# **EXHIBIT 4**

#### SOUTH DAKOTA

### LOCAL EXCHANGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES TARIFF

OF

### BCN TELECOM, INC.

This tariff contains the descriptions, regulations, and rates applicable to the provision of local exchange telecommunications services provided by BCN TELECOM, INC. with principal offices at 550 Hills Drive, Suite 110, 1st Floor, Bedminster, NJ 07921 for services furnished within the State of South Dakota. This tariff is on file with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission.

In accordance with SDCL 20:10:06:02, this tariff is available for public inspection during normal business hours at the main office or copies may be inspected, during normal business hours, at the Company's principal place of business located at 550 Hills Drive, Suite 110, 1st Floor, Bedminster, NJ 07921.

Issued: Effective:

Issued by: Richard M. Boudria, President

BCN TELECOM, INC.

550 Hills Drive, Suite 110, 1st Floor

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## **CHECK SHEET**

Pages of this tariff are effective as of the date shown at the bottom of the respective page(s). Original and revised pages as named below comprise all changes from the original tariff and are currently in effect as of the date on the bottom of this page.

SECTION	PAGE	REVISION	SECTION	PAGE	REVISION
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<sup>\* -</sup> Indicates Pages included in this filing.

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## CHECK SHEET, (CONT'D.)

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## EXPLANATION OF SYMBOLS, REFERENCE MARKS, AND ABBREVIATIONS OF TECHNICAL TERMS USED IN THIS TARIFF

The following symbols shall be used in this tariff for the purpose indicated below:

(C) - To signify changed regulation.

**(D)** - To signify discontinued rate or regulation.

(I) - To signify increased rate.

(M) - To signify a move in the location of text.

(N) - To signify new rate or regulation.

**(R)** - To signify reduced rate.

(T) - To signify a change in text but no change in rate or regulation.

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### APPLICATION OF TARIFF

This tariff sets forth the service offerings, rates, terms and conditions applicable to the furnishing of intrastate end-user local exchange communications services by BCN TELECOM, INC. hereinafter referred to as the Company, to Customers within the state of South Dakota. Services are furnished subject to the availability of facilities and subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein.

This tariff is on file with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission. In addition, this tariff is available for review at the main office of BCN TELECOM, INC. at 550 Hills Drive, Suite 110, 1st Floor, Bedminster, NJ 07921.

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#### **TARIFF FORMAT**

- **A.** Page Numbering Page numbers appear in the upper right corner of the page. Pages are numbered sequentially. However, new pages are occasionally added to the tariff. When a new page is added between pages already in effect, a decimal is added. For example, a new page added between pages 14 and 15 would be 14.1.
- **B.** Page Revision Numbers Revision numbers also appear in the upper right corner of each page. These numbers are used to determine the most current page version on file with the Commission. For example, the 4th Revised Page 14 cancels the 3rd Revised Page 14. Because of various suspension periods, deferrals, etc., the most current page number on file with the Commission is not always the tariff page in effect. Consult the Check Sheet for the page currently in effect.
- **C. Paragraph Numbering Sequence** There are seven levels of paragraph coding. Each level of coding is subservient to its next higher level:

2 2.1 2.1.1 2.1.1(A) 2.1.1(A)(1) 2.1.1(A)(1)(a) 2.1.1(A)(1)(a)(1)

**D.** Check Sheets - When a tariff filing is made with the Commission, an updated Check Sheet accompanies the tariff filing. The Check Sheet lists the pages contained in the tariff, with a cross reference to the current revision number. When new pages are added, the Check Sheet is changed to reflect the revision. All revisions made in a given filing are designated by an asterisk (\*). There will be no other symbols used on this page if these are the only changes made to it (i.e., the format, etc. remain the same, just revised revision levels on some pages.) The tariff user should refer to the latest Check Sheet to find out if a particular page is the most current on file with the Commission.

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#### **SECTION 1 - DEFINITIONS**

**Access Line** - An arrangement that connects the Customer's location to a Company switching center or point of presence.

**Account Codes** - Optional, Customer-defined digits that allow the Customer to identify the individual user, department or client associated with a call. Account Codes appear on the Customer bill.

**Advance Payment** - Part or all of a payment required before the start of service.

**Authorized User** - A person, firm, corporation, or any other entity authorized by the Customer to communicate utilizing the Company's service.

**Business** - A class of service provided to individuals engaged in business, firms, partnerships, corporations, agencies, shops, works, tenants of office buildings, and individuals practicing a profession or operating a business who have no offices other than their residences and where the use of the service is primarily or substantially of a business, professional or occupational nature.

**Commission** – South Dakota Public Utilities Commission

Company or Carrier – BCN TELECOM, INC., unless otherwise clearly indicated by the context.

**Customer** - The person, firm, corporation or other entity which orders, cancels, amends or uses service and is responsible for payment of charges and compliance with the Company's tariff.

**Deposit** - Refers to a cash or equivalent of cash security held as a guarantee for payment of the charges.

**DID Trunk** - A form of local switched access that provides the ability for an outside party to call an internal extension directly without the intervention of the Company operator.

**Dial Pulse (or "DP")** - The pulse type employed by rotary dial station sets.

**Direct Inward Dial (or "DID")** - A service attribute that routes incoming calls directly to stations, bypassing a central answering point.

**Direct Outward Dial (or "DOD")** - A service attribute that allows individual station users to access and dial outside numbers directly.

**Dual Tone Multi-Frequency (or "DTMF")** - The pulse type employed by tone dial station sets.

**End User** - Any person, firm, corporation, partnership or other entity that uses the services of the Company under the provisions and regulations of this tariff. The End User is responsible for payment unless the charges for the services utilized are accepted and paid by another Customer.

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### **SECTION 1 - DEFINITIONS**

**End Office** - With respect to each NPA-NXX code prefix assigned to the Company, the location of the Company's "end office" for purposes of this tariff shall be the point of interconnection associated with that NPA-NXX code in the Local Exchange Routing Guide ("LERG"), issued by Telcordia.

**Hearing Impaired -** Those persons with communication impairments, including those hearing impaired, deaf, deaf/blind, and speech impaired persons who have an impairment that prevents them from communicating over the telephone without the aid of a telecommunications device for the deaf.

**Hunting -** Routes a call to an idle station line in a prearranged group when the called station line is busy.

**In-Only** - A service attribute that restricts outward dial access and routes incoming calls to a designated answer point.

**IXC** or Interexchange Carrier - A long distance telecommunications services provider.

**LATA** - A Local Access and Transport Area established pursuant to the Modification of Final Judgment entered by the United States District Court for the District of Columbia in Civil Action No. 82-0192; or any other geographic area designated as a LATA in the National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc. Tariff F.C.C. No. 4.

**LEC** - Local Exchange Company.

Minimum Point of Presence ("MPOP") - The main telephone closet in the Customer's building.

**Monthly Recurring Charges** - The monthly charges to the Customer for services, facilities and equipment, which continue for the agreed upon duration of the service.

