

**AGREEMENT**

**BETWEEN**

**SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY, LLC D/B/A AT&T  
MISSOURI**

**AND**

**SELECTPATH HOLDINGS, INC.**

Signature: eSigned - Jon WordName: eSigned - Jon Word  
(Print or Type)Title: President  
(Print or Type)Date: 23 Jul 2025**SelectPath Holdings, Inc.**Signature: eSigned - Kristen E. ShoreName: eSigned - Kristen E. Shore  
(Print or Type)Title: AVP- Regulatory  
(Print or Type)Date: 24 Jul 2025**Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, LLC d/b/a  
AT&T MISSOURI by AT&T Services, Inc., its  
authorized agent**

## **GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

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## ONE-WAY PAGING INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT

This One-Way Paging Interconnection Agreement under Sections 251 and 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 for Commercial Mobile Radio Service ("CMRS"), by and between one or more of the AT&T Inc. owned ILECs: BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC d/b/a AT&T ALABAMA, AT&T FLORIDA, AT&T GEORGIA, AT&T KENTUCKY, AT&T LOUISIANA, AT&T MISSISSIPPI, AT&T NORTH CAROLINA, AT&T SOUTH CAROLINA and AT&T TENNESSEE, Illinois Bell Telephone Company, LLC d/b/a AT&T ILLINOIS, Indiana Bell Telephone Company, LLC d/b/a AT&T INDIANA, Michigan Bell Telephone Company, LLC d/b/a AT&T MICHIGAN, Nevada Bell Telephone Company, LLC d/b/a AT&T NEVADA and AT&T Wholesale, The Ohio Bell Telephone Company, LLC d/b/a AT&T OHIO, Pacific Bell Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T CALIFORNIA, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, LLC d/b/a AT&T ARKANSAS, AT&T KANSAS, AT&T MISSOURI, AT&T OKLAHOMA and AT&T TEXAS, and Wisconsin Bell, LLC d/b/a AT&T WISCONSIN, (only to the extent that the agent for each such AT&T-owned ILEC executes this Agreement for such AT&T Inc. owned ILEC and only to the extent that such AT&T Inc. owned ILEC provides Telephone Exchange Services as an ILEC in each of the State(s) listed below) and SelectPath Holdings, Inc. d/b/a Contact Wireless ("Carrier" also referenced as "Contact Wireless"), (a New Mexico Corporation), shall apply to the State of Missouri.

**WHEREAS**, Carrier holds authority from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to operate as a one-way paging provider to provide Authorized Services in the State(s), and intends to provide one-way paging services employing such licensed frequency(ies); and

**WHEREAS**, the Parties desire to enter into an agreement for the Interconnection of their respective networks within the portions of the State in which both Parties are authorized to operate and deliver traffic for the provision of one-way paging services pursuant to the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and other applicable federal, state and local laws; and

**WHEREAS**, the Parties are entering into this Agreement to set forth their respective rights and obligations and the terms and conditions under which they will interconnect their networks to each other services as required by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 as specifically set forth herein;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Parties hereby agree as follows:

### **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 Capitalized Terms used in this Agreement shall have the respective meanings specified in, Section 2.0 below, "Definitions", or as defined elsewhere in this Agreement.
- 1.2 This Agreement is composed of the foregoing recitals, the General Terms and Conditions (GTC), set forth below, and any Attachments, Schedules, Exhibits and Addenda immediately following the GTC, all of which are hereby incorporated into this Agreement by this reference and constitute a part of this Agreement.

### **2.0 Definitions**

- 2.1 "Access Service Request (ASR)" means the industry standard form used by the Parties to add, establish, change or disconnect trunks for the purposes of Interconnection.
- 2.2 "Access Tandem" mean a local exchange Carrier switching system that provides a concentration and distribution function for originating and/or terminating traffic between a LEC end office network and an IXC POP.
- 2.3 "Accessible Letter(s)" means AT&T-21STATE correspondence used to communicate pertinent information regarding AT&T-21STATE to the Carrier community and is (are) provided via posting to the AT&T-21STATE CLEC Online and/or Prime Access website.
- 2.4 "Act" means the Communications Act of 1934 [47 U.S.C. 153], as amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Public Law 104-104, 110 Stat. 56 (1996) codified throughout 47 U.S.C.
- 2.5 "Affiliate" is as defined in the Act.
- 2.6 "Answer Supervision" means an off-hook supervisory signal sent by the receiving Party's Central Office Switch to the sending Party's Central Office Switch on all completed calls after address signaling has been completed.
- 2.7 "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.

- 2.8 "AT&T Inc." (AT&T) means the holding company which directly or indirectly owns the following ILECs: BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC d/b/a AT&T ALABAMA, AT&T FLORIDA, AT&T GEORGIA, AT&T KENTUCKY, AT&T LOUISIANA, AT&T MISSISSIPPI, AT&T NORTH CAROLINA, AT&T SOUTH CAROLINA and AT&T TENNESSEE; Illinois Bell Telephone Company, LLC d/b/a AT&T ILLINOIS, Indiana Bell Telephone Company, LLC d/b/a AT&T INDIANA, Michigan Bell Telephone Company, LLC d/b/a AT&T MICHIGAN, Nevada Bell Telephone Company, LLC d/b/a AT&T NEVADA and AT&T Wholesale, The Ohio Bell Telephone Company, LLC d/b/a AT&T OHIO, Pacific Bell Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T CALIFORNIA, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, LLC d/b/a AT&T ARKANSAS, AT&T KANSAS, AT&T MISSOURI, AT&T OKLAHOMA and AT&T TEXAS, and Wisconsin Bell, LLC d/b/a AT&T WISCONSIN. As used in this Agreement, AT&T refers to the AT&T Inc. ILECs only.
- 2.9 "AT&T-21STATE" means the AT&T-owned ILEC(s) doing business in Alabama, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Wisconsin.
- 2.10 "AT&T-12STATE" means the AT&T-owned ILEC(s) doing business in Arkansas, California, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas and Wisconsin.
- 2.11 "AT&T-10STATE" means the AT&T-owned ILEC(s) doing business in Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas and Wisconsin.
- 2.12 "AT&T-7STATE" means the AT&T-owned ILEC(s) doing business in Arkansas, California, Kansas, Missouri, Nevada, Oklahoma and Texas.
- 2.13 "AT&T-4STATE" means the AT&T-owned ILEC(s) doing business in Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma.
- 2.14 "AT&T ALABAMA" means the AT&T-owned ILEC doing business in Alabama.
- 2.15 "AT&T ARKANSAS" means the AT&T-owned ILEC doing business in Arkansas.
- 2.16 "AT&T CALIFORNIA" means the AT&T-owned ILEC doing business in California.
- 2.17 "AT&T FLORIDA" means the AT&T-owned ILEC doing business in Florida.
- 2.18 "AT&T GEORGIA" means the AT&T-owned ILEC doing business in Georgia.
- 2.19 "AT&T ILLINOIS" means the AT&T-owned ILEC doing business in Illinois.
- 2.20 "AT&T INDIANA" means the AT&T-owned ILEC doing business in Indiana.
- 2.21 "AT&T KANSAS" means the AT&T-owned ILEC doing business in Kansas.
- 2.22 "AT&T KENTUCKY" means the AT&T-owned ILEC doing business in Kentucky.
- 2.23 "AT&T LOUISIANA" means the AT&T-owned ILEC doing business in Louisiana.
- 2.24 "AT&T MICHIGAN" means the AT&T-owned ILEC doing business in Michigan.
- 2.25 "AT&T MIDWEST REGION 5-STATE" means the AT&T-owned ILEC(s) doing business in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin.
- 2.26 "AT&T MISSISSIPPI" means the AT&T-owned ILEC doing business in Mississippi.
- 2.27 "AT&T MISSOURI" means the AT&T-owned ILEC doing business in Missouri.
- 2.28 "AT&T NEVADA" means the AT&T-owned ILEC doing business in Nevada.
- 2.29 "AT&T NORTH CAROLINA" means the AT&T-owned ILEC doing business in North Carolina.
- 2.30 "AT&T OHIO" means the AT&T-owned ILEC doing business in Ohio.
- 2.31 "AT&T OKLAHOMA" means the AT&T-owned ILEC doing business in Oklahoma.
- 2.32 "AT&T SOUTH CAROLINA" means the AT&T-owned ILEC doing business in South Carolina.

- 2.33 "AT&T SOUTHEAST REGION 9-STATE" means the AT&T-owned ILEC(s) doing business in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.
- 2.34 "AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE" means the AT&T-owned ILEC(s) doing business in Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas.
- 2.35 "AT&T TENNESSEE" means the AT&T-owned ILEC doing business in Tennessee.
- 2.36 "AT&T TEXAS" means the AT&T-owned ILEC doing business in Texas.
- 2.37 "AT&T WEST REGION 2-STATE" means the AT&T-owned ILEC(s) doing business in California and Nevada.
- 2.38 "AT&T WISCONSIN" means the AT&T-owned ILEC doing business in Wisconsin.
- 2.39 "Audited Party" means the Party being audited by the Auditing Party.
- 2.40 "Auditing Party" means the Party conducting an audit of the Audited Party's books, records, data and other documents.
- 2.41 "Authorized Services" means those one-way paging services, (i.e., one-way land-to-mobile) from AT&T-21STATE-to-Carrier traffic, within the Major Trading Area ("MTA") which Carrier may lawfully provide pursuant to the Act, and that are considered to be CMRS. Authorized Services do not include ISP traffic or other Information Services, as defined by the Act. This Agreement is solely for Authorized Services.
- 2.42 "Bill" means an invoice for Interconnection Service(s) from AT&T-21STATE associated with a specific Bill Period.
- 2.43 "Bill Due Date" means thirty (30) calendar days from the bill date.
- 2.44 "Bill Period" means the period between consecutive Bill Dates. A Bill Period approximates one month but many contain slightly more or less than 30 days, depending on the calendar.
- 2.45 "Billed Party" means the recipient Party of a bill rendered from the Billing Party.
- 2.46 "Billing Party" means the Party rendering a bill.
- 2.47 "Business Day" means Monday through Friday, excluding holidays on which the applicable AT&T-21STATE ILEC does not provision new retail services and products.
- 2.48 "CABS" means the Carrier Access Billing System.
- 2.49 "Cash Deposit" means a cash security deposit in U.S. dollars held by AT&T-21STATE.
- 2.50 "Central Office Switch" means the switching entity within a Central Office building in the Public Switched Telecommunications Network. The term "Central Office" refers to the building, whereas the term "Central Office Switch" refers to the switching equipment within the building, but both terms are sometimes used interchangeably. The term "Central Office" is sometimes used to refer to either an End Office or a Tandem Office. Central Offices are also referred to by other terms, some of which are:
- 2.50.1 "End Office Switch" means the switching machine or entity that directly terminates traffic to and receives traffic from purchasers of local Exchange Services, usually referred to as an End User or customer, within a specific geographic exchange. The End Office Switch also connects End Users to other End Users, served by the other End Office Switches, outside of their geographic exchange by way of Trunks. An End Office Switch also connects its End Users to Tandem Switches.
- 2.50.2 "Tandem Office Switch" or "Tandem Switch" means a switch that has been designed for special functions that an End Office Switch does not or cannot perform. A Tandem Office Switch provides a common switch point whereby other switches, both Tandem Office Switches and End Office Switches, may exchange calls between each other when a direct Trunk Group is unavailable. The term "Tandem Office" and "Tandem" are used to refer to the building in which the Tandem Office Switch resides, but are also used interchangeably to refer to the switch within the building.
- 2.51 "Change in Control" shall mean the (a) consolidation or merger of CMRS Provider with or into any unaffiliated entity, (b) sale, transfer or other disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of CMRS Provider to an unaffiliated entity,

or (c) acquisition by any entity, or group of entities acting in concert, of outstanding voting securities or partnership interests of CMRS Provider, which give such entity or group of entities Control (as defined below) over CMRS Provider.

- 2.52 "Claim(s)" means any pending or threatened claim, action, proceeding or suit.
- 2.53 "Commercial Mobile Radio Service(s) (CMRS)" is as defined in the Act and FCC rules.
- 2.54 "Commission" means the applicable State agency with regulatory authority over Telecommunications. Unless the context requires otherwise, use of the term "Commissions" means all of the twenty-two (22) agencies listed in this Section. The following is a list of the applicable State agencies:
- 2.54.1 the Alabama Public Service Commission (APSC);
  - 2.54.2 the Arkansas Public Service Commission (AR-PSC);
  - 2.54.3 the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC);
  - 2.54.4 the Florida Public Service Commission (FPSC);
  - 2.54.5 the Georgia Public Service Commission (GPSC);
  - 2.54.6 the Illinois Commerce Commission (IL-CC);
  - 2.54.7 the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IN-URC);
  - 2.54.8 the Kansas Corporation Commission (KS-CC);
  - 2.54.9 the Kentucky Public Service Commission (KPSC);
  - 2.54.10 the Louisiana Public Service Commission (LPSC);
  - 2.54.11 the Michigan Public Service Commission (MI-PSC);
  - 2.54.12 the Mississippi Public Service Commission (MPSC);
  - 2.54.13 the Missouri Public Service Commission (MO-PSC);
  - 2.54.14 the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (NV-PUC);
  - 2.54.15 the North Carolina Utilities Commission (NCUC);
  - 2.54.16 the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUC-OH);
  - 2.54.17 the Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OK-CC);
  - 2.54.18 the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (PSCSC);
  - 2.54.19 the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (TRA);
  - 2.54.20 the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC-TX); and
  - 2.54.21 the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC-WI).
- 2.55 "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 any other damages typically considered consequential damages under Applicable Law, 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.
- 2.56 "Contested Dispute" means any dispute that has been denied by AT&T-21STATE and designated as a Contested Dispute by CLEC with written reasons for their rejection of the AT&T-21STATE denial, as set forth in Section 19.5.
- 2.57 "Control" shall mean, with respect to any entity, the possession, direct or indirect, of the power to solely direct or cause the direction of the management or policies of such entity, whether through the ownership of voting securities (or other ownership interests) by contract or otherwise.

- 2.58 "Day" means calendar day unless "Business Day" is specified.
- 2.59 "Delaying Event" means any failure of a Party to perform any of its obligations set forth in this Agreement, caused in whole or in part by:
- 2.59.1 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;
  - 2.59.2 any delay, act or failure to act by the other Party or its End User, agent or subcontractor; or
  - 2.59.3 any Force Majeure Event.
- 2.60 "Digital Signal Level" is one of several transmission rates in the time-division multiplex hierarchy.
- 2.60.1 "Digital Signal Level 0 (DS-0)" means the lowest-level signal in the time division multiplex digital hierarchy, and represents a voice-grade channel operating at either the 56 Kbps or 64 Kbps transmission bit rates. There are twenty-four (24) DS-0 channels in a DS-1.
  - 2.60.2 "Digital Signal Level 1 (DS-1)" means the 1.544 Mbps first level signal in the time division multiplex hierarchy.
- 2.61 "Discontinuance Notice" means the written notice sent by the Billing Party to the Non-Paying Party that notifies the Non-Paying Party that to avoid disruption or disconnection of the Interconnection products and/or services, furnished under this Agreement, the Non-Paying Party must remit all Unpaid Charges to the Billing Party within fifteen (15) calendar days following receipt of the Billing Party's notice of Unpaid Charges.
- 2.62 "Dispute Reason" means any and all issues, facts, explanations, Documentation and interpretations of Contract language included with an individual Dispute in support of any request for adjustment of Charges based on the Dispute.
- 2.63 "Disputed Amounts" means the amounts that the Disputing Party contends are billed incorrectly.
- 2.64 "Disputing Party", as used in this Agreement, means the Party to this Agreement that is disputing an amount in a bill rendered by the Billing Party.
- 2.65 "Documentation" means such information, as well as written material captured or recorded in physical or electronic form, as is necessary to substantiate the facts on which a Dispute is based. Examples of appropriate Documentation that is adequate to support specific types of disputes are set forth on the Billing Dispute Guidelines in Section 19.4.4.
- 2.66 "Electronic File Transfer" means any system or process that uses an electronic protocol to send or receive data files.
- 2.67 "End User(s)" means the End User purchaser of Telecommunications Services from AT&T-21STATE or Carrier. As used herein, the term "End User(s)" does not include any of the Parties to this Agreement with respect to any item or service obtained under this Agreement.
- 2.68 "Facility" or "Facilities" means the wire, line, or cable dedicated to the transport of Authorized Services traffic between the Parties' respective networks.
- 2.69 "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.
- 2.70 "Grooming" means rearrangement of existing Services to other AT&T-21STATE Services. As examples, but not by way of limitation, Grooming may include Customer Facility Assignment changes; conversion of an existing Service to a higher or lower speed; a change to any termination location point on a circuit; or the migration of Service from one type of AT&T-21STATE Service to another.
- 2.71 "Intellectual Property" means copyrights, patents, trademarks, trade secrets, mask works and all other intellectual property rights.
- 2.72 "Interconnection" is as defined/required in the Act.
- 2.73 "Interconnection Service(s)" means any Interconnection functions, Trunk or Facilities offered under this Agreement.
- 2.74 "Interexchange Carrier (IXC)" means a Carrier (other than a CMRS provider or a LEC) that provides, directly or indirectly, interLATA or intraLATA Telephone Toll Services.

