



September 13, 2010

Bridgett L. Moran  
Financial Planning & Analysis  
Verizon Business

Dear Ms. Moran:

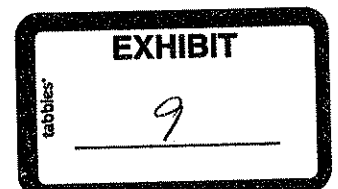
I am responding to your August 27, 2010 email regarding Midcontinent's charges for access service in August. As indicated below, that email did not properly initiate a dispute under the terms of the applicable Midcontinent tariffs and, in any event, there is no basis for a dispute.

First, each of the tariffs requires that any notice of a dispute provide adequate documentation of the basis for the dispute. Your email did not do so. In particular, you provided no basis for Midcontinent to assess your assertion that any of the traffic billed by Midcontinent is either IP-originated or IP-terminated, let alone any information that identified which traffic Verizon believes falls into those categories. Simple assertions are not sufficient to meet the dispute requirements in Midcontinent's tariffs.

Second, given that Verizon itself treated this traffic as access traffic, there is no basis to claim that Verizon should be excused from paying access charges. Verizon, as the customer under the access tariff, is obligated to route all traffic properly, and not to provide inaccurate information about the nature of the traffic it routes via Midcontinent. There is no provision of the relevant tariffs that places any obligation on Midcontinent to inquire as to whether Verizon traffic is or is not access traffic.

Moreover, to the extent that Verizon concluded that the traffic that is subject to your claim was not access traffic, and that there was no other tariff or agreement that addressed the treatment of that traffic, relevant law required Verizon to negotiate terms for that traffic before routing it to Midcontinent. There is no basis under either federal or state law for delivering traffic, routing it through a carrier and, after that traffic is delivered, later claiming that it was not subject to any existing tariff or agreement.

Consequently, Verizon Business has not properly disputed the charges described in the spreadsheet included with your August 27 email message. For that reason, Midcontinent expects Verizon to pay those charges, and any applicable late fees promptly. In this context, I should note that self-help measures, including withholding payment and unilaterally re-rating traffic, are not permitted by the FCC and state



regulators unless a tariff or agreement specifically allows them, and in any case are not allowed when there is no valid dispute.

Please inform me if you have any questions concerning this message.

Sincerely,

Nancy Vogel  
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Midcontinent Communications  
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