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FEB 18 2004

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

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February 18, 2004

Ms. Pamela Bonrud
Executive Director
SD Public Utilities Commission
500 East Capitol Ave.
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Re: Reciprocal Interconnection, Transport and Termination Agreement between
Venture Communications Cooperative and WWC License LLC (Western Wire-
less)

Dear Ms. Bonrud:

Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252(e), Venture Communications Cooperative and Western
Wireless hereby jointly submit and request Commission approval of the attached "Re-
ciprocal Interconnection, Transport and Termination Agreement." This agreement was
voluntarily negotiated and has been executed by both parties. The parties believe the
agreement meets the standards applicable to such agreements set forth in Section
252(e)(2) and, accordingly, urge its prompt approval by the Commission.

In accord with Staff directions, I am enclosing three copies of the Agreement.

If there are any questions or any further action is needed by either of the parties please
feel free to contact me at 605-224-7889, or Ron Williams of Western Wireless at 425-
586-8360.

Sincerely yours,



Darla Pollman Rogers
Attorney at Law

DPR/ph

Enclosures

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FEB 18 2004

RECIPROCAL INTERCONNECTION, TRANSPORT AND TERMINATION PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION AGREEMENT

This Reciprocal Interconnection, Transport and Termination Agreement ("Agreement") is entered into by and between Venture Comm. Corp. ("the Telephone Company"), and WWC License L.L.C. ("the CMRS Provider"). The Telephone Company and the CMRS Provider are each individually a "Party" and are together the "Parties" to this Agreement.

WHEREAS, the Telephone Company is an Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier which is operating as a Rural Telephone Company in the State of South Dakota;

WHEREAS, the CMRS Provider is licensed by the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") as a Commercial Mobile Radio Service Provider;

WHEREAS, the Telephone Company and the CMRS Provider desire to establish arrangements between one another for the exchange of telecommunications traffic between their respective networks for the benefit of the Parties and their customers.

WHEREAS, the Parties wish to put in place an arrangement for the mutual exchange and reciprocal compensation of telecommunications traffic in accordance with Section 251(b)(5) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

WHEREAS, the Parties agree that their entry into this Agreement is without prejudice to and does not waive any positions they may have taken previously, or may take in the future, in any legislative, regulatory, judicial or other public forum addressing any matters related to the same types of arrangements covered in this Agreement, and;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing and the undertakings contained herein, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Telephone Company and the CMRS Provider agree as follows:

This Agreement sets forth the terms, conditions and prices under which (a) the Parties agree to directly interconnect the networks of the CMRS Provider and the Telephone Company for the purposes of the exchange of telecommunications traffic between the Parties' networks or (b) the Parties will transport and terminate the telecommunications traffic originated by the other Party and delivered via the network of a Third Party Provider. This Agreement is not intended to establish any terms, conditions, or pricing applicable to the provisioning of any transiting service.

Except as otherwise expressly provided for herein, this Agreement does not obligate either Party to provide arrangements or transport or terminate traffic not specifically provided for herein. Except as otherwise expressly provided for herein, this Agreement has no effect on the definition of End User services that either Party offers to its End User Customers, the services either Party chooses to offer to its respective End User Customers, the rate levels or rate structures that either Party charges its End Users for services, or the manner in which either Party provisions or routes the services either Party provides to its respective End User Customers.

This Agreement is not, however, intended to address any issues or disagreements that may exist between the Parties concerning the interpretation and application of provisions found in 47 U.S.C. § 332(c) and whether CMRS Provider, in providing certain wireless communications services, is subject to Commission regulation, including, but not limited to regulations requiring

providers of local exchange type services to seek a certificate of authority from the Commission prior to offering such services.

Further, this agreement does not address the additional service obligations imposed on incumbent local exchange carriers pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 251(c) and is based on a request for services pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §§ 251(a) and 251(b). By this Agreement neither Party waives any rights it may have under the Federal Act or rules of the FCC, under state statute, or pursuant to rules of the Commission. Such rights may include CMRS Provider's right to request a review of the rural telephone company exemption provided for under 47 U.S.C. § 251(f) and South Dakota Codified Laws § 49-31-79 and Telephone Company's right to seek to maintain the exemption.

The Parties further agree and understand that the per minute reciprocal transport and termination rates set forth in Appendix A to this Agreement are not based on a specific costing methodology or company specific cost study.

1.0 Definitions

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

"Act" means the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. Section 151 et seq.), as amended.

"Cell Site" means the location of radio transmitting and receiving facilities associated with the origination and termination of wireless traffic to a wireless End User.

"Commercial Mobile Radio Service" or "CMRS" has the meaning given to the term in the Act.

"Commission" means the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission.

"Conversation Time" means the time (in full second increments) that both Parties' equipment is used for a call, measured from the receipt of answer supervision to disconnect supervision.

"EAS Service Area" means a group of two or more exchanges, as defined in the Telephone Company's local exchange tariff or as implemented through Telephone Company practice, among which a Telephone Company Customer of either exchange may make landline-to-landline calls without incurring a toll charge.

"End Office" means a local Telephone Company switching point where the Telephone Company customer station loops are connected for purposes of interconnection to each other and to the network.

"End User" means, whether or not capitalized, any business, residential or governmental Customer of services provided by a Party, and includes the term "Customer" and "Subscriber". More specific meanings of either of such terms are dependent upon the context in which they appear in the Agreement and the provisions of the Act.

"FCC" means the Federal Communications Commission.

"Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier or Incumbent LEC" has the meaning given the term in the Act.

"Indirectly Connected" refers to a network arrangement in which the networks of the Parties are connected through a Third Party Provider's facilities.

"Interconnection" refers to the connection of separate pieces of equipment, facilities, or platforms between or within networks for the purpose of transmission and routing of Telecommunications.

"Inter-exchange Carrier" or "IXC" means a telecommunications carrier that provides toll telephone service, as the latter term is defined in the Act.

"InterLATA Service" has the meaning given the term in the Act.

"InterMTA traffic" means all wireless to wireline calls, which originate in one MTA and terminate in another MTA based on the location of the connecting cell site serving the wireless end user and the location of the end office serving the wireline end user.

"Local Traffic," for purposes of this Agreement, means: (1) for wireless to wireline calling, traffic exchanged between the CMRS Provider and the Telephone Company that, at the beginning of the call, originates and terminates within the same MTA based on the location of the connecting cell site serving the originating wireless end user and the location of the end office serving the terminating wireline end user; and (2) for wireline to wireless calling, traffic exchanged between the Telephone Company and the CMRS Provider that originates in a Telephone Company exchange and terminates to a CMRS Provider NXX that has its rate center within the Telephone Company exchange or within the Local Calling Area as set forth in Appendix B to this Agreement.

"Mobile Switching Center" or "MSC" means a CMRS Provider's facilities and related equipment used to route, transport and switch commercial mobile radio service traffic to and from and among its end Users and other telecommunications carriers.

"Major Trading Area" or "MTA" has the meaning given to the term in 47 CFR Section 24.202(A).

"NXX", "NXX Code", "Central Office Code", or "CO Code" is the 3-digit switch indicator that is defined by the D, E, and F digits of a 10-digit telephone number within the NANP. Each NXX Code contains 10,000 telephone numbers.

"Party" means either the CMRS Provider or the Telephone Company, and "Parties" means the CMRS Provider and the Telephone Company.

"Point of Interconnection" or "POI" means a physical location where the Telephone Company and the CMRS Provider interconnect their respective networks thereby establishing the technical interface and points for operational division of responsibility.

"Tandem" means a switching system that, through a trunk-to-trunk connection, provides a concentration and distribution function for originating or terminating traffic between end offices, other tandems and Third Party Providers'.

"Telecommunications" has the meaning given in the Act.

"Telecommunications Carrier" has the meaning given in the Act.

"Termination" means the switching of Traffic at the terminating carrier's end office switch, or equivalent facilities, and delivery of such traffic to the called party.

"Third Party Provider" shall mean any facilities-based telecommunications carrier, including, without limitation, Interexchange Carriers, independent telephone companies, competitive local exchange carriers, or CMRS Providers that carries transiting traffic. The term shall not mean resellers of a LEC's local exchange services or resellers of a CMRS Provider's services.

"Traffic" includes Local Traffic and InterMTA Traffic.

"Transport" means the transmission of traffic from the POI between the two Parties or from the interconnection point of the Third Party Provider and a Party to the Party's switch that directly serves the called party. In the case of a Type 2A connection Transport includes Tandem Switching.

"Trunk Group" means a set of trunks of common routing, origin and destinations, and which serve a like purpose or function.

"Trunk Side" means a Party's connection that is capable of, and has been programmed to treat the circuit as, connecting to another switching entity, for example another Telephone Company to CMRS Provider switch. Trunk Side connections offer those transmission and signaling features appropriate for the connections of switching entities.

2.0 Description of Traffic

2.1 This agreement applies both to Local and to interMTA traffic originated by the End User subscribers of one Party and terminated to end-user subscribers of the other Party which is (a) delivered over facilities owned or controlled by the Parties, which directly interconnect the Parties or, (b) indirectly connected, i.e., delivered over a Third Party Provider's transiting facilities. Local Traffic is subject to local Transport and Termination charges as described in Appendix A. InterMTA Traffic is subject to Telephone Company's interstate or intrastate access charges.