- 2.75 “Internet Service Provider (ISP)” means an Enhanced Service Provider (ESP) that provides Internet Services.
- 2.76 “LATA” means Local Access and Transport Area as defined in the Act.
- 2.77 “Late Disconnect” means a Dispute claiming that billing continued for Service after the date by which CLEC had requested that such Interconnection Service be disconnected.
- 2.78 “Late Payment Charge” means the charge that is applied by AT&T-21STATE when Carrier fails to remit payment for any charges by the Bill Due Date, or if payment for any portion of the charges is received from Carrier after the Bill Due Date, or if payment for any portion of the charges is received in funds which are not immediately available or received by AT&T-21STATE as of the Bill Due Date, or if the Carrier does not submit the Remittance Information.
- 2.79 “Letter of Credit” means an unconditional, irrevocable standby bank letter of credit from a financial institution acceptable to AT&T-21STATE naming the AT&T-owned ILEC(s) designated by AT&T-21STATE as the beneficiary (ies) thereof and on the AT&T-21STATE Letter of Credit form.
- 2.80 “Local Exchange Carrier (LEC)” is as defined in the Act.
- 2.81 “Local Exchange Routing Guide (LERG)” means the Telcordia Reference document used by Telecommunications Carriers to identify NPA-NXX routing and homing information as well as Network element and equipment designations.
- 2.82 “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).
- 2.83 “Minutes of Use or (MOU)” means the minutes of use for a Completed Call, as measured by the Parties’ equipment from the receipt of Answer Supervision to the receipt of Disconnect Supervision.
- 2.84 “MTA” (“Major Trading Area”) is as defined in 47 C.F.R. § 24.202(a).
- 2.85 “Non-Paying Party” means the Party that has not made payment by the Bill Due Date of all amounts on the invoice rendered by the Billing Party.
- 2.86 “Notice” is official correspondence between the Parties sent in accordance with Notice Sections 20.1-20.3 of this General Terms and Conditions.
- 2.87 “Paging Terminal” means Carrier’s mechanism that receives calls that originate on AT&T-21STATE’s network and transmits the calls to the pager of the called party. A Paging Terminal is not used to perform originating functions for termination of traffic on AT&T-21STATE’s network.
- 2.88 “Party” means either Carrier or the AT&T-owned ILEC; use of the term “Party” includes each of the AT&T-owned ILEC(s) that is a Party to this Agreement. “Parties” means both Carrier and the AT&T-owned ILEC.
- 2.89 “Past Due” means when Carrier fails to remit payment to AT&T-21STATE for any charges by the Bill Due Date, or if Carrier pays any portion of the charges to AT&T-21STATE after the Bill Due Date, or if Carrier pays any portion of the charges to AT&T-21STATE in funds which are not immediately available to AT&T-21STATE as of the Bill Due Date. Any of the foregoing circumstances, either individually or collectively, means “Past Due”.
- 2.90 “Person” means an individual a partnership, an association, a joint venture, a corporation, a business, a trust, an unincorporated organization, any other entity organized under Applicable Law, or any Governmental Authority.
- 2.91 “POI” (“Point of Interconnection”) means the physical location at which the Parties’ networks meet for the purpose of establishing Interconnection. POIs include a number of different technologies and technical interfaces based on the Parties mutual agreement. The POI establishes the technical interface, the test point(s) and the point(s) for operational and financial division of responsibility.
- 2.92 “Rate Center” means the specific geographic point and corresponding geographic area defined by the applicable State Commission and local community for the purpose of rating inter-and intra-LATA toll calls.
- 2.93 “Rate Dispute” means a Dispute claiming that the rate that AT&T-21STATE has billed to CLEC for Interconnection Service is incorrect.

- 2.94 “Rating Point” means the vertical and horizontal (V&H) coordinates assigned to a Rate Center and associated with a particular telephone number for rating purposes. The Rating Point must be in the same LATA as the Routing Point of the associated NPA-NXX as designated in the LERG, but need not be in the same location as that Routing Point.
- 2.95 “Remittance Information” means the information that Carrier must provide to AT&T-21STATE when Carriers remits payment to AT&T-21STATE, including identification of the invoice(s) to which the payment applies, the Billing Account Numbers (BANs) to which the payment applies and the specific amount to be applied to each BAN and invoice.
- 2.96 “Routing Point” means the 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 need not be the same as the Rating Point, nor must it be located within the Rate Center area, but it must be in the same LATA as the NPA-NXX.
- 2.97 “Service Start Date” means the date on which AT&T-21STATE first supplies services to Carrier under this Agreement.
- 2.98 “State Abbreviation” means the following:
- 2.98.1 “AL” means Alabama
  - 2.98.2 “AR” means Arkansas
  - 2.98.3 “CA” means California
  - 2.98.4 “FL” means Florida
  - 2.98.5 “GA” means Georgia
  - 2.98.6 “IL” means Illinois
  - 2.98.7 “IN” means Indiana
  - 2.98.8 “KS” means Kansas
  - 2.98.9 “KY” means Kentucky
  - 2.98.10 “LA” means Louisiana
  - 2.98.11 “MI” means Michigan
  - 2.98.12 “MO” means Missouri
  - 2.98.13 “MS” means Mississippi
  - 2.98.14 “NC” means North Carolina
  - 2.98.15 “SC” means South Carolina
  - 2.98.16 “NV” means Nevada
  - 2.98.17 “OH” means Ohio
  - 2.98.18 “OK” means Oklahoma
  - 2.98.19 “TN” means Tennessee
  - 2.98.20 “TX” means Texas
  - 2.98.21 “WI” means Wisconsin
- 2.99 “Surety Bond” means a bond from a bond company with a credit rating by A. M. BEST better than a “B”. The bond company shall be certified to issue bonds in the state in which this Agreement is approved.
- 2.100 “Tax” or “Taxes” means any and all federal, state, or local sales, use, excise, gross receipts, transfer, transaction or similar taxes or tax-like fees of whatever nature and however designated, including any charges or other payments, contractual or otherwise, for the use of streets or rights whether designated as franchise fees or otherwise, and further including any legally permissible surcharge of or with respect to any of the foregoing, which are imposed or sought to

be imposed on or with respect to, or measured by the charges or payments for, any services purchased under this Agreement.

- 2.101 "Telcordia" means Telcordia Technologies, Inc.
- 2.102 "Telecommunications" is as defined in the Act.
- 2.103 "Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("the ACT")" means Public Law 104 of the United States Congress effective February 8, 1996. The Act amended the Communications Act of 1934 (47, U.S.C. Section 1 et. seq.)
- 2.104 "Telecommunications Carrier" is as defined in the Act.
- 2.105 "Telecommunications Service" is as defined in the Act.
- 2.106 "Third Party" means any Person other than a Party to this Agreement.
- 2.107 "Third Party Traffic" means traffic carried by AT&T-21STATE acting as an intermediary that is originated and terminated by and between Carrier and a Third Party Telecommunications Carrier.
- 2.108 "Trunk(s)" or "Trunk Group(s)" means the switch port interface(s) used and the communications path created to connect Carrier's network with AT&T-21STATE's network for the purpose of delivering Authorized Services for purposes of Interconnection.
- 2.109 "Trunk-Side" means the Central Office Switch connection that is capable of, and that has been programmed to treat the circuit as connecting to another switching entity (for example, another Central Office Switch). Trunk-Side connections offer those transmission and signaling features appropriate for the connection of switching entities and cannot be used for the direct connection of ordinary telephone station sets.
- 2.110 "Unpaid Charges" means any charges billed to the Non-Paying Party that the Non-Paying Party did not render full payment to the Billing Party by the Bill Due Date.
- 2.111 "Wireless Service Request" ("WSR") means the industry standard form used by the Parties to add, establish, change or disconnect trunks for the purposes of Interconnection.

### **3.0 Interconnection**

- 3.1 Technical Provisions. This Section provides for the physical connection of Carrier's and AT&T-21STATE's networks, within the State, for the transmission and routing of Authorized Services traffic, consistent with the requirements of 47 C.F.R. § 51.305 from AT&T-21STATE to Carrier. AT&T-21STATE and Carrier will physically connect their networks and exchange Authorized Services traffic originating from AT&T-21STATE's End Users and terminating to Carrier's End Users in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.

- 3.1.1 Authorized Services Interconnection. This Agreement is solely for Authorized Services. Authorized Services Interconnection shall be available at the trunk side of a AT&T-21STATE End Office Switch via Type 1 Authorized Services Interconnection (and via Type 2B Authorized Services Interconnection, when and where available); and at the trunk connection points for a AT&T-21STATE Tandem Switch via Type 2A Authorized Services Interconnection. Authorized Services Interconnection shall also be provided at other technically feasible points in AT&T-21STATE's network at the request of Carrier and subject to the negotiation of acceptable provisioning arrangements and compensation arrangements that will provide for the recovery of AT&T-21STATE's costs of providing such Interconnection to the extent that such recovery is due. The Parties will attach or incorporate as amendments to this Agreement technical descriptions, and if required, descriptions of associated compensation arrangements to cover any such additional Interconnection.
  - 3.1.2 Type 2. Carrier will obtain from the NXX Code administrator an NXX consistent with established industry guidelines for use with Type 2A and/or Type 2B interfaces. For calls in the AT&T-21STATE to Carrier direction, Carrier must utilize the NXX. The administration of the NXX, once assigned, including updates to the LERG, will be the responsibility of Carrier.

3.1.2.1 The terms and conditions regarding Type 1 interfaces are as set forth in this Section 3.1.2.1.

3.1.2.1.1 The Parties acknowledge that, on a going forward basis, they each desire to minimize the use of Type 1 interfaces with the goal of ultimately eliminating this method of

connection, except as otherwise provided herein or where otherwise mutually agreed.

- 3.1.2.1.2 Carrier agrees to take the following steps to reduce the volume of traffic between the Parties using Type 1 interfaces: a) Carrier shall identify all existing NPA-NXXs assigned to it that are established as Type 1 NPA-NXXs and Carrier shall convert those NPA-NXXs so that they home for Type 2 interfaces within six (6) months of the Effective Date of this Agreement and, b) Carrier shall not provide to its End Users new service using Type 1 numbers, unless, (i) there are not sufficient Type 2 numbers to assign to End Users for new service, or (ii) the Parties mutually agree that new service may be provided using Type 1 numbers.
- 3.1.2.1.3 After receiving a written request from Carrier to convert full Type 1 NPA-NXXs, and in cooperation with Carrier, AT&T-21STATE will assist Carrier in achieving the transition of those numbers by: (i) performing switch programming necessary to convert Carrier's NPA-NXXs from Type 1 to Type 2 NPA-NXXs; (ii) re-trunking Type 1 AT&T-21STATE to Carrier from the AT&T-21STATE End Office Switch to the appropriate AT&T-21STATE Tandem Switch for delivery to Carrier's POI; (iii) designating as Type 2 traffic the traffic which is currently designated as Type 1 and routing that traffic to the appropriate Carrier Trunk Groups whether existing or new as further defined under an implementation plan; (iv) rating Carrier's Type 1 NPA-NXXs at the AT&T-21STATE End Office Switches where the Type 1 NPA-NXXs are currently rated; and (v) routing Type 1 AT&T-21STATE-to-Carrier traffic to a AT&T-21STATE Tandem Switch that the current End Office Switch subtends.
- 3.1.3 Interconnection shall be provided at a level of quality equal to that which each Party provides to itself, to Affiliates, or to any other Telecommunications Carrier.
- 3.1.4 Each Party shall be responsible for providing its own or leased transport Facilities to route calls to and from each other's network.
- 3.1.5 POI Options. Carrier and AT&T-21STATE shall mutually agree on a POI for each Trunk Group used to carry traffic between their respective networks. A POI may be located at:
  - 3.1.5.1 Carrier's network where the Facility terminates for Authorized Services traffic; or
  - 3.1.5.2 another mutually agreeable location.
- 3.1.6 A POI shall not be located across a LATA boundary, nor more than a distance of fourteen (14) miles (or the State's defined local calling area, whichever is greater), from the AT&T-21STATE Central Office Switch where the Facility connection is established. Carrier is responsible for the full cost of Facilities beyond fourteen (14) miles.
- 3.1.7 Interconnection Options. Carrier may order Trunk Side Interconnection in the configurations described below:
  - 3.1.7.1 Type 1 or Type 2B – End Office Switch Interface. The Parties may establish Trunk Groups at an AT&T-21STATE End Office Switch using a Type 1 interface (or a Type 2B interface, when and where available).
  - 3.1.7.2 Type 2A – Tandem Switch Interface. Carrier may establish Trunk Groups at an AT&T-21STATE Tandem Switch using a Type 2A interface.
  - 3.1.7.3 In the event that AT&T-21STATE deploys new Tandem Switches after the Effective Date, AT&T-21STATE will provide Carrier with reasonable advance notice of such a change and AT&T-21STATE will work cooperatively with Carrier to accomplish all necessary network changes.
- 3.1.8 Carrier may designate the interface it wants to receive from the following combinations: Trunk Side terminations at voice grade, DS0 or DS1 level. Only one Trunk Group will be provisioned between any AT&T-21STATE switch and Carrier's switch.
- 3.2 Partner Delivery Service Arrangements for One-Way Traffic from AT&T to Carrier: Carrier may subcontract its

Interconnection obligations for receipt of traffic from AT&T to a Third Party CLEC (hereinafter referred to as Partner Delivery Service Arrangements) as follows:

- 3.2.1 Carrier shall provide Notice in accordance with the Notice provisions of the General Terms and Conditions of this Agreement whenever it establishes or terminates a Partner Delivery Service Arrangement. AT&T shall have a reasonable transition time to establish or terminate a connection to a Third-Party CLEC once Carrier provides Notice.
- 3.2.2 Carrier retains its obligation to abide by all terms and conditions of this Agreement and is responsible for its subcontractor Third Party CLECs' performance of Carrier's obligations under this Agreement.
- 3.2.3 Carrier must update the NPA-NXXs in the LERG for traffic it desires AT&T to terminate to Carrier's Third-Party CLEC. The POI in cases where the Carrier utilizes Partner Delivery Service Arrangements with AT&T shall be that of the Carrier or the Third-Party CLEC.
- 3.2.4 Carrier acknowledges that AT&T will only transmit one-way traffic to Carrier through the Third-Party CLEC in a Time Division Multiplexing (TDM) format compatible with AT&T's network. For matters related to the jurisdiction of traffic, all traffic sent over Third-Party CLEC interconnection trunks shall be treated as wireline traffic.
- 3.2.5 The Parties agree that traffic sent to Carrier under this Section will be subject to bill and keep for purposes of intercarrier compensation. Under a bill and keep compensation arrangement, each Party retains the revenues it receives from its End Users and neither Party pays the other Party for the services provided.
- 3.2.6 Neither Carrier nor AT&T intend to expose AT&T to any Third-Party charges based on Carrier's election to implement a Partner Delivery Service Arrangement when AT&T sends traffic to Carrier via a Third-Party's network. Should Third-Party impose any charge upon AT&T based on Carrier's election to implement a Partner Delivery Service Arrangement, then Carrier shall be financially responsible for any such Third-Party charges.

#### **4.0 Signaling**

- 4.1 Signaling Protocol. If and when Carrier is prepared to convert to SS7, SS7 will be provided per the applicable access tariffs. Where multi-frequency signaling is currently used, the Parties agree, to interconnect their networks using multi-frequency ("MF") or dual tone multi-frequency ("DTMF") signaling, subject to availability at the End Office Switch or Tandem at which Interconnection occurs. The Parties acknowledge that the use of MF signaling may not be optimal. AT&T-21STATE will not be responsible for correcting any undesirable characteristics, service problems or performance problems that are associated with the inter-working of MF and SS7 signaling or with the signaling protocol required for Interconnection if Carrier employs MF signaling.

#### **5.0 NPA-NXX**

- 5.1 Each Carrier NPA-NXX must have a single Rating Point and that Rating Point must be associated with a Rate Center defined in the applicable AT&T-21STATE landline state tariff. Carrier must have the Rating Point entered into the LERG. The geographical exchange area of the associated Rate Center must be served by an End Office Switch or other End Office Switches sub-tending the AT&T-21STATE Tandem Office Switch where a Type 2A Trunk Group is located, or at the End Office Switch, where a Type 2B or Type 1 Trunk Group is located. The Rating Point may be designated anywhere in the LATA, when the Commission so rules, in a proceeding binding AT&T-21STATE. The Rating Point does not have to be the same as the Routing Point.
- 5.2 Each NPA-NXX assigned to the Carrier with a Rate Center outside the AT&T-21STATE franchise area must be entered in the LERG by Carrier, such that (a) the NPA-NXX is accurately reflected as rated from the out-of-franchise Rate Center, and (b) the NPA-NXX is assigned to Carrier's serving switching entity or POI that is located inside the AT&T-21STATE's franchise area, and (c) Carrier's switching entity or POI serving the NPA-NXX subtends or is homed on an AT&T-21STATE tandem.
- 5.3 For Type 2 Trunk Groups, (i.e., Type 2A and Type 2B) Carrier will obtain its own NXX codes from the administrator

and will be responsible for: (a) LERG administration, including updates, and (b) all ASR/WSR Translations Questionnaire ("TQ") Code opening information necessary for routing traffic on these Trunk Groups.

- 5.4 It is Carrier's responsibility to negotiate Interconnection and traffic transport and termination arrangements directly with other Telecommunication Carriers. AT&T-21STATE will deliver traffic destined to Carrier, regardless of which Telecommunication Carrier originates the traffic. Other than delivery, AT&T-21STATE has no responsibility for traffic routed from or through another Telecommunication Carrier's network to AT&T-21STATE's Tandem Switch that is destined to Carrier's Paging Terminal.

## 6.0 Trunks

- 6.1 Carrier and AT&T-21STATE will interconnect directly in each LATA in which AT&T delivers Authorized Services and IXC traffic.

6.2 Installation/Provisioning:

- 6.2.1 Carrier will be responsible for designing, ordering and provisioning all Trunks. Carrier also will engineer and maintain the appropriate type and sizing of Facilities and Trunks according to sound engineering practices, as mutually agreed to by the Parties.
- 6.2.2 Carrier shall submit orders to AT&T-21STATE to establish, add, change, or disconnect Trunks using AT&T-21STATE's applicable ordering system.
- 6.2.3 The Parties will jointly plan and coordinate all Carrier orders that constitute a major project as described below. Major projects are those that require the coordination and execution of multiple orders, and/or actions by the Parties, including but not limited to the initial establishment of Interconnection in an area, designated NPA-NXX relocations, re-homes, Facility grooming, or major network rearrangements.

6.3 Servicing:

- 6.3.1 The Parties will jointly manage the capacity of Trunk Groups. AT&T-21STATE will send a request to Carrier to initiate any Trunk Group capacity changes that it seeks. Carrier will issue an ASR or WSR as applicable to AT&T-21STATE's Wireless Interconnection Service Center to initiate any Trunk Group capacity changes that it seeks. Each Party will respond to the other Party's request for Trunk Group capacity changes within ten (10) Business Days.
- 6.3.2 Each Party will be responsible for engineering and maintaining its own network and any Facilities and Trunks that it provides.

6.4 Design Blocking Criteria:

- 6.4.1 Trunk requirements, for both forecasting and servicing purposes shall be based on the blocking objectives shown in Table 1 below. Trunk requirements shall be based upon time consistent average busy season, busy hour, twenty (20) 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) for all final Trunk Groups.