**Multi-Frequency or** ("MF") - An inter-machine pulse-type used for signaling between telephone switches, or between telephone switches and PBX/key systems.

**Non-Recurring Charge** ("NRC") - The initial charge, usually assessed on a one-time basis, to initiate and establish service.

Other Telephone Company - An Exchange Telephone Company, other than the Company.

**PBX** - Private Branch Exchange

**Premises** - A building or buildings on contiguous property.

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### **SECTION 1 - DEFINITIONS**

**Recurring Charges** - The monthly charges to the Customer for services, facilities and equipment which continue for the agreed upon duration of the service.

**Residence or Residential** - A class of service furnished to a Customer at a place of dwelling where the actual or obvious use is for domestic purposes.

**Service Commencement Date** - The first day following the date on which the Company notifies the Customer that the requested service is available for use, unless extended by the Customer's refusal to accept service which does not conform to standards set forth in the Service Order or this tariff, in which case the Service Commencement Date is the date of the Customer's acceptance. The Company and Customer may mutually agree on a substitute Service Commencement Date.

**Service Order** - The written request for services executed by the Customer and the Company in the format devised by the Company. The signing of a Order by the Customer and acceptance by the Company initiates the respective obligations of the parties as set forth therein and pursuant to this tariff, but the duration of the service is calculated from the Service Commencement Date.

**Two Way** - A service attribute that includes outward dial capabilities for outbound calls and can also be used to carry inbound calls to a central point for further processing.

Usage Based Charges - Charges for minutes or messages traversing over local exchange facilities.

**User or End User** - A Customer, Joint User, or any other person authorized by a Customer to use service provided under this tariff.

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### 2.1 Undertaking of the Company

### **2.1.1** Scope

The Company undertakes to furnish communications service pursuant to the terms of this tariff in connection with one-way and/or two-way information transmission between points within the state of South Dakota.

The Company is responsible under this tariff only for the services and facilities provided hereunder, and it assumes no responsibility for any service provided by any other entity that purchases access to the Company network in order to originate or terminate its own services, or to communicate with its own customers.

### 2.1.2 Shortage of Equipment or Facilities

- (A) The Company reserves the right to limit or to allocate the use of existing facilities, or of additional facilities offered by the Company, when necessary because of lack of facilities, or due to some other cause beyond the Company's control.
- (B) The furnishing of service under this tariff is subject to the availability on a continuing basis of all the necessary facilities and is limited to the capacity of the Company's facilities as well as facilities the Company may obtain from other carriers to furnish service from time to time as required at the sole discretion of the Company.

#### 2.1.3 Terms and Conditions

- (A) Service is provided on the basis of a minimum period of at least thirty (30) days, 24-hours per day. For the purpose of computing charges in this tariff, a month is considered to have 30 days.
- (B) Except as otherwise stated in this tariff, Customers may be required to enter into written service orders which shall contain or reference a specific description of the service ordered, the rates to be charged, the duration of the services, and the terms and conditions in this tariff. Customers will also be required to execute any other documents as may be reasonably requested by the Company.

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### 2.1 Undertaking of the Company, (Cont'd.)

### 2.1.3 Terms and Conditions, (cont'd.)

- (C) At the expiration of the initial term specified in each Service Order, or in any extension thereof, service shall continue on a month-to-month basis at the then current rates unless terminated by either party upon notice. Any termination shall not relieve the Customer of its obligation to pay any charges incurred under the service order and this tariff prior to termination. The rights and obligations, which by their nature extend beyond the termination of the term of the service order shall survive such termination.
- (D) In any action between the parties to enforce any provision of this tariff, the prevailing party shall be entitled to recover its legal fees and court costs from the non-prevailing party in addition to other relief a court may award.
- **(E)** Service may be terminated upon written notice to the Customer if:
  - (1) the Customer is using the service in violation of this tariff; or
  - (2) the Customer is using the service in violation of the law.
- (F) This tariff shall be interpreted and governed by the laws of the state of South Dakota regardless of its choice of laws provision.
- (G) Any other Telephone Company may not interfere with the right of any person or entity to obtain service directly from the Company. No person or entity shall be required to make any payment, incur any penalty, monetary or otherwise, or purchase any services in order to have the right to obtain service directly from the Company.
- (H) To the extent that either the Company or any other telephone company exercises control over available cable pairs, conduit, duct space, raceways, or other facilities needed by the other to reach a person or entity, the party exercising such control shall make them available to the other on terms equivalent to those under which the Company makes similar facilities under its control available to its customers. At the reasonable request of either party, the Company and the other telephone company shall join the attempt to obtain from the owner of the property access for the other party to serve a person or entity.

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### 2.1 Undertaking of the Company, (Cont'd.)

### 2.1.4 Limitations on Liability

- (A) The Company's liability for damages arising out of mistakes, interruptions, omissions, delays, errors, or defects in transmission which occur in the course of furnishing service or facilities, shall be determined in accordance with SDCL 49-13-1 and 49-13-1.1 and any other applicable law.
- (B) The liability of the Company for errors in billing that result in overpayment by the Customer may be limited to a credit equal to the dollar amount erroneously billed or, in the event that payment has been made and service has been discontinued, to a refund of the amount erroneously billed in accordance with SDCL 49-13-1 and 49-13-1.1 and any other applicable law.
- (C) The Company shall be indemnified and saved harmless by the Customer from and against all loss, liability, damage and expense, including reasonable counsel fees, due to:
  - (1) Any act or omission of: (a) the Customer, or (b) common carriers or warehousemen, except as contracted by the Company;
  - (2) Any delay or failure of performance or equipment due to causes beyond the Company's control, including but not limited to, acts of God, fires, floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, or other catastrophes; national emergencies, insurrections, riots, wars or other civil commotions; strikes, lockouts, work stoppages or other labor difficulties; criminal actions taken against the Company; unavailability, failure or malfunction of equipment or facilities provided by the Customer or third parties; and any law, order, regulation or other action of any governing authority or agency thereof;
  - (3) Any unlawful or unauthorized use of the Company's facilities and services:
  - (4) Libel, slander, invasion of privacy or infringement of patents, trade secrets, or copyrights arising from or in connection with the material transmitted by means of Company-provided facilities or services; or by means of the combination of Company-provided facilities or services;

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### 2.1 Undertaking of the Company, (Cont'd.)

### 2.1.4 Limitations on Liability, (cont'd.)

(C), (cont'd.)

- (5) Breach in the privacy or security of communications transmitted over the Company's facilities;
- (6) Changes in any of the facilities, operations or procedures of the Company that render any equipment, facilities or services provided by the Customer obsolete, or require modification or alteration of such equipment, facilities or services, or otherwise affect their use or performance, except where reasonable notice is required by the Company and is not provided to the Customer, in which event the Company's liability is limited as set forth in paragraph A. of this Subsection 2.1.4.
- (7) Defacement of or damage to Customer premises resulting from the furnishing of services or equipment on such premises or the installation or removal thereof which is not the result of negligence;
- (8) Injury to property or injury or death to persons, including claims for payments made under Workers' Compensation law or under any plan for employee disability or death benefits, arising out of, or caused by, any act or omission of the Customer, or the construction, installation, maintenance, presence, use or removal of the Customer's facilities or equipment connected, or to be connected to the Company's facilities;
- (9) Any calls not actually attempted to be completed during any period that service is unavailable;
- (10) And any other claim resulting from any act or omission of the Customer or patron(s) of the Customer relating to the use of the Company's services or facilities.
- (**D**) The Company does not guarantee nor make any warranty with respect to installations provided by it for use in an explosive atmosphere.