2.2 The Parties recognize that the Federal Communications Commission issued its Order on Remand and Report and Order on Intercarrier Compensation for ISP-bound Traffic in its Docket No. 96-98 on April 27, 2001, and that Telephone Company and various other parties have filed appeals of that Order. The Parties agree that ISP-bound traffic between them, if any, is presently de minimus. If a Party has reason to believe that enhanced service and Internet traffic is not de minimus, that Party may reopen negotiations to determine an appropriate method for identifying such traffic, and, so long as the FCC Order referred to above is final and outstanding, such traffic above a de minimus level shall be transported and terminated in accord with the interim compensation regime established by the FCC in the Order. If Telephone Company, with respect to traffic originated by its incumbent LEC subscribers, elects to invoke the rate cap for ISP-bound traffic established in the FCC's Order on Remand and Report and Order on Intercarrier Compensation for ISP-bound Traffic in its Docket No. 96-98 with respect to any telecommunications carrier, the Telephone Company and the CMRS Provider will begin exchanging all Local Traffic at the capped rate on the effective date of the implementation of the rate cap.

3.0 Direct Interconnection of the Party's Facilities Where a Third Party Provider Is Not Utilized

This Section describes the network architecture with which the Parties to this Agreement may interconnect their respective networks for the Transport and Termination of traffic.

3.1 Interconnection Facilities

- 3.1.1 **Type 1 Interconnection:** Facilities which provide line side connections between a Telephone Company end office and the CMRS Provider's POI within that end office boundary. Type 1 facilities provide the capability to exchange traffic between the CMRS Provider subscribers and Telephone Company subscribers served only by that Telephone Company end office and other end offices within the Local Calling Area as designated in Appendix B, subject to the capabilities and use of the interconnection as described in Exhibit 1 attached to this Agreement.
- 3.1.2 **Type 2A Interconnection:** Facilities which provide a trunk side connection between the CMRS Provider and a Telephone Company End Office or Tandem switch that is capable of trunk to trunk switching, as specified in Appendix B. The CMRS Provider's POI must be located within the Telephone Company's exchange boundary of that Telephone Company End Office or Tandem switch. Type 2A facilities provide the capability for the CMRS provider with a NPA-NXX in that rate center to exchange traffic between the CMRS provider subscribers and Telephone Company subscribers served only by that Telephone Company end office and other end offices subtending the switch where the Type 2A connection is established.
 - 3.1.2.1 For CMRS traffic terminating to the Telephone Company, the Telephone Company will terminate traffic from the POI to any end user in the intra-company exchanges that subtend the Tandem/Intermediate/Host office (as specified in Appendix B) where the CMRS Provider is directly connected.
 - 3.1.2.2 Only Local Traffic originating from the Telephone Company end users in the LEC Local Calling Area (as specified in Appendix B) will be delivered by the Telephone Company to the CMRS Provider POI.
- 3.1.3 **Type 2B Interconnection:** Facilities which provide a trunk side connection between the CMRS Provider and the Telephone Company end office. The CMRS Provider's POI must be located within the Telephone Company's end office exchange boundary of that Telephone Company end office. Type 2B facilities provide the capability for the CMRS Provider with a NPA-NXX in that rate center to exchange traffic between the CMRS Provider subscribers and the Telephone Company-subscribers served only by that Telephone Company end office and other end offices within the Local Calling Area as designated in Appendix B, subject to the capabilities and use of the interconnection as described in Exhibit 1 attached to this Agreement.
- 3.1.4 The Parties shall provide each other a forecast of projected mobile to land or land to mobile usage for each point of interconnection when significant changes in

traffic patterns are anticipated. The Parties agree to work cooperatively to determine the number of trunks needed to handle the estimated traffic. Upon mutual agreement of the Parties, Type 1, Type 2A, and Type 2B facilities may be either one-way or two-way.

3.1.4.1 When both Parties agree to utilize and implement two-way facilities, charges will be shared by the Parties on a proportional percentage basis as specified in Appendix A "Shared Facility Factor". The Parties shall review actual minutes capable of being transported on shared two way facilities and modify the percentages specified in Appendix A three months from the Executed Date of this Agreement and every twelve months thereafter. The modified percentages shall be used to true-up, on a going forward basis, the charges between the Parties.

3.1.4.2 When both Parties agree to utilize one-way facilities in the land-to-mobile direction or in the event that Western Wireless chooses to implement only one-way land-to-mobile facility use, charges will be shared by the Parties on a proportional percentage basis as specified in Appendix A 7.0 "Shared Facility Factor". In the event Western Wireless subsequently implements mobile-to-land use of these facilities, the provisions of 3.1.4.1 shall apply.

3.2 Facility Locations

3.2.1 Technical Feasibility

3.2.1.1 Appendix B contains the existing POIs established between the Parties. The CMRS Provider and Telephone Company may establish additional POIs, from time to time, in accordance with this Agreement. Appendix B also contains information on the other locations where direct interconnection with the Telephone Company's network may be requested.

3.2.1.2 Both Parties recognize the Telephone Company may make modifications to its network architecture, NPA-NXX utilization, or Local Calling Area that impact the "Interconnection and Local Calling Data" contained in Appendix B. In the event the Telephone Company intends to make modifications that impact Appendix B, the Telephone Company will provide 90 days advance notice of any such modifications to CMRS Provider where such modifications will impact traffic routed over direct interconnect facilities.

3.2.2 Incumbent LEC Requirement

3.2.2.1 The Parties acknowledge that the services provided by Telephone Company under this Agreement are provided pursuant to the Telephone Company's obligations falling under 47 U.S.C. § 251(a) and 251(b) and that terms and conditions specified in this Agreement do not apply to the provision of services or facilities by the Telephone Company in those areas where the Telephone Company is not the incumbent LEC.

3.3 Additional Interconnection Methods Available to the CMRS Provider

3.3.1 The CMRS Provider may provide its own facilities and transport for the delivery of traffic from its MSC (or other mutually agreed upon point on the CMRS Provider's network) to the POI on the Telephone Company's network. Alternatively, the CMRS Provider may purchase an entrance facility and transport from a Third Party Provider or from the Telephone Company for the delivery of such traffic. Rates for entrance facilities and transport purchased from the Telephone Company are specified in the Telephone Company's Interstate Access Service Tariff or Intrastate tariff or pricing catalog.

3.3.2 The Parties may share the Telephone Company's interconnection facilities at the rates specified in applicable tariffs. Charges will be shared by the Parties based on their proportional (percentage) use of such facilities as specified in Appendix A Shared Facility Factor.

3.4 Technical Requirements and Standards

3.4.1 Each Party will provide the services in this Agreement to the other Party under reasonable and non-discriminatory conditions and at a standard that is at least equal in quality and performance to that which the Party provides to other connecting carriers. Either Party may request and the other Party will provide, to the extent technically feasible, services at a higher or lesser standard, provided however, that any such requests shall be considered a special request, and will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

3.4.2 Nothing in this Agreement will limit either Party's ability to modify its network, including, without limitation, the incorporation of new equipment and new software. Each Party will provide the other Party reasonable written notice, of any such modifications to its network, which will materially impact the other Party's service. Each Party will be solely responsible, at its own expense, for the overall design of its telecommunications services and for any redesigning or rearrangement of its telecommunications services which may be required as a consequence of this Agreement, including, without limitation, changes in facilities, operations or procedures, minimum network protection criteria, or operating or maintenance characteristics of facilities. These provisions shall not in any way affect the application of special construction charges of the Telephone Company, for the construction of new facilities, where such charges would otherwise be applicable in provisioning the new or additional service.

4.0 Transmission and Routing of Traffic

This Section provides the terms and conditions for the exchange of traffic between the Parties' respective networks for the transmission and routing by the Parties of wireless Traffic.

4.1 Mobile to Land Traffic – Directly Interconnected

4.1.1 The CMRS Provider shall be responsible for the delivery of Traffic from its Network to the appropriate Point of Interconnection on the Telephone Company's network, as set forth in Appendix B, for the Transport and Termination of such traffic by the Telephone Company to one of its End Users.

4.1.2 If the CMRS Provider chooses to use the Telephone Company's services or facilities, not otherwise covered under this Agreement, appropriate tariff or pricing catalog rates, or rates established under separate agreement will apply.

4.2 Land to Mobile Traffic – Directly Interconnected

4.2.1 The Telephone Company with which CMRS Provider has directly connected shall be responsible for the delivery of traffic from its End Users in the "Local Calling Area" connected to its network to the appropriate Point of Interconnection (within the exchange boundary of the end office in which the tandem, providing Type 2A Interconnection, is located, or within the exchange boundary of the end office providing Type 1 and/or Type 2B Interconnection) on the CMRS Provider's network for the Transport and Termination of such traffic by the CMRS Provider to its End User.

4.2.2 Telephone Company agrees that its landline customers will dial CMRS provider NPA-NXXs on a local basis, so long as the CMRS Provider NPA-NXX has been assigned by the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA) to an end office rate center in which a POI is physically located, and provided such local access is consistent with the capabilities and use of the direct interconnection established as described in Exhibit 1 to this Agreement. When the Parties are directly connected, Telephone Company agrees to deliver all such locally-dialed traffic to CMRS Provider at that Point of Interconnection with the CMRS Provider.

4.3 Mobile to Land - Indirectly Connected via a Third Party Provider.

As an alternative to routing traffic covered by this Agreement through a Point of Interconnection, the CMRS Provider may choose to deliver traffic from its network to the Telephone Company via a Third Party Provider and thus be indirectly connected with the Telephone Company for the delivery of traffic originated on the CMRS Providers' network by the CMRS Providers' End Users.