Table 1	
Trunk Group Type	Design Blocking Objective
Type 2A	1%
Type 2B (Final)	1%
Type 1	1%

- 6.4.2 When Trunks exceed measured blocking thresholds on an average time consistent busy hour for a twenty (20) Business Day study period, the Parties shall cooperate to increase the Trunks to the blocking criteria indicated in Table 1 above, in a timely manner. The Parties agree that twenty (20) Business Days is the study period duration objective.
- 6.4.3 If an Interconnection Trunk Group is under sixty-five percent (65%) of CCS capacity, on a monthly average basis for AT&T-12STATE, or under eighty percent (80%) for AT&T SOUTHEAST REGION 9-STATE, for each

month of any three (3) consecutive months, either Party may request the issuance of an order to resize the Interconnection Trunk Group, which shall be left with not less than twenty-five percent (25%) excess capacity for AT&T-12STATE, or not less than fifteen percent (15%) for AT&T SOUTHEAST REGION 9-STATE. In all cases, grade of service objectives shall be maintained.

- 6.4.4 Each Party shall provide the other with a specific person to contact for planning, forecasting and Trunk servicing purposes.

## **7.0 Trunk Forecasting**

- 7.1 To permit orderly growth and network management, Carrier shall provide forecasts to AT&T-21STATE, forecasting the volume of traffic of each Trunk associated with each POI, upon request by AT&T-21STATE, as often as twice per year. When extraordinary changes are anticipated, Carrier shall provide additional timely forecasts to account for such changes. The forecasts shall include:

- 7.1.1 Yearly forecasted Trunk quantities, which are to include 1) measurements that reflect actual Tandem and End Office Switch Authorized Services Interconnection and Trunks; 2) Tandem-subtending Authorized Services Interconnection End Office Switch equivalent Trunk requirements. The foregoing forecast information will be provided for two (2) years (current year and one (1) prospective year) by quarter;
- 7.1.2 Identification of each Trunk by the from and to Common Language Location Identifiers ("CLLI"), which are described in Telcordia Technologies, Inc.'s documents BR 795-100-100 and BR 795-400-100; and,
- 7.1.3 A description of major system projects. Major system projects include Trunking or system rearrangements, shifts in anticipated traffic patterns, or other activities by Carrier that will result in a significant increase or decrease in Trunk demand for the forecast period.

## **8.0 Paging Compensation Rates and Billing**

- 8.1 Subject to the limitations set forth in Section 8.2 below, bill-and-keep shall apply solely to one-way paging services (i.e. one-way land-to-mobile) transport and termination of Authorized Services traffic.

### **Traffic Not Subject to Bill-and-Keep:**

- 8.2.1 Exclusions. Bill-and-keep shall not apply to the following:
  - 8.2.1.1 Non-CMRS traffic (i.e., traffic that is not intended to originate or terminate to a mobile station using CMRS frequency);
  - 8.2.1.2 Toll-free calls (e.g., 800/888, 500 and 700 calls);
  - 8.2.1.3 Information Services traffic;
  - 8.2.1.4 Transit Traffic;
    - 8.2.1.4.1 1+ Intra-MTA calls that are handed off to an IXC;
    - 8.2.1.4.2 Non-facility based Carrier traffic;
    - 8.2.1.4.3 IXC Traffic;
  - 8.2.1.5 InterMTA Traffic;
  - 8.2.1.6 Any other type of traffic found to be exempt from bill-and-keep by the FCC or the Commission.

## **9.0 Terms and Compensation For Use of Facilities**

- 9.1 For Type 2A Interconnection, Carrier shall be responsible for providing its own or leased transport Facilities to route calls from AT&T-21STATE's Tandem Switch to the POI. For Type 2B and Type 1 Interconnection, Carrier shall be responsible for providing its own or leased transport Facilities to route calls from AT&T-21STATE's End Office Switch to the POI. Carrier may construct its own Facilities, or it may purchase or lease Facilities from a Third Party, or it may purchase or lease Facilities from AT&T-21STATE, if available, pursuant to tariff or separate contract.

- 9.2 The following shall apply solely for DS1 or smaller Facilities dedicated for transport of one-way AT&T-21STATE-to-

Carrier Authorized Services traffic to the POI. If Facilities are not so dedicated, or if Carrier elects to use Facilities greater than a DS1, then Carrier shall be solely responsible for the cost of such Facilities.

- 9.2.1 AT&T-21STATE shall be responsible for seventy-five percent (75%) of the Facility charges for Facilities that are used to deliver Authorized Services traffic. Carrier shall be responsible for twenty-five percent (25%) of the Facility charges for Facilities that are used to deliver Authorized Services traffic. AT&T-21STATE may review on a periodic basis, but no more often than once per year, the traffic delivered to Carrier and reserves the right to make corresponding changes to this facility discount percentage to reflect such actual traffic studies.
- 9.2.2 Nothing herein will obligate AT&T-21STATE to reimburse Carrier for Facilities that Carrier obtains from a Third Party.
- 9.2.3 Nothing herein shall be construed as authorizing Carrier to use the Facilities to deliver land-to-mobile traffic that it receives from AT&T-21STATE to a facilities-based Competitive Local Exchange Carrier ("CLEC"), Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier ("ILEC"), Out-of-Exchange Local Exchange Carrier ("OELEC") or another CMRS provider.
- 9.2.4 Carrier is financially and otherwise responsible for transport Facilities on its side of the POI.
- 9.2.5 In the event that any Governmental Authority rules that AT&T-21STATE is entitled to recover additional charges for Facilities greater than what is provided for herein, the Parties shall amend this Agreement, within thirty (30) Days of AT&T-21STATE's written request to do so, to provide for the payment of the additional charges, by Carrier to AT&T-21STATE, according to the terms approved by the Governmental Authority.

## **10.0 Interpretation, Construction and Severability**

### **10.1 Definitions:**

- 10.1.1 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. Whenever the context may require, any pronoun shall include the corresponding masculine, feminine and neuter forms. 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.

### **10.2 Headings Not Controlling:**

- 10.2.1 The headings and numbering of Sections, Parts, Attachments, Schedules and Exhibits to this Agreement are for convenience only and shall not be construed to define or limit any of the terms herein or affect the meaning or interpretation of this Agreement.
- 10.2.2 This Agreement may incorporate a number of Attachments which, together with their associated Exhibits, Schedules and Addenda, constitute the entire Agreement between the Parties. To facilitate use and comprehension of the Agreement, the Attachments have been grouped under broad headings. It is understood that these groupings are for convenience only, and are not intended to limit the applicability that any particular Attachment, Exhibit, Schedule or Addenda may otherwise have.

### **10.3 Referenced Documents:**

- 10.3.1 Any reference in this Agreement to an industry guideline, or to an AT&T-21STATE technical or business guideline or other such document containing processes or specifications applicable to the services provided pursuant to this Agreement, shall be construed to refer only to those provisions thereof that are applicable to services, provided under this Agreement, and shall include any successor or replacement versions thereof, all as they are amended from time to time and all of which are incorporated herein by reference.

10.4 Tariff References:

10.4.1 References to state tariffs throughout this Agreement shall be to the currently effective tariff for the state or jurisdiction in which the services were provisioned; provided however, where certain AT&T-21STATE services or tariff provisions have been or become deregulated or detariffed, any reference in this Agreement to a detariffed or deregulated service or provision of such tariff shall be deemed to refer to the service description, price list or other agreement pursuant to which AT&T-21STATE provides such services as a result of detariffing or deregulation.

10.4.2 AT&T-21STATE only:

- 10.4.2.1 To the extent a tariff provision or rate is incorporated herein or otherwise applies between the Parties pursuant to this Agreement, it is understood that said tariff provision or rate applies only in the jurisdiction in which such tariff provision or rate is filed, and it applies only to Carrier and the AT&T-21STATE ILEC(s) operating within that jurisdiction. Further, it is understood that any changes to said tariff provision or rate are automatically incorporated herein and are effective hereunder on the date any such tariff change is effective.
- 10.4.2.2 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.
- 10.4.2.3 Any state and/or federal tariff or Guidebook references made within this Agreement, including in any Attachments, Appendices, Exhibits, Schedules or Addenda, hereto, refer to tariffs filed by AT&T-21STATE, as such tariffs or Guidebook may be modified from time to time.

10.5 Conflict in Provisions:

10.5.1 If any definitions, terms or conditions in any given Attachment, Appendix, Exhibit, Schedule or Addenda 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, Exhibit, Schedule or Addenda. In particular, if an Attachment, Appendix, Exhibit, Schedule or Addenda contains a Term that differs from the Term in the main body of this Agreement, the Term of that Attachment, Appendix, Exhibit, Schedule or Addenda will control the Term of that specific Attachment, Appendix, Exhibit, Schedule or Addenda, but will not affect the Term of the remainder of this Agreement or any other Attachment, Appendix, Exhibit, Schedule or Addenda hereto.

10.6 Joint Work Product:

10.6.1 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. In the event of any ambiguities, or conflicts in terms, no inferences shall be drawn against either Party.

10.7 Severability:

10.7.1 If any provision of this Agreement is rejected by a Governmental Authority or held to be illegal, invalid or unenforceable, 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 affected or impaired thereby. If necessary to effect the intent of the Parties, the Parties shall negotiate in good faith to amend this Agreement to replace the unenforceable language with enforceable language that reflects such intent as closely as possible. The Parties negotiated the rates, terms and conditions of this Agreement as a total interconnection arrangement, and its provisions are integrally related and intended to be non-severable.

10.8 Non-Voluntary Arrangements:

10.8.1 This Agreement may incorporate certain rates, terms and conditions that were not voluntarily negotiated and/or agreed to by AT&T-21STATE, but instead resulted from determinations made in arbitrations under Section 252 of the Act or from other Governmental Authority requirements (individually and collectively “Non-Voluntary Arrangement(s)”). If any Non-Voluntary Arrangement is modified as a result of any order or finding

by the FCC or other appropriate Governmental Authority, then the Parties agree to follow the provisions of the Intervening Law in Section 28.0 below of this Agreement.

- 10.8.2 The Parties acknowledge that any Non-Voluntary Arrangements contained in this Agreement shall not be available in any state other than the state that originally imposed/required such Non-Voluntary Arrangement.
  - 10.9 State-Specific Rates, Terms and Conditions:
    - 10.9.1 For ease of administration, this multi-state Agreement contains certain specified rates, terms and conditions which apply only in a designated state ("State-Specific Terms").
    - 10.9.2 State-specific rates, terms and conditions, as that phrase is described in Section 10.9.1 above, have been negotiated (or in the case of Non-Voluntary Arrangements, included in the Agreement per Governmental Authority requirement) by the Parties only in the states where this Agreement has been executed, filed and approved. When the Parties negotiate an agreement for an additional state, neither Party shall be precluded by any language in this Agreement from negotiating state-specific rates, terms and conditions for the state in which the new agreement is to apply.
  - 10.10 Scope of Obligations:
    - 10.10.1 AT&T-21STATE's obligations under this Agreement shall apply only to:
      - 10.10.1.1 The specific operating area(s) or portion thereof in which AT&T-21STATE is then deemed to be the ILEC under the Act (the "ILEC Territory"), and
      - 10.10.1.2 Assets that AT&T-21STATE owns or leases and which are used in connection with AT&T-21STATE's provision to Carrier of any Interconnection services provided under this Agreement, the Act or any tariff or ancillary agreement referenced herein (individually and collectively, the "ILEC Assets").
  - 10.11 Affiliates:
    - 10.11.1 This Agreement will not supersede a currently effective interconnection agreement between any Carrier Affiliate and AT&T-21STATE.
- ## **11.0 Notice of Network Changes**
- 11.1 Nothing in this Agreement shall limit either Party's ability to upgrade its network through the incorporation of new equipment, new software or otherwise or to otherwise change and/or modify its network including, without limitation, through the retirement and/or replacement of equipment, software or otherwise. Each Party agrees to comply with the Network Disclosure rules adopted by the FCC in CC Docket No. 96-98, Second Report and Order, codified at 47 C.F.R. 51.325 through 51.335, as such rules may be amended from time to time (the "Network Disclosure Rules").
- ## **12.0 Responsibilities of the Parties**
- 12.1 Each Party is individually responsible for providing 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 compatible with AT&T-21STATE's network, as referenced in Telcordia BOC Notes on LEC Networks Practice No. SR-TSV-002275, 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 National Network Security Plan and the Emergency Preparedness Plan.
  - 12.2 The Parties shall exchange technical descriptions and forecasts of their Interconnection and traffic requirements in sufficient detail necessary to establish the Interconnections required to assure traffic completion to and from all End Users in their respective designated service areas.
  - 12.3 Each Party is solely responsible for all products and services it provides to its End Users and to other Telecommunications Carriers.

- 12.4 Each Party shall act in good faith in its performance under this Agreement and, in each case in which a Party's consent or agreement is required or requested hereunder, such Party shall not unreasonably withhold or delay such consent or agreement.
- 12.5 Carrier agrees that it will not market to its End Users, hold itself out, enter into any agreement to provide, or encourage its End Users to use Facilities and services provided hereunder for the provision of services other than for Authorized Services traffic. To the extent that Carrier seeks interconnection for purposes other than Authorized Services tariff, such as, but not limited to two-way services, facilities-based landline service, tandeming arrangements, dispatch, administrative, enhanced services, or Information Services, the Parties shall separately negotiate and agree upon the terms and conditions for the exchange of such traffic provided that AT&T-21STATE offers the services that Carrier seeks.
- 12.6 Carrier represents and warrants that (1) it is licensed by the FCC to provide one-way paging CMRS in the state in which Interconnection pursuant to this Agreement will be provided, and (2) it will use the Interconnection arrangements under this Agreement only to provide one-way paging CMRS to the general public in the area covered by such license. If Carrier does not provide one-way CMRS service to the General Public in the state in which Interconnection pursuant to this Agreement will be provided, or seeks to use the arrangements set forth in this Agreement for any other purpose, or if Carrier does not have, at any point during the term of this Agreement, authority from the FCC to provide one-way paging CMRS then this Agreement shall immediately be voidable at AT&T-21STATE's option.

### **13.0 Insurance**

13.1 At all times during the term of this Agreement, Carrier 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:

- 13.1.1 With respect to Carrier's performance under this Agreement, and in addition to Carrier's obligation to indemnify, Carrier shall at its sole cost and expense:
- 13.1.1.1 maintain the insurance coverage and limits required by this Section 13.0 and any additional insurance and/or bonds required by law:
    - 13.1.1.1.1 at all times during the term of this Agreement and until completion of all work associated with this Agreement is completed, whichever is later;
    - 13.1.1.1.2 with respect to any coverage maintained in a "claims-made" policy, for two (2) years following the term of this Agreement or completion of all work associated with this Agreement, whichever is later. If a "claims-made" policy is maintained, the retroactive date must precede the commencement of work under this Agreement;
  - 13.1.1.2 require each subcontractor who may perform work under this Agreement or enter upon the work site to maintain coverage, requirements, and limits at least as broad as those listed in this Section 13.0 from the time when the subcontractor begins work, throughout the term of the subcontractor's work; and with respect to any coverage maintained on a "claims-made" policy, for two (2) years thereafter;
  - 13.1.1.3 procure the required insurance from an insurance company eligible to do business in the state or states where work will be performed and having and maintaining a Financial Strength Rating of "A-" or better and a Financial Size Category of "VII" or better, as rated in the A.M. Best Key Rating Guide for Property and Casualty Insurance Companies, except that, in the case of Workers' Compensation insurance, Carrier may procure insurance from the state fund of the state where work is to be performed; and
  - 13.1.1.4 deliver to AT&T-21STATE certificates of insurance stating the types of insurance and policy limits upon written request by AT&T. Carrier, or its issuing insurance company, shall provide at least thirty (30) days advance written notice of cancellation, non-renewal, or reduction in coverage, terms, or limits to AT&T-21STATE. Upon AT&T's request, Carrier shall deliver such certificates, and copy the AT&T Notices Manager herein:
    - 13.1.1.4.1 prior to implementation of this Agreement and prior to commencement of any work;
    - 13.1.1.4.2 prior to submitting any ASRs and/or any other service requests; and

- 13.1.1.4.3 prior to expiration of any insurance policy required in this Section 13.0; and
- 13.1.1.4.4 within thirty (30) days of AT&T-21STATE request; and
- 13.1.1.4.5 for any coverage maintained on a “claims-made” policy, for two (2) years following the term of this Agreement or completion of all work associated with is Agreement, whichever is later.

13.1.2 The Parties agree:

- 13.1.2.1 the failure of AT&T-21STATE to demand such certificate of insurance or failure of AT&T-21STATE to identify a deficiency will not be construed as a waiver of Carrier's obligation to maintain the insurance required under this Agreement;
- 13.1.2.2 that the insurance required under this Agreement does not represent that coverage and limits will necessarily be adequate to protect Carrier, nor be deemed as a limitation on Carrier's liability to AT&T-21STATE in this Agreement;
- 13.1.2.3 Carrier may meet the required insurance coverages and limits with any combination of primary and Umbrella/Excess liability insurance; and
- 13.1.2.4 Carrier is responsible for any deductible or self-insured retention.

13.2 The insurance coverage required by this Section 13.0 includes:

- 13.2.1 Workers' Compensation insurance with benefits afforded under the laws of any state in which the work is to be performed and Employers Liability insurance with limits of at least:
  - 13.2.1.1 \$500,000 for Bodily Injury – each accident; and
  - 13.2.1.2 \$500,000 for Bodily Injury by disease – policy limits; and
  - 13.2.1.3 \$500,000 for Bodily Injury by disease – each employee.
  - 13.2.1.4 To the fullest extent allowable by Law, the policy must include a waiver of subrogation in favor of AT&T-21STATE, its Affiliates, and their directors, officers and employees.
- 13.2.2 In states where Workers' Compensation insurance is a monopolistic state-run system, Carrier shall add Stop Gap Employers Liability with limits not less than \$500,000 each accident or disease.
- 13.2.3 Commercial General Liability insurance written on Insurance Services Office (ISO) Form CG 00 01 12 04 or a substitute form providing equivalent coverage, covering liability arising from premises, operations, personal injury and liability assumed under an insured contract (including the tort liability of another assumed in a business contract) with limits of at least:
  - 13.2.3.1 \$2,000,000 General Aggregate limit; and
  - 13.2.3.2 \$1,000,000 each occurrence limit for all bodily injury or property damage incurred in any one (1) occurrence; and
  - 13.2.3.3 \$1,000,000 each occurrence limit for Personal Injury.
- 13.2.4 The **Commercial General Liability** insurance policy must include each Party, its Affiliates, and their directors, officers, and employees as Additional Insureds. Each Party shall provide a copy of the Additional Insured endorsement to the other Party. The Additional Insured endorsement may either be specific to each Party or may be “blanket” or “automatic” addressing any person or entity as required by contract. A copy of the Additional Insured endorsement must be provided within sixty (60) days of execution of this Agreement and within sixty (60) days of each **Commercial General Liability** policy renewal; include a waiver of subrogation in favor of each Party, its Affiliates, and their directors, officers and employees; and be primary and non-contributory with respect to any insurance or self-insurance that is maintained by each Party.
- 13.3 This Section 13.0 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.