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### 2.1 Undertaking of the Company, (Cont'd.)

### 2.1.4 Limitations on Liability, (cont'd.)

- (E) Failure by the Company to assert its rights pursuant to one provision of this tariff does not preclude the Company from asserting its rights under other provisions.
- (F) Directory Errors In the absence of negligence or willful misconduct, no liability for damages arising from errors or mistakes in or omissions of directory listings, or errors or mistakes in or omissions of listing obtainable from the directory assistance operator, including errors in the reporting thereof, shall attach to the Company. An allowance for errors or mistakes in or omissions of published directory listings or for errors or mistakes in or omissions of listing obtainable from the directory assistance operator shall be at the monthly tariff rate for each listing, or in the case of a free or no-charge directory listing, credit shall equal two times the monthly tariff rate for an additional listing, for the life of the directory or the charge period during which the error, mistake or omission occurs.

### (G) With respect to Emergency Number 911 Service:

- (1) This service is offered solely as an aid in handling assistance calls in connection with fire, police and other emergencies.
- (2) Neither is the Company responsible for any infringement, nor invasion of the right of privacy of any person or persons, caused or claimed to have been caused directly or indirectly, by the installation, operation, failure to operate, maintenance, removal, presence, condition, occasion or use of emergency 911 service features and the equipment associated therewith, or by any services furnished by the Company, including, but not limited to the identification of the telephone number, address or name associated with the telephone used by the party or parties accessing emergency 911 service, and which arise out of the negligence or other wrongful act of the Company, the Customer, its users, agencies or municipalities, or the employees or agents of any one of them.

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### 2.1 Undertaking of the Company, (Cont'd.)

### 2.1.4 Limitations on Liability, (cont'd.)

(G), (cont'd.)

(3) When a Customer with a non-published telephone number, as defined herein, places a call to the emergency 911 service, the Company will release the name and address of the calling party, where such information can be determined, to the appropriate local governmental authority responsible for emergency 911 service upon request of such governmental authority. By subscribing to service under this tariff, the Customer acknowledges and agrees with the release of information as described above.

### 2.1.5 Notification of Service-Affecting Activities

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

### 2.1.6 Provision of Equipment and Facilities

- (A) The Company shall use reasonable efforts to make available services to a Customer on or before a particular date, subject to the provisions of and compliance by the Customer with, the regulations contained in this tariff. The Company does not guarantee availability by any such date and shall not be liable for any delays in commencing service to any Customer.
- (B) The Company shall use reasonable efforts to maintain only the facilities and equipment that it furnishes to the Customer. The Customer may not, nor may the Customer permit others to, rearrange, disconnect, remove, attempt to repair, or otherwise interfere with any of the facilities or equipment installed by the Company, except upon the written consent of the Company.

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### 2.1 Undertaking of the Company, (Cont'd.)

### 2.1.6 Provision of Equipment and Facilities, (cont'd.)

- (C) The Company may substitute, change or rearrange any equipment or facility at any time and from time to time, but shall not thereby alter the technical parameters of the service provided the Customer.
- (D) Equipment the Company provides or installs at the Customer Premises for use in connection with the services the Company offers shall not be used for any purpose other than that for which it was provided.
- (E) The Customer shall be responsible for the payment of service charges as set forth herein for visits by the Company's agents or employees to the Premises of the Customer when the service difficulty or trouble report results from the use of equipment or facilities provided by any party other than the Company, including but not limited to the Customer.
- (F) The Company shall not be responsible for the installation, operation, or maintenance of any Customer-provided communications equipment. Where such equipment is connected to the facilities furnished pursuant to this tariff, the responsibility of the Company shall be limited to the furnishing of facilities offered under this tariff and to the maintenance and operation of such facilities. Subject to this responsibility, the Company shall not be responsible for:
  - (1) the transmission of signals by Customer-provided equipment or for the quality of, or defects in, such transmission; or
  - (2) the reception of signals by Customer-provided equipment.

#### 2.1.7 Non-routine Installation

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

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### 2.1 Undertaking of the Company, (Cont'd.)

### 2.1.8 Special Construction

Subject to the agreement of the Company and to all of the regulations contained in this tariff, special construction of facilities may be undertaken on a reasonable efforts basis at the request of the Customer. Special construction is that construction undertaken:

- (A) where facilities are not presently available, and there is no other requirement for the facilities so constructed:
- **(B)** of a type other than that which the Company would normally utilize in the furnishing of its services;
- (C) over a route other than that which the Company would normally utilize in the furnishing of its services;
- (**D**) in a quantity greater than that which the Company would normally construct;
- **(E)** on an expedited basis;
- (**F**) on a temporary basis until permanent facilities are available;
- (G) involving abnormal costs; or
- **(H)** in advance of its normal construction.

### 2.1.9 Ownership of Facilities

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

### 2.2 Prohibited Uses

**2.2.1** The services the Company offers shall not be used for any unlawful purpose or for any use as to which the Customer has not obtained all required governmental approvals, authorizations, licenses, consents and permits.

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### 2.2 Prohibited Uses, (Cont'd.)

- **2.2.2** The Company may require applicants for service who intend to use the Company's offerings for resale and/or for shared use to file a letter with the Company confirming that their use of the Company's offerings complies with relevant laws and Commission regulations, policies, orders, and decisions.
- **2.2.3** The Company may block any signals being transmitted over its Network by Customers that cause interference to the Company or other users. Customer shall be relieved of all obligations to make payments for charges relating to any blocked Service and shall indemnify the Company for any claim, judgment or liability resulting from such blockage.
- **2.2.4** A customer, joint user, or authorized user may not assign, or transfer in any manner, the service or any rights associated with the service without the written consent of the Company. The Company will permit a Customer to transfer its existing service to another entity if the existing Customer has paid all charges owed to the Company for regulated communications services. Such a transfer will be treated as a disconnection of existing service and installation of new service, and non-recurring installation charges as stated in this tariff will apply.

### 2.3 Obligations of the Customer

#### 2.3.1 General

The Customer is responsible for making proper application for service; placing any necessary order, complying with tariff regulations; payment of charges for services provided. Specific Customer responsibilities include, but are not limited to the following:

- (A) the payment of all applicable charges pursuant to this tariff;
- (B) damage to or loss of the Company's facilities or equipment caused by the acts or omissions of the Customer; or the noncompliance by the Customer, with these regulations; or by fire or theft or other casualty on the Customer Premises, unless caused by the negligence or willful misconduct of the employees or agents of the Company;

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### 2.3 Obligations of the Customer, (Cont'd.)