5.0 Transport and Termination Compensation

5.1 Rates - The CMRS Provider and the Telephone Company shall reciprocally and symmetrically compensate one another for Local Traffic terminated on either Party's network. The rates at which the Parties shall compensate each other for the Transport and Termination of Traffic are set forth in Appendix A hereto.

5.1.1 Telephone Company's access charges apply to the termination of InterMTA traffic.

5.1.2 The rates applicable to Local Traffic are set forth in Appendix A.

5.1.3 The Transport and Termination Services provided hereunder are intended for wireless to wireline or wireline to wireless, but not wireline to wireline communications. Such services will not be used to terminate other types of traffic on Telephone Company's network (such as wireline originated traffic) and services used in violation hereof shall constitute a breach of this Agreement. In addition to any other remedies available, the Party whose services have been

improperly used shall be entitled to recover the appropriate charges for such traffic for the entire period of misuse.

5.2 De Minimus Traffic - In the event the Traffic terminated on the Telephone company's network is de minimus such that the total minutes for compensation is less than 3,000 minutes of use for a three month period (or 1,000 minutes of use for a one month period if the Telephone Company bills monthly); the Parties agree that the Telephone Company shall not render a billing. It is agreed that the only compensation for that de minimus Traffic will be in the form of the reciprocal Transport and Termination services provided by the other Party, i.e., Traffic will be exchanged on a bill and keep basis, and no billing will be issued by the Telephone Company.

5.3 Conversation Time - For purposes of billing compensation, billed minutes will be based upon Conversation Time. Conversation Time will be determined (a) from actual usage recordings by the Parties or (b) records of terminating traffic provided by the Third Party Provider.

5.4 Measuring traffic - In order to determine whether traffic exchanged between the Parties' networks is Local or InterMTA traffic for purposes of determining compensation, the Parties agree to define the customer location as follows: for Telephone Company, the origination or termination point of a call shall be the Telephone Company's end office which serves, respectively, the calling or called End User. For CMRS Provider, the origination or termination point of a call shall be the connecting cell site, which serves, respectively, the calling or called party at the time the call begins.

6.0 Transmission and Routing of Other Types of Traffic

The Parties agree that this Agreement does not provide for the exchange of 911/E911 traffic and that if such service is requested by the CMRS Provider that the Parties will negotiate a separate Agreement for such traffic.

Other ancillary traffic including wireless traffic destined for ancillary services including, but not limited to, directory assistance, operator call termination (busy line interrupt and verify), 800/888, LIDB, and information services requiring special billing will be exchanged and charged in accordance with the appropriate tariffs, local or switched access.

7.0 Responsibilities of the Parties:

7.1 Verification Reviews

7.1.1 The Parties will be responsible for the accuracy and quality of the data as submitted to the other Party. Upon reasonable written notice, either Party or its authorized representative shall have the right to conduct a review and verification of the other Party's data to give assurances of compliance with the provisions of this Agreement. The review will consist of an examination and verification of data involving records, systems, procedures and other information related to the services performed by the Party as related to settlement charges or payments made in connection with this Agreement. Each Party, whether or not in connection with an on-site verification review, shall maintain reasonable records for a minimum of twelve (12) months and provide the other Party with reasonable access to such information as is necessary to determine amounts receivable or payable under this Agreement.

- 7.1.2 Either Party's right to access information for verification review purposes is limited to data not in excess of twelve (12) months in age. Once specific data has been reviewed and verified, it is unavailable for future reviews. Any items not reconciled at the end of a review will, however, be subject to a follow-up review effort. Any retroactive adjustments required subsequent to previously reviewed and verified data will also be subject to follow-up review. Information of the Party involved with a verification review shall be subject to the confidentiality provisions of this Agreement.
- 7.1.3 The Party requesting a verification review shall fully bear its costs associated with conducting a review. The Party being reviewed will provide access to required information, as outlined in this section, at no charge to the reviewing Party. Should the reviewing Party request information or assistance beyond that reasonably required to conduct such a review, the Party being reviewed may, at its option, decline to comply with such request or may bill actual costs incurred in complying subsequent to the concurrence of the reviewing Party.

7.2 Billing

- 7.2.1 For directly connected arrangements between the Parties, the Telephone Company shall issue its bill to CMRS Provider based on actual usage recordings. For arrangements involving a Third Party Provider, the Telephone Company shall issue its bill based on the best information available including, but not limited to, records of terminating traffic created by the Telephone Company.
- 7.2.2 When a Third Party Provider indirect connected arrangement is used by the CMRS Provider to deliver traffic to the Telephone Company the Telephone Company may use its terminating records or usage reports and/or records (such as category 11-01-0-1 records) generated by a Third Party Provider whose network is used to indirectly connect the traffic as the basis for billing the CMRS Provider.
- 7.2.3 For billing purposes, if either Party is unable to classify on an automated basis the traffic delivered by CMRS as local traffic or interMTA traffic, a Percent InterMTA Use (PIU) factor will be used, which represents the estimated portion of interMTA traffic delivered by CMRS provider.

The initial PIU factor to be applied to total minutes of use delivered by the CMRS Provider shall be 3.0%. This factor shall be adjusted three months after the executed date of this Agreement and every six months thereafter during the term of this Agreement, based on a mutually agreed to traffic study analysis. Each of the Parties to this Agreement is obligated to proceed in good faith toward the development of a method of traffic study that will provide a reasonable measurement of terminated InterMTA traffic.

A Reciprocal Compensation Credit shall be calculated and applied to the billing from Telephone Company to the CMRS Provider to provide compensation for wireline to wireless traffic that the CMRS Provider receives from Telephone Company for termination. The amount of this credit shall be determined by applying the Reciprocal Compensation Credit formula set forth in Appendix A. The Reciprocal Compensation Credit will appear on the monthly or quarterly bill issued by Telephone Company as a credit against amounts due and payable from CMRS Provider to Telephone Company.

7.2.4 The Parties shall pay each other for all charges in accordance with the rates set forth in Appendix A of this agreement. Such payments are to be received within 30 days from the receipt of the billing statement. Undisputed charges, not paid within the 30 days from the receipt of the billing statement may be subject to a late charge at the rate of 1.5% per month or the maximum amount allowed by law. The Party collecting revenues shall be responsible for reporting and remitting all applicable taxes associated therewith.

7.2.5 Each Party will bear its own billing and collection expenses. In the event the CMRS Provider fails to send calling party number and/or other industry standard call record fields sufficient to identify CMRS Provider as the originating carrier for each Third Party Provider transit call terminated to the Telephone Company, CMRS provider will reimburse the Telephone Company for any Third Party Provider Call Detail Record (CDR) charges associated with those CMRS Provider usage records.

CMRS Provider agrees to pursue a joint process (negotiation, complaint, etc.) against Qwest with the intent of requiring Qwest to either transmit appropriate call data as part of their transit function or provide summary monthly terminating traffic reports to the Telephone Company which show the originating carrier and which would be workable for billing purposes.

7.2.6 If either Party disputes a billing statement issued by the other Party, the disputing Party shall notify the billing Party in writing regarding the nature and the basis of the dispute within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the statement. The Parties shall diligently work toward resolution of all billing issues

7.3 Network Maintenance and Management for Direct Interconnection

The Parties will work cooperatively to install and maintain reliable network facilities. The Parties will exchange appropriate information to achieve this desired reliability, subject to the confidentiality provisions herein.

7.3.1 Party shall provide a 24-hour contact number for network traffic management issues to the other's surveillance management center. A fax number must also be provided to facilitate notifications for planned mass calling events.

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

7.3.3 Use of the CMRS Providers' facilities, or that of a third party in conjunction with any of the Telephone Company's facilities, shall not materially interfere with or impair service over any facilities of the Telephone Company, its affiliated companies or its connecting and concurring carriers involved in its services, cause damage to their plant, impair the privacy of any communications carrier over their facilities or create hazards to the employees of any of them or the public. Upon reasonable written notice and opportunity to cure, the Party whose facilities are being used may discontinue or refuse service to the other Party if the Party using the facilities violates this provision; provided, that such termination of service will be limited to the facilities being used that is subject of the violation.

7.3.4 Maintenance of Service Charge - When one Party reports trouble to the other Party for clearance and no trouble is found in the second Party's network, the reporting Party shall be responsible for payment of a Maintenance of Service Charge for the period of time when the second Party's personnel are dispatched. In the event of an intermittent service problem that is eventually found to be in the second Party's network, the reporting Party shall receive a credit for any Maintenance of Service Charges applied in conjunction with this service problem.

If a Party reports trouble to the other Party for clearance and the other Party's personnel are not allowed access to the reporting Party's premises, the Maintenance of Service Charge will apply for the time that the non-reporting Party's personnel are dispatched; provided that the Party's have arranged a specific time for the service visit.

7.4 Access to Numbering Resources – For Type 1 connections, the Telephone Company will provide the CMRS Provider access to numbering resources in the same fashion as they are provided to other Telecommunications Carriers.

7.5 Local Dialing Parity - The Telephone Company agrees that local dialing parity will be available to the CMRS Provider in accordance with the law to the same extent as it is available to other Telecommunications Carriers. The Telephone Company will not be responsible for Local Exchange Routing Guide ("LERG") entry.

The Parties agree that local and EAS dialing available to CMRS Provider NXXs will be as specified in Appendix B. Telephone Company agrees to provide Notice, according to Section 14.13, for any additions or deletions of rate centers associated with local calling area or EAS. Accordingly, the parties agree that the information contained in Appendix B pertaining to "Local Calling Areas", subsequent to such Notice, may be revised during the term of this Agreement.