## **14.0 Assignment, Change in Control or Corporate Name Change**

- 14.1 Carrier may not assign or transfer this Agreement nor any rights or obligations hereunder, whether by operation of law, Change in Control or otherwise, to a non-affiliated Third Party without the prior written consent of AT&T-21STATE. Any attempted assignment or transfer that is not permitted is void ab initio.
- 14.2 Carrier may assign or transfer this Agreement and all rights and obligations hereunder, whether by operation of law, Change in Control or otherwise, to an Affiliate by providing sixty (60) calendar days advance written notice of such assignment or transfer to AT&T-21STATE; provided that such assignment or transfer is not inconsistent with Applicable Law (including the Affiliate's obligation to obtain and maintain proper Commission certification and approvals) or the terms and conditions of this Agreement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Carrier may not assign or transfer this Agreement, or any rights or obligations hereunder, to an Affiliate if that Affiliate is a party to a separate interconnection agreement with AT&T-21STATE under Sections 251 and 252 of the Act. Any attempted assignment or transfer that is not permitted herein is void ab initio.
- 14.3 Corporate Name Change and/or change in "d/b/a" only:
- 14.3.1 Any change in Carrier's corporate name including a change in the d/b/a, and including a name change due to assignment or transfer of this Agreement wherein only the Carrier name is changing, and which does not include a change to a Carrier OCN/ACNA, constitutes a Carrier Name Change under this Section. For any such Carrier Name Change, Carrier will incur a record order charge for each Carrier CABS BAN.
- 14.3.2 The Parties agree to amend this Agreement to appropriately reflect any Carrier Name Change including a change in d/b/a.
- 14.4 Company Code Change:
- 14.4.1 Any assignment or transfer of this Agreement associated with the transfer or acquisition of "assets" provisioned under this Agreement, where the OCN/ACNA formerly assigned to such "assets" is changing constitutes a "Carrier Company Code Change" under this Section. For the purposes of this Section 14.0, "assets" means any Interconnection function, Facility, product or service provided under this Agreement. Carrier shall provide AT&T-21STATE with ninety (90) days advance written notice of any assignment associated with a Carrier Company Code Change and obtain AT&T-21STATE's consent. AT&T-21STATE shall not unreasonably withhold consent to a Carrier Company Code Change; provided, however, AT&T-21STATE's consent to any Carrier Company Code Change is contingent upon payment of any outstanding charges, including Collocation charges, if Carrier has elected to collocate with AT&T-21STATE, owed under this Agreement and payment of any outstanding charges associated with the "assets" subject to the Carrier Company Code Change. In addition, Carrier acknowledges that Carrier may be required to tender additional assurance of payment to AT&T-21STATE if requested under the terms of this Agreement.
- 14.4.2 For any Carrier Company Code Change, Carrier must submit a service order to AT&T-21STATE changing the OCN/ACNA for each circuit ID number, as applicable. Carrier shall pay the appropriate charges to AT&T-21STATE for each service order submitted to accomplish a Carrier Company Code Change; such charges are contained in the applicable AT&T-21STATE tariffs. In addition, Carrier shall pay any and all charges to AT&T-21STATE required for re-stenciling, re-engineering, changing locks and any other work necessary with respect to Collocation, if Carrier has elected to collocate with AT&T-21STATE.

## **15.0 Effective Date, Term and Termination**

- 15.1 Effective Date:

- 15.1.1 In AT&T-21STATE, with the exception of AT&T OHIO and AT&T WISCONSIN, the Effective Date of this Agreement shall be ten (10) calendar days after the Commission approves this Agreement under Section 252(e) of the Act or, absent such Commission approval, the date this Agreement is deemed approved under Section 252(e)(4) of the Act. In AT&T OHIO, based on the PUC-OH, the Agreement is Effective upon filing and is deemed approved by operation of law on the 91st day after filing. In AT&T WISCONSIN, the Effective Date of this Agreement shall be ten (10) calendar days after the mailing date of the final order approving this Agreement.

**15.2 Term:**

- 15.2.1 Unless terminated for breach (including nonpayment), the term of this Agreement shall commence upon the Effective Date of this Agreement and shall expire on October 21, 2027 (the “Initial Term”).

**15.3 Termination for Non-Performance or Breach:**

- 15.3.1 Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, either Party may terminate this Agreement and the provision of any Interconnection products and/or services provided pursuant to this Agreement, at the sole discretion of the terminating Party, 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 fails to cure such nonperformance or breach within forty-five (45) calendar days after written notice thereof. If the nonperforming Party fails to cure such nonperformance or breach within the forty-five (45) calendar day period provided for within the original notice, then the terminating Party will provide a subsequent written notice of the termination of this Agreement and such termination shall take effect immediately upon delivery of written notice to the other Party.

**15.4 Termination of Agreement:**

- 15.4.1 Where Carrier has no End Users or is no longer purchasing and/or using any services under this Agreement, either Party may terminate the Agreement by providing “notice of termination” to the other Party. After termination, the Parties’ liability for termination of this Agreement shall be limited to obligations under the Survival of Obligations Section of this Agreement.
- 15.4.2 If at any time, within one hundred and eighty (180) days or any time thereafter of the expiration of the Term, either Party serves “notice of termination”, the Party who receives such notice shall have ten (10) calendar days to provide the noticing Party with written confirmation, indicating whether the Party who receives notice wishes to pursue a successor agreement or terminate the Agreement. When Carrier receives notice of termination from AT&T-21STATE, Carrier shall identify the action to be taken in each of the applicable state(s). If Carrier wishes to pursue a successor agreement with AT&T-21STATE, Carrier shall attach to its written confirmation or notice of termination, a written request to commence negotiations with AT&T-21STATE under Sections 251/252 of the Act and identify each of the state(s) to which the successor agreement will apply. Upon receipt of Carrier’s Section 252(a)(1) request, the Parties shall commence good faith negotiations for a successor agreement.
- 15.4.3 If the Parties are in “Active Negotiations” (negotiations within the statutory clock established in the Act under Section 252(b)) or have filed for arbitration with the Commission, AT&T-21STATE shall continue to offer services to Carrier pursuant to the rates, terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement until a successor agreement becomes effective between the Parties.

**16.0 Assurance of Payment**

16.1 Upon request by AT&T-21STATE, Carrier will provide AT&T-21STATE with a completed AT&T-21STATE Credit Profile form and provide information to AT&T-21STATE regarding Carrier’s credit and financial condition.

**16.2 Assurance of payment may be requested by AT&T-21STATE:**

- 16.2.1 If based on AT&T-21STATE’s analysis of the AT&T-21STATE Credit Profile and other relevant information regarding Carrier’s credit and financial condition, there is an impairment of the credit, financial health, or credit worthiness of Carrier. Such impairment may be determined from information available from Third Party financial sources; or
- 16.2.2 If Carrier fails to timely pay a bill rendered to Carrier by AT&T-21STATE (except such portion of a bill that is subject to a good faith, bona fide dispute and as to which Carrier has complied with all requirements set forth in Section 18.4 below); or
- 16.2.3 If Carrier’s gross monthly billing has increased, then AT&T-21STATE reserves the right to request additional security (or to require a security deposit if none was previously obtained) and/or file a Uniform Commercial Code (UCC-1) security interest in Carrier’s “accounts receivables and proceeds”; or

- 16.2.4 When Carrier admits its inability to pay its debts as such debts become due, has commenced a voluntary case (or has had an involuntary case commenced against it) under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code or any other law relating to insolvency, reorganization, winding-up, composition or adjustment of debts or the like, has made an assignment for the benefit of creditors or is subject to a receivership or similar proceeding.
- 16.3 If AT&T-21STATE requires Carrier to provide a security deposit, Carrier shall provide such security deposit prior to the inauguration of service or within fifteen (15) calendar days of AT&T-21STATE's request, as applicable. Deposit request notices will be sent to Carrier via certified mail or overnight delivery. The notice period will begin the day after the deposit request notice is delivered to Carrier by certified mail or overnight delivery. Interest on a cash security deposit shall accrue and be applied or refunded in accordance with the terms in AT&T-21STATE's applicable state tariff.
- 16.4 Unless otherwise agreed by the Parties, the assurance of payment will consist of:
- 16.4.1 a Cash Deposit; or
  - 16.4.2 a Letter of Credit; or
  - 16.4.3 a Surety Bond.
- 16.5 The Cash Deposit, Letter of Credit or Surety Bond must be in an amount equal to three (3) months anticipated charges (including, but not limited to, recurring, non-recurring and usage sensitive charges, termination charges and advance payments), as reasonably determined by AT&T-21STATE, for the Interconnection services, and Collocation or any other functions, Facilities, and/or services to be furnished by AT&T-21STATE under this Agreement. Estimated billings are calculated based upon the monthly average of the previous six (6) months' current billings, if Carrier has received service from AT&T-21STATE during such period at a level comparable to that anticipated to occur over the next six (6) months. If either Carrier or AT&T-21STATE has reason to believe that the level of service to be received during the next six (6) months will be materially higher or lower than received in the previous six (6) months, Carrier and AT&T-21STATE shall agree on a level of estimated billings based on all relevant information.
- 16.6 To the extent that AT&T-21STATE requires a Cash Deposit, the Parties intend that the payment of such Cash Deposit shall constitute the grant of a security interest in the Cash Deposit pursuant to Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code in effect in any relevant jurisdiction.
- 16.7 Interest on a Cash Deposit shall accrue and be applied or refunded in accordance with the terms in the applicable AT&T-21STATE state tariff. AT&T-21STATE will not pay interest on a Letter of Credit or a Surety Bond.
- 16.8 AT&T-21STATE may, but is not obligated to, draw on the Letter of Credit or the Cash Deposit, as applicable, upon the occurrence of any one of the following events:
- 16.8.1 Carrier owes AT&T-21STATE undisputed charges under this Agreement that are more than thirty (30) calendar days past due; or
  - 16.8.2 Carrier admits its inability to pay its debts as such debts become due, has commenced a voluntary case (or has had an involuntary case commenced against it) under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code or any other law relating to insolvency, reorganization, winding-up, composition or adjustment of debts or the like, has made an assignment for the benefit of creditors or is subject to a receivership or similar proceeding; or
  - 16.8.3 The termination of this Agreement.
- 16.9 If AT&T-21STATE draws on the Letter of Credit or Cash Deposit, upon request by AT&T-21STATE, Carrier will provide a replacement or supplemental Letter of Credit, Surety Bond or Cash Deposit conforming to the requirements of Section 16.4 above.
- 16.10 Notwithstanding anything else set forth in this Agreement, if AT&T-21STATE makes a request for assurance of payment in accordance with the terms of this Section 16.0 then AT&T-21STATE shall have no obligation thereafter to perform under this Agreement until such time as Carrier has furnished AT&T-21STATE with the assurance of payment requested; provided, however, that AT&T-21STATE will permit Carrier a minimum of fifteen (15) calendar days to respond to a request for assurance of payment before invoking charges as set forth in this Section 16.0.

- 16.11 In the event Carrier fails to provide AT&T-21STATE with a suitable form of security deposit or additional security deposit as required herein, defaults on its account(s), or otherwise fails to make any payment or payments required under this Agreement in the manner and within the time required, service to Carrier may be suspended, discontinued or terminated in accordance with the terms of this Section. Upon termination of services, AT&T-21STATE shall apply any security deposit to Carrier's final bill for its account(s). If Carrier fails to furnish the requested adequate assurance of payment on or before the date set forth in the request, AT&T-21STATE may also invoke the provisions set forth in Section 19.0 below.
- 16.12 A Cash Deposit held by AT&T-21STATE shall be returned to Carrier if the following conditions have been met:
- 16.12.1 Payment was made on bills rendered to Carrier by AT&T-21STATE (except such portion of a bill that is subject to a good faith, bona fide dispute and as to which Carrier has complied with all requirements set forth in Section 18.4 below) as of the Bill Due Date for all but one time during the prior twelve (12) month period and all payments were made with checks that were honored; and
- 16.12.2 There has been no impairment of the established credit and/or financial health from information available from financial sources, including but not limited to Moody's, Standard and Poor's, and the Wall Street Journal. Financial information about Carrier that may be considered includes, but is not limited to, investor warning briefs, rating downgrades, and articles discussing pending credit problems.
- 16.13 The fact that a Cash Deposit or Letter of Credit is requested by AT&T-21STATE shall in no way relieve Carrier from timely compliance with all payment obligations under this Agreement (including, but not limited to, recurring, non-recurring and usage sensitive charges, termination charges and advance payments), nor does it constitute a waiver or modification of the terms of this Agreement pertaining to disconnection or re-entry for non-payment of any amounts required to be paid hereunder.
- 16.14 At least seven (7) calendar days prior to the expiration of any Letter of Credit provided by Carrier as security under this Agreement, Carrier shall renew such Letter of Credit or provide AT&T-21STATE with evidence that Carrier has obtained a suitable replacement for the Letter of Credit. If Carrier fails to comply with the foregoing, AT&T-21STATE shall thereafter be authorized to draw down the full amount of such Letter of Credit and utilize the cash proceeds as security for Carrier accounts(s). If Carrier provides a security deposit or additional security deposit in the form of a Surety Bond as required herein, Carrier shall renew the Surety Bond or provide AT&T-21STATE with evidence that Carrier has obtained a suitable replacement for the Surety Bond at least seven (7) calendar days prior to the cancellation date of the Surety Bond. If Carrier fails to comply with the foregoing, AT&T-21STATE shall thereafter be authorized to take action on the Surety Bond and utilize the cash proceeds as security for Carrier's account(s). If the credit rating of any bonding company that has provided Carrier with a Surety Bond provided as security hereunder has fallen below "B", AT&T-21STATE will provide written notice to Carrier that Carrier must provide a replacement bond or other suitable security within fifteen (15) calendar days of AT&T-21STATE's written notice. If Carrier fails to comply with the foregoing, AT&T-21STATE shall thereafter be authorized to take action on the Surety Bond and utilize the cash proceeds as security for Carrier's account(s). Notwithstanding anything contained in this Agreement to the contrary, AT&T-21STATE shall be authorized to draw down the full amount of any Letter of Credit or take action on any Surety Bond provided by Carrier as security hereunder if Carrier defaults on its account(s) or otherwise fails to make any payment or payments required under this Agreement in the manner and within the time, as required herein.

## **17.0 Billing and Payment of Charges**

- 17.1 Unless otherwise stated, each Party will render monthly bill(s), remittance in full by the Bill Due Date, to the other for Interconnection services provided hereunder at the applicable rates set forth in the Pricing Schedule.
- 17.2 Carrier shall not default bill AT&T-21STATE when AT&T-21STATE transits unidentified traffic terminating to Carrier.
- 17.3 Each Party agrees to pay the other all undisputed billed amounts by the earlier of (i) the payment date, which may be set no earlier than thirty (30) Days after the bill date, or (ii) the next bill date (i.e., the same date in the following month as the bill date). The undisputed portions of all bills are to be paid when due. All Facilities and serving arrangement charges shall be billed monthly in advance, except those charges due for the initial month, or a portion of the initial month during which new items are provided, in which case charges will be included in the next bill rendered. If the date on which a bill is due as provided above is on a Day other than a Business Day, payment will be made on the

next Business Day. Payments will be made in U.S. dollars.

17.4 Invoices:

17.4.1 Invoices shall comply with nationally accepted standards agreed upon by the Ordering and Billing Forum (OBF) for billing access traffic. Invoices from Paging Provider, if any, shall contain sufficient detail to substantiate the billing and shall include the following pertinent information:

- Identification of the monthly bill period (from and through dates)
- Current charges
- Past due balance
- Adjustments
- Credits
- Late payment charges
- Payments
- Contact telephone number for billing inquiries

17.4.2 The Parties will provide a remittance document with each invoice identifying:

Remittance address

Invoice number and/or billing account number

Summary of charges

Amount due

Payment Due Date (at least thirty (30) days from the invoice date)

17.4.3 When AT&T-21STATE is unable to render an invoice reflecting an adjustment for shared Facilities and/or Trunks, Carrier will separately invoice AT&T-21STATE for AT&T-21STATE's share of the cost of such Facilities and/or Trunks as provided in this Agreement within thirty (30) days following receipt by Carrier of AT&T-21STATE's invoice.

17.4.4 There will be no netting by the billed Party of payments due herein against any other amount owed by one Party to the other.

17.5 A Late Payment Charge will be assessed for all Past Due payments as provided below, as applicable.

17.5.1 If any portion of the payment is not received by AT&T-21STATE on or before the bill due date as set forth above, or if any portion of the payment is received by AT&T-21STATE in funds that are not immediately available to AT&T-21STATE, then a late payment and/or interest charge shall be due to AT&T-21STATE. The late payment and/or interest charge shall apply to the portion of the payment not received and shall be assessed as set forth in the applicable state tariff, or, if no applicable state tariff exists, as set forth as published on the AT&T-21STATE website, or pursuant to the applicable state law as determined by AT&T-21STATE. When there is no applicable tariff in the State, any undisputed amounts not paid when due shall accrue interest from the date such amounts were due at the lesser of (i) one and one-half percent (1½ %) per month of (ii) the highest rate of interest that may be charged under Applicable Law, compounded daily from the number of days from the Payment Due Date to and including the date that payment is actually made. In addition to any applicable late payment and/or interest charges, Carrier may be charged a fee for all returned checks at the rate set forth in the applicable state tariff, or, if no applicable tariff exists, as set forth pursuant to Applicable Law.

17.6 If any charge incurred by AT&T-21STATE under this Agreement is Past Due, the unpaid amounts will accrue interest from the day following the Bill Due Date until paid. The interest rate applied will be the lesser of (i) the rate used to

compute the Late Payment Charge contained in the applicable AT&T-21STATE intrastate access services tariff for that state and (ii) the highest rate of interest that may be charged under Applicable Law, compounded daily from the Bill Due Date to and including the date that the payment is actually made and available.

- 17.7 The Remittance Information must accompany the payment. Payment is considered to have been made when the payment and Remittance Information are received by AT&T-21STATE. If the Remittance Information is not received with payment, AT&T-21STATE will be unable to apply amounts paid to Carrier's accounts. In such event, AT&T-21STATE shall hold such funds until the Remittance Information is received. If AT&T-21STATE does not receive the Remittance Information from Carrier by the Bill Due Date for any account(s), Late Payment Charges shall apply.
- 17.8 Carrier shall make all payments to AT&T-21STATE via electronic funds transfers (EFTs) through the Automated Clearing House Association (ACH) to the financial institution designated by AT&T-21STATE. Remittance Information will be communicated together with the funds transfer via the ACH network. Carrier must use the CCD+ or the CTX Standard Entry Class code. Carrier and AT&T-21STATE will abide by the National Automated Clearing House Association (NACHA) Rules and Regulations. Each ACH payment must be received by AT&T-21STATE no later than the Bill Due Date of each bill or Late Payment Charges will apply. AT&T-21STATE is not liable for any delays in receipt of funds or errors in entries caused by Carrier or Third Parties, including Carrier's financial institution. Carrier is responsible for its own banking fees.
- 17.9 Prior to establishing EFT, Carrier will complete a Customer Information Form for Electronic Payments (ECF11 Form) found on the AT&T Prime Access website. This form provides AT&T-21STATE with Carrier's set up and contract information for electronic payments. AT&T-21STATE banking information will be provided by AT&T-21STATE Treasury & Remittance Operations on AT&T-21STATE approved forms after the Carrier's completed ECF11 form is received, testing has completed and certification confirmed.
- 17.10 Processing of payments not made via electronic funds transfers through the ACH network may be delayed. Carrier is responsible for any Late Payment Charges resulting from Carrier's failure to use electronic funds transfers through the ACH network.
- 17.11 If Unpaid Charges are subject to a billing dispute between the Parties, the Non-Paying Party must, prior to the Bill Due Date, give written notice to the Billing Party of the Disputed Amounts and include in such written notice the specific details and reasons for disputing each item listed in Section 19.4 below. The Disputing Party should use the preferred form or method provided by the Billing Party to communicate disputes to the Billing Party. On or before the Bill Due Date, the Non-Paying Party must pay: (i) all undisputed amounts to the Billing Party and (ii) all Disputed Amounts, except for Disputed Amounts arising from compensation for the termination of Section 251(b)(5) traffic, into an interest bearing escrow account with a Third Party escrow agent that is mutually agreed upon by the Parties.
- 17.12 Requirements to Establish Escrow Accounts:
  - 17.12.1 To be acceptable, the Third Party escrow agent must meet all of the following criteria:
    - 17.12.1.1 The financial institution proposed as the Third Party escrow agent must be located within the continental United States;
    - 17.12.1.2 The financial institution proposed as the Third Party escrow agent may not be an Affiliate of either Party; and
    - 17.12.1.3 The financial institution proposed as the Third Party escrow agent must be authorized to handle ACH credit transfers.
  - 17.12.2 In addition to the foregoing requirements for the Third Party escrow agent, the Disputing Party and the financial institution proposed as the Third Party escrow agent must agree in writing furnished to the Billing Party that the escrow account will meet all of the following criteria:
    - 17.12.2.1 the escrow account must be an interest bearing account;
    - 17.12.2.2 all charges associated with opening and maintaining the escrow account will be borne by the Disputing Party;
    - 17.12.2.3 that none of the funds deposited into the escrow account or the interest earned thereon may be

used to pay the financial institution's charges for serving as the Third Party escrow agent;

17.12.2.4 all interest earned on deposits to the escrow account will be disbursed to the Parties in the same proportion as the principal; and

17.12.2.5 disbursements from the escrow account will be limited to those:

17.12.2.5.1 authorized in writing by both the Disputing Party and the Billing Party (that is, signature(s) from representative(s) of the Disputing Party only are not sufficient to properly authorize any disbursement); or

17.12.2.5.2 made in accordance with the final, non-appealable order of the arbitrator appointed pursuant to the provisions of Section 19.7 below; or

17.12.2.5.3 made in accordance with the final, non-appealable order of the court that had jurisdiction to enter the arbitrator's award pursuant to Section 19.7 below.

17.13 Disputed Amounts in escrow will be subject to Late Payment Charges as set forth in Section 17.7 above.

17.14 Issues related to Disputed Amounts shall be resolved in accordance with the procedures identified in the dispute resolution provisions set forth in Section 19.0 below.

17.15 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 will cooperate to ensure that all of the following actions are completed:

17.15.1 the Billing Party will 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 thereon, no later than the second Bill Due Date after resolution of the dispute;

17.15.2 within ten (10) Business Days after resolution of the dispute, the portion of the escrowed Disputed Amounts resolved in favor of the Non-Paying Party will be released to the Non-Paying Party, together with any interest accrued thereon;

17.15.3 within ten (10) Business Days after resolution of the dispute, the portion of the escrowed Disputed Amounts resolved in favor of the Billing Party will be released to the Billing Party, together with any interest accrued thereon; and

17.15.4 no later than the third Bill Due Date after the resolution of the dispute, the Non-Paying Party will pay the Billing Party the difference between the amount of accrued interest the Billing Party received from the escrow

disbursement and the amount of Late Payment Charges the Billing Party is entitled to receive pursuant to Section 17.7 above.

17.16 If the Non-Paying Party disputes any charges and the entire dispute is resolved in favor of the Billing Party, the Parties will cooperate to ensure that all of the actions required by Section 17.17.1 above and Section 17.17.3 above are completed within the times specified therein.

17.17 Failure by the Non-Paying Party to pay any charges determined to be owed to the Billing Party within the time specified in Section 17.17 above shall be grounds for termination of the Interconnection services provided under this Agreement.

17.18 Carrier will notify AT&T-21STATE at least ninety (90) calendar days or three (3) monthly billing cycles prior to any billing changes. At that time a sample of the new invoice will be provided so that AT&T-21STATE has time to program for any changes that may affect validation and payment of the invoices. If notification is not received by AT&T-21STATE in the specified time frame, then invoices will be held and not subject to any Late Payment Charges, until the appropriate amount of time has passed to allow AT&T-21STATE the opportunity to test the new format and make changes deemed necessary.

**18.0 Nonpayment and Procedures for Disconnection**

- 18.1 If a Party is furnished Interconnection services under the terms of this Agreement in more than one state, language in Section 18.2 below through Section 18.9.3 below inclusive, shall be applied separately for each such state.
- 18.2 Failure to pay charges shall be grounds for disconnection of Interconnection services furnished under this Agreement. If a Party fails to pay any charges billed to it under this Agreement, including but not limited to any Late Payment Charges or Unpaid Charges, and any portion of such Unpaid Charges remain unpaid after the Bill Due Date, the Billing Party will send a Disconnection Notice to such Non-Paying Party. The Non-Paying Party must remit all Unpaid Charges to the Billing Party within fifteen (15) calendar days of the Disconnection Notice.
- 18.3 AT&T-21STATE will also provide any written notice of disconnection to any Commission as required by any state order or rule.
- 18.4 If the Non-Paying Party desires to dispute any portion of the Unpaid Charges, the Non-Paying Party must complete all of the following actions not later than forty-five (45) calendar days following receipt of the Billing Party's notice of Unpaid Charges:
  - 18.4.1 notify the Billing Party in writing which portion(s) of the Unpaid Charges it disputes, including the total Disputed Amounts and the specific details listed in Section 19.4 below of this Agreement, together with the reasons for its dispute; and
  - 18.4.2 pay all undisputed Unpaid Charges to the Billing Party; and
  - 18.4.3 pay all Disputed Amounts (other than Disputed Amounts arising from reciprocal compensation) into an interest bearing escrow account that complies with the requirements set forth in Section 17.14 above; and
  - 18.4.4 furnish written evidence to the Billing Party that the Non-Paying Party has established an interest bearing escrow account that complies with all of the terms set forth in Section 17.14 above and deposited a sum equal to the Disputed Amounts into that account (other than Disputed Amounts arising from reciprocal compensation). Until evidence that the full amount of the Disputed Charges (other than Disputed Amounts arising from reciprocal compensation) has been deposited into an escrow account that complies with Section 17.14 above is furnished to the Billing Party, such Unpaid Charges will not be deemed to be "disputed" under Section 19.0 below.
- 18.5 Issues related to Disputed Amounts shall be resolved in accordance with the procedures identified in the dispute resolution provision set forth in Section 19.0 below.
- 18.6 If the Non-Paying Party fails to:
  - 18.6.1 pay any undisputed Unpaid Charges in response to the Billing Party's Discontinuance Notice as described in Section 18.2 above; or
  - 18.6.2 deposit the disputed portion of any Unpaid Charges into an interest bearing escrow account that complies with all of the terms set forth in Section 17.14 above within the time specified in Section 18.2 above; or
  - 18.6.3 timely furnish any assurance of payment requested in accordance with Section 16.0 above; or
  - 18.6.4 make a payment in accordance with the terms of any mutually agreed payment arrangement.
  - 18.6.5 The Billing Party may, in addition to exercising any other rights or remedies it may have under Applicable Law, provide written demand to the Non-Paying Party for payment of any of the obligations set forth in the above Sections 18.6.1, 18.6.2, 18.6.3 and 18.6.4 within ten (10) Business Days. On the day that the Billing Party provides such written demand to the Non-Paying Party, the Billing Party may also exercise any or all of the following options:
    - 18.6.5.1 suspend acceptance of any application, request or order from the Non-Paying Party for new or additional Interconnection Service(s);
    - 18.6.5.2 suspend completion of any pending application, request or order from the Non-Paying Party for new or additional Interconnection Service(s).

- 18.7 Where required, a copy of the demand provided to Carrier under Section 18.6 above also will be provided to the Commission at the same time.
- 18.8 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Agreement, the Billing Party's exercise of any of its options under Section 18.6.5 above, Section 18.6.5.1 above and Section 18.6.5.2 above will not delay or relieve the Non-Paying Party's obligation to pay all charges on each and every invoice on or before the applicable Bill Due Date.
- 18.9 For AT&T-21STATE, if the Non-Paying Party fails to pay the Billing Party on or before the date specified in the demand provided under Section 18.6 above of this Agreement, the Billing Party may, in addition to exercising any other rights or remedies it may have under Applicable Law:
- 18.9.1 cancel any pending application, request or order for new or additional Interconnection services and network elements, under this Agreement; and
  - 18.9.2 discontinue and disconnect any Interconnection services furnished under this Agreement; and
  - 18.9.3 Notwithstanding any inconsistent provisions in this Agreement, discontinuance of service by AT&T INDIANA will comply with Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission rule 170 IAC 7-6.
- 18.10 Limitation on Back-billing and Credit Claims; Exceptions to Limitation for Certain Situations (True-Ups):
- 18.10.1 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Agreement, a Party shall be entitled to:
- 18.10.1.1 Back-bill for or Claim credit for any charges for services provided pursuant to this Agreement that are found to be unbilled, under-billed or over-billed, but only when such charges appeared or should have appeared on a bill dated within the twelve (12) months immediately preceding the date on which the Billing Party provided written notice to the Billed Party of the amount of the back-billing or the Billed Party provided written notice to the Billing Party of the claimed credit amount. The Parties agree that the twelve (12) month limitation on back-billing and credit Claims set forth in the preceding sentence shall be applied prospectively only after the Effective Date of this Agreement, meaning that the twelve (12) month period for any back-billing or credit Claims may only include billing periods that fall entirely after the Effective Date of this Agreement and will not include any portion of any billing period that began prior to the Effective Date of this Agreement. Nothing herein shall prohibit either Party from rendering bills or collecting for any Interconnection Service(s) more than twelve (12) months after the Interconnection Service(s) was provided when the ability or right to charge or the proper charge for the Interconnection Service(s) was the subject of an arbitration or other Commission docket or any FCC order, including any appeal of such arbitration, docket or FCC order. In such cases (hereinafter a "true-up"), the time period for back-billing or credits shall be the longer of (a) the period specified by the Commission in the final order allowing or approving such change or (b) eighteen (18) months from the date of the final order allowing or approving such change (c) twelve (12) months from the date of approval of any executed amendment to this Agreement required to implement such charge.
  - 18.10.1.2 Back-billing and credit claims, and true-ups, as limited above, will apply to all Interconnection Services purchased under this Agreement.

## **19.0 Dispute Resolution**

- 19.1 Finality of Disputes:

- 19.1.1 No Claim may be brought for any dispute arising from this Agreement more than twelve (12) 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.
- 19.1.2 A Party shall be entitled to dispute only those charges which appeared on a bill dated within the twelve (12) months immediately preceding the date on which the Billing Party received notice of such Disputed Amounts, or Carrier waives the right to dispute the charge or credit.

- 19.2 Alternative to Litigation:

- 19.2.1 The Parties desire to resolve disputes arising out of this Agreement without litigation. Accordingly, the Parties agree to use the following dispute resolution procedures with respect to any controversy or Claim arising out of or relating to this Agreement or its breach.
- 19.3 Commencing Dispute Resolution:
- 19.3.1 Dispute resolution shall commence upon one Party's receipt of written notice from the other Party of a controversy or Claim arising out of or relating to this Agreement or its breach. Neither 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:
- 19.3.1.1 Service Center dispute resolution;
  - 19.3.1.2 Informal dispute resolution; and
  - 19.3.1.3 Formal dispute resolution, each of which is described below.
- 19.4 Service Center Dispute Resolution - The following dispute resolution procedures will apply with respect to any billing dispute arising out of or relating to this Agreement. Written notice sent to AT&T-21STATE for Disputed Amounts must be made on AT&T-21STATE's "Billing Claims Dispute Form". Carrier is not entitled to any billing adjustment except pursuant to a dispute properly filed in accordance with this Agreement that AT&T-21STATE accepts as valid.
- 19.4.1 If the written notice given pursuant to this Section 19.3 above discloses that the dispute relates to billing, then the procedures set forth in Section 18.4 above shall be used.
- 19.4.2 For a dispute submitted by Carrier, the dispute shall first be processed by the appropriate service center for resolution.
- 19.4.3 To resolve a billing dispute, the Disputing Party shall furnish the Billing Party with written notice of the following:
- 19.4.3.1 the date of the bill in question;
  - 19.4.3.2 the Billing Account Number(s) that is the subject of the dispute;
  - 19.4.3.3 the telephone number, circuit ID number or trunk number that is the subject of the dispute;
  - 19.4.3.4 any USOC (or other descriptive information) relating to the subject of the dispute;
  - 19.4.3.5 the amount billed;
  - 19.4.3.6 the amount disputed; and
  - 19.4.3.7 a written Dispute Reason that includes adequate details of the basis for the Dispute to enable the Investigating Party to determine its basis and validity, including Documentation. Multiple Dispute Reasons and types of Documentation may be required to support a given dispute. Examples of Documentation that AT&T-21STATE considers adequate to support different types of Disputes are set forth in Section 19.4.4. The adequacy of the Bill Reason for a Dispute and supporting Documentation will be measured by whether AT&T-21STATE is provided sufficient information to identify the specific circuit or bill detail and determine the grounds for the Dispute for every Bill entry subject to such Dispute without doing separate research. For clarity, although research by AT&T-21STATE may be appropriate to attempt to resolve the dispute, the Dispute Reason and any accompanying Documentation must be adequate to identify the affected Service, Service component or circuit, applicable Contract provision and the grounds for the dispute.
- 19.4.3.7.1 If AT&T-21STATE rejects a dispute because Carrier did not provide sufficient Documentation and Carrier subsequently files a Dispute providing such Documentation or if Carrier provides supplemental Documentation to an unresolved Dispute, such submission shall constitute a new Dispute, including for purposes of determining whether the Dispute was timely filed.
- 19.4.4 Billing Dispute Guidelines - Set forth below are examples of Documentation and Dispute Reasons that properly support Disputes to enable efficient resolution. These are examples, not provided by way of

limitation. Other types of Disputes have arisen, and may yet arise, between the Parties. These examples are illustrative, but not exhaustive, and meant to accord with common sense. Thus, even if not mentioned below as part of the required Documentation, a Purchase Order Number ("PON") may also form part of the Documentation required to enable AT&T-21STATE to ascertain the Service that is subject to a Dispute and the validity of the proffered Dispute Reason.

- 19.4.4.1 For Late Disconnects, Documentation must include a copy of the pertinent Service Request for such disconnection for the type of Service.
  - 19.4.4.2 For Rate Disputes, the Documentation must include the following: the type of Service and a reference to the specific rate table or price list that is claimed to support the application of a different rate, and a copy of the pertinent Service Request or PON that supports the rate Carrier expected to be billed.
  - 19.4.4.3 For Incorrect Credit Disputes, a complete description of the issue including impacted USOC, rate billed, rate that Carrier asserts should have been billed, and PON demonstrating that Carrier ordered in a manner consistent with getting the rate it asserts it should have been billed.
  - 19.4.4.4 For Grooming Disputes, a complete description of the activity that Carrier engaged with AT&T-21STATE, the charge it expected to be billed, the charge it was subsequently billed, the reason Carrier believes the charge was incorrect, and a copy of the pertinent Service Request or PON that supports the rate Carrier expected to be billed.
  - 19.4.5 A Dispute must be submitted separately, within 12 months, for every Bill Period for which the Dispute Reason applies. That is, where a Dispute Reason affects successive Bills or Bill Periods, the Dispute Reason must be submitted separately for each Bill Period in which the Carrier believes Service has been billed incorrectly for the same Dispute Reason.
  - 19.4.6 When Carrier is the Disputing Party, Carrier must provide evidence to AT&T-21STATE that it has either paid the disputed amount or established an interest bearing escrow account that complies with the requirements set forth in Section 17.14 above, and that Carrier has deposited all Unpaid Charges relating to services into that escrow account in order for that billing Claim to be deemed a "dispute". Failure to provide the information and evidence required by Section 19.0 above not later than twenty-nine (29) calendar days following the Bill Due Date shall constitute Carrier's irrevocable and full waiver of its right to dispute the subject charges.
  - 19.4.7 The Parties shall attempt to resolve Disputed Amounts appearing on invoices within sixty (60) days of the Billing Party's receipt of notice of Disputed Amounts. However, if the dispute is not resolved within the first thirty (30) days of such sixty (60) day period, upon request, the Billing Party shall advise the Disputing Party of the status of the dispute and the expected resolution date.
  - 19.4.8 If the Parties are not able to resolve their billing disputes, either Party may inform the other Party in writing that it is invoking the informal dispute resolution provisions of this Agreement.
- 19.5 Upon receipt of a Dispute, AT&T-21STATE will investigate and provide the results or the disposition of the Dispute to CLEC in writing. Should CLEC not wish to accept such results, it shall provide a written explanation why. CLEC may then elect to designate the Dispute as a Contested Dispute and re-submit the Dispute up to two times as set forth immediately following (a "Re-Dispute"). Written submission must be made on the "Re-Dispute Form" located on the CLEC Online under Billing Forms and References and submitted through the ExClaim system, AT&T-21STATE's customer dispute interface. Web site locations and systems are subject to changes.
- 19.6 Re-Disputes.
- 19.6.1 If a distinct or new Dispute Reason is offered in support of the same Dispute, it will not qualify as a Re-Dispute but shall be considered a new, separate Dispute.
  - 19.6.2 For Re-Disputes, AT&T-21STATE will investigate the additional or clarifying information and provide a supplemental written response with its disposition of the Re-Dispute, taking such information into account. Should CLEC continue to disagree with AT&T-21STATE's disposition, it shall provide the basis for such

disagreement in writing. CLEC may submit as a Re-Dispute for the second and final time (but only if accompanied by the required clarifying information per this Section).

19.6.3 After the Re-Dispute has been resubmitted twice in accordance with this process, if CLEC still does not accept the disposition by AT&T-21STATE, it shall state its reasons therefor in writing. From that point, CLEC shall have thirty days to elect whether to close the Dispute; treat the Dispute as a Final Denied Dispute subject to Collections, court or regulatory adjudication, if not closed by CLEC within such thirty days; or to designate it as a Contested Dispute. Contested Dispute amounts that are paid into Escrow shall remain there until resolved. If no such written basis for disagreement is provided by CLEC at any point that such written submission is required, the Dispute shall be considered to be a Final Denied Dispute.

19.7 Informal Dispute Resolution:

19.7.1 Upon receipt by one Party of notice of a dispute by the other Party pursuant to Section 19.2.1 above or Section 19.4.6 above each Party will appoint a knowledgeable, responsible representative to 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.

19.8 Formal Dispute Resolution:

19.8.1 If the Parties are unable to resolve the dispute through the informal procedure described in Section 19.5 above, then either Party may invoke the formal dispute resolution procedures described in this Section 19.6. Unless agreed by both Parties, formal dispute resolution procedures, including arbitration or other procedures as appropriate, may be invoked not earlier than sixty (60) calendar days after receipt of the letter initiating dispute resolution under Section 19.3 above.

19.8.2 Claims Subject to Mandatory Arbitration:

19.8.2.1 The following Claims, if not settled through informal dispute resolution, will be subject to mandatory arbitration pursuant to Section 19.7 below.

19.8.2.2 Each unresolved billing dispute involving one percent (1%) or less of the amounts charged to the Disputing Party under this Agreement in the state in which the dispute arises during the twelve (12) months immediately preceding receipt of the letter initiating dispute resolution under Section 19.3 above. If the Disputing Party has not been billed for a minimum of twelve (12) months immediately preceding receipt of the letter initiating dispute resolution under Section 19.2.1 above, the Parties will annualize the actual number of months billed.

19.8.3 Claims Subject to Elective Arbitration:

19.8.3.1 Claims will be subject to elective arbitration pursuant to Section 19.7 below if, and only if, the Claim is not settled through informal dispute resolution and both Parties agree to arbitration. If both Parties do not agree to arbitration, then either Party may proceed with any remedy available to it pursuant to law, equity or agency mechanism.

19.8.4 Claims Not Subject to Arbitration:

19.8.4.1 If the following Claims are not resolved through informal dispute resolution, they will not be subject to arbitration and must be resolved through any remedy available to a Party pursuant to law, equity or agency mechanism;

19.8.4.2 Actions seeking a temporary restraining order or an injunction related to the purposes of this Agreement;

19.8.4.3 Actions to compel compliance with the dispute resolution process; and

19.8.4.4 All Claims arising under federal or state statute(s), including antitrust Claims.

19.9 Arbitration:

19.9.1 Disputes subject to mandatory or elective arbitration under the provisions of this Agreement 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 knowledgeable of telecommunications issues. Each arbitration will be held in Atlanta, Georgia for AT&T SOUTHEAST REGION 9-STATE, Dallas, Texas for AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE; Chicago, Illinois for AT&T MIDWEST REGION 5-STATE, San Francisco, California for AT&T CALIFORNIA; Reno, Nevada for AT&T NEVADA, as appropriate, unless the Parties agree otherwise. The arbitration hearing will be requested to commence within sixty (60) calendar 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) calendar days after the close of hearings. The Federal Arbitration Act, 9 U.S.C. Secs. 1-16, not state law, shall govern the arbitrability of all disputes. Notwithstanding any rule of the AAA Commercial Arbitration Rules to the contrary, the Parties agree that the arbitrator will have no authority to award punitive damages, exemplary damages, Consequential Damages, multiple damages, or any other damages not measured by the prevailing Party's actual damages, and may not, in any event, make any ruling, finding or award that does not conform to the terms and conditions of this Agreement. The times specified in Section 19.0 above 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, including attorneys' fees. The Parties will equally split the fees of the arbitration and the arbitrator. The arbitrator's award shall be final and binding and may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof. Judgment upon the award rendered by the arbitrator may be entered in any court having jurisdiction.

**20.0 Audits**

20.1 Subject to the restrictions set forth in Section 27.0 below and except as may be otherwise expressly provided in this Agreement, the Auditing Party may audit the Audited Party's books, records, data and other documents, as provided herein, once annually, with the audit period commencing not earlier than the 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 five percent (5%) 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 five percent (5%) of the amounts payable by Audited Party for audited services provided during the period covered by the audit.

20.2 The Parties also must mutually agree on a written scope of the audit and the billing and invoices to be audited prior to the initiation of the audit.

20.3 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) days after Audited Party receives a written notice requesting an audit and shall be completed no later than thirty (30) days after the start of such audit.

20.4 Such audit shall be conducted either by the Auditing Party's employee(s) or an independent auditor acceptable to both Parties; provided, however, if the Audited Party requests that an independent auditor be engaged and the Auditing Party agrees, the Audited Party shall pay one-quarter (1/4) of the independent auditor's fees and expenses. 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 notice. Auditing Party shall cause/insure that the independent auditor executes a nondisclosure agreement in a form agreed upon by the Parties prior to engaging in any audit work.

- 20.5 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 Auditing Party's billing and invoicing of the services provided to Audited Party hereunder. Except where to do so would defeat the purpose of the audit, the Audited Party may redact from the books, records and other documents provided to the auditor any Audited Party information that reveals the identity of End Users of Audited Party.
- 20.6 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.
- 20.7 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 17.7.1 above (depending on the AT&T-owned ILEC(s) involved), 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.
- 20.8 Except as may be otherwise provided in this Agreement, audits shall be performed at Auditing Party's expense, subject to reimbursement by Audited Party of one-quarter (1/4) of any independent auditor's fees and expenses in the event that an audit finds, and the Parties subsequently verify, a net adjustment in the charges paid or payable by Auditing Party hereunder by an amount that is, on an annualized basis, greater than five percent (5%) of the aggregate charges for the audited services during the period covered by the audit.
- 20.9 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 Section 20.1 above. Any additional audit shall be at the requesting Party's expense.

## **21.0 Disclaimer of Representations and Warranties**

- 21.1 DISCLAIMER. EXCEPT AS SPECIFICALLY PROVIDED TO THE CONTRARY IN THIS AGREEMENT, NEITHER PARTY MAKES ANY REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES TO THE OTHER PARTY CONCERNING THE SPECIFIC QUALITY OF ANY SERVICES, OR FACILITIES PROVIDED UNDER THIS AGREEMENT. THE PARTIES DISCLAIM, WITHOUT LIMITATION, ANY WARRANTY OR GUARANTEE OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, ARISING FROM COURSE OF PERFORMANCE, COURSE OF DEALING, OR FROM USAGES OF TRADE.

## **22.0 Limitation of Liability**

- 22.1 Except for any indemnification obligations of the Parties hereunder, each Party's liability to the other for any Loss relating to or arising out of any cause whatsoever, including any negligent act or omission (whether willful or inadvertent) whether based in contract, tort, strict liability or otherwise, relating to the performance of this Agreement, shall not exceed a credit for the actual cost of the Facilities, products, services or functions not performed or provided or improperly performed or provided.
- 22.2 Except as otherwise expressly provided in specific Attachments, in the case of any Loss alleged or claimed by a Third Party to have arisen out of the negligence or willful misconduct of any Party, each Party shall bear, and its obligation shall be limited to, that portion (as mutually agreed to by the Parties or as otherwise established) 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.

- 22.3 A Party may, in its sole discretion, provide in its tariffs and contracts with its End Users or Third Parties that relate to any Interconnection products and/or services provided or contemplated under this Agreement that, to the maximum extent permitted by Applicable Law, such Party shall not be liable to such End User or Third Party for (i) any Loss relating to or arising out of this Agreement, whether in contract, tort or otherwise, that exceeds the amount such Party would have charged the End User or Third Party for the Interconnection products and/or services that gave rise to such Loss and (ii) any Consequential Damages. If a Party elects not to place in its tariffs or contracts such limitation(s) of liability, and the other Party incurs a Loss as a result thereof, the first Party shall indemnify and reimburse the other Party for that portion of the Loss that would have been limited had the first Party included in its tariffs and contracts the limitation(s) of liability described in Section 22.0 above.
- 22.4 Neither Carrier nor AT&T-21STATE shall be liable to the other Party for any Consequential Damages suffered by the other Party, regardless of the form of action, whether in contract, warranty, strict liability, tort or otherwise, including negligence of any kind, whether active or passive (and including alleged breaches of this Agreement and causes of action alleged to arise from allegations that breach of this Agreement constitutes a violation of the Act or other statute), 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; provided that the foregoing shall not limit a Party's obligation under Section 22.0 above to indemnify, defend, and hold the other Party harmless against any amounts payable to a Third Party, including any Losses, and Consequential Damages of such Third Party; provided, however, that nothing in this Section 22.4 shall impose indemnity obligations on a Party for any Loss or Consequential Damages suffered by that Party's End User in connection with any affected Interconnection products and/or services. Except as provided in the prior sentence, each Party ("Indemnifying Party") hereby releases and holds harmless the other Party ("Indemnitee") (and Indemnitee's Affiliates, and its respective officers, directors, employees and agents) against any Loss or Claim made by the Indemnifying Party's End User.
- 22.5 AT&T-21STATE shall not be liable to Carrier, its End User or any other Person for any Loss alleged to arise out of the provision of access to 911 service or any errors, interruptions, defects, failures or malfunctions of 911 services.
- 22.6 This Section 22.0 is not intended to exempt any Party from all liability under this Agreement, but only to set forth the scope of liability agreed to and the type of damages that are recoverable. Both Parties acknowledge that they negotiated regarding alternate limitation of liability provisions but that such provisions would have altered the cost, and thus the price, of providing the Interconnection functions, Facilities, products and services available hereunder, and no different pricing reflecting different costs and different limits of liability was agreed to.
- 23.0 Indemnity**
- 23.1 Except as otherwise expressly provided herein or in specific Attachments, each Party shall be responsible only for the Interconnection products and/or services which are provided by that Party, its authorized agents, subcontractors, or others retained by such Parties, and neither Party shall bear any responsibility for the Interconnection products and/or services, provided by the other Party, its agents, subcontractors, or others retained by such Parties.
- 23.2 Except as otherwise expressly provided herein or in specific Attachments, and to the extent not prohibited by Applicable Law and not otherwise controlled by tariff, 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 products and/or 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.
- 23.3 In the case of any Loss alleged or claimed by a End User of either Party, the Party whose End User alleged or claimed such Loss (the "Indemnifying Party") shall defend and indemnify the other Party (the "Indemnified Party") against any

and all such Claims or Losses by its End User regardless of whether the underlying Interconnection product and/or service giving rise to such Claim or Loss was provided or provisioned by the Indemnified Party, unless the Claim or Loss was caused by the gross negligence or willful misconduct of the Indemnified Party.

23.4 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 products and/or services provided under this Agreement involving:

23.4.1 Any Claim or Loss arising from such Indemnifying Party's use of Interconnection products and/or 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.

23.4.1.1 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 products and/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 products and/or services provided pursuant to this Agreement.

23.4.1.2 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 products and/or services, provided under this Agreement; provided, however, that an Indemnifying Party's obligation to defend and indemnify the Indemnified Party shall not apply:

23.4.1.2.1 where an Indemnified Party or its End User modifies Interconnection products and/or services, provided under this Agreement; and

23.4.1.2.2 no infringement would have occurred without such modification.

23.4.2 Any and all penalties imposed on either Party because of the Indemnifying Party's failure to comply with the Communications Assistance to Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (CALEA); provided that the Indemnifying Party shall also, at its sole cost and expense, pay any amounts necessary to modify or replace any equipment, Facilities or services provided to the Indemnified Party under this Agreement to ensure that such equipment, Facilities and services fully comply with CALEA.

23.5 Carrier acknowledges that its right under this Agreement to interconnect with AT&T-21STATE's network may be subject to or limited by Intellectual Property rights (including without limitation, patent, copyright, trade secret, trade mark, service mark, trade name and trade dress rights) and contract rights of Third Parties.

23.6 To the extent not prohibited by a contract with the vendor of the network element sought by Carrier that contains Intellectual Property licenses, AT&T-21STATE shall reveal to Carrier the name of the vendor, the Intellectual Property rights licensed to AT&T-21STATE under the vendor contract and the terms of the contract (excluding cost terms). AT&T-21STATE shall, at Carrier's request, contact the vendor to attempt to obtain permission to reveal additional contract details to Carrier.

23.7 AT&T-21STATE hereby conveys no licenses to use such Intellectual Property rights and makes no warranties, express or implied, concerning Carrier's (or any Third Parties') rights with respect to such Intellectual Property rights and contract rights, including whether such rights will be violated by such Interconnection in AT&T-21STATE's network or Carrier's use of other functions, Facilities, products or services furnished under this Agreement.

23.8 AT&T-21STATE does not and shall not indemnify, defend or hold Carrier harmless, nor be responsible for indemnifying or defending, or holding Carrier harmless, for any Claims or Losses for actual or alleged infringement of any Intellectual Property right or interference with or violation of any contract right that arises out of, is caused by, or relates to Carrier's Interconnection with AT&T-21STATE's network or Carrier's use of other functions, Facilities, products or services furnished under this Agreement.

23.9 Carrier shall reimburse AT&T-21STATE for damages to AT&T-21STATE's Facilities utilized to provide Interconnection products and/or services hereunder caused by the negligence or willful act of Carrier, its agents or subcontractors or Carrier's End User or resulting from Carrier's improper use of AT&T-21STATE's Facilities, or due to malfunction of any

Facilities, functions, products, services or equipment provided by any person or entity other than AT&T-21STATE. Upon reimbursement for damages, AT&T-21STATE will cooperate with Carrier in prosecuting a Claim against the person causing such damage. Carrier shall be subrogated to the right of recovery by AT&T-21STATE for the damages to the extent of such payment.

23.10 Indemnification Procedures:

- 23.10.1 Whenever a Claim shall arise for indemnification under Section 23.0 the relevant Indemnified Party, as appropriate, shall promptly notify the Indemnifying Party and request in writing the Indemnifying Party to defend the same. Failure to so notify the Indemnifying Party shall 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.
- 23.10.2 The Indemnifying Party shall have the right to defend against such liability or assertion, in which event the Indemnifying Party shall 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.
- 23.10.3 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.
- 23.10.4 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.
- 23.10.5 At any time, an Indemnified Party shall have the right to refuse a compromise or settlement, and, at such refusing Party's cost, to take over such defense; provided that, in such event the Indemnifying Party shall not be responsible for, nor shall it be obligated to indemnify the refusing Party against, any cost or liability in excess of such refused compromise or settlement.
- 23.10.6 With respect to any defense accepted by the Indemnifying Party, the Indemnified Party 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 Indemnified Party, and shall also be entitled to employ separate counsel for such defense at such Indemnified Party's expense.
- 23.10.7 If the Indemnifying Party does not accept the defense of any indemnified Claim as provided above, the Indemnified Party shall have the right to employ counsel for such defense at the expense of the Indemnifying Party.
- 23.10.8 In the event of a failure to assume the defense, the Indemnified Party may negotiate a settlement, which shall be presented to the Indemnifying Party. If the Indemnifying Party refuses to agree to the presented settlement, the Indemnifying Party may take over the defense. If the Indemnifying Party refuses to agree to the presented settlement and refuses to take over the defense, the Indemnifying Party shall be liable for any reasonable cash settlement not involving any admission of liability by the Indemnifying Party, though such settlement may have been made by the Indemnified Party without approval of the Indemnifying Party, it being the Parties' intent that no settlement involving a non-monetary concession by the Indemnifying Party, including an admission of liability by such Party, shall take effect without the written approval of the Indemnifying Party.
- 23.10.9 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 27.0 below of this Agreement.

**24.0 Intellectual Property/License**

- 24.1 Any Intellectual Property originating from or developed by a Party shall remain in the exclusive ownership of that Party.
- 24.2 Except at otherwise expressly provided in this Agreement, no license under patents, copyrights or any other Intellectual Property right (other than the limited license to use consistent with the terms, conditions and restrictions of this Agreement) is granted by either Party or shall be implied or arise by estoppel with respect to any transactions contemplated under this Agreement.

**25.0 Notices**

- 25.1 Notices given by Carrier to AT&T-21STATE under this Agreement shall be in writing (unless specifically provided otherwise herein), and unless otherwise expressly required by this Agreement to be delivered to another representative or point of contact, shall be pursuant to at least one of the following methods:
- 25.1.1 delivered by electronic mail.
  - 25.1.2 delivered by facsimile.
- 25.2 Notices given by AT&T-21STATE to the Carrier under this Agreement shall be in writing (unless specifically provided otherwise herein), and unless otherwise expressly required by this Agreement to be delivered to another representative or point of contact, shall be pursuant to at least one of the following methods:
- 25.2.1 delivered by electronic mail (email) provided Carrier has provided such information in Section 25.4 below.
  - 25.2.2 delivered by facsimile provided Carrier has provided such information in Section 25.4 below.
- 25.3 Notices will be deemed given as of the earliest of:
- 25.3.1 the date of actual receipt;
  - 25.3.2 notice by email shall be effective on the date it is officially recorded as delivered by delivery receipt and in the absence of such record of delivery, it shall be presumed to have been delivered on the date sent;
  - 25.3.3 on the date set forth on the confirmation produced by the sending facsimile machine when delivered by facsimile prior to 5:00 p.m. in the recipient's time zone, but the next Business Day when delivered by facsimile at 5:00 p.m. or later in the recipient's time zone;
- 25.4 Notices will be addressed to the Parties as follows:

NOTICE CONTACT	CARRIER CONTACT
NAME/TITLE	Raaj Mohan Director of Operations
STREET ADDRESS	1600 Eubank NE Suite B
CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE	Albuquerque, NM 87120
PHONE NUMBER*	505 385 6782
FACSIMILE NUMBER	505-888-2609
EMAIL ADDRESS	rmohan@contactwireless.com

AT&T CONTACT	
NAME/TITLE	Contract Management ATTN: Notices Manager

FACSIMILE NUMBER	(214) 712-5792
EMAIL ADDRESS	The current email address as provided on AT&T's Prime Access website

\*Informational only and not to be considered as an official notice vehicle under this Section.

- 25.5 Either Party may unilaterally change its designated contact name, address, email address, and/or facsimile number for the receipt of Notices by giving written Notice to the other Party in compliance with this Section 25.0. Unless explicitly stated otherwise, any change to the designated contact name, address, email address, and/or facsimile number will replace such information currently on file. Any Notice to change the designated contact name, address, email address, and/or facsimile number for the receipt of Notices shall be deemed effective ten (10) calendar days following receipt by the other Party.
- 25.5.1 Carrier may not order services under a new account and/or subsequent state certification, established in accordance with this Section until thirty (30) days after all information specified in this Section is received from Carrier.
- 25.5.2 Carrier may be able to place orders for certain services in AT&T-21STATE without having properly updated the CLEC Profile; however, at any time during the term of this Agreement without additional notice AT&T may at its discretion eliminate such functionality. At such time, if Carrier has not properly updated its CLEC Profile, ordering capabilities will cease, and Carrier will not be able to place orders until thirty (30) days after Carrier has properly updated its CLEC Profile.
- 25.6 AT&T-21STATE communicates official information to Carrier's via its Accessible Letter, or other applicable, notification processes. These processes involve electronic transmission and/or posting to the AT&T Prime Access website, inclusive of a variety of subjects including declaration of a force majeure, changes on business processes and policies, and other product/service related notices not requiring an amendment to this Agreement.

## **26.0 Publicity and Use of Trademarks or Service Marks**

- 26.1 Neither Party nor its subcontractors or agents shall use in any advertising or sales promotion, press releases, or other publicity matters any endorsements, direct or indirect quotes, or pictures that imply endorsement by the other Party or any of its employees without such first Party's prior written approval. The Parties will submit to each other for written approval, prior to publication, all publicity matters that mention or display one another'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.
- 26.2 Nothing in this Agreement shall grant, suggest, or imply any authority for one Party to use the name, trademarks, service marks, logos, proprietary trade dress or trade names of the other Party in any advertising, press releases,

publicity matters, marketing and/or promotional materials or for any other commercial purpose without prior written approval from such other Party.

## **27.0 Confidentiality**

- 27.1 Both Parties agree to treat Proprietary Information received from the other in accordance with the provisions of Section 222 of the Act.
- 27.2 Unless otherwise agreed, the obligations of confidentiality and non-use do not apply to such proprietary information that:
- 27.2.1 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
- 27.2.2 Is, or becomes publicly known through no wrongful act of the receiving Party; or
- 27.2.3 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

- 27.2.4 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
- 27.2.5 Is disclosed to a Third Party by the disclosing Party without similar restrictions on such Third Party's rights; or
- 27.2.6 Is approved for release by written authorization of the disclosing Party, but only to the extent of the authorization granted; or
- 27.2.7 Is required to be made public or disclosed by the receiving Party pursuant to Applicable Law or regulation or court order or lawful process.

## **28.0 Intervening Law**

- 28.1 This Agreement is the result of negotiations between the Parties and may incorporate certain provisions that resulted from arbitration by the appropriate state Commission(s). In entering into this Agreement and any Amendments to such Agreement and carrying out the provisions herein, neither Party waives, but instead expressly reserves, all of its rights, remedies and arguments with respect to any orders, decisions, legislation or proceedings and any remands thereof and any other federal or state regulatory, legislative or judicial action(s) which the Parties have not yet fully incorporated into this Agreement or which may be the subject of further review. If any action by any state or federal regulatory or legislative body or court of competent jurisdiction invalidates, modifies, or stays the enforcement of laws or regulations ("Change of Law Event") that were the basis or rationale for any rate(s), term(s) and/or condition(s) ("Provisions") of the Agreement and/or otherwise affects the rights or obligations of either Party that are addressed by this Agreement, either Party may require modification to the Agreement consistent with the action of the Change of Law Event by providing a written request of either Party in accordance with Section 25.0 above to negotiate an amendment to the Agreement. With respect to any written notices hereunder, the Parties shall have sixty (60) days from the written notice to attempt to reach agreement on appropriate conforming modifications to the Agreement. If the Parties are unable to agree upon the conforming modifications within sixty (60) days from the written notice, any disputes between the Parties concerning such actions shall be resolved pursuant to the dispute resolution process provided for in this Agreement. In the absence of a specifically required effective date in the Change of Law Event, such modification shall be effective on the effective date of the amendment incorporating the change.

## **29.0 Governing Law**

- 29.1 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. To the extent that federal law would apply state law in interpreting this Agreement, the domestic laws of the state in which the Interconnection products and/or 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 (as appropriate) in Birmingham, Alabama; Little Rock, Arkansas; San Francisco, California; Miami, Florida; Atlanta, Georgia; Louisville, Kentucky; New Orleans, Louisiana; Chicago, Illinois; Indianapolis, Indiana; Topeka, Kansas; Detroit, Michigan; Jackson, Mississippi; St. Louis, Missouri; Reno, Nevada; Charlotte, North Carolina; Columbus, Ohio; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Columbia, South Carolina; Nashville, Tennessee; Dallas, Texas and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and waive any and all objection to any such venue. Proper venue shall be in the city located in the state whose laws apply to the dispute.

## **30.0 Regulatory Approval**

- 30.1 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. The Parties believe in good faith and agree that the services to be provided under this Agreement are in the public interest. 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.
- 30.2 Unless otherwise agreed, if the designated Party fails to file this Agreement with the appropriate State Commission within sixty (60) days of both Parties signatures, then this signed Agreement is null and no longer valid. In such event, the designated Party may not file this signed Agreement for approval unless it obtains the express written permission of the other Party. If the other Party objects to the filing of this signed Agreement following the expiration of the sixty (60) days referenced above, then either Party may initiate negotiations for a successor agreement under Section

251/252 of the Act. If negotiations are commenced by either Party, then the Parties will determine what rates, terms and conditions, if any, will apply until such time as a successor agreement is reached.

### **31.0 Compliance and Certification**

- 31.1 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.
- 31.2 Each Party warrants that it has obtained all necessary certifications and licenses required in each state covered by this Agreement prior to ordering any Interconnection products and/or services from the other Party pursuant to this Agreement. Upon request, each Party shall provide proof of certification and licensure.
- 31.3 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.
- 31.4 Each Party represents and warrants that any equipment, Facilities or services provided to the other Party under this Agreement comply with the CALEA.

### **32.0 Law Enforcement**

- 32.1 AT&T-21STATE and Carrier shall reasonably cooperate with the other Party in handling law enforcement requests as follows:

#### 32.1.1 Intercept Devices:

- 32.1.1.1 Local and federal law enforcement agencies periodically request information or assistance ("Requesting Authority") from a Telecommunications Carrier. When either Party receives a request ("Receiving Party") associated with an End User of the other Party and the Receiving Party does not provide the network end-office/loop switching functionality to such End User, the Receiving Party will promptly notify the Requesting Authority so that the Requesting Authority may redirect its request to the appropriate Party that provides such functionality. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a Receiving Party shall comply with any valid request of a Requesting Authority to attach a pen register, trap-and-trace or form of intercept on the Receiving Party's Facilities.

#### 32.1.2 Subpoenas:

- 32.1.2.1 If a Receiving Party receives a subpoena (or equivalent legal demand regardless of nomenclature, e.g., warrant) for information concerning an End User the Receiving Party knows to be an End User of the other Party and for whom the Receiving Party has no responsive information, the Receiving Party shall promptly notify the person or entity that caused issuance of such subpoena so that it may redirect its subpoena to the other Party.

#### 32.1.3 Emergencies:

- 32.1.3.1 If a Receiving Party receives a request from a law enforcement agency for a temporary number change, temporary disconnect, or one-way denial of outbound calls by the Receiving Party's switch regarding an End User of the other Party, the Receiving Party will comply with a valid emergency request. However, neither Party shall be held liable for any Claims or Losses alleged by the other Party's End Users arising from compliance with such requests on behalf of the other Party's End User and the Party serving such End User agrees to indemnify and hold the other Party harmless against any and all such Claims or Losses.

- 32.2 Each of the Parties agree to comply with the applicable state and federal law enforcement authorities, laws, and requirements, including but not limited to, the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA) and to report to applicable State and Federal law enforcement authorities, the Telecommunications Services and related information provided by each of the Parties, as required by law.

### **33.0 Relationship of the Parties/Independent Contractor**

- 33.1 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.
- 33.2 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.

### **34.0 No Third Party Beneficiaries; Disclaimer of Agency**

- 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 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.

### **35.0 Subcontracting**

- 35.1 If either Party retains or engages any subcontractor to perform any of that Party's obligations under this Agreement, 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.
- 35.2 Each Party will be solely responsible for payments due that Party's subcontractors.
- 35.3 No subcontractor will be deemed a Third Party beneficiary for any purposes under this Agreement.
- 35.4 No contract, subcontract or other agreement entered into by either Party with any Third Party in connection with the provision of Interconnection products and/or services hereunder will provide for any indemnity, guarantee or

assumption of liability by the other Party to this Agreement with respect to such arrangement, except as consented to in writing by the other Party.

- 35.5 Any subcontractor that gains access to Customer Proprietary Network Information (CPNI) or Proprietary Information covered by this Agreement shall be required by the subcontracting Party to protect such CPNI or Proprietary Information to the same extent the subcontracting Party is required to protect such CPNI or Proprietary Information under the terms of this Agreement.

### **36.0 Responsibility for Environmental Contamination**

- 36.1 Each Party shall be solely responsible at its own expense for the proper handling, use, removal, excavation, storage, treatment, transport, disposal, or any other management by such Party or any person acting on its behalf of all Hazardous Substances and Environmental Hazards introduced to the affected work location and will perform such activities in accordance with Applicable Law. "Hazardous Substances" means (i) any material or substance that is defined or classified as a hazardous substance, hazardous waste, hazardous material, hazardous chemical, pollutant, or contaminant under any federal, state, or local environmental statute, rule, regulation, ordinance or other Applicable Law dealing with the protection of human health or the environment, (ii) petroleum, oil, gasoline, natural gas, fuel oil,

motor oil, waste oil, diesel fuel, jet fuel, and other petroleum hydrocarbons, or (iii) asbestos and asbestos containing material in any form, and (iv) any soil, groundwater, air, or other media contaminated with any of the materials or substances described above. "Environmental Hazard" means (i) the presence of petroleum vapors or other gases in hazardous concentrations in a manhole or other confined space, or conditions reasonably likely to give rise to such concentrations, (ii) asbestos containing materials, or (iii) any potential hazard that would not be obvious to an individual entering the work location or detectable using work practices standard in the industry.

- 36.2 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Agreement and to the fullest extent permitted by Applicable Law, AT&T-21STATE shall, at Carrier's request, indemnify, defend, and hold harmless Carrier, each of its officers, directors and employees from and against any losses, damages, costs, fines, penalties and expenses (including reasonable attorneys and consultant's fees) of every kind and nature to the extent they are incurred by any of those parties in connection with a Claim, demand, suit, or proceeding for damages, penalties, contribution, injunction, or any other kind of relief that is based upon, arises out of, is caused by, or results from: (i) the removal or disposal from the work location of a Hazardous Substance by AT&T-21STATE or any person acting on behalf of AT&T-21STATE, or the subsequent storage, processing, or other handling of such Hazardous Substances after they have been removed from the work location, (ii) the Release of a Hazardous Substance, regardless of its source, by AT&T-21STATE or any person acting on behalf of AT&T-21STATE, or (iii) the presence at the work location of an Environmental Hazard for which AT&T-21STATE is responsible under Applicable Law or a Hazardous Substance introduced into the work location by AT&T-21STATE or any person acting on behalf of AT&T-21STATE.
- 36.3 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Agreement and to the fullest extent permitted by Applicable Law, Carrier shall, at AT&T-21STATE's request, indemnify, defend, and hold harmless AT&T-21STATE, each of its officers, directors and employees from and against any losses, damages, costs, fines, penalties and expenses (including reasonable attorney's and consultant's fees) of every kind and nature to the extent they are incurred by any of those parties in connection with a Claim, demand, suit, or proceeding for damages, penalties, contribution, injunction, or any other kind of relief that is based upon, arises out of, is caused by, or results from: (i) the removal or disposal of a Hazardous Substance from the work location by Carrier or any person acting on behalf of Carrier, or the subsequent storage, processing, or other handling of such Hazardous Substances after they have been removed from the work location, (ii) the Release of a Hazardous Substance, regardless of its source, by Carrier or any person acting on behalf of Carrier, or (iii) the presence at the work location of an Environmental Hazard for which Carrier is responsible under Applicable Law or a Hazardous Substance introduced into the work location by Carrier or any person acting on behalf of Carrier.

### **37.0 Force Majeure**

- 37.1 No Party shall be responsible for delays or failures in performance of any part of this Agreement (other than an obligation to make monetary payments) resulting from a "Force Majeure Event" or any Delaying Event caused by the other Party or any other circumstances beyond the Party's reasonable control. A "Force Majeure Event" is defined as acts or occurrences beyond the reasonable control of a Party or the Parties, including acts of nature, acts of civil or military authority, any law, order, regulation, ordinance of any Governmental Authority, embargoes, epidemics, terrorist acts, riots, insurrections, fires, explosions, earthquakes, nuclear accidents, hurricanes, floods, labor difficulties, including without limitation, strikes, slowdowns, picketing, boycotts or other work stoppages, equipment failures, cable cuts, power blackouts, volcanic action, other major environmental disturbances, unusually severe weather conditions, inability to secure products or services of other persons or transportation Facilities or acts or omissions of transportation Carriers, individually and collectively a Force Majeure Event. If a Force Majeure Event shall occur, the Party affected shall give notice to the other Party of such Force Majeure Event within a reasonable period of time following such an event. Specifying the nature, date of inception and expected duration of such Force Majeure Event, whereupon such obligation or performance shall be suspended to the extent such Party is affected by such Force Majeure Event during the continuance thereof or be excused from such performance depending on the nature, severity and duration of such Force Majeure Event (and the other Party shall likewise be excused from performance of its obligations to the extent such Party's obligations relate to the performance so interfered with). The affected Party shall use its reasonable efforts to avoid or remove the cause of nonperformance and the Parties shall give like notice and proceed to perform with dispatch once the causes are removed or cease.

**38.0 Taxes**

- 38.1 Except as otherwise provided in this Section 38.0, with respect to any purchase of products or services under this Agreement, if any Tax is required or permitted by Applicable Law to be billed to and/or collected from the purchasing Party by the providing Party, then: (i) the providing Party shall have the right to bill the purchasing Party for such Tax; (ii) the purchasing Party shall pay such Tax to the providing Party; and (iii) the providing Party shall pay or remit such Tax to the respective Governmental Authority. Whenever possible, Taxes shall be billed as a separate item on the invoice; provided, however, that failure to include Taxes on an invoice or to state a Tax separately shall not impair the obligation of the purchasing Party to pay any Tax. Nothing shall prevent the providing Party from paying any Tax to the appropriate Governmental Authority prior to the time: (i) it bills the purchasing Party for such Tax, or (ii) it collects the Tax from the purchasing Party. If the providing Party fails to bill the purchasing Party for a Tax at the time of billing the products or services to which the Tax relates, then, as between the providing Party and the purchasing Party, the providing Party shall be liable for any penalties or interest thereon. However, if the purchasing Party fails to pay any Tax properly billed by the providing Party, then, as between the providing Party and the purchasing Party, the purchasing Party shall be solely responsible for payment of the Tax and any penalties or interest thereon. Subject to the provisions of this Section 38.0 governing contests of disputed Taxes, the purchasing Party shall be liable for and the providing Party may collect from the purchasing Party any Tax, including any interest or penalties for which the purchasing Party would be liable under this subsection, which is paid by Providing Party to the respective Governmental Authority, within the applicable statute of limitations periods for assessment or collection of such Tax, including extensions; provided, however, that the providing Party notifies the purchasing Party the earlier of: (i) sixty (60) days following the running of such limitations period, including extensions, or (ii) six (6) years following the purchasing Party's payment for the products or services to which such Tax relates.
- 38.2 To the extent a purchase of products or services under this Agreement is claimed by the purchasing Party to be exempt from a Tax, the purchasing Party shall furnish to the providing Party an exemption certificate in the form prescribed by the providing Party and any other information or documentation required by Applicable Law or the respective Governmental Authority. Prior to receiving such exemption certificate and any such other required information or documentation, the providing Party shall have the right to bill, and the purchasing Party shall pay, Tax on any products or services furnished hereunder as if no exemption were available, subject to the right of the purchasing Party to pursue a Claim for credit or refund of any such Tax pursuant to the provisions of this Section 38.0 and the remedies available under Applicable Law. If it is the position of the purchasing Party that Applicable Law exempts or excludes a purchase of products or services under this Agreement from a Tax, or that the Tax otherwise does not apply to such a purchase, but Applicable Law does not also provide a specific procedure for claiming such exemption or exclusion or for the purchaser to contest the application of the Tax directly with the respective Governmental Authority prior to payment, then the providing Party may in its discretion agree not to bill and/or not to require payment of such Tax by the purchasing Party, provided that the purchasing Party (i) furnishes the providing Party with any exemption certificate requested by and in the form prescribed by the providing Party, (ii) furnishes the providing Party with a letter signed by an officer of the purchasing Party setting forth the basis of the purchasing Party's position under Applicable Law; and (iii) furnishes the providing Party with an indemnification agreement, reasonably acceptable to the providing Party, which holds the providing Party harmless from any Tax, interest, penalties, loss, cost or expenses (including attorney fees) that may be incurred by the providing Party in connection with any Claim asserted or actions taken by the respective Governmental Authority to assess or collect such Tax from the providing Party.
- 38.3 To the extent permitted by and pursuant to Applicable Law, and subject to the provisions of this Section 38.0 above, the purchasing Party shall have the right to contest with the respective Governmental Authority, or if necessary under Applicable Law to have the providing Party contest (in either case at the purchasing Party's expense) any Tax that the purchasing Party asserts is not applicable, from which it claims an exemption or exclusion, or which it claims to have paid in error; provided, however, that (i) the purchasing Party shall ensure that no lien is attached to any asset of the providing Party as a result of any contest of a disputed Tax; (ii) with respect to any Tax that could be assessed against or collected from the providing Party by the respective Governmental Authority, the providing Party shall retain the right to determine the manner of contesting such disputed Tax, including but not limited to a decision that the disputed Tax will be contested by pursuing a Claim for credit or refund; (iii) except to the extent that the providing Party has agreed pursuant to this Section 38.0 above not to bill and/or not to require payment of such Tax by the purchasing Party pending the outcome of such contest, the purchasing Party pays any such Tax previously billed by the providing Party

and continues paying such Tax as billed by the providing Party pending the outcome of such contest. In the event that a disputed Tax is to be contested by pursuing a Claim for credit or refund, if requested in writing by the purchasing Party, the providing Party shall facilitate such contest (i) by assigning to the purchasing Party its right to claim a credit or refund, if such an assignment is permitted under Applicable Law; or (ii) if an assignment is not permitted, by filing and pursuing the Claim on behalf of the purchasing Party but at the purchasing Party's expense. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Section 38.0 above, nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to impair, limit, restrict or otherwise affect the right of the providing Party to contest a Tax that could be assessed against or collected from it by the respective Governmental Authority. With respect to any contest of a disputed Tax resulting in a refund, credit or other recovery, as between the purchasing Party and the providing Party, the purchasing Party shall be entitled to the amount that it previously paid, plus any applicable interest allowed on the recovery that is attributable to such amount, and the providing Party shall be entitled to all other amounts.

- 38.4 If either Party is audited by or on behalf of a Governmental Authority with respect to a Tax, and in any contest of a Tax by either Party, the other Party shall cooperate fully and timely by providing records, testimony and such additional information or assistance as may reasonably be necessary to expeditiously resolve the audit or pursue the contest.
- 38.5 All notices, affidavits, exemption certificates or other communications required or permitted to be given by either Party to the other under this Section above shall be sent in accordance with Section 25.0 above hereof.
- 38.6 Municipal fees Carrier acknowledges and agrees that it is required to comply with Chapter 283 of the Texas Local Government Code, as it may be amended from time to time, and the reporting and compensation requirements of Subchapter R of the P.U.C. Substantive Rules – Chapter 26, Applicable to Telecommunications Service Providers, as they may be amended from time to time. With respect to municipal fees charged pursuant to Chapter 283, Tex. Loc. Gov't Code, Carrier agrees that it will directly report its access lines to the Texas Public Utility Commission, will remit the related payments to municipalities, and will otherwise comply with Chapter 283 and applicable P.U.C rules, as they may be amended from time to time. Carrier agrees that its failure to comply with all Chapter 283 requirements, including any failure to provide AT&T-21STATE with a valid Adequate Proof Agreement acknowledging Carrier's obligation to pay municipal fees within thirty (30) days of AT&T-21STATE's request, shall be considered a material breach of this Agreement and shall entitle AT&T-21STATE to any and all remedies provided elsewhere in this Agreement for such a breach, including, but not limited to suspension of all order processing (other than disconnect orders).

## **39.0 Non Waiver**

- 39.1 Except as otherwise specified in this Agreement, no waiver of any provision of this Agreement and no consent to any default under this Agreement shall be effective unless the same is in writing and properly executed by or on behalf of the Party against whom such waiver or consent is claimed. 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. No course of dealing or failure of any Party to strictly enforce any term, right, or condition of this Agreement in any instance shall be construed as a general waiver or relinquishment of such term, right or condition.

## **40.0 Network Maintenance and Management**

- 40.1 The Parties will work cooperatively to implement this Agreement. The Parties will exchange appropriate information (for example, maintenance contact numbers, network information, information required to comply with law enforcement and other security agencies of the government, escalation processes, etc.) to achieve this desired result.
- 40.2 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. Each Party will provide a twenty-four (24)-hour contact number for Network Traffic Management issues to the other's surveillance management center.
- 40.3 Each Party maintains the right to implement protective network traffic management controls, such as "cancel to", "call gapping" or seven (7)-digit and ten (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.

- 40.4 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.
  - 40.5 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. Facsimile (FAX) numbers must be exchanged by the Parties to facilitate event notifications for planned mass calling events.
  - 40.6 Neither Party shall use any Interconnection products and/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 AT&T-21STATE, its Affiliates or other connecting Telecommunications Carriers, or which prevents any Carrier from using its Telecommunications Service, impairs the quality or the 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 the Party who has not violated this provision may discontinue or refuse service, but only for so long as the other Party is violating this provision. Upon any such violation, the Party who becomes aware of the violation shall provide the other Party notice of the violation at the earliest practicable time.
  - 40.7 The Parties shall cooperate to establish separate, dedicated Trunks for the completion of calls to high volume End Users.
  - 40.8 Carrier and AT&T-21STATE will work cooperatively to install and maintain a reliable network. Carrier and AT&T-21STATE 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 and such other information) as the Parties shall mutually agree to achieve this desired reliability.
  - 40.9 Carrier shall acknowledge calls in accordance with the following protocols:
    - 40.9.1 Carrier will provide a voice intercept announcement or distinctive tone signals to the calling party when a call is directed to a number that is not assigned by Carrier.
    - 40.9.2 Carrier will provide a voice announcement or distinctive tone signals to the calling party when a call has been received and accepted by Carrier's MSC.
  - 40.10 When Carrier's MSC is not able to complete calls because of a malfunction in the MSC or other equipment, Carrier will either divert the call to its operator, or provide a recorded announcement to the calling party advising that the call cannot be completed.
  - 40.11 Carrier will provide supervisory tones or voice announcements to the calling party on all calls, consistent with standard telephone industry practices.
  - 40.12 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 comply with the Network Disclosure rules adopted by the FCC in CC Docket No. 96-98, Second Report and Order, codified at 47 C.F.R. 51.325 through 51.335, as such rules may be amended from time to time (the "Network Disclosure Rules").
  - 40.13 Carrier agrees to pay AT&T-21STATE for time and materials in all instances where Carrier submits a trouble report and AT&T-21STATE, through investigation and testing, determines that the trouble is outside of the AT&T-21STATE network. Carrier will be billed time and material rate from the appropriate tariff.
- 41.0 Expenses**
- 41.1 Except as expressly set forth in this Agreement, each Party will be solely responsible for its own expenses involved in all activities related to the matters governed by this Agreement.
  - 41.2 AT&T-21STATE and Carrier shall each be responsible for one-half (1/2) of expenses payable to a Third Party for

Commission fees or other charges (including regulatory fees, reproduction and delivery expense and any costs of notice or publication, but not including attorney's fees) associated with the filing of this Agreement or any amendment to this Agreement.

41.2.1 Prior to the filing of this Agreement and each and every Amendment filed in connection with this Agreement in the State of Nevada, Carrier will submit a check in the amount of two hundred dollars (\$200.00), payable to Public Utilities Commission of Nevada, to cover its portion of the expenses incurred with filing this Agreement. Upon receipt of Carrier's check, AT&T-21STATE will file the Agreement with the Commission.

#### **42.0 Conflict of Interest**

42.1 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 negotiation of this Agreement or any associated documents.

#### **43.0 Survival of Obligation**

43.1 The Parties' obligations under this Agreement which by their nature are intended to continue beyond the termination or expiration of this Agreement shall survive the termination or expiration of this Agreement. Without limiting the general applicability of the foregoing, the following terms and conditions of the General Terms and Conditions are specifically agreed by the Parties to continue beyond the termination or expiration of this Agreement: Section 15.4 above on Termination; Section 16.6 above for Cash Deposits, Section 16.7 above on Deposit Interest, Section 16.8 above on Drawing on Cash Deposits; Section 17.14 for Escrow requirements, Sections 17.1 above thru Section 17.10 above on Billing & Payment of Charges; Section 18.0 above on Nonpayment and Procedures for Disconnection; Section 20.0 above on Audits; Section 21.0 above on Disclaimer of Representations and Warranties; Section 23.0 above on Indemnity; Section 24.0 above on Intellectual Property/License; Section 25.0 above on Notices; Section 26.0 above on Publicity and Use of Trademarks or Service Marks; Section 27.0 above on Confidentiality; Section 29.0 above on Governing Law; Section 31.0 above on Compliance and Certification; Section 38.0 above on Taxes; Section 39.0 above on Non Waivers and Section 45.0 below on Amendments and Modifications.

#### **44.0 Scope of Agreement**

44.1 This Agreement is intended to describe and enable specific Interconnection and compensation arrangements between the Parties. This Agreement is the arrangement under which the Parties may purchase from each other Interconnection services. Except as agreed upon herein, neither Party shall be required to provide the other Party any function, Facility, product, service or arrangement described in the Act that is not expressly provided herein.

44.2 Except as specifically contained herein or provided by the FCC or any Commission within its lawful jurisdiction, nothing in this Agreement shall be deemed to affect any access charge arrangement.

#### **45.0 Amendments and Modifications**

45.1 No provision of this Agreement shall be deemed amended or modified by either Party unless such an amendment or modification is in writing, dated, and signed by an authorized representative of both Parties, and filed and approved by the Commission.

#### **46.0 Authority**

46.1 Each of the AT&T-owned ILEC(s) for which this Agreement is executed represents and warrants that it is a corporation or limited partnership duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of its state of incorporation or formation. Each of the AT&T-owned ILEC(s) for which this Agreement is executed represents and warrants that AT&T Services, Inc. has full power and authority to execute and deliver this Agreement as agent for that AT&T-owned ILEC. Each of the AT&T-owned ILEC(s) for which this Agreement is executed represents and warrants that it has full power and authority to perform its obligations hereunder.

46.2 Carrier represents and warrants that it is a Corporation duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the State of New Mexico and has full power and authority to execute and deliver this Agreement and to perform its obligations hereunder. Carrier represents and warrants that it has been or will be certified to operate as a CMRS provider by the FCC 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.

- 46.3 Each Person whose signature (including e.g., an electronic signature) appears on the signature page represents and warrants that he or she has authority to bind the Party on whose behalf he or she has executed this Agreement.

#### **47.0 Counterparts**

- 47.1 This Agreement may be executed in counterparts. Each counterpart shall be considered an original and such counterparts shall together constitute one and the same instrument.

#### **48.0 Dialing Parity**

- 48.1 AT&T-21STATE agrees that local dialing parity will be available to Carrier in accordance with the Act.

#### **49.0 Remedies**

- 49.1 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.

#### **50.0 Entire Agreement**

- 50.1 The terms contained in this Agreement and any 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 between the Parties during the negotiations of this Agreement and through the execution and/or Effective Date of this Agreement. This Agreement shall not operate as or constitute a novation of any agreement or contract between the Parties that predates the execution and/or Effective Date of this Agreement.

- 50.2 The Parties acknowledge that CLEC is not required to purchase all types of Interconnection Services potentially available from AT&T and therefore may elect not to include all potential Attachments in the Agreement. To the extent that a provision of the General Terms and Conditions refers a type of Interconnection Service for which there is no Attachment, reference to such Interconnection Service shall have no effect.

# **PRICING SCHEDULE**

## **1.0 PRICING SCHEDULE**

- 1.1 This Attachment sets forth the pricing terms and conditions. The rate tables included in this Attachment may be divided into categories. These categories are for convenience only and shall not be construed to define or limit any of the terms herein or affect the meaning or interpretation of this Agreement.
- 1.2 Replacement of Non-Interim Rates
  - 1.2.1 If any Non-Interim Rate is changed as the result of an order by the appropriate Commission, the Parties agree to follow the Intervening Law process outlined in the Intervening Law Section of the General Terms and Conditions. Such rate change shall be retroactive to the date of the Commission order, or other Commission guidance upon execution of the rate change amendment. Should CLEC fail to execute the rate change amendment within the prescribed interval outlined as their intervening law compliance period, then AT&T-21STATE will change the rate(s) upon expiration of that prescribed interval including retroactivity to the date of the Commission order or other Commission guidance.
- 1.3 Replacement of Interim Rates
  - 1.3.1 If any Interim Rate is established as the result of an order by the appropriate Commission, the Parties agree to follow the Intervening Law process outlined in Intervening Law Section of the General Terms and Conditions. CLEC acknowledges that once the rate becomes permanent AT&T-21STATE has the right to implement the rate change in accordance with the Commission order, or Commission guidance.
- 1.4 Notice to Adopting CLECs
  - 1.4.1 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Pricing Schedule and Agreement, in the event that any other CLEC should seek to adopt the Agreement pursuant to Section 252(i) of the Act ("Adopting CLEC"), the Adopting CLEC would only be entitled to the current and/or interim rates set forth in this Agreement as of the date that the MFN'd Agreement provisions become effective between AT&T-21STATE and the Adopting CLEC (i.e., following the date the Commission approves or is deemed to have approved the Adopting CLEC's Section 252(i) adoption ("MFN Effective Date")) and on a prospective basis only. Nothing in this Agreement shall entitle an Adopting CLEC to any retroactive application of any rates under this Agreement to any date prior to the MFN Effective Date and any adopting CLEC is foreclosed from making any such claim hereunder.
- 1.5 Billing for Products and Services Without Language and/or Rates Within the Agreement
  - 1.5.1 AT&T-21STATE's obligation, under this Agreement, per the GT&C is to only provide Interconnection Services for which complete rates, terms and conditions are contained in this Agreement. CLEC's obligation, under this Agreement, per the GT&C is to only order Interconnection Services for which complete rates, terms and conditions are contained in this Agreement. Accordingly, to the extent CLEC orders a product or service for which there are not complete rates, terms and conditions contained in this Agreement, AT&T-21STATE may reject the order. In the event that CLEC orders, and AT&T-21STATE provisions, a product or service to CLEC for which there are not complete rates, terms and conditions in this Agreement, or any applicable tariff or guidebook then AT&T-21STATE will follow those procedures outlined in the Termination for Nonperformance or Breach Section of this Agreement. If CLEC fails to cure the nonperformance or breach, AT&T-21STATE will disconnect the Interconnection Service(s).
  - 1.5.2 AT&T-21STATE's provisioning of orders for such Interconnection Services is expressly subject to Section 1.5.1 above, and in no way constitutes a waiver of AT&T-21STATE's right to charge and collect payment for such products and/or services.
- 1.6 Tariff Rates
  - 1.6.1 Where the rate for an AT&T-21STATE Interconnection Service is identified as a tariff or guidebook rate, then the rates, terms and conditions will be governed by the applicable tariff or guidebook. The issuance of a Commission Order approving such rate changes, or the posting of new rates in a guidebook, shall be the only notice required to effectuate the rate changes. Provided however, should an AT&T-21STATE Interconnection Service governed by an applicable tariff or guidebook be withdrawn or invalidated in any way during the term of this Agreement, the last rates in effect at the time of such withdrawal or invalidation shall continue to apply

until the AT&T-21STATE Interconnection Service is disconnected or migrated to another service offering.

#### 1.7 Resale Discounts

- 1.7.1 The Resale Discount applicable to purchases of Resold Services in each State is the current Commission-approved rate. Any Commission approved or ordered change in the Resale discount for Resold Services shall be automatically incorporated into this Agreement for the state in which such Commission approves or orders the change. The issuance of the Commission Order approving such change shall be the only Notice required under this Agreement.

#### 1.8 Recurring Charges

- 1.8.1 Unless otherwise identified in the Pricing Sheet, where rates are shown as monthly, a month will be defined as a thirty (30) day calendar month. The minimum term for each monthly rated Interconnection Services 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 Interconnection Services, if applicable, will be specified in the rate tables included in this Attachment.
- 1.8.2 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 AT&T-21STATE 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, AT&T-21STATE will round up to the next whole mile before determining the mileage and applying rates.

#### 1.9 Non-Recurring Charges:

- 1.9.1 Where rates consist of usage sensitive charges or per occurrence charges, such rates are classified as “non-recurring charges”.
- 1.9.2 Consistent with FCC Rule 51.307(d), there may be non-recurring charges for each 251(c)(3) UNE.
- 1.9.3 When CLEC converts an End-User currently receiving non-complex service from AT&T-21STATE, the normal service order charges will apply and any additions and/or changes made at the time of conversion will incur nonrecurring charges associated with said additions and/or changes.
- 1.9.4 CLEC shall pay the applicable service order processing/administration charge for each service order submitted by CLEC to AT&T-21STATE to process a request for installation, disconnection, rearrangement, change, or record order.
- 1.9.5 In some cases, Commissions have ordered AT&T-21STATE to separate disconnect costs and installation costs into two separate nonrecurring charges. Accordingly, unless otherwise noted in this Agreement, the Commission-ordered disconnect charges will be applied at the time the disconnect activity is performed by AT&T-21STATE, regardless of whether or not a disconnect order is issued by CLEC.
- 1.9.6 Time and Material charges, also known as Additional Labor Charges, are defined in the Price Sheet contained herein.
- 1.9.7 Loop Zone charges are defined in the Price Sheet contained herein.

## PRICING SHEET (PAGING) - MISSOURI

### 1. Compensation for Paging Calls (Per Conversation MOU) for Transport and Termination:

Type 2A	Type 2B	Type 1
See attached Pricing Sheets	See attached Pricing Sheets	See attached Pricing Sheets

### 2. Other Charges:

- 2.1. Charges for miscellaneous other items such as Service Establishment, Change in Service Arrangement, Additional Engineering, Additional Labor Charges, Access Order Charge, Design Change Charge, Service Date Change Charge, ACNA, Billing Account Number (BAN) and Circuit Identification Change Charges, and Supercedure charges are governed by AT&T-21STATE's applicable interstate Access Services tariff.

## PRICING SHEETS

Attachment	State	Product	Rate Element Description	COS (Class of Service)	USOC	Zone	Monthly Recurring Charge (MRC)	Non-Recurring Charge (NRC) First	Non-Recurring Charge (NRC) Additional	Per Unit
P2	MO	LOCAL INTERCONNECTION (CALL TRANSPORT AND TERMINATION)	Section 251(b)(5) Calls Transport and Termination - Type 2A				\$0.00			MOU
P2	MO	LOCAL INTERCONNECTION (CALL TRANSPORT AND TERMINATION)	Section 251(b)(5) Calls Transport and Termination - Type 2B				\$0.00			MOU
P2	MO	LOCAL INTERCONNECTION (CALL TRANSPORT AND TERMINATION)	Section 251(b)(5) Calls Transport and Termination - Type 1				\$0.00			MOU