### 2.3.1 General, (cont'd.)

- (C) providing at no charge, as specified from time to time by the Company, any needed personnel, equipment space and power to operate Company facilities and equipment installed on the premises of the Customer, and the level of heating and air conditioning necessary to maintain the proper operating environment on such premises;
- (D) obtaining, maintaining, and otherwise having full responsibility for all rights-of-way and conduits necessary for installation of fiber optic cable and associated equipment used to provide Communication Services to the Customer from the cable building entrance or property line to the location of the equipment space described in 2.3.1(C). Any and all costs associated with obtaining and maintaining the rights-of-way described herein, including the costs of altering the structure to permit installation of the Company-provided facilities, shall be borne entirely by, or may be charged by the Company to, the Customer. The Company may require the Customer to demonstrate its compliance with this section prior to accepting an order for service;
- (E) providing a safe place to work and complying with all laws and regulations regarding the working conditions on the premises at which Company employees and agents shall be installing or maintaining the Company's facilities and equipment. The Customer may be required to install and maintain Company facilities and equipment within a hazardous area if, in the Company's opinion, injury or damage to the Company's employees or property might result from installation or maintenance by the Company. The Customer shall be responsible for identifying, monitoring, removing and disposing of any hazardous material (e.g. asbestos) prior to any construction or installation work;
- (F) complying with all laws and regulations applicable to, and obtaining all consents, approvals, licenses and permits as may be required with respect to, the location of Company facilities and equipment in any Customer premises or the rights-of-way for which Customer is responsible under Section 2.3.1(D) and granting or obtaining permission for Company agents or employees to enter the premises of the Customer at any time for the purpose of installing, inspecting, maintaining, repairing, or upon termination of service as stated herein, removing the facilities or equipment of the Company;

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### 2.3 Obligations of the Customer, (Cont'd.)

### 2.3.1 General, (cont'd.)

- (G) not creating, or allowing to be placed, any liens or other encumbrances on the Company's equipment or facilities; and
- (H) making Company facilities and equipment available periodically for maintenance purposes at a time agreeable to both the Company and the Customer. No allowance will be made for the period during which service is interrupted for such purposes.

### 2.3.2 Liability of the Customer

- (A) The Customer will be liable for damages to the facilities of the Company and for all incidental and consequential damages caused by the negligent or intentional acts or omissions of the Customer, its officers, employees, agents, invites, or contractors where such acts or omissions are not the direct result of the Company's negligence or intentional misconduct.
- (B) To the extent caused by any negligent or intentional act of the Customer as described in (A), preceding, the Customer shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Company from and against all claims, actions, damages, liabilities, costs and expenses, including reasonable attorneys' fees, for (1) any loss, destruction or damage to property of any third party, and (2) any liability incurred by the Company to any third party pursuant to this or any other tariff of the Company, or otherwise, for any interruption of, interference to, or other defect in any service provided by the Company to such third party.

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### 2.3 Obligations of the Customer, (Cont'd.)

### 2.3.2 Liability of the Customer, (cont'd.)

(C) The Customer shall not assert any claim against any other Customer or user of the Company's services for damages resulting in whole or in part from or arising in connection with the furnishing of service under this tariff including but not limited to mistakes, omissions, interruptions, delays, errors or other defects or misrepresentations, whether or not such other Customer or user contributed in any way to the occurrence of the damages, unless such damages were caused solely by the negligent or intentional act or omission of the other Customer or user and not by any act or omission of the Company. The Company's liability shall be determined in accordance with SDCL 49-13-1 and 49-13-1.1 and any other applicable law. Nothing in this tariff is intended either to limit or to expand Customer's right to assert any claims against third parties for damages of any nature other than those described in the preceding sentence.

### 2.4 Customer Equipment and Channels

#### 2.4.1 General

A User may transmit or receive information or signals via the facilities of the Company. The Company's services are designed primarily for the transmission of voice-grade telephonic signals, except as otherwise stated in this tariff. A User may transmit any form of signal that is compatible with the Company's equipment, but the Company does not guarantee that its services will be suitable for purposes other than voice-grade telephonic communication except as specifically stated in this tariff.

### 2.4.2 Station Equipment

(A) Terminal equipment on the User's Premises and the electric power consumed by such equipment shall be provided by and maintained at the expense of the User. The User is responsible for the provision of wiring or cable to connect its terminal equipment to the Company Point of Connection.

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#### **SECTION 2 - REGULATIONS**

### 2.4 Customer Equipment and Channels, (Cont'd.)

### 2.4.2 Station Equipment, (cont'd.)

(B) The Customer is responsible for ensuring that Customer-provided equipment connected to Company equipment and facilities is compatible with such equipment and facilities. The magnitude and character of the voltages and currents impressed on Company-provided equipment and wiring by the connection, operation, or maintenance of such equipment and wiring shall be such as not to cause damage to the Company-provided equipment and wiring or injury to the Company's employees or to other persons. Any additional protective equipment required to prevent such damage or injury shall be provided by the Company at the Customer's expense, subject to prior Customer approval of the equipment expense.

### 2.4.3 Interconnection of Facilities

- (A) Any special interface equipment necessary to achieve compatibility between the facilities and equipment of the Company used for furnishing Communication Services and the channels, facilities, or equipment of others shall be provided at the Customer's expense.
- **(B)** Communication Services may be connected to the services or facilities of other communications carriers only when authorized by, and in accordance with, the terms and conditions of the tariffs of the other communications carriers that are applicable to such connections.
- (C) Facilities furnished under this tariff may be connected to Customer-provided terminal equipment in accordance with the provisions of this tariff. All such terminal equipment shall be registered by the Federal Communications Commission pursuant to Part 68 of Title 47, Code of Federal Regulations; and all User-provided wiring shall be installed and maintained in compliance with those regulations.
- (D) Users may interconnect communications facilities that are used in whole or in part for interstate communications to services provided under this tariff only to the extent that the user is an is "End User", as defined in Section 69.2(m), Title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (1992 edition).

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### 2.4 Customer Equipment and Channels, (Cont'd.)

### 2.4.4 Inspections

- (A) Upon suitable notification to the Customer, and at a reasonable time, the Company may make such tests and inspections as may be necessary to determine that the Customer is complying with the requirements set forth in Section 2.4.2(A) for the installation, operation, and maintenance of Customer-provided facilities, equipment, and wiring in the connection of Customer-provided facilities and equipment to Company-owned facilities and equipment.
- (B) If the protective requirements for Customer-provided equipment are not being complied with, the Company may take such action as it deems necessary to protect its facilities, equipment, and personnel. The Company will notify the Customer promptly if there is any need for further corrective action. Within ten days of receiving this notice, the Customer must take this corrective action and notify the Company of the action taken. If the Customer fails to do this, the Company may take whatever additional action is deemed necessary, including the suspension of service, to protect its facilities, equipment and personnel from harm.