8.0 Liability and Indemnification

8.1 Except as otherwise expressly provided herein or in specific appendices, each Party shall be responsible only for the Interconnection, functions, products and 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, functions, products and services provided by the other Party, its agents, subcontractors, or others retained by such parties.

8.2 Each Party shall be indemnified and held harmless by the other Party against claims, losses, suits, demands, damages, costs, expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees ("Claims"), asserted, suffered, or made by third parties arising from (i) any act or omission of the indemnifying Party in connection with its performance or non-performance under this Agreement; (ii) actual or alleged infringement by the indemnifying Party of any patent, trademark, copyright, service mark, trade name, trade secret or intellectual property right (now known or later developed), and (iii) provision of the indemnifying Party's services or equipment, including but not limited to claims arising from the provision of the indemnifying Party's services to its End Users (e.g., claims for interruption of service, quality of service or billing disputes). Each Party shall also be indemnified and held harmless by the other Party against Claims of persons for services furnished by the indemnifying Party or by any of its subcontractors, under worker's compensation laws or similar statutes.

- 8.3 A Party (the "Indemnifying Party") shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the other Party ("Indemnified Party") against any claim or loss arising from the Indemnifying Party's use of Interconnection, functions, products and services provided under this Agreement involving:
- 8.3.1 any Claim for libel, slander, invasion of privacy, or infringement of Intellectual Property rights arising from the Indemnifying Party's or its Customer's use.
 - 8.3.2 any claims, demands or suits that asserts any claim for libel, slander, infringement or invasion of privacy or confidentiality of any person or persons caused or claimed to be caused, directly or indirectly, by the other Party's employees and equipment associated with the provision of any service herein. The foregoing includes any Claims or Losses arising from disclosure of any Customer-specific information associated with either the originating or terminating numbers used to provision Interconnection, functions, products or services provided hereunder and all other Claims arising out of any act or omission of the Customer in the course of using any Interconnection, functions, products or services provided pursuant to this Agreement.
 - 8.3.3 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).
- 8.4 Neither Party makes any warranty, express or implied, concerning either Party's (or any third party's) rights with respect to intellectual property (including without limitation, patent, copyright and trade secret rights) or contract rights associated with either Party's right to interconnect. Nothing in this Section will be deemed to supersede or replace any other agreements, if any, between the Parties with respect to either party's intellectual property or contract rights.
- 8.5 Each Party ("Indemnifying Party") shall reimburse the other Party ("Indemnified Party") for damages to the Indemnified Party's equipment, Interconnection trunks and other property utilized to provide Interconnection hereunder caused by the negligence or willful act of the Indemnifying Party, its agents, subcontractors or Customer or resulting from the Indemnifying Party's improper use of the Indemnified Party's equipment, Interconnection trunks or other property, or due to malfunction of any functions, products, services or equipment of the Indemnifying Party or of any other party that have been provided to the Indemnifying Party. Upon reimbursement for damages, the Indemnified Party will cooperate with the Indemnifying Party in prosecuting a claim against the person causing such damage. The Indemnifying Party shall be subrogated to the right of recovery by the Indemnified Party for the damages to the extent of such payment.
- 8.6 Indemnification Procedures
- 8.6.1 Whenever a claim shall arise for indemnification, 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.

- 8.6.2 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.
- 8.6.3 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.
- 8.6.4 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.
- 8.6.5 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.
- 8.6.6 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.
- 8.6.7 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.
- 8.6.8 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.
- 8.6.9 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 9.

8.7 Apportionment of Fault. Except for losses alleged or claimed by a Customer of either Party and except as otherwise provided in specific appendices, in the case of any loss alleged or claimed by a third party arising out of the negligence or willful misconduct of both Parties, each Party shall bear, and its obligation under this Section shall be limited to, that portion 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.

8.7.1 The Parties are not liable for any act or omission of other Providers.

8.7.2 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

8.8 NO CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES

NEITHER THE TELEPHONE COMPANY NOR THE CMRS PROVIDER SHALL BE LIABLE TO THE OTHER PARTY FOR ANY INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, CONSEQUENTIAL, RELIANCE, OR SPECIAL DAMAGES SUFFERED BY SUCH OTHER PARTY (INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, DAMAGES FOR HARM TO BUSINESS, LOST REVENUES, LOST SAVINGS, OR LOST PROFITS SUFFERED BY SUCH OTHER PARTY), REGARDLESS OF THE FORM OF ACTION, WHETHER IN CONTRACT, WARRANTY, STRICT LIABILITY, OR TORT, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, NEGLIGENCE WHETHER ACTIVE OR PASSIVE, AND REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE PARTIES KNEW OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT SUCH DAMAGES COULD RESULT. EACH PARTY HEREBY RELEASES THE OTHER PARTY (AND SUCH OTHER PARTY'S SUBSIDIARIES AND AFFILIATES AND THEIR RESPECTIVE OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, EMPLOYEES AND AGENTS) FROM ANY SUCH CLAIM. NOTHING CONTAINED IN THIS SECTION WILL LIMIT EITHER PARTIES LIABILITY TO THE OTHER FOR (i) WILLFUL OR INTENTIONAL MISCONDUCT (INCLUDING GROSS NEGLIGENCE) OR (ii) BODILY INJURY, DEATH, OR DAMAGE TO TANGIBLE REAL OR TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY TO THE EXTENT PROXIMATELY CAUSED BY THE TELEPHONE COMPANY'S OR THE CMRS PROVIDER'S NEGLIGENT ACT OR OMISSION OR THAT OF THEIR RESPECTIVE AGENTS, SUBCONTRACTORS OR EMPLOYEES, NOR WILL ANYTHING CONTAINED IN THIS SECTION LIMIT THE PARTIES' INDEMNIFICATION OBLIGATIONS, AS SPECIFIED HEREIN.

8.9 RELEASES

In resolution of the Parties rights, and in further consideration of this Agreement, each Party releases, acquits and discharges the other Party of and from any claim, debt, demand, liability, action or cause of action arising from or relating to the payment of money for the transport and termination of traffic prior to the Effective Date of this Agreement.

9.0 Confidentiality and Proprietary Information

9.1 For the purposes of this Agreement, Confidential Information ("Confidential Information") means confidential or proprietary technical or business information given by one Party (the "Discloser") to the other (the "Recipient"). All information which is disclosed by one Party to the other in connection with this Agreement, during negotiations and the term of this Agreement will not be deemed Confidential Information to the Discloser and subject to this Section 9, unless the confidentiality of the information is confirmed in writing by

the Discloser prior to disclosure. The Recipient agrees (i) to use Confidential Information only for the purpose of performing under this Agreement, (ii) to hold it in confidence and disclose it to no one other than its employees having a need to know for the purpose of performing under this Agreement, and (iii) to safeguard it from unauthorized use or disclosure using at least the same degree of care with which the Recipient safeguards its own Confidential Information. If the Recipient wishes to disclose the Discloser's Confidential Information to a third-party agent or consultant, such disclosure must be agreed to in writing by the Discloser, and the agent or consultant must have executed a written agreement of nondisclosures and nonuse comparable in scope to the terms of this section.

- 9.2 The Recipient may make copies of Confidential Information only as reasonably necessary to perform its obligations under this Agreement. All such copies will be subject to the same restrictions and protections as the original and will bear the same copyright and proprietary rights notices as are contained on the original.
- 9.3 The Recipient agrees to return all Confidential Information in tangible form received from the Discloser, including any copies made by the Recipient, within thirty (30) days after a written request is delivered to the Recipient, or to destroy all such Confidential Information if directed to do so by Discloser except for Confidential Information that the Recipient reasonably requires to perform its obligations under this Agreement; the Recipient shall certify destruction by written letter to the Discloser. If either Party loses or makes an unauthorized disclosure of the Party's Confidential Information, it will notify such other Party immediately and use its best efforts to retrieve the lost or wrongfully disclosed information.
- 9.4 The Recipient shall have no obligation to safeguard Confidential Information: (i) which was in the possession of the Recipient free of restriction prior to its receipt from the Discloser; (ii) after it becomes publicly known or available through no breach of this Agreement by the Recipient; (iii) after it is rightfully acquired by the Recipient free of restrictions on its discloser; (iv) after it is independently developed by personnel of the Recipient to whom the Discloser's Confidential Information had not been previously disclosed. In addition, either Party will have the right to disclose Confidential Information to any mediator, arbitrator, state or federal regulatory body, or a court in the conduct of any mediation, arbitration or approval of this Agreement, as long as, in the absence of an applicable protective order, the Discloser has been previously notified by the Recipient in time sufficient for the Recipient to undertake all lawful measures to avoid disclosing such confidential information and for Discloser to have reasonable time to seek or negotiate a protective order before or with any applicable mediator, arbitrator, state or regulatory body or a court.
- 9.5 The Parties recognize that an individual End User may simultaneously seek to become or be a Customer of both Parties. Nothing in this Agreement is intended to limit the ability of either Party to use customer specific information lawfully obtained from End Users or sources other than the Discloser.
- 9.6 Each Party's obligations to safeguard Confidential Information disclosed prior to expiration or termination of this Agreement will survive such expiration or termination.
- 9.7 No license is hereby granted under any patent, trademark, or copyright, nor is any such license implied solely by virtue of the disclosure of any Confidential Information.
- 9.8 Each Party agrees that the Discloser may be irreparably injured by a disclosure in breach of this Agreement by the Recipient or its representatives and the Discloser will be entitled to seek equitable relief, including injunctive relief and specific performance, in the event of any breach or threatened breach of the confidentiality provisions of this

Agreement. Such remedies will not be deemed to be the exclusive remedies for a breach of this Agreement, but will be in addition to all other remedies available at law or in equity.

10.0 Finality of Disputes

No claims shall be brought for disputes arising from this Agreement more than twenty-four (24) months from the date of occurrence which gives rise to the dispute, or beyond the applicable statute of limitations, whichever is shorter.

11.0 Intervening Law

11.1 The terms and conditions of this Agreement shall be subject to any and all applicable laws, rules, regulations, orders or guidelines that subsequently may be prescribed by any federal or state government authority with jurisdiction. To the extent required or permitted by any such subsequently prescribed law, rule, regulation, order or guideline, the Parties agree to negotiate in good faith toward an agreement to modify, in writing, any affected term or condition of this Agreement to bring them into compliance with such law, rule, regulation, order or guideline. Upon failure to reach agreement to implement a change in laws, rules, regulations, orders or guidelines, either Party may seek arbitration before any regulatory authority with jurisdiction.

11.2 Each Party shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws, rules and regulations applicable to its performance under this Agreement.

13.0 Miscellaneous Provisions

13.1 Effective Date – The effective date of this agreement is January 1, 2003. The Parties shall implement the agreement immediately, work cooperatively, and take all steps necessary and proper to expeditiously prosecute a joint application before the Commission seeking approval of this Agreement pursuant to the provisions of 47 U.S.C. ' 252. Each Party shall be responsible for its own costs and expenses incurred in obtaining approval of this Agreement from the Commission.

14.2 Term and Termination

14.2.1 This Agreement shall remain in effect for three (3) years after January 1, 2003. Thereafter, the Agreement shall automatically renew for additional one (1) year terms, unless either Party gives the other Party written notice of intent to terminate at least sixty (60) days prior to the expiration date of the initial or renewed term.

14.2.2 Upon termination or expiration of this agreement in accordance with the above Section:

- (a) Each Party shall continue to comply with its obligations set forth in Section Confidentiality and
- (b) Each Party shall promptly pay all amounts (including any late payment charges) owed under this Agreement; and upon termination or expiration of this Agreement, each Party shall promptly pay all amounts (including

any late payment charges) owed under this Agreement or place disputed amounts into an escrow account.

(c) Each Party's indemnification obligations shall survive.

14.2.3 Either Party may terminate this Agreement in whole or in part in the event of a default by the other Party, provided however, that the non-defaulting Party notifies the defaulting Party in writing of the alleged default and that the defaulting Party does not cure the alleged default within thirty (30) days of receipt of written notice thereof.

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

14.4 Assignment - Neither Party may assign, subcontract, or otherwise transfer its rights or obligations under this Agreement except under such terms and conditions as are mutually acceptable to the other Party and with such Party's prior written consent, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld, delayed, or conditioned; provided, that either Party may assign its rights and delegate its benefits, and delegate its duties and obligations under this Agreement without the consent of the other Party to a parent, one hundred (100) per cent owned affiliate or subsidiary of that Party for the continued provisioning of the telecommunications service under this Agreement.

14.5 Third Party Beneficiaries - This Agreement shall not provide any non-party with any remedy, claim, cause of action or other right.

14.6 Force Majeure - Neither Party shall be responsible for delays or failures in performance resulting from acts or occurrences beyond the reasonable control of such Party, regardless of whether such delays or failures in performance were foreseen or foreseeable as of the date of this Agreement, including, without limitation: fire, explosion, power failure, acts of God, war, revolution, civil commotion, or acts of public enemies; any law, order, regulation, ordinance or requirement of any government or legal body; or labor unrest, including, without limitation strikes, slowdowns, picketing or boycotts; or delays caused by the other Party or by other service or equipment vendors; or any other circumstances beyond the Party's reasonable control. In such event, the Party affected shall, upon giving prompt notice to the other Party, be excused from such performance on a day-to-day basis to the extent of such interference (and the other Party shall likewise be excused from performance of its obligations on a day-for-day basis to the extent such Party's obligations relate to the performance so interfered with). The affected Party shall use its reasonable commercial efforts to avoid or remove the cause of non-performance and both Parties shall proceed to perform with dispatch once the causes are removed or cease.

14.7 DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTIES - THE PARTIES MAKE NO REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ANY WARRANTY AS TO MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR INTENDED OR PARTICULAR PURPOSE WITH RESPECT TO SERVICES OR FACILITIES PROVIDED HEREUNDER. ADDITIONALLY, NEITHER PARTY ASSUMES ANY RESPONSIBILITY WITH REGARD TO THE CORRECTNESS OF DATA OR INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY THE OTHER PARTY WHEN THIS DATA OR INFORMATION IS ACCESSED AND USED BY A THIRD PARTY.

14.8 Survival of Obligations - Any liabilities or obligations of a Party for acts or omissions prior to the cancellation or termination of this Agreement, any obligation of a Party under the provisions regarding indemnification, Confidential Information, limitations on liability, and any other provisions of this Agreement which, by their terms, are contemplated to survive

(or to be performed after) termination of this Agreement, will survive cancellation or termination thereof.

14.9 Waiver - The failure of either Party to enforce or insist that the other Party comply with the terms or conditions of this Agreement, or the waiver by either Party in a particular instance of any of the terms or conditions of this Agreement, shall not be construed as a general waiver or relinquishment of the terms and conditions, but this Agreement shall be and remain at all times in full force and effect.

14.10 Patents, Trademarks and Trade Names

14.10.1 With respect to claims of patent infringement made by third persons, the Parties shall defend, indemnify, protect and save harmless the other from and against all claims arising out of the improper combining with or use by the indemnifying Party of any circuit, apparatus, system or method provided by that Party or its subscribers in connection with the Interconnection arrangements furnished under this Agreement.

14.10.2 No license under patents is granted by either Party to the other, or shall be implied or arise by estoppel with respect to any circuit, apparatus, system, or method used by either Party in connection with any Interconnection Arrangements or services furnished under this Agreement.

14.10.3 Nothing in this Agreement will grant, suggest, or imply any authority for one Party to use the name, trademarks, service marks, or trade names of the other for any purpose whatsoever, absent prior written consent of the other Party.

14.11 Relationship of the Parties

14.11.1 This Agreement is for the sole benefit of the Parties and their permitted assigns, and nothing herein express or implied shall create or be construed to create any third-party beneficiary rights hereunder.

14.11.2 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.

14.11.3 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.

14.11.4 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.

14.11.5 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.

14.12 Services - Each Party is solely responsible for the services it provides to its End Users and to other Telecommunications Carriers.

14.13 Notices - Any notice to a Party required or permitted under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been received on the date of service if served personally; on the date receipt is acknowledged in writing by the recipient if delivered by regular mail; or on the date stated on the receipt if delivered by certified or registered mail or by a courier service that obtains a written receipt. Notice may also be provided by facsimile, which shall be effective on the next Business Day following the date of transmission as reflected in the facsimile confirmation sheet. Any notice shall be delivered using one of the alternatives mentioned in this section and shall be directed to the applicable address indicated below or such address as the Party to be notified has designated by giving notice in compliance with this section.

For Western Wireless: Regulatory Department
 cc Engineering Department
 3650 131st Avenue S.E.
 Bellevue, Washington 98006
 425-586-8700 (phone)
 425-586-8118 (facsimile)

For Telephone Company: Ventura Communications Cooperative
218 Commercial Ave. SE
P.O. Box 157
Higmore, SD 57345

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

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

14.16 Governing Law - For all claims under this Agreement, that are based upon issues within the jurisdiction of the FCC or governed by federal law, the Parties agree that the

remedies for such claims shall be governed by the FCC and the Act. For all claims under this agreement that are based upon issues within the jurisdiction of the Commission or governed by state law, the Parties agree that the jurisdiction for all such claims shall be with such Commission, and the remedy for such claims shall be as provided for by such Commission. In all other respects, this Agreement shall be governed by the domestic laws of the State of South Dakota without reference to conflict of law provisions.

- 14.17 Multiple Counterparts - This Agreement may be executed in multiple counterparts, each of which will be deemed an original but all of which will together constitute but one and the same document.
- 14.18 Complete Terms - This Agreement together with its appendices and exhibits constitutes the entire agreement regarding the exchange and compensation for Local Traffic between the Parties and supersedes all prior discussions, representations or oral understandings reached between the Parties. Appendices and exhibits referred to herein are deemed attached hereto and incorporated by reference. Neither Party shall be bound by any amendment, modification or additional terms unless it is reduced to writing signed by an authorized representative of the Party sought to be bound.
- 14.19 This Agreement is the joint work product of the Parties and has been negotiated by the Parties and their respective counsel and shall be fairly interpreted in accordance with its terms and, in the event of any ambiguities, no inferences shall be drawn against either Party.
- 14.20 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.
- 14.21 Neither Party shall be bound by any preprinted terms additional to or different from those in this Agreement that may appear subsequently in the other Party's form documents, purchase orders, quotations, acknowledgments, invoices or other communications.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Agreement through their duly authorized representatives.

The Telephone Company

The CMRS Provider

BY: 
(Signature)

BY: 
(Signature)

NAME: Randy W. Boudell
(Printed)

NAME: Gene DeJordy
(Printed)

TITLE: Gen Mgr

TITLE: VP

DATE: 12/22/03

DATE: Jan. 28, 2004

APPENDIX A

1.0 MOBILE TO LAND INTERCONNECTION RATES PER MINUTE OF USE

TYPE 2A	TYPE 1	TYPE 2B
\$.009	\$.009	\$.009

2.0 LAND TO MOBILE INTERCONNECTION RATES PER MINUTE OF USE

TYPE 2A	TYPE 1	TYPE 2B
\$.009	\$.009	\$.009

3.0 RECIPROCAL COMPENSATION FOR TRANSPORT AND TERMINATION OF TRAFFIC EXCHANGED THROUGH AN INDIRECT INTERCONNECTION

\$.009

4.0 RECIPROCAL COMPENSATION CREDIT FORMULA

The reciprocal compensation credit will be calculated assuming a ratio of land originated to mobile originated traffic as set forth below. Divide the total number of monthly measured minutes of use terminated on Telephone Company's network by the Mobile to Land Factor. The total calculation will then be multiplied by the Land to Mobile Factor to arrive at the total Telephone Company minutes of use terminated on CMRS Provider's network per month. This monthly total will be multiplied by the Land to Mobile Interconnection rate set forth in Appendix A 2.0 to obtain the Reciprocal Compensation Credit for the month. For example, Telephone Company determines that 10,000 minutes of mobile originated Telecommunications Traffic has been delivered to it by the CMRS Provider in a given billing period: In Year 1 of the Agreement, the Parties will assume that 2,658 minutes of land originated calls were delivered by Telephone Company to CMRS Provider for termination (10,000/.79 multiplied by .21).

The Reciprocal Compensation Credit Factors over the term of the agreement shall be:

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Mobile to Land	79%	78%	77%
Land to Mobile	21%	22%	23%

5.0 FACILITY RATE

To the extent CMRS Provider requires facilities referenced in 3.1, such facilities will be made available and the price will be based upon the lowest Telephone Company interstate or intrastate rate published in the Telephone Company's tariff or pricing catalog.

6.0 SHARED FACILITY FACTOR

The default Shared Facility Factor over the term of the agreement shall be:

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
CMRS Provider	79%	78%	77%
Telephone Company	21%	22%	23%

APPENDIX B

VENTURE COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE

EXISTING DIRECT INTERCONNECTION

POI Type	NPA	NOX	Range		Quantity	Rate Center	POI/CLLI	Calling Scope
Type 1	605	448	8000	8999	1,000	BRITTON	BRTNSDXARS1	Langford
	605	698	4000	4999	100	SISSETON	SSTNSDCODS0	Claire City ** New Effington ** Peever ** Rosholt Veblen **
	605	742	4000	4999	900	SISSETON	SSTNSDCODS0	Claire City ** New Effington ** Peever ** Rosholt Veblen **
	605	765	4000	4999	1,000	GETTYSBURG	GTBGSDXARS3	None
Type 2	605	268	0000	9999	10,000	SISSETON	SSTNSD020MD	

*** If meet point does not have a Point of Interconnection CLLI, then the Rural Telephone Company switch CLLI was used.**

APPENDIX B

VENTURE COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE
 INTERCONNECTION AND LOCAL CALLING DATA
 FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY

Exchange Name	NPA/NXX(s)	CLL	Tandem/Intermediate Office(s)	LEC Local Calling Area
Blunt	605-962	BLNTSDXADS0	HGHMSDXADS0	Harrold
Britton	605-448 701-443	BRTNSDXADS0	None	Langford
Gettysburg	605-765 605-768	GTBGSDXADS0	HGHMSDXADS0	
Highmore	605-852 605-875	HGHMSDXADS0 HRLSDXARS0	HGHMSDXADS0	Blunt(Harrold LCA) Ree Heights
Hitchcock	605-266	HTCHSDXADS1	HGHMSDXADS0	Huron ** Tulare
Hoven	605-948	HOVNSDXADS0	HGHMSDXADS0	Seneca Tolstoy
Langford	605-493	LNFRSDXADS0	HGHMSDXADS0	Britton
Onida	605-973 605-2264 605-258	ONIDSDXARS0 ONIDSDXCDS0 ONIDSDXBRS0	HGHMSDXADS0	
Ree Heights	605-943	REHGSDXADS0	HGHMSDXADS0	Highmore
Rosholt	605-537	RSHTSDXADS0	HGHMSDXADS0	New Effington ** Sisseton
Roslyn	605-486	RSLNSDXADS0	None	Webster **
Selby	605-649	SLBYSDXADS0	HGHMSDXADS0	Bowdle Glenham ** Mobridge ** Mound City **
Sisseton	605-698 605-742	SSTNSDCODS0	None	Claire City ** New Effington ** Peever ** Rosholt Veblen **
Tolstoy	605-442	TLSTSDXADS0	HGHMSDXADS0	Hoven Seneca
Tulare	605-596	TULRSDXADS0	HGHMSDXADS0	Hitchcock Redfield **
Wessington	605-458	WSTNSDXADS1	HGHMSDXADS0	
Wessington Springs	605-539	WSSPSDXADS9	HGHMSDXADS0	
Bowdle	605-285	BWDLSDXARS3		Selby
Pierpont	605-325	PIRPSDXARS1		Bristol Webster **
Roscoe	605-287	ROSCSDXARS3		Ipswich
Seneca	605-436	SENCSDXARS0		Hoven Tolstoy

APPENDIX B

**VENTURE COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE
INTERCONNECTION AND LOCAL CALLING DATA
FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY**

Exchange Name	NPA/NXX(S)	CLLI	Tandem/ Intermediate Office(s)	EAS Local Calling Area
Qwest Meet Point		V 6204 - H 5245		
SDN Meet Point		V 6280 - H 4906		

1. Switch or meet point locations where Type 1 or Type 2B connection is available.
2. Switch or meet point locations where Type 2A interconnection is available.
3. The wireless calling scope provided by the various types of interconnection that may be established is described in Exhibit 1 attached to the agreement.

**** Intercompany EAS which may be subject to a separate transiting service agreement.**

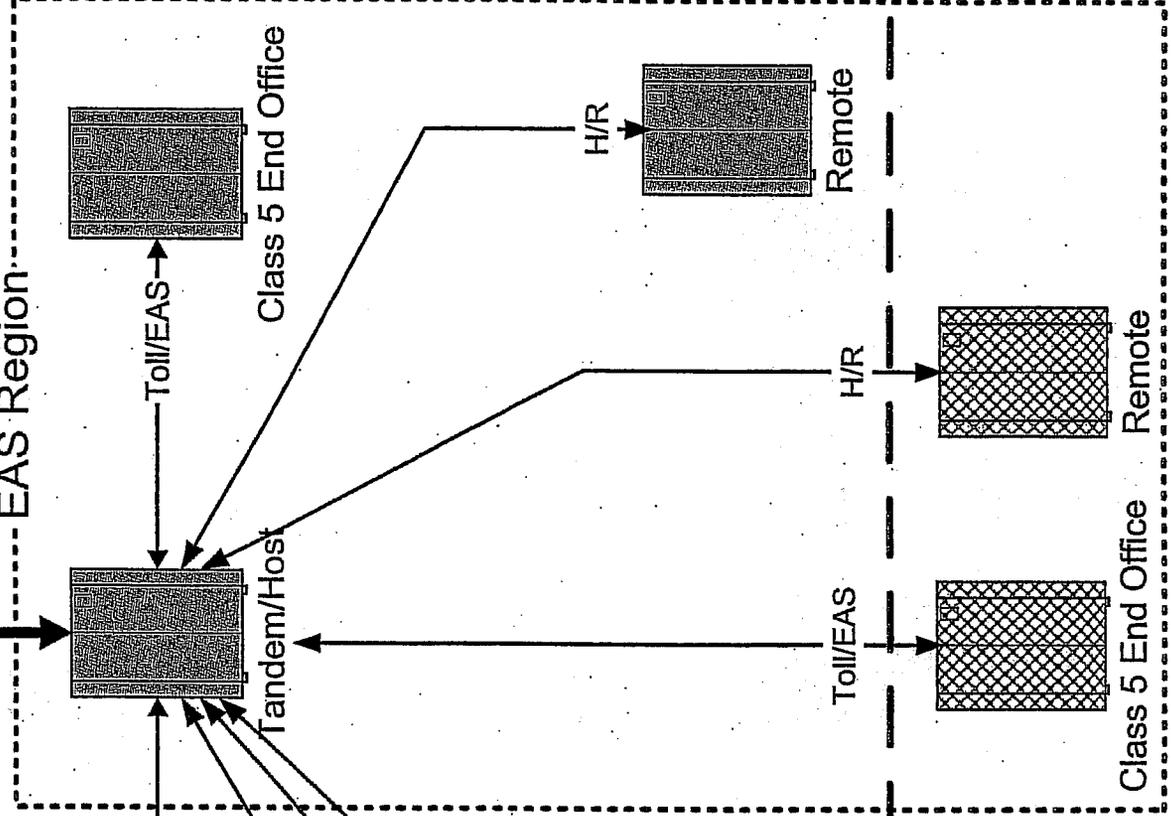
Wireless - NPA-NXX
number block from
LEC Host

Type 1

EAS Region

-  L-M Uses Type 1 Connection
-  L-M Does Not Use Type 1 Connection
-  Requires EAS Agmt with Company B

Note:
L-M = Land to Mobile



Class 5 End Office Remote

Class 5 End Office Remote

Remote

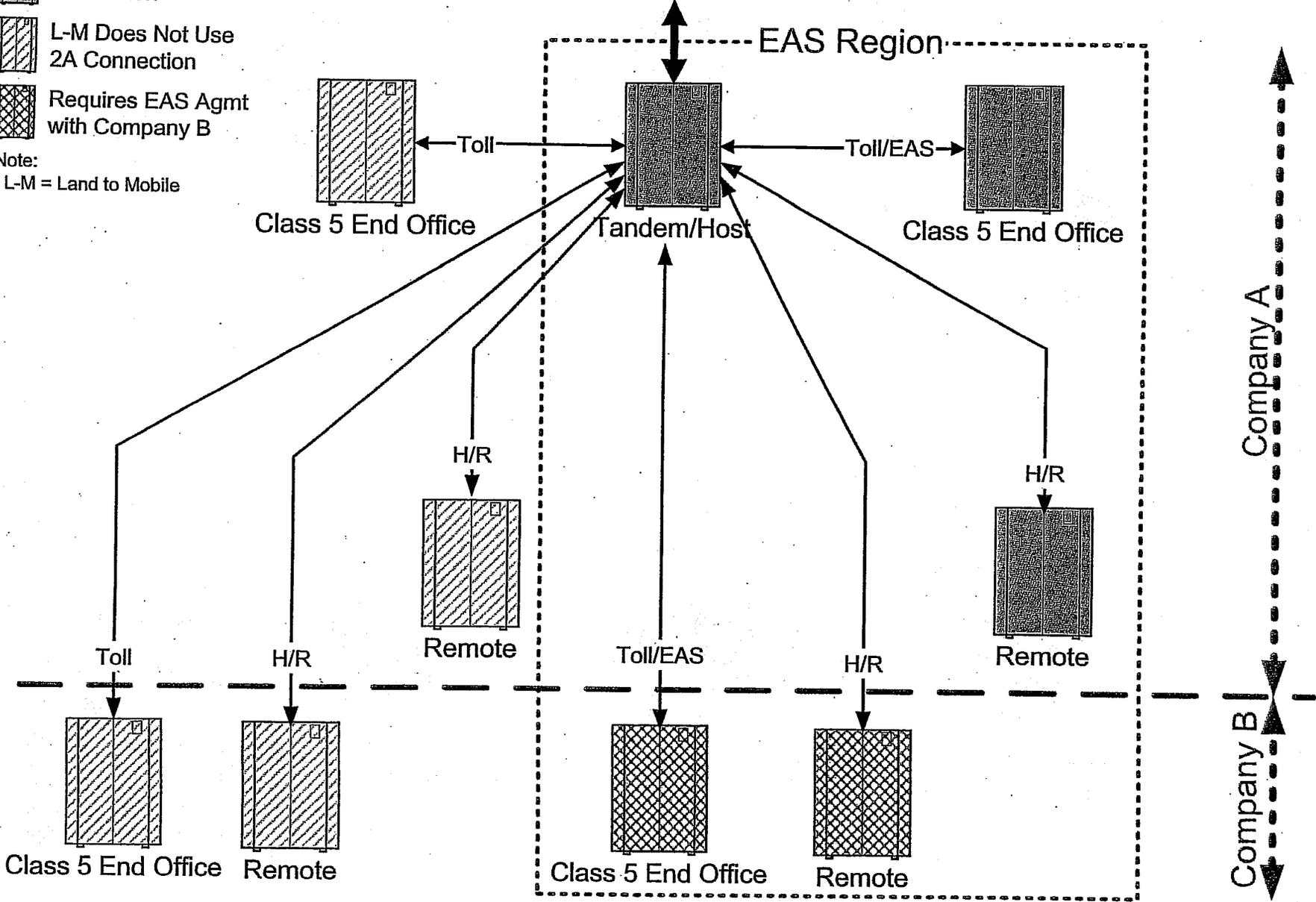
Company A

Company B

-  L-M Uses 2A Connection
-  L-M Does Not Use 2A Connection
-  Requires EAS Agmt with Company B

Note:
L-M = Land to Mobile

Type 2A
Wireless - NPA-NXX
has same rate center
as LEC host

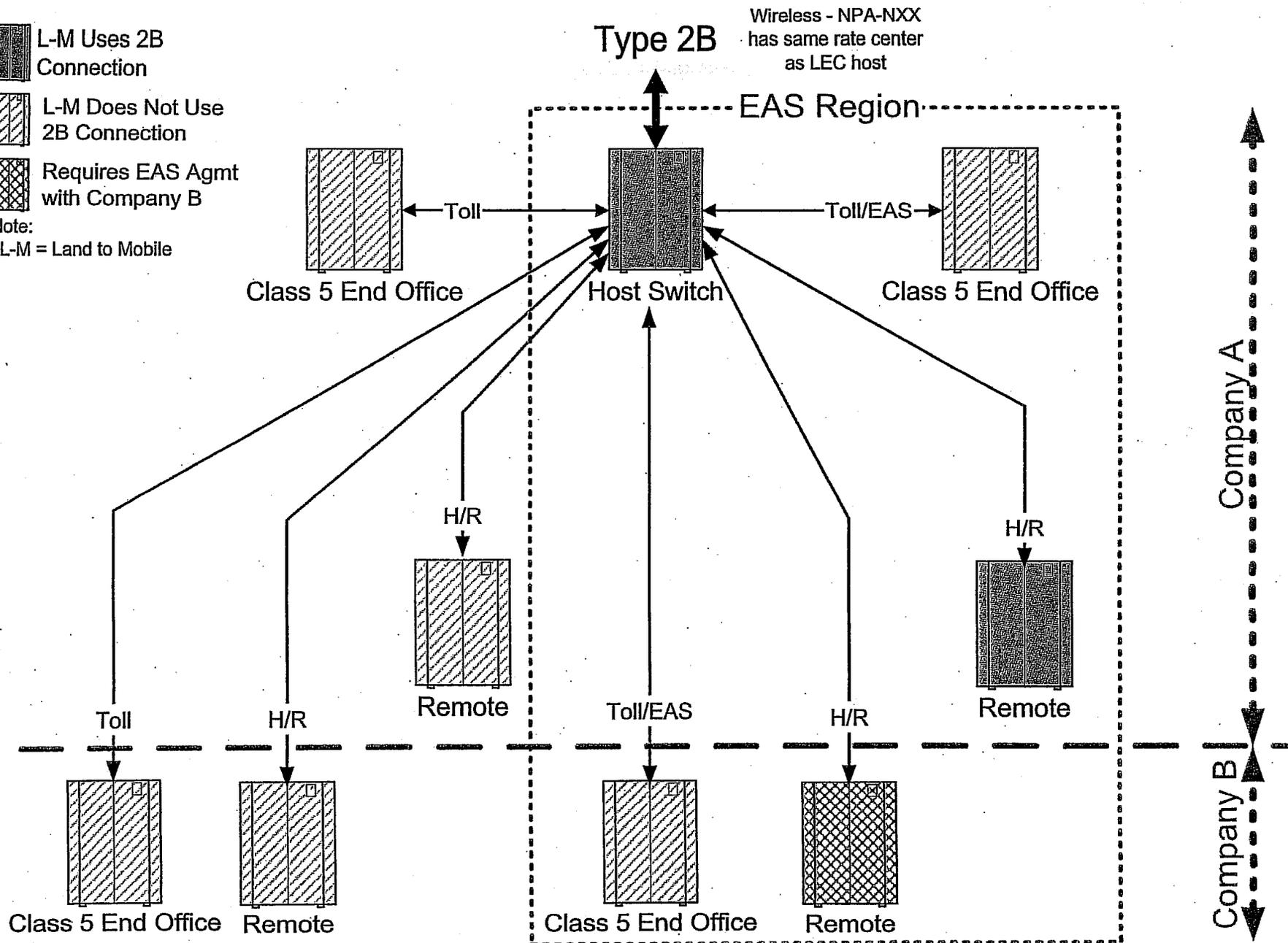


 L-M Uses 2B Connection

 L-M Does Not Use 2B Connection

 Requires EAS Agmt with Company B

Note:
L-M = Land to Mobile



South Dakota Public Utilities Commission

WEEKLY FILINGS

For the Period of February 12, 2004 through February 18, 2004

If you need a complete copy of a filing faxed, overnight expressed, or mailed to you, please contact Delaine Kolbo within five business days of this report. Phone: 605-773-3201

ELECTRIC

EL04-005 In the Matter of the Filing by Otter Tail Power Company for Approval of Tariff Revisions.

Application by Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail) for approval to revise its tariffed Summary List of Contracts with Deviations. The existing contract with the City of Milbank will expire on March 14, 2004. Otter Tail states the new agreement does not contain any deviations from Otter Tail's currently filed tariff and therefore requests that reference to a contract with the City of Milbank be removed from the Summary List of Contracts with Deviations.

Staff Analyst: Dave Jacobson
Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer
Date Filed: 02/13/04
Intervention Deadline: 03/05/04

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TC04-025 In the Matter of the Petition of Kennebec Telephone Company for Suspension or Modification of 47 U.S.C. Section 251(b)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934 as Amended.

On February 12, 2004, Kennebec Telephone Company (Kennebec) filed a petition seeking suspension or modification of its requirement to implement local number portability (LNP) pursuant to Section 251(b)(2) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. According to Kennebec, it has received requests to deploy LNP from Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless and from Western Wireless Corporation d/b/a CellularOne. Kennebec states that it is a small telephone company that serves less than two percent of the nation's subscriber lines installed in the aggregate nationwide, therefore under Section 251(f)(2) Kennebec may petition the Commission for suspension or modification of its obligation to implement LNP within six months of a request to deploy LNP. Kennebec "requests the Commission to (1) issue an interim order that suspends any obligation that may exist for Kennebec to provide LNP until six months after entry of a final order herein; (2) issue a final order that grants a permanent suspension for Kennebec's obligation to implement LNP until conditions are met as described herein; and (3) grant Kennebec such other and further relief that may be proper."

Staff Analyst: Harlan Best
Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer
Date Filed: 02/12/04
Intervention Deadline: 03/05/04

TC04-026 In the Matter of the Filing for Approval of an Amendment to an Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation and 1-800-RECONEX, Inc.

On February 17, 2004, the Commission received a Filing for Approval of an Amendment to an Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation and 1-800-RECONEX, Inc. According to the parties, the Amendment is made in order to add UNE-P PAL language to the Agreement as outlined in the Amendment. The original Agreement was approved by the Commission in Docket

TC01-069 on July 27, 2001. Any party wishing to comment on the Agreement may do so by filing written comments with the Commission and the parties to the agreement no later than March 8, 2004. Parties to the agreement may file written responses to the comments no later than twenty days after the service of the initial comments.

Staff Attorney: Kelly Frazier
Date Filed: 02/17/04
Initial Comments Due: 03/08/04

TC04-027 In the Matter of the Filing for Approval of a Reciprocal Interconnection, Transport and Termination Agreement between WWC License, LLC and Stockholm-Strandburg Telephone Company.

On February 17, 2004, the Commission received a Filing for Approval of a Reciprocal Interconnection, Transport and Termination Agreement between WWC License, LLC and Stockholm-Strandburg Telephone Company. According to the parties, the Agreement is a negotiated agreement between the parties for the purpose of putting in place an arrangement for the mutual exchange and reciprocal compensation of telecommunications traffic in accordance with Section 251(b)(5) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Any party wishing to comment on the Agreement may do so by filing written comments with the Commission and the parties to the agreement no later than March 8, 2004. Parties to the agreement may file written responses to the comments no later than twenty days after the service of the initial comments.

Staff Attorney: Kelly Frazier
Date Filed: 02/17/04
Initial Comments Due: 03/08/04

TC04-028 In the Matter of the Filing for Approval of a Reciprocal Interconnection, Transport and Termination Agreement between WWC License, LLC and Western Telephone Company.

On February 17, 2004, the Commission received a Filing for Approval of a Reciprocal Interconnection, Transport and Termination Agreement between WWC License, LLC and Western Telephone Company. According to the parties, the Agreement is a negotiated agreement between the parties for the purpose of putting in place an arrangement for the mutual exchange and reciprocal compensation of telecommunications traffic in accordance with Section 251(b)(5) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Any party wishing to comment on the Agreement may do so by filing written comments with the Commission and the parties to the agreement no later than March 8, 2004. Parties to the agreement may file written responses to the comments no later than twenty days after the service of the initial comments.

Staff Attorney: Kelly Frazier
Date Filed: 02/17/04
Initial Comments Due: 03/08/04

TC04-029 In the Matter of the Application of Southwestern Bell Communications Services Inc. d/b/a SBC Long Distance for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Local Exchange Services in South Dakota.

On February 18, 2004, Southwestern Bell Communications Services Inc. d/b/a SBC Long Distance filed an application for a Certificate of Authority to provide Telecommunications Services in South Dakota. Southwestern Bell Communications Services intends to provide resold and facilities-based local exchange and exchange access services throughout the area in the State of South Dakota currently served by Qwest Corporation. The applicant's services, include, but are not limited to basic local exchange service, custom calling features, CLASS services and data services. The applicant also proposes to provide exchange access services to interconnecting carriers.

Staff Analyst: Michele Farris
Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer
Date Filed: 02/18/04
Intervention Deadline: 03/05/04

TC04-030 In the Matter of Qwest Corporation's Modification to Exhibit B to the Statement of Generally Available Terms and Conditions.

On February 18, 2004, Qwest Corporation filed an Updated Exhibit B, the Performance Indicator Definitions (PIDs) to the Statement of Generally Available Terms and Conditions (SGAT). Qwest modified Exhibit B for administrative changes, corrected PO-16, Timely Release Notifications, and updated certain subparts to GA-1, Gateway Availability -- IMA-GUI. Qwest requests that the Commission permit the amended Exhibit B to go into effect no longer than 60 days after submission in accordance with 47 U.S.C. Section 252(f)(3). Qwest further requests that the Commission deem this revised Exhibit B to modify the SGAT and existing interconnection agreements that currently contain the PIDs as an exhibit.

Staff Analyst: Harlan Best
Staff Attorney: Karen E. Cremer
Date Filed: 02/18/04
Intervention Deadline: 03/05/04

TC04-031 In the Matter of the Filing for Approval of a Reciprocal Interconnection, Transport and Termination Agreement between WWC License, LLC and West River Telecommunications Cooperative.

On February 18, 2004, the Commission received a Filing for Approval of a Reciprocal Interconnection, Transport and Termination Agreement between WWC License, LLC (Western Wireless) and West River Telecommunications Cooperative. According to the parties, the Agreement is a negotiated agreement between the parties for the purpose of putting in place an arrangement for the mutual exchange and reciprocal compensation of telecommunications traffic in accordance with Section 251(b)(5) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Any party wishing to comment on the Agreement may do so by filing written comments with the Commission and the parties to the agreement no later than March 9, 2004. Parties to the agreement may file written responses to the comments no later than twenty days after the service of the initial comments.

Staff Attorney: Kelly Frazier
Date Filed: 02/18/04
Initial Comments Due: 03/09/04

TC04-032 In the Matter of the Filing for Approval of a Reciprocal Interconnection, Transport and Termination Agreement between WWC License, LLC and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority.

On February 18, 2004, the Commission received a Filing for Approval of a Reciprocal Interconnection, Transport and Termination Agreement between WWC License, LLC and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority. According to the parties, the Agreement is a negotiated agreement between the parties for the purpose of putting in place an arrangement for the mutual exchange and reciprocal compensation of telecommunications traffic in accordance with Section 251(b)(5) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Any party wishing to comment on the Agreement may do so by filing written comments with the Commission and the parties to the agreement no later than March 9, 2004. Parties to the agreement may file written responses to the comments no later than twenty days after the service of the initial comments.

Staff Attorney: Kelly Frazier
Date Filed: 02/18/04
Initial Comments Due: 03/09/04

TC04-033 In the Matter of the Filing for Approval of a Reciprocal Interconnection, Transport and Termination Agreement between WWC License, LLC and Venture Communications Cooperative.

On February 18, 2004, the Commission received a Filing for Approval of a Reciprocal Interconnection, Transport and Termination Agreement between WWC License, LLC and Venture Communications Cooperative. According to the parties, the Agreement is a negotiated agreement between the parties for the purpose of putting in place an arrangement for the mutual exchange and reciprocal compensation of telecommunications traffic in accordance with Section 251(b)(5) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Any party wishing to comment on the Agreement may do so by filing written comments with the Commission and the parties to the agreement no later than March 9, 2004. Parties to the agreement may file written responses to the comments no later than twenty days after the service of the initial comments.

Staff Attorney: Kelly Frazier
Date Filed: 02/18/04
Initial Comments Due: 03/09/04

TC04-034 In the Matter of the Request for a Confidentiality Determination in Accordance with ARSD 20:10:01:42.

On February 18, 2004, the Commission received a request from staff for a confidentiality determination in accordance with ARSD 20:10:01:42. According to the request, staff is attempting to make claims on the bond proceeds of S&S Communications (S&S). In order to make these claims, staff must provide information to the bonding companies which has been filed as confidential. S&S refuses to permit the release of information filed as confidential to any bonding company that does not sign a confidentiality agreement. The companies have provided staff with Indemnity Agreements signed by S&S which they claim gives them a right to see the information. Neither company has signed the confidentiality agreement. Staff has requested that the Commission make a determination that the information should not be treated as confidential on the basis that the information was not filed in compliance with the provisions of ARSD 20:10:01:41, S&S cannot meet the burden established in ARSD 20:10:01:43 and that the Indemnity Agreements that S&S signed with the bonding companies constitute a waiver of confidentiality as to those companies.

Staff Attorney: Kelly Frazier
Date Filed: 02/18/04

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**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING FOR)	ORDER APPROVING
APPROVAL OF A RECIPROCAL)	AGREEMENT
INTERCONNECTION, TRANSPORT AND)	
TERMINATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN WWC)	TC04-033
LICENSE LLC AND VENTURE)	
COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE)	

On February 18, 2004, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing for approval of a reciprocal interconnection, transport and termination agreement between WWC License LLC (WWC) and Venture Communications Cooperative (Venture).

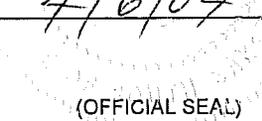
On February 19, 2004, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of this filing to interested individuals and entities. The notice stated that any person wishing to comment on the parties' request for approval had until March 9, 2004, to do so. No comments were filed.

At its duly noticed March 23, 2004, meeting, the Commission considered whether to approve the agreement between Venture and WWC. Commission Staff recommended approval.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-31, and the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996. In accordance with 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(2), the Commission found that the agreement does not discriminate against a telecommunications carrier that is not a party to the agreement and the agreement is consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity. The Commission unanimously voted to approve the agreement. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Commission approves the agreement.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 5th day of April, 2004.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.
By: <u>Melaine Kalbo</u>
Date: <u>4/6/04</u>
 (OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Robert K. Sahr
ROBERT K. SAHR, Chairman

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner