection by a Company's End User of the Customer as the presubscribed IXC constitutes a Constructive Order of switched access by the Customer.
- 1.3.11 "Customer" means any person, firm, corporation, or governmental entity who has applied for and is granted service or who is responsible for payment of service. The Customer could be an interexchange carrier, a wireless provider, or any other carrier authorized to operate in the state.

- 1.3.12 "8XX Data Base Access Service" denotes a toll-free originating Trunkside Access Service when the 8XX Service Access Code (i.e., 800, 822, 833, 844, 855, 866, 877, or 888 as available) is used.
- 1.3.13 "End User" means any individual, association, corporation, governmental agency or any other entity other than an Interexchange Carrier which subscribes to intrastate service provided by an Exchange Carrier.
- 1.3.14 "Exchange Carrier" means any individual, partnership, association, joint-stock company, trust, governmental entity or corporation engaged in the provision of local exchange telephone service.
- 1.3.15 "Individual Case Basis (ICB)" means a service arrangement in which the regulations, rates and charges are developed based on the specific circumstances of the Customer's situation.
- 1.3.16 "InterMTA Traffic" means wireless traffic originating on the network of a CMRS provider within one MTA and terminating to the Company's end-user subscribers in another MTA.
- 1.3.17 "IntraMTA Traffic" means wireless traffic originating on the network of a CMRS provider within a MTA and terminating to the Company's end-user subscribers in the same MTA.
- 1.3.18 "Interexchange Carrier (IXC)" or "Interexchange Common Carrier" refers to any individual, partnership, association, joint stock company, trust, governmental entity or corporation engaged in state or foreign communication for hire by wire or radio, between two or more exchanges.
- 1.3.19 "LATA" means a local access and transport area established pursuant to the Modification of Final Judgment entered by the United States District Court for the District of Columbia in Civil Action No. 82-0192 for the provision and administration of communications services.
- 1.3.20 "Local Access" means the connection between a Customer's premises and a point of presence of the Exchange Carrier.
- 1.3.21 "Local Switching Center" means the switching center where telephone exchange service Customer station Channels are terminated for purposes of interconnection to each other and to interoffice Trunks.
- 1.3.22 "Local Traffic" :Traffic that is "Local Traffic" under this rate sheet is where: (i) the call originates and terminates in the same exchange area; or (ii) the

call originates and terminates within different XCHANGE Exchanges that share a common mandatory local calling area, e.g., a mandatory Extended Local Calling Service (ELCS) or Extended Area Service areas (EAS) or other like types of mandatory local calling scopes.

- 1.3.23 “Meet Point” means a point of interconnection that is not an end office or tandem.
- 1.3.24 “Meet Point Billing” refers to the arrangement through which multiple Exchange Carriers involved in providing Access Services, divide the ordering, rating, and billing of such services on a proportional basis, so that each Exchange Carrier involved in providing a portion of the Access Service agrees to bill under its respective rate sheet.
- 1.3.25 “Network Services” means the Company's telecommunications Access Services offered on the Company's Network.
- 1.3.26 “Nonrecurring Charges” means the one-time initial charges for services or facilities, including but not limited to charges for construction, installation, or special fees, for which the Customer becomes liable at the time the Service Order is executed.
- 1.3.27 “Out of Band Signaling” means an exchange access signaling feature which allows customers to exchange call control and signaling information over a communications path which is separate from the message path.
- 1.3.28 “Premises” means the space occupied by a Customer or Authorized User in a building or buildings or on contiguous property (except railroad rights-of-way, etc.).
- 1.3.29 “Presubscription” refers to an arrangement whereby an End User may select and designate to the Company an Interexchange Carrier (IXC) or Carriers it wishes to access, without an Access Code, for completing both intraLATA toll calls and/or interLATA calls. The selected IXC(s) are referred to as the End User's Primary Interexchange Carrier (PIC).
- 1.3.30 “Recurring Charges” means the monthly charges to the Customer for services, facilities and equipment, which continue for the agreed upon duration of the service.
- 1.3.31 “Residential” customer is a customer who has telephone service at a dwelling and who uses the service primarily for domestic or social purposes. All other customers are non-residential customers.

- 1.3.32 "Service" means any telecommunications service(s) provided by the Carrier under this tariff.
- 1.3.33 "Service Order" means the written request for Network Services executed by the Customer and the Company in a format devised by the Company; or, in the alternative, the submission of an Access Service Request by the Customer in the manner specified in this rate sheet.
- 1.3.34 "Signaling System 7 (SS7)" means the common Channel Out of Band Signaling protocol developed by the Consultative Committee for International Telephone and Telegraph (CCITT) and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).
- 1.3.35 "Station" means a telephone instrument consisting of a connected transmitter, receiver, and associated apparatus to permit sending or receiving telephone messages.
- 1.3.36 "Switched Access Service" means access to the switched network of an Exchange Carrier for the purpose of originating or terminating communications. Switched Access is available to carriers, as defined in this rate sheet.
- 1.3.37 "Tandem" refers to a Carrier's switching system that provides a concentration and distribution function for originating or terminating traffic between local switching centers and Customers' premises.
- 1.3.38 "Trunk" refers to a communications path connecting two switching systems in a network, used in the establishment of an end-to-end connection.
- 1.3.39 "Wireless Provider" or "Commercial Mobile Radio Service (CMRS)" means any carrier authorized to operate as a provider of cellular, personal communications, paging or any other form of wireless transmission.

2 RULES AND REGULATIONS

2.1 Undertaking of the Company

2.1.1 Scope

XCHANGE's services offered pursuant to this Tariff are furnished for Switched Access Service. XCHANGE may offer these services over its own or resold facilities.

XCHANGE installs, operates, and maintains the communications services provided herein in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth under this Tariff. XCHANGE may act as the Customer's agent for ordering access connection facilities provided by other carriers or entities as required in the Board's rules and orders, when authorized by the Customer, to allow connection of a Customer's location to the XCHANGE network. The Customer shall be responsible for all charges due for such service agreement.

The Company's services and facilities are provided on a monthly basis unless otherwise indicated, and are available twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week.

2.1.2 Shortage of Equipment or Facilities

2.1.2.1 The Company reserves the right to limit or to allocate the use of existing facilities, or of additional facilities offered by the Company when necessary because of lack of facilities or due to some other cause beyond the Company's control.

2.1.2.2. The furnishing of service under this rate sheet is subject to the availability on a continuing basis of all the necessary facilities and is limited to the capacity of the Company's facilities as well as facilities the company may obtain from other Carriers from time to time, to furnish service as required at the sole discretion of the Company.

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

2.1.3 Terms and Conditions

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2.1.3.1 Except as otherwise provided herein, service is provided and billed on the basis of a minimum period of at least one month, and shall continue to be provided until canceled by the Customer, in writing, on not less than 30 days' notice. Unless otherwise specified herein, for the purpose of computing charges in this rate sheet, a month is considered to have 30 days.

2.1.3.2 Customers seeking to cancel service have an affirmative obligation to block traffic originating from or terminating to the Company's network. By originating traffic from or originating traffic to the Company's network, the Customer will have constructively ordered the Company's switched access service.

2.1.3.3 The Customer agrees to operate Company-provided equipment in accordance with instructions of the Company or the Company's agent. Failure to do so will void Company liability for interruption of service and may make the Customer responsible for damage to equipment pursuant to section 2.1.3.D below.

2.1.3.4 The Customer agrees to return to the Company all Company-provided equipment delivered to Customer within five (5) days of termination of the service in connection with which the equipment was used. Said equipment shall be in the same condition as when delivered to Customer, normal wear and tear only excepted. Customer shall reimburse the Company, upon demand, for any costs incurred by the Company due to Customer's failure to comply with this provision.

2.1.4 Notification of Service-Affecting Activities

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

2.1.5 Provisions of Equipment and Facilities

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- 2.1.5.1. The Company shall use reasonable efforts to make available services to a Customer on or before a particular date, subject to the provisions of and compliance by the Customer with, the regulations contained in this rate sheet. The Company does not guarantee availability by any such date and shall not be liable for any delays in commencing service to any Customer.
- 2.1.5.2 The Company shall use reasonable efforts to maintain facilities and equipment that it furnishes to the Customer. The Customer may not, nor may the Customer permit others to, rearrange, disconnect, remove, attempt to repair or otherwise interfere with any of the facilities or equipment installed by the Company, except upon the written consent of the Company.
- 2.1.5.3 The Company may substitute, change or rearrange any equipment or facility at any time and from time to time, but shall not thereby alter the technical parameters of the service provided the Customer.
- 2.1.5.4 Equipment the Company provides or installs at the Customer Premises for use in connection with the services the Company offers shall not be used for any purpose other than that for which the Company provided it.
- 2.1.5.5 The Customer shall be responsible for the payment of service charges imposed on the Company by another entity, for visits to the Customer Premises when the service difficulty or trouble report results from the use of equipment or facilities provided by any party other than the Company, including but not limited to the Customer.
- 2.1.5.6 The Company shall not be responsible for the installation, operation, or maintenance of any Customer provided communications equipment. Where such equipment is connected to the facilities furnished pursuant to this rate sheet, the responsibility of the Company shall be limited to the furnishing of facilities offered under this rate sheet and to the maintenance and operation of such facilities. Notwithstanding the above, the Company shall not be responsible for:
1. the transmission of signals by Customer-provided equipment or for the quality of, or defects in, such transmission;

2. the reception of signals by Customer-provided equipment; or
3. network control signaling where such signaling is performed by Customer-provided network control signaling equipment.

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

2.1.5.8 The Company reserves the reasonable right to assign, designate or change telephone numbers, any other call number designations associated with Access Services, or the Company serving central office prefixes associated with such numbers, when necessary in the conduct of its business.

2.1.6 Non-routine Installation

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

2.1.7 Special Construction

Subject to the arrangement of the Company and to all of the regulations contained in this rate sheet, special construction of facilities may be undertaken on a reasonable efforts basis at the request of the Customer. Special construction is that construction undertaken and characterized by one or more of the following:

- A. where facilities are not presently available and there is no other requirement for the facilities so constructed;
- B. of a type other than that which the Company would normally utilize in the furnishing of its services;
- C. where facilities are to be installed over a route other than that which the Company would normally utilize in the furnishing of its services;

- D. where facilities are requested in a quantity greater than that which the Company would normally construct;
- E. where installation is on an expedited basis;
- F. on a temporary basis until permanent facilities are available;
- G. installation involving abnormal costs; or
- H. in advance of its normal construction schedules.

Special construction charges for Switched Access Service will be determined on an individual use basis.

2.1.9 Ownership of Facilities

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

2.2 Obligations of the Customer

2.2.1 The customer shall be responsible for:

- 2.2.1.1 The payment of all applicable charges pursuant to this tariff;
- 2.2.1.2 Reimbursing the Company for damage to, or loss of, the Company's facilities or equipment caused by the acts or omissions of the customer; or the noncompliance by the customer, with these regulations, or by fire or theft or other casualty on the customer's premises unless caused by the negligence or willful misconduct of the employees or agents of the Company.
- 2.2.1.3 Providing at no charge, as specified from time to time by the Company, any needed space and power to operate the Company's facilities and equipment installed on the customer's premises.
- 2.2.1.4 Complying with all laws and regulations regarding the working conditions on the premises at which the Company's employees and agents shall be installing or maintaining the Company's facilities and equipment. The customer may be required to install and maintain the Company's facilities and equipment within a hazardous area if, in the Company's opinion, injury or damage to the Company's employees or property might result from installation

or maintenance by the Company. The customer shall be responsible for identifying, monitoring, removing and disposing of any hazardous material prior to any construction or installation work.

2.2.1.5 Complying with all laws and regulations applicable to, and obtaining all consents, approvals, licenses and permits as may be required with respect to, the location of the Company's facilities and equipment in any customer premises for the purpose of installing, inspecting, maintaining, repairing, or upon termination of service as stated herein, removing the facilities or equipment of the Company.

2.2.1.6 Making Company facilities and equipment available periodically for maintenance purposes at a time agreeable to both the Company and the customer. No allowance for interruptions in service will be made for the period during which service is interrupted for such purposes.

2.2.2 With respect to any service or facility provided by the Company, the customer shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Company from all claims, actions, damages, liabilities, costs and expenses for:

2.2.2.1 Any loss, destruction or damage to property of the Company or any third party, or injury to persons, including, but not limited to, employees or invitees of either the Company or the customer, to the extent caused by or resulting from the negligent or intentional act or omission of the customer, its employees, agents, representatives or invitees; or

2.2.2.2 Any claim, loss, damage, expense or liability for infringement of any copyright, patent, trade secret, or any proprietary infringement of any copyright, patent, trade secret, or any proprietary or intellectual property right of any third party, arising from any act or omission by the customer.

2.2.3 The customer is responsible for ensuring that customer-provided equipment connected to Company equipment and facilities is compatible with such equipment and facilities. The connection, operation, testing, or maintenance of such equipment shall be such as not to cause damage to the Company-provided equipment and facilities or injury to the Company's employees or other persons. Any additional protective equipment required to prevent such damage or injury shall be provided by the Company at the customer's expense.

2.2.4 The Company's services (as detailed in this tariff) may be connected to the services or facilities or other communications carriers only when authorized by, and in accordance with, the terms and conditions of the tariffs or contracts which are applicable to such connections.

2.2.5 Upon reasonable notification to the customer, and at a reasonable time, the Company may make such tests and inspections as may be necessary to determine that the customer is complying with the requirements set forth in this tariff for the installation, operation, and maintenance of customer-provided facilities and equipment that is connected to Company-owned facilities and equipment.

2.2.6 Jurisdictional Reporting

The jurisdictional reporting requirements will be as specified below. When a Customer orders Access Service, its projected Percent Interstate Usage (PIU) must be provided in whole numbers to the Company. These whole number percentages will be used by the Company to apportion the use and/or charges between interstate and intrastate until a revised report is received as set forth herein. Reported or default PIU factors are used only where the call detail is insufficient to determine the appropriate jurisdiction of the traffic.

2.2.6.1 Originating Access: Originating access minutes is only traffic originating from the Company Local Switching Center(s). The Customer should provide the Company with a projected PIU factor on a quarterly basis.

If no PIU for originating minutes is submitted as specified herein, then the projected PIU will be set on a default basis of 50 percent interstate traffic and 50 percent intrastate traffic.

2.2.6.2 Terminating Access: For Feature Group D Switched Access Service(s), the Customer should provide the Company with a projected PIU factor by supplying the Company with an interstate percentage of terminating access minutes on a quarterly basis, as described in Sections 2.3.3.D below.

If no projected PIU factor is submitted by the Customer, then the projected PIU will be set on a default basis of 50 percent interstate traffic and 50 percent intrastate traffic.

2.2.6.3 Except where the Company measured access minutes are used as set forth above, the Customer reported Projected PIU factor as set

forth above will be used until the Customer reports a different projected PIU factor, as set forth below.

2.2.6.4 Effective on the first of January, April, July and October of each year the Customer should update its interstate and intrastate jurisdictional report. The Customer should forward to the Company, to be received no later than 15 days after the first of each such month, a revised report showing the interstate and intrastate percentage of use for the past three months ending the last day of December, March, June, and September, respectively, for each service arranged for interstate use, based solely on the traffic originating from or terminating to the Company Local Switching Center. The revised report will serve as the basis for the next three months' billing and will be effective on the bill date for that service. If the Customer does not supply the reports for those services where reports are needed, the Company will assume the percentage to be the same as that provided previously. For those cases in which a quarterly report has never been received from the Customer, the Company will assume the percentages to be the same as those provided in 2.3.3A and 2.3.3B above.

2.2.6.5 Jurisdictional Reports Verification: For Switched Access Service, if a billing dispute arises or a regulatory commission questions the projected PIU factor, the Customer will provide the data issued to determine the projected PIU factor. The Customer will supply the data within 30 days of the Company request.

The Customer shall keep records of call detail from which the percentage of interstate and intrastate use can be ascertained and, upon request of the Company, shall make the records available for inspection as reasonably necessary for purposes of verification of the percentages. The Company reserves the right to conduct an audit at any time during the year. The Customer, as its own expense, has the right to retain an independent auditing firm.

2.2.7 Interconnection of Facilities

2.2.7.1. Any special interface equipment necessary to achieve compatibility between the facilities and equipment of the Company used for furnishing Access Services and the Channels, facilities, or equipment of others shall be provided at the Customer's expense.

2.2.7.2 Access Services may be connected to the services or facilities of other communications carriers only when authorized by, and in accordance

with, the terms and conditions of the tariffs of the other communications carriers which are applicable to such connections.

2.3 Liability of the Company

2.3.1 In view of the fact that the customer has exclusive control over the use of service and facilities furnished by the Company, and because certain errors incident to the services and to the use of such facilities of the Company are unavoidable, services and facilities are furnished by the Company subject to the terms, conditions and limitations herein specified:

2.3.2 Service Irregularities

2.3.2.1 The liability of the Company for damages arising out of mistakes, omissions, interruptions, delays, errors or defects in transmission, or failures or defects in facilities furnished by the Company, occurring in the course of furnishing service or other facilities and not caused by the negligence of the customer, shall in no event exceed an amount equivalent to the proportionate charge to the customer for the service or facilities affected during the period such mistake, omission, interruption, delay, error or defect in transmission, or failure or defect in facilities continues after notice and demand to Company.

2.3.2.2 The Company shall not be liable for any act or omission of any connecting carrier, underlying carrier or local exchange Company except where Company contracts the other carrier; for acts or omission of any other providers of connections, facilities, or service; or for culpable conduct of the customer or failure of equipment, facilities or connection provided by the customer.

2.3.3 Claims of Misuse of Service

2.3.3.1 The Company shall be indemnified and saved harmless by the customer against claims for libel, slander, fraudulent or misleading advertisements or infringement of copyright arising directly or indirectly from material transmitted over its facilities or the use thereof; against claims for infringement of patents arising from combining or using apparatus and systems of the customer with facilities of the Company; and against all other claims arising out of any act or omission of the customer in connection with the services and facilities provided by the Company.

2.3.3.2 The Company does not require indemnification from the customer where the action for which it is seeking indemnification is based on a claim of negligence by the Company.

2.3.4 Defacement of Premises

2.3.4.1 The Company is not liable for any defacement of, or damage to, the customer's premises resulting from the furnishing of service or the attachment of equipment and facilities furnished by the Company on such premises or by the installation or removal thereof, when such defacement or damage is not the result of negligence of the Company. For the purpose of this paragraph, no agents or employees of the other participating carriers shall be deemed to be agents or employees of the Company except where contracted by the Company.

2.3.5 Facilities and Equipment in Explosive Atmosphere, Hazardous or Inaccessible Locations

2.3.5.1 The Company does not guarantee nor make any warranty with respect to installations provided by it for use in an explosive atmosphere. Company shall be indemnified, defended and held harmless by the customer from and against any and all claims, loss, demands, suits, or other action, or any liability whatsoever, whether suffered, made, instituted or asserted by the customer or by any other party, for any personal injury to or death of any person or persons, and for any loss, damage or destruction of any property, including environmental contamination, whether owned by the customer or by any other party, caused or claimed to have been caused directly or indirectly by the installation, operation, failure to operate, maintenance, presence, condition, location, use or removal of any equipment or facilities or the service and not due to the gross negligence or willful misconduct of the Company.

2.3.6 Service at Outdoor Locations

2.3.6.1 The Company reserves the right to refuse to provide, maintain or restore service at outdoor locations unless the customer agrees in writing to indemnify and save the Company harmless from and against any and all loss or damage that may result to equipment and facilities furnished by the Company at such locations. The customer shall likewise indemnify and save the Company harmless from and against injury to or death of any person which may result from the location and use of such equipment and facilities.

2.3.7 Warranties

2.3.7.1 THE COMPANY MAKES NO WARRANTIES OR REPRESENTATIONS, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED EITHER IN FACT OR BY OPERATION OF LAW, STATUTORY OR OTHERWISE, INCLUDING WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR USE, EXCEPT THOSE EXPRESSLY SET FORTH HEREIN.

2.3.7.2 Acceptance of the provisions of Section 2.3 by the Commission does not constitute its determination that any disclaimer of warranties or representations imposed by the Company should be upheld in a court of law.

2.3.8 Limitation of Liability

2.3.8.1 Nothing in this tariff shall be construed to limit the Company's liability in cases of gross negligence or willful misconduct.

2.4 Application for Service

2.4.1 Minimum Contract Period

2.4.1.1 Except as otherwise provided, the minimum contract period is one month for all services furnished. However, if a customer notifies the Company within twenty days after receipt of the first bill that certain services or equipment are not desired, the Company will delete such services or equipment from the customer's account without a record keeping or service ordering charge. The customer nonetheless shall be responsible for all monthly usage and installation charges incurred for the use of such service and equipment.

2.4.1.2 The Company may require a minimum contract period longer than one month in connection with special, non-standard types or arrangements of equipment, or for unusual construction, necessary to meet special demands for service.

2.4.2 Cancellation of Service

2.4.2.1 Where the applicant cancels an order for service prior to the start of the installation or special construction of facilities, no charge shall apply, except to the extent the Company incurs a service

order or similar charge from a supplying carrier, if any, prior to the construction.

2.4.2.2 Where the installation of facilities, other than those provided by special construction, has been started prior to cancellation, the lower of the following charge applies;

2.4.2.2.A The total costs of installing and removing such facilities; or

2.4.2.2.B The monthly charges for the entire initial contract period of the service ordered by the customer as provided in this tariff plus the full amount of any applicable installation and termination charges.

2.4.2.3 Where special construction of facilities has been started prior to the cancellation, and the Company has another requirement for the specially constructed facilities, no charge applies.

2.5 Payment for Service

2.5.1 Service will be billed via Billing Agents by the Company on a monthly basis and is due and payable upon receipt or as specified on the customer's bill. Service will continue to be provided until canceled by the customer or discontinued by the Company as set forth in COMAR 20.45.04.05 through COMAR 20.45.04.07.

The Company utilizes Communications Data Group, Inc., located at 102 S. Duncan Road, PO BOX 4036, Champaign, IL 61824 as its Billing Agent.

2.5.2 The customer is responsible for payment of all charges for service furnished to the customer. Charges based on actual usage during a month will be billed monthly in the month following the month in which the service was used. All fixed monthly and nonrecurring charges for services ordered will be billed monthly in advance.

2.5.3 The Company reserves the right to require from an applicant for service advance payments of fixed charges and nonrecurring charges. The advance payment will not exceed an amount equal to the nonrecurring charge(s) and one month's charges for the service or facility. In addition, where special construction is involved, the advance payment may also include an amount equal to the estimated nonrecurring charges for the special construction. The advance payment will be applied to any indebtedness for the service and facilities for which the advance payment is made on the customer's initial bill.

Advanced payments for installation costs or special construction will be credited on the first bill in their entirety.

2.5.4 The Company will not collect attorney fees or court costs from customers.

2.6 Allowance for Interruptions in Service

2.6.1 Credit for failure of service or equipment will be allowed only when failure is caused by or occurs in equipment owned, provided, or billed for, by the Company. The Carrier agrees to abide by the regulations associated with interruptions in service as specified by Code of Maryland Regulations 20.45.05.09 as amended from time to time.

The credit allowance will be calculated by the Company after the Customer notifies the Company of service interruption. The amount of the allowance will depend on the length of the outage and the service impacted. Service Outage conditions are defined as complete loss of call origination and/or receipt capability. Credit Allowances, if any, will be deducted from the charges payable by the IXC and will be expressly indicated on the next invoice. A Service Outage begins when the IXC reports the outage to the Company.

A Service Outage ends when the affected circuit and/or associated Company equipment is fully operational in accordance with the technical specifications.

Credit allowances do not apply to outages (i) caused by the IXC; (ii) due to failure of equipment provided by the IXC; (iii) during any period in which the Company is not given access to the service premises; (iv) failures of LEC facilities or equipment which are carrying the failures resulting from the activities or negligence of LEC employees; (v) inability to gain access to the IXC's equipment; and (vii) due to mutually agreed upon maintenance and repair.

Credit Allowances received by the Company from the LEC for Off-Net facility outages which affects the IXC's Switched Services will be passed through to the IXC in the form of a credit on the next invoice.

2.6.2 Limitations on Allowances

No credit allowance will be made for:

- A. interruptions due to the negligence of, or noncompliance with the provisions of this rate sheet by, the Customer, Authorized User, Joint-User, or other Common Carrier providing service connected to the service of Company;
- B. interruptions due to the negligence of any person other than the Company, including, but not limited to, the Customer or other Common Carriers connected to the Company's facilities;
- C. interruptions due to the failure or malfunction of non-Company equipment;
- D. interruptions of service during any period in which the Company is not given full and free access to its facilities and equipment for the purpose of investigating and correcting interruptions;
- E. interruptions of service during a period in which the Customer continues to use the service on an impaired basis;
- F. interruptions of service during any period when the Customer has released service to the Company for maintenance purposes or for implementation of a Customer order for a change in service arrangements;
- G. interruption of service due to circumstances or causes beyond the control of the Company.

2.7 Special Customer Arrangements

In cases where a customer requests special or unique arrangements which may include but are not limited to engineering, conditioning, installation, construction, facilities, assembly, purchase or lease of facilities and/or other special services not offered under this tariff, the Company, may provide the requested services. Appropriate recurring charges and/or nonrecurring charges and other terms and conditions will be developed for the customer for the provisioning of such arrangements.

PROVISION OF SERVICE AND FACILITIES

2.8 Unlawful Use of Service

- 2.8.1 Service shall not be used for any purpose in violation of law or for any use as to which the customer has not obtained all required governmental approvals, authorizations, licenses, consents, and permits. The Company

shall refuse to furnish service to an applicant or shall disconnect the service without notice of a customer when:

2.8.1.1 An order shall be issued, signed by a judge finding that probable cause exists to believe that the use made or to be made of the service is prohibited by law, or

2.8.1.2 The Company is notified in writing by a law enforcement agency acting within its jurisdiction that any facility furnished by the Company is being used or will be used for the purpose of transmitting or receiving gambling information in interstate or foreign commerce in violation of the law.

2.8.2 If service has been physically disconnected by law enforcement officials at the customer's premises and if there is not presented to the Company the written finding of a judge, then upon written or verbal request of the subscriber, and agreement to pay restoral of service charges and other applicable service charges, the Company shall promptly restore such service.

2.9 Interference with or Impairment of Service

Service shall not be used in any manner that interferes with other persons in the use of their service, prevents other persons from using their service, or otherwise impairs the quality of service to other customers. The Company may require a customer to immediately shut down its transmission of signals if said transmission is causing interference to others or impairing the service of others.

2.10 Telephone Solicitation by Use of Recorded Messages

2.10.1 Service shall not be used for the purpose of solicitation by recorded messages when such solicitation occurs as a result of unrequested or unsolicited calls initiated by the solicitor by means of automatic dialing devices. Such devices, with storage capability of numbers to be called or a random or sequential number generator that produces numbers to be called and having the capability, working alone or in conjunction with other equipment, of disseminating a prerecorded message to the number called and which are calling party or called party controlled, are expressly prohibited.

2.11 Overcharge/Undercharge

- 2.11.1 Overcharge/undercharge provisions will be in accordance with COMAR 20.45.04.01.
- 2.11.2 When a customer has been overcharged, the amount shall be refunded or credited to the customer.

3 DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

3.1 Individual Case Basis ("ICB") Offerings

- 3.1.1 The tariff may not specify the price of a service in the tariff as ICB. The Company may or may not have an equivalent service in its tariff on file with the Commission, and the quoted ICB rates may be different than the tariffed rates. An ICB must be provided under contract to a customer and the contract filed (can be under seal) with the Commission. All customers have non-discriminatory access to requesting the service under an ICB rate. The Company may be permitted to provide service on an ICB basis. The Company acknowledges that if the Commission accepts a tariff with ICBs, it is required to make a showing one year after its tariff becomes effective to justify the continuation of ICB rates or, alternatively, file tariffed rates for services previously offered on an ICB basis

3.2 Switched Access Service

3.2.1 General

Switched Access Service, which is available to Customers for their use in furnishing their services to end users, provides a two-point communications path between a Customer's Premises and an End User's Premises. It provides for the use of common terminating, switching and transport facilities. Switched Access Service provides the ability to originate calls from an End User's Premises to a Customer's Premises, and to terminate calls from a Customer's Premises to an End User's Premises.

Switched Access Service is available when originating or terminating calls from or to an end user who subscribes to the Company's Local Exchange Services.

Rates and charges are set forth in Section 4. The application of rates for Switched Access Service is described in Section 4.

3.2.2 Provision and Description of Switched Access Service Arrangements

3.2.2.1 Feature Group Access

FG Access is provisioned at the DS-1 level and provides trunk-side access to Local Switching Center switches, for the Customer's use in originating and terminating communications. Basic FG Access

service will be provided with Multi-Frequency In Band Signaling (SS7 is also available, where capabilities exist).

All traffic is routed to and from the Company's local switching center via the Customer's tandem provider or via end office trucking, where available. Delivery of calls to, or acceptance of calls from, the Company's End User locations over Company-switched local exchange services shall constitute an agreement by the Customer to purchase switched access services as described herein. The Company reserves the right to require the Customer to submit an ASR for switched access.

3.2.2.2 Manner of Provision

Trunks used for Switched Access Service may be configured for one-way (either originating only or terminating only) or for two-way directionality.

3.2.2.3 Call Types

The following Switched Access Service call types are available:

- A. Originating FG Access
- B. Originating 800 FG Access
- C. Terminating FG Access

3.2.2.4 Originating FG Access

The access code for FG Access switching is a uniform access code of the form 1+ or 011+ or 101XXXX. For 101XXXX dialing a single access code will be the assigned number of all FG Access provided to the Customer by the Company. When the access code is used, FG Access switching also provides for dialing the digit 0 for access to the Customer's operator service, 911 for access to emergency service, and/or the end of dialing digit (#) for cut-through access to the Customer's premises. The Company will provide originating FG access consistent with dialing parity obligations.

3.2.2.5 Originating 800 FG Access

800 Data Base Access Service is a service offering utilizing originating Trunk side Switched Access Service. When an 8XX + NXX + XXXX call is originated by an End User, the Company will perform Customer identification based on screening of the full ten-

digits of the 8XX number to determine the Customer location to which the call is to be routed.

3.2.2.6 Terminating FG Access

FG Access, when used in the terminating direction, may only be used to access end users who are subscribing to the Company's Local Exchange Services. Calls in the terminating direction will not be completed to 950-0XXX or 950-1XXX access codes, local operator assistance (0- and 0+), Directory Assistance, (411 or 555-1212) service codes 611 and 911 and 101XXXX access codes.

3.2.3 Reports and Testing

3.2.3.1 Design Layout Report: At the request of the Customer, the Company will provide to the Customer the makeup of the facilities and services provided from the Customer's Premises to the first point of switching. This information will be provided in the form of a Design Layout Report. The Design Layout Report will be provided to the Customer at no charge.

3.2.3.2 Acceptance Testing: At no additional charge, the Company will, at the Customer's request, cooperatively test, at the time of installation, the following parameters: loss, C-notched noise, C-message noise, 3-tone slope, d.c. continuity and operational signaling.

3.3 Local Traffic Exchange and Termination

3.3.1 General

This section establishes the methodology for the exchange and termination of local traffic for carriers that do not have an interconnection agreement with the Company.

3.3.2 Ordering Conditions

The Customer may order switched access through a Constructive Order, as defined herein, or through an ASR. The format and terms of the ASR will be as specified in the Industry Access Service Order Guidelines, unless otherwise specified herein.

3.3.3 Local Traffic Compensation

Local traffic exchange will be conducted under a Bill and Keep arrangement. All local traffic will be exchanged under a Meet Point Billing Arrangement unless and until either the Commission or FCC requires an alternative approach for the exchange of usage information for such traffic for use by all industry participants, pursuant to which the Company and the Terminating Carriers shall recover the costs of transporting and terminating such traffic on their networks from other parties in accordance with the then applicable regulations, including to the extent practicable, any Internet Service Provider access charge exemption. This provision does not apply to access traffic, transit traffic, or wireless traffic.

3.4 Wireless Termination Services

3.4.1 General

This tariff applies to intraMTA traffic originated by a Commercial Mobile Radio Service (CMRS) provider and terminated to end-user subscribers of the Company (i.e., wireless to wireline traffic) without the direct interconnection of the CMRS provider's and the Company's networks and where the CMRS provider is physically connected with and delivers traffic to a third party ILEC(s) which in turn delivers the traffic to the Company.

- 3.4.1 This service is provided to Commercial Mobile Radio Service (CMRS) providers licensed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).
- 3.4.2 Wireless Termination Service is limited to wireless-to-wireline traffic that originates and terminates within the same Major Trading Area (MTA) (i.e., intraMTA traffic). The Major Trading Area as defined in 47 C.F.R. paragraphs 24-102 of the FCC Rules and Regulations.
- 3.4.3 Wireless Termination Service is not available to wireless-to-wireline traffic that originates and terminates in two different MTAs (i.e., interMTA traffic). In those situations where a CMRS provider terminates interMTA traffic to the end-user subscribers of the Company then the rates, terms and conditions of the appropriate access tariff of the Company (either intrastate or interstate) will apply.
- 3.4.4 These Regulations and Rates are in addition to the Regulations, Rate and Charges in other Company tariffs.
- 3.4.5 This tariff applies except as otherwise provided in 1) an interconnection agreement between the CMRS provider and the Company approved by

the Commission pursuant to the Act; or 2) a terminating traffic agreement between the CMRS provider and the Company approved by the Commission.

- 3.4.6 The Company shall issue a bill to the CMRS provider based on the best information available to the Company including, but not limited to, records of terminating traffic created by the Company at its end office or tandem switch. If possible, the CMRS provider will provide to the Company billing records in standard industry formats regarding calls it originates that terminate on the Company's network. Records will be provided at an individual call detail record, if possible, with sufficient information to identify the specific date and time of the call, the call duration, and the originating and terminating numbers. If a CMRS provider is unable to provide billing records of the calls that it originates to the Company, the Company may use usage reports and/or records generated by a third party ILEC whose network is used to transit the traffic as the basis for billing the CMRS provider. If the CMRS provider is unable to provide billing records, the CMRS provider will have the responsibility of providing, on a quarterly basis (or as otherwise agreed to by the Company), a report to the Company providing the percentage of the CMRS provider's traffic terminated to the Company that is intraMTA or interMTA traffic. The report will also detail what percentage of the interMTA traffic is intrastate and what percentage is interstate. Such reports shall be based on studies of actual traffic originated by the CMRS provider and terminated to the Company.
- 3.4.7 Reports regarding the percentages of intraMTA or interMTA traffic (and the intrastate or interstate jurisdiction of interMTA traffic) shall be based on a reasonable traffic study conducted by the CMRS providers and available to the Company upon request. Such studies shall be conducted no less frequently than once each quarter to ensure that the CMRS provider is using an accurate intraMTA/interMTA percentage. The CMRS provider shall pay the Company for all charges in accordance with the rates set forth in this tariff. Such payments are to be received within thirty (30) days from the effective date of the billing statement. The CMRS provider shall pay a late charge on any undisputed charges which are not paid within the thirty (30) day period. The rate of the late charge shall be the lesser of 1.5% per month or the maximum amount allowed by law. The CMRS provider shall pay the Company the reasonable amount of the Company's expenses related to collection of overdue bills, such amounts to include reasonable attorney fees. The CMRS provider will be responsible for the accuracy and quality of its data as submitted to the Company. Upon reasonable written notice, the Company or its authorized representative shall have the right to conduct a review and verification of

the CMRS provider to give assurances of compliance with the provisions of this tariff. This includes on-site verification reviews at the CMRS provider's or vendor locations. The review may consist of an examination and verification of data involving records, systems, procedures and other information related to the traffic originated by the CMRS provider and terminated to the Company. The CMRS provider will provide the Company with reasonable access to such information as is necessary to determine amounts payable under this tariff.

- 3.4.8 If the CMRS provider fails to comply with any of the terms and conditions of this tariff, including any payments to be made by it on the dates and times herein specified, the Company, may on five (5) day's written notice by Certified U .S. Mail to the CMRS provider, refuse additional applications for service and/or refuse to complete any pending orders for service by the non-complying CMRS provider at any time thereafter, or may discontinue the provision of the services to the non-complying CMRS provider at any time thereafter. In the case of such discontinuance, all applicable tariff charges shall become due. If the Company is unable to effectuate discontinuance of service at its own office it may request the assistance of other LECs with whom the Company's network is connected.

4 RATES AND CHARGES

4.1 Switched Access Rate

4.1.1 The Company switched access rate is \$0.02057 per minute.

4.1.2 Ordering Conditions

Customer may order switched access through a Constructive Order, as defined herein, or through an ASR.

The format and terms of the ASR will be as specified in the Industry Access Service Order Guidelines, unless otherwise specified herein.

4.1.2 Billing of Access Minutes

When recording originating calls over FG Access with multi-frequency address signaling, usage measurement begins when the first wink supervisory signal is forwarded from the Customer's facilities. The measurement of originating call usage over FG Access ends when the originating FG Access entry switch receives disconnect supervision from either the originating End User's Local Switching Center - (indicating that the originating End User has disconnected), or the Customer's facilities, whichever is recognized first by the entry switch.

For terminating calls over FG Access with multi-frequency address signaling, the measurement of access minutes begins when a seizure signal is received from the Carrier's trunk group at the Point of Presence within the LATA. The measurement of terminating call usage over FG Access ends when a disconnect signal is received, indicating that either the originating or terminating user has disconnected.

When recording originating calls over FG Access with SS7 signaling, usage measurement begins with the transmission of the initial address message by the switch for direct trunk groups and with the receipt of an exit message by the switch for tandem trunk groups. The measurement of originating FG Access usage ends when the entry switch receives or sends a release message, whichever occurs first.

For terminating calls over FG Access with SS7 signaling, the measurement of access minutes begins when the terminating recording switch receives the initial address message from the terminating End User. On directly routed trunk groups or on tandem routed trunk groups, the Company switch receives the initial address message and sends the

indication to the Customer in the form of an answer message. The measurement of terminating FG Access call usage ends when the entry switch receives or sends a release message, whichever occurs first.

4.2 Intentionally omitted

4.3 Wireless Termination Services

4.3.1 The Company switched access rate is \$0.02057 per minute.

4.3.2 Ordering Conditions

Customer may order Wireless Termination Services through a Constructive Order, as defined herein, or through an ASR.

The format and terms of the ASR will be as specified in the Industry Access Service Order Guidelines, unless otherwise specified herein.

4.4 Miscellaneous Charges

Customer Requested Due Date Change ¹²	\$50, per order
Customer Requested Expedite ²	\$250, per location, per order
Cancellation (after 3 business days from order placement) ²	Full NRCs + \$250, per order
Design Change, DS0/DS1 ²	\$150, per circuit
Design Change, DS3 and higher ²	\$300, per circuit
Administrative Processing ²	\$25, per order

¹ Company Due Date Change Policy - No due date change accepted at or after four (4) days prior to the current due date. If a Customer request is received during that time period, the supplemental charge will apply and, in addition, the billing will start on the current due date without exception.

² For services involving facilities leased from other telecommunications providers, Supplementary Charges will be priced on an Individual Case Basis, and will be based upon a pass-through of all charges assessed by other providers, and the Company's administrative costs.