## 2.5 Payment Arrangements

### 2.5.1 Payment for Service

The Customer is responsible for the payment of all charges for facilities and services furnished by the Company to the Customer and to all Authorized Users by the Customer, regardless of whether those services are used by the Customer itself or are resold to or shared with other persons.

The Customer is responsible for payment of any sales, use, gross receipts, excise, access or other local, state, federal and 911 taxes, charges or surcharges (however designated) (excluding taxes on Company's net income) imposed on or based upon the provision, sale or use of Network Services.

The security of the Customer's PIN is the responsibility of the Customer. All calls placed using a PIN shall be billed to and shall be the obligation of the Customer. The Customer shall not be responsible for charges in connection with the unauthorized use of PINs arising after the Customer notifies the Company of the loss, theft, or other breach of security of such PINs.

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### 2.5 Payment Arrangements, (Cont'd.)

### 2.5.1 Payment for Service, (Cont'd.)

Customers will only be charged once, on either an interstate or intrastate basis, for any nonrecurring or usage based charges.

### 2.5.2 Billing and Collection of Charges

The Customer is responsible for payment of all charges incurred by the Customer or other Authorized Users for services and facilities furnished to the Customer by the Company.

- (A) Nonrecurring charges are due and payable within thirty (30) days after the invoice date, unless otherwise agreed to.
- (B) All recurring charges, as well as Usage charges, if applicable, are billed monthly in arrears.
- (C) When service does not begin on the first day of the month, or end on the last day of the month, the charge for the fraction of the month in which service was furnished will be calculated on a pro rata basis. For this purpose, every month is considered to have thirty (30) days.
- (D) Billing of the Customer by the Company will begin on the Service Commencement Date, which is the first day following the date on which the Company notifies the Customer that the service or facility is available for use, except that the Service Commencement Date may be postponed by mutual agreement of the parties, or if the service or facility does not conform to standards set forth in this tariff or the Service Order. Billing accrues through and includes the day that the service, circuit, arrangement or component is discontinued.

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### 2.5 Payment Arrangements, (Cont'd.)

### 2.5.2 Billing and Collection of Charges, (cont'd.)

- (E) A late payment charge of 1.5% per month, or an amount otherwise allowed by South Dakota law, whichever is less, shall be due to the Company for any billed amount for which payment has not been received by the Company within fifteen (15) days of the mailing date of the Company's invoice for service or by the due date printed on the invoice, whichever is later, or if any portion of the payment is received by the Company in funds which are not immediately available upon presentment. If the last calendar day for remittance falls on a Sunday, legal holiday or other day when the offices of the Company are closed, the date for acceptance of payments prior to assessment of any late payment fees shall be extended through to the next business day.
- (F) A service charge equal to \$25.00, or an amount otherwise allowed by South Dakota law, whichever is less, will be assessed under South Dakota law for all checks or other payment type submitted by the Customer to the Company and returned by a bank or other financial institution for: insufficient or uncollected funds, closed account, apparent tampering, missing signature or endorsement, or any other insufficiency or discrepancy necessitating return of the instrument at the discretion of the drawee bank or other financial institution.
- (G) If service is disconnected by the Company in accordance with Section 2.6 following and later restored, restoration of service will be subject to all applicable installation charges.

### 2.5.3 Disputed Bills

(A) In the event that a billing dispute occurs concerning any charges billed to the Customer by the Company, the Company may require the Customer to pay the undisputed portion of the bill to avoid discontinuance of service for non-payment. The Customer must submit a documented claim for the disputed amount. The Customer will submit all documentation as may reasonably be required to support the claim. All claims must be submitted to the Company within 180 days of receipt of billing for those services. If the Customer does not submit a claim as stated above, the Customer waives all rights to filing a claim thereafter.

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#### 2.5 Payment Arrangements, (Cont'd.)

#### Disputed Bills, (Cont'd.) 2.5.3

**(B)** If the Customer and the Company are unable to resolve the dispute to their mutual satisfaction, the Customer may file a complaint with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission in accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure. The address of the Commission is as follows:

> South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Capitol Building, 1st Floor 500 East Capitol Ave. Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5070 Toll-Free: (800) 332-1782 TTY Through Relay South Dakota: (800) 877-1113

http://www.state.sd.us/puc

**(C)** If the dispute is resolved in favor of the Customer and the Customer has withheld the disputed amount, no interest, credits or penalties will apply.

#### 2.5.4 **Advance Payments**

The Company does not collect Advance Payments from Customers.

#### 2.5.5 **Deposits**

The Company does not collect Customer Deposits.

#### 2.6 **Discontinuance of Service**

- Upon nonpayment of any amounts owing to the Company, the Company may, by giving five (5) days written notice to the Customer, discontinue or suspend service without incurring any liability.
- 2.6.2 Upon violation of any of the other material terms or conditions for furnishing service the Company may, by giving five (5) days written notice to the Customer, discontinue or suspend service without incurring any liability if such violation continues during that period.

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### 2.6 Discontinuance of Service, (Cont'd.)

- **2.6.3** Upon condemnation of any material portion of the facilities used by the Company to provide service to a Customer or if a casualty renders all or any material portion of such facilities inoperable beyond feasible repair, the Company, by notice to the Customer, may discontinue or suspend service without incurring any liability.
- **2.6.4** Upon the Customer's insolvency, assignment for the benefit of creditors, filing for bankruptcy or reorganization, or failing to discharge an involuntary petition within the time permitted by law, the Company may immediately discontinue or suspend service without incurring any liability.
- **2.6.5** Upon any governmental prohibition or required alteration of the services to be provided or any violation of an applicable law or regulation, the Company may immediately discontinue service without incurring any liability.
- **2.6.6** In the event of fraudulent use of the Company's network, the Company will discontinue service without notice and/or seek legal recourse to recover all costs involved in enforcement of this provision.
- **2.6.7** Without notice in the event of Customer use of equipment or services in such a manner as to adversely affect the Company's service to others.
- **2.6.8** Without notice in the event of tampering with the equipment or services furnished by the Company.

### 2.7 Cancellation of Application for Service

**2.7.1** Applications for service cannot be canceled without the Company's agreement. Where the Company permits a Customer to cancel an application for service prior to the start of service or prior to any special construction, no charges will be imposed except for those specified below.

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### 2.7 Cancellation of Application for Service, (Cont'd.)

- 2.7.2 Where, prior to cancellation by the Customer, the Company incurs any expenses in installing the service or in preparing to install the service that it otherwise would not have incurred, a charge equal to the costs incurred by the Company, less net salvage, shall apply, but in no case shall this charge exceed the sum of the charge for the minimum period of services ordered, including installation charges, and all charges others levy against the Company that would have been chargeable to the Customer had service commenced (all discounted to present value at six percent).
- 2.7.3 Where the Company incurs any expense in connection with special construction, or where special arrangements of facilities or equipment have begun, before the Company receives a cancellation notice, a charge equal to the costs incurred by the Company, less net salvage, applies. In such cases, the charge will be based on such elements as the cost of the equipment, facilities, and material, the cost of installation, engineering, labor, and supervision, general and administrative expense, other disbursements, depreciation, maintenance, taxes, provision for return on investment, and any other costs associated with the special construction or arrangements.
- **2.7.4** The special charges described in 2.7.1 through 2.7.3 will be calculated and applied on a case-by-case basis.

### 2.8 Changes in Service Requested

If the Customer makes or requests material changes in circuit engineering, equipment specifications, service parameters, premises locations, or otherwise materially modifies any provision of the application for service, the Customer's installation fee shall be adjusted accordingly.

### 2.9 Allowances for Interruptions in Service

Interruptions in service that are not due to the negligence of, or noncompliance with the provisions of this tariff by, the Customer or the operation or malfunction of the facilities, power or equipment provided by the Customer, will be credited to the Customer as set forth in 2.9.1 for the part of the service that the interruption affects.

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#### 2.9.1 General

- (A) A credit allowance will be given when service is interrupted, except as specified below. A service is interrupted when it becomes inoperative to the Customer, e.g., the Customer is unable to transmit or receive, because of a failure of a component furnished by the Company under this tariff.
- (B) An interruption period begins when the Customer reports a service, facility or circuit to be inoperative and, if necessary, releases it for testing and repair. An interruption period ends when the service, facility or circuit is operative.
- (C) If the Customer reports a service, facility or circuit to be interrupted but declines to release it for testing and repair, or refuses access to its premises for test and repair by the Company, the service, facility or circuit is considered to be impaired but not interrupted. No credit allowances will be made for a service, facility or circuit considered by the Company to be impaired.
- (D) The Customer shall be responsible for the payment of service charges as set forth herein for visits by the Company's agents or employees to the premises of the Customer when the service difficulty or trouble report results from the use of equipment or facilities provided by any party other than the Company, including but not limited to the Customer.

### 2.9.2 Limitations of Allowances

No credit allowance will be made for any interruption in service:

- (A) Due to the negligence of or noncompliance with the provisions of this tariff by any person or entity other than the Company, including but not limited to the Customer;
- **(B)** Due to the failure of power, equipment, systems, connections or services not provided by the Company;
- (C) Due to circumstances or causes beyond the reasonable control of the Company;
- (**D**) During any period in which the Company is not given full and free access to its facilities and equipment for the purposes of investigating and correcting interruptions;

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### 2.9 Allowances for Interruptions in Service, (Cont'd.)

### 2.9.2 Limitations of Allowances, (Cont'd.)

- (E) A service will not be deemed to be interrupted if a Customer continues to voluntarily make use of the service. If the service is interrupted, the Customer can get a service credit, use another means of communications provided by the Company (pursuant to Section 2.9.3), or utilize another service provider;
- (**F**) During any period when the Customer has released service to the Company for maintenance purposes or for implementation of a Customer order for a change in service arrangements;
- (G) That occurs or continues due to the Customer's failure to authorize replacement of any element of special construction; and
- (H) That was not reported to the Company within thirty (30) days of the date that service was affected.

#### 2.9.3 Use of Another Means of Communications

If the Customer elects to use another means of communications during the period of interruption, the Customer must pay the charges for the alternative service used.

### 2.9.4 Application of Credits for Interruptions in Service

- (A) Credits for interruptions in service that is provided and billed on a flat rate basis for a minimum period of at least one month, beginning on the date that billing becomes effective, shall in no event exceed an amount equivalent to the proportionate charge to the Customer for the period of service during which the event that gave rise to the claim for a credit occurred. A credit allowance is applied on a pro rata basis against the rates specified hereunder and is dependent upon the length of the interruption. Only those facilities on the interrupted portion of the circuit will receive a credit.
- **(B)** For calculating credit allowances, every month is considered to have thirty (30) days.
- (C) A credit allowance will be given for interruptions of thirty (30) minutes or more. Two or more interruptions of fifteen (15) minutes or more during any one 24-hour period shall be combined into one cumulative interruption.

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### 2.9 Allowances for Interruptions in Service, (Cont'd.)

### 2.9.4 Application of Credits for Interruptions in Service, (cont'd.)

### (D) Interruptions of 24 Hours or Less

Length of Interruption	<b>Amount of Service To Be Credited</b>
Less than 30 minutes	None
30 minutes up to but not including 3 hours	1/10 Day
3 hours up to but not including 6 hours	1/5 Day
6 hours up to but not including 9 hours	2/5 Day
9 hours up to but not including 12 hours	3/5 Day
12 hours up to but not including 15 hours	4/5 Day
15 hours up to but not including 24 hours	One Day

## (E) Interruptions Over 24 Hours and Less Than 72 Hours

Interruptions over 24 hours and less than 72 hours will be credited 1/5 day for each 3-hour period or fraction thereof. No more than one full day's credit will be allowed for any period of 24 hours.

### (F) Interruptions Over 72 Hours

Interruptions over 72 hours will be credited 2 days for each full 24-hour period. No more than thirty (30) days credit will be allowed for any one month period.

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### 2.9 Allowances for Interruptions in Service, (Cont'd.)

### 2.9.5 Cancellation For Service Interruption

Cancellation or termination for service interruption is permitted only if any circuit experiences a single continuous outage of 8 hours or more or cumulative service credits equaling 16 hours in a continuous 12-month period. The right to cancel service under this provision applies only to the single circuit that has been subject to the outage or cumulative service credits.

### 2.10 Use of Customer's Service by Others

### 2.10.1 Joint Use Arrangements

Joint use arrangements will be permitted for all services provided under this tariff. From each joint use arrangement, one member will be designated as the Customer responsible for the manner in which the joint use of the service will be allocated. The Company will accept orders to start, rearrange, relocate, or discontinue service only from the designated Customer. Without affecting the Customer's ultimate responsibility for payment of all charges for the service, each joint user shall be responsible for the payment of the charges billed to it.

## 2.11 Cancellation by Customer

Customers may cancel service verbally or in writing. The company shall hold the Customer responsible for payment of all charges, including fixed fees, surcharges, etc., which accrue up to the cancellation date. Customers that cancel the primary local exchange line will have the entire Account disconnected, including any secondary line and all associated features. In the event the Customer executes a term commitment agreement with the Company, the Customer must cancel service and terminate the agreement in accordance with the agreement terms.

#### 2.12 Cancellation of Service/Termination Liability

If a Customer cancels a Service Order or terminates services before the completion of the term for any reason whatsoever other than a service interruption (as defined in Section 2.9.1 above), the Customer agrees to pay to the Company termination liability charges, as defined below. These charges shall become due as of the effective date of the cancellation or termination and be payable within the period, set forth in Section 2.5.2.

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### 2.12 Cancellation of Service/Termination Liability, (Cont'd.)

### 2.12.1 Termination Liability

The Customer's termination liability for cancellation of service shall be equal to:

- (A) all unpaid Non-Recurring charges reasonably expended by the Company to establish service to the Customer; plus
- (B) any disconnection, early cancellation or termination charges reasonably incurred and paid to third parties by the Company on behalf of the Customer; plus
- (C) all Recurring Charges specified in the applicable Service Order Tariff for the balance of the then current term discounted at the prime rate announced in the Wall Street Journal on the third business day following the date of cancellation;
- (**D**) minus a reasonable allowance for costs avoided by the Company as a direct result of the Customer's cancellation.

## 2.13 Transfers and Assignments

Neither the Company nor the Customer may assign or transfer its rights or duties in connection with the services and facilities provided by the Company without the written consent of the other party, except that the Company may assign its rights and duties:

- **2.13.1** to any subsidiary, parent company or affiliate of the Company; or
- **2.13.2** pursuant to any sale or transfer of substantially all the assets of the Company within the state; or
- **2.13.3** pursuant to any financing, merger or reorganization of the Company.

### 2.14 Customer Liability for Unauthorized Use of the Network

Unauthorized use of the network occurs when a person or entity that does not have actual, apparent, or implied authority to use the network, obtains the Company's services provided under this tariff.

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### 2.14 Customer Liability for Unauthorized Use of the Network, (Cont'd.)

### 2.14.1 Customer Liability for Fraud and Unauthorized Use of the Network

- (A) The Customer is liable for the unauthorized use of the network obtained through the fraudulent use of a Company calling card, if such a card is offered by the Company, or an accepted credit card, provided that the unauthorized use occurs before the Company has been notified.
- (B) A Company calling card is a telephone calling card issued by the Company at the Customer's request, which enables the Customer or user(s) authorized by the Customer to place calls over the Network and to have the charges for such calls billed to the Customer's account. An accepted credit card is any credit card that a cardholder has requested or applied for and received, or has signed, used, or authorized another person to use to obtain credit. Any credit card issued as an renewal or substitute in accordance with this paragraph is an accepted credit card when received by the cardholder.
- (C) The Customer must give the Company written or oral notice that an unauthorized use of a Company calling card or an accepted credit card has occurred or may occur as a result of loss, and/or theft.
- (D) The Customer is responsible for payment of all charges for calling card services furnished to the Customer or to users authorized by the Customer to use service provided under this tariff, unless due to the negligence of the Company. This responsibility is not changed due to any use, misuse, or abuse of the Customer's service or Customer-provided equipment by third parties, the Customer's employees, or the public.

The liability of the Customer for unauthorized use of the Network by credit card fraud will not exceed the lesser of fifty dollars (\$50.00) or the amount of money, property, labor, or services obtained by the unauthorized user before notification to the Company.

#### 2.15 Notices and Communications

**2.15.1** The Customer shall designate on the Service Order an address to which the Company shall mail or deliver all notices and other communications, except that the Customer may also designate a separate address to which the Company's bills for service shall be mailed.

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#### **SECTION 2 - REGULATIONS**

## 2.15 Notices and Communications, (Cont'd.)

- **2.15.2** The Company shall designate on the Service Order an address to which the Customer shall mail or deliver all notices and other communications, except that Company may designate a separate address on each bill for service to which the Customer shall mail payment on that bill.
- **2.15.3** Except as otherwise stated in this tariff, all notices or other communications required to be given pursuant to this tariff will be in writing. Notices and other communications of either party, and all bills mailed by the Company, shall be presumed to have been delivered to the other party on the third business day following placement of the notice, communication or bill with the U.S. Mail or a private delivery service, prepaid and properly addressed, or when actually received or refused by the addressee, whichever occurs first.
- **2.15.4** The Company or the Customer shall advise the other party of any changes to the addresses designated for notices, other communications or billing, by following the procedures for giving notice set forth herein.

## 2.16 Taxes, Fees and Surcharges

The Company reserves the right to bill any and all applicable taxes, fees and surcharges in addition to normal rates and charges for services provided to the Customer. Taxes and fees include, but are not limited to: Federal Excise Tax, State Sales Tax, Municipal Tax, and Gross Receipts Tax. Unless otherwise specified in this tariff, such taxes, fees and surcharges are in addition to rates as quoted in this tariff and will be itemized separately on Customer invoices.

## 2.16.1 E911 Service Surcharge

All Customers will be assessed a per line surcharge to support local E911 Service Program. The E911 Surcharge will be based on a monthly snapshot of lines associated with each Customer's account. No fractional debits or credits will be given. This surcharge will appear as a separate line item on the Customer's bill. The amount of the surcharge will be equal to the per line assessment paid by the Company as determined by local jurisdictional assessments rounded up to the nearest whole cent, and may vary from time to time as required by South Dakota law, Commission rules or local jurisdiction requirements.

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#### **SECTION 2 - REGULATIONS**

# 2.16.2 South Dakota Telecommunications Relay Service Surcharge

All Customers will be assessed a per line surcharge to support the South Dakota Telecommunications Relay Service ("SDTRS") program. The SDTRS Surcharge will be based on a monthly snapshot of lines associated with each Customer's account. No fractional debits or credits will be given. This surcharge will appear as a separate line item on the Customer's bill. The amount of the surcharge will be equal to the per line assessment paid by the Company as determined by South Dakota law or Commission rules rounded up to the nearest whole cent, and may vary from time to time as required by South Dakota law or Commission rules.

#### 2.17 Miscellaneous Provisions

## 2.17.1 Telephone Number Changes

Whenever any Customer's telephone number is changed after a directory is published, the Company shall intercept all calls to the former number for at least one hundred and twenty (120) days and give the calling party the new number provided existing central office equipment will permit, and the Customer so desires.

When service in an existing location is continued for a new Customer, the existing telephone number may be retained by the new Customer only if the former Customer consents in writing, and if all charges against the account are paid or assumed by the new Customer.

## 2.17.2 Maintenance and Operations Records

Records of various tests and inspections, to include non-routine corrective maintenance actions or monthly traffic analysis summaries for network administration, necessary for the purposes of the Company or to fulfill the requirements of Commission rules shall be kept on file in the office of the Company as required under Commission rules.

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Section 3

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## **SECTION 3 - SERVICE AREAS**

# 3.1 Exchange Service Areas

Local exchange services are provided, subject to availability of facilities and equipment, in areas currently served by the following Incumbent LECs:

1) Qwest

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## SECTION 4 – SERVICE CHARGES AND SURCHARGES

# 4.1 New Line Installation and Existing Line Migration Charges

Non-recurring charges apply to processing Service Orders for new service, for changes in service. Move or change existing service and equipment or add new or additional service and equipment other than access lines.

# a) New Line Installation Charges

The installation of new line number and dial-tone services. Pricing varies depending upon service address and line location requirements. Non-recurring pricing per new local line installation can be up to:

Non-recurring Charge \$60.00

## b) Existing Line Migration Charges

The migration/transfer of existing line number and dial-tone services from another local telephone service provider to the Company. Pricing varies based up service term length agreed upon by customer. For Month-To-Month service the local line migration charges per local line migrated:

Non-recurring Charge \$35.00

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#### **SECTION 5 - NETWORK SERVICES DESCRIPTIONS**

#### 5.1 General

#### 5.1.1 Services Offered

The following Services are available to business Customers:

Standard Business Line Service Optional Calling Features

## **5.1.2** Application of Rates and Charges

All services offered in this tariff are subject to service order and change charges where the Customer requests new services or changes in existing services, as well as indicated Non-Recurring and Monthly Recurring Charges.

## **5.1.3** Emergency Services Calling Plan

Access (at no additional charge) to the local operator or emergency services bureau by dialing 0- or 9-1-1 is offered at no charge to the Customer.

Message toll telephone calls, to governmental emergency service agencies as set forth in (A) following, having primary or principal responsibility with respect to the provision of emergency services to persons and property in the area from which the call is made, meeting the definition and criteria of an emergency call as set forth in (B) following are offered at no charge to Customers:

Governmental fire fighting, State Highway Patrol, police, and emergency squad service (as designated by the appropriate governmental agency) qualify as governmental emergency service agencies provided they answer emergency service calls on a personally attended (live) twenty-four (24) hour basis, three hundred sixty-five (365) days a year, including holidays.

An emergency is an occurrence or set of circumstances in which conditions pose immediate threat to human life, property, or both and necessitate that prompt action be taken. An emergency call is an originated call of short duration to a governmental emergency services agency in order to seek assistance for such an emergency.

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#### **SECTION 5 - NETWORK SERVICES DESCRIPTIONS**

#### 5.2 Standard Business Line

The Standard Business Line provides a Customer with a single, analog, voice-grade telephonic communications channel, which can be used to place or receive one call at a time. Standard Business Lines are provided for the connection of Customer-provided wiring and single station sets or facsimile machines. An optional per line Hunting feature is available for multi-line Customers which routes a call to an idle station line in a prearranged group when the called station line is busy.

## 5.3 Optional Calling Features

## **5.3.1** Features Descriptions

- (A) Call Forwarding Busy Line: Allows a customer to have incoming calls forwarded to another number when the called number is busy.
- (B) Call Waiting Basic: Call Waiting provides a tone signal to indicate to a Customer already engaged in a telephone call that a second caller is attempting to dial in. It permits the Customer to place the first call on hold, answer the second call and then alternate between both callers. Cancel Call Waiting is provided with the feature and allows a Call Waiting end-user to disable the Call Waiting feature for the duration of a single outgoing telephone call. Cancel Call Waiting is activate by dialing a special code prior to placing a call, and is automatically deactivated when the Customer disconnects from the call.
- (C) Call Forwarding No Answer: Permits the forwarding of incoming calls when the end-user's line remains unanswered after a pre-designated ringing interval. The ringing interval before forwarding and the forward-to number are fixed by the service order.
- (D) Call Forwarding Variable: Permits the end-user to automatically forward (transfer) all incoming calls to another telephone number, and to restore it to normal operation at their discretion. The end-user must dial an activation code from his/her exchange line along with the forward-to number in order to turn the feature on. A separate code is dialed by the end-user to deactivate the feature.
- (E) Caller ID: Permits the end-user to view a Directory Number of the calling party on incoming telephone calls. Information is displayed on a specialized CPE not provided by the Company. The feature also provides the date and time of each incoming call. It is the responsibility of the Customer to provide the necessary CPE.

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#### **SECTION 5 - NETWORK SERVICES DESCRIPTIONS**

## **5.3** Optional Calling Features (continued)

#### **5.3.1** Features Descriptions (continued)

- **Distinctive Ring:** Provides the Customer with separate telephone numbers, each with a distinctive ring, associated with one line.
- (G) Repeat Dialing: Allows a customer to dial a code that will cause the feature to automatically redial the last number the customer dialed. If the called number is busy, the feature will redial the called number for a limited period of time. A tone alerts the customer when the called number becomes available. This service is available on a usage or subscription basis.
- (H) Three Way Calling: Permits the end-user to add a third party to an established connection. When the third party answers, a two-way conversation can be held before adding the original party for a three-way conference. The end-user initiating the conference controls the call and may disconnect the third party to reestablish the original connection or establish a connection to a different third party. The feature may be used on both outgoing and incoming calls.
- (I) Voicemail Services: Voice Mail can answer incoming calls, placed to the customer's telephone line, when the called number is busy or if the called number is not answered. The service greet incoming caller with a personal or standard greeting. It then receives and saves the caller's messages for review by the customer. Customers can retrieve messages left for them from any tone signaling telephone.

## 5.4 Listing Services

For each Customer of Company-provided Exchange Service(s), the Company shall arrange for the listing of the Customer's main billing telephone number in the directory(ies) published by the dominant Local Exchange Carrier in the area at no additional charge.

#### 5.5 Miscellaneous Services

## 5.5.1 Hunting Service

Hunting Service is an optional arrangement available to customers with two or more individual line or trunk services. Where facilities permit, such lines will be arranged so that incoming calls to a busy line/trunk will overflow to other available lines/trunks for that customer.

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# **SECTION 6 - LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICES**

## 6.1 General

Local Exchange Services are provided through the use of resold facilities obtained from Other Telephone Companies and the Company's facilities.

The rates, terms and conditions set forth in the section are applicable where the Company provides specified local exchange services to Customers.

All rates set forth in this Section are subject to change and may be changed by the Company pursuant to notice requirements established by the Commission.

## **6.2** Standard Business Local Exchange Service

Standard Business Local Exchange Service provides the Customer with a single, analog, voice-grade telephonic communications channel, which can be used to place or receive one call at a time. Standard Business Local Exchange Service lines are provided for the connection of Customer-provided wiring, telephones, facsimile machines or other station equipment. An optional per line Hunting feature is available for multi-line Customers which routes a call to the next idle line in a prearranged group when the called line is busy.

Local exchange service lines and trunks are provided on a single party (individual) basis only. No multi-party lines are provided. Service is available on a flat rate basis depending on the service plan selected by the Customer. Not all service plans will be available in all areas. Recurring charges for Standard Business Local Exchange Service are billed monthly in advance. Usage charges, if applicable are billed in arrears. Usage charges may apply for calls placed from the Customer's line. No usage charges will apply to calls received by the Customer. Non-recurring charges for installation or rearrangement of service are billed on the next month's bill immediately following work performed by the Company.

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## **SECTION 6 - LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICES**

# **6.2.1** Monthly Recurring Charges

The following charges apply to Standard Business Local Exchange Service lines per month. Rates and charges include Touchtone Service for each line. The rates and charges below apply to service provided on a month-to-month basis.

Monthly Recurring Charge

Per Local Line \$37.95

Includes:

Unlimited local calling

Caller ID

Line Hunting Service

Additional Line Features are provided in feature packages at an additional cost:

Monthly Recurring Charge

One Feature Package \$3.00 Two Feature Package \$5.00 All Feature Package \$7.00

Additional Line features available such as:

Call Waiting

Repeat Dialing

Distinctive Ring

Three-Way Calling

Call Forwarding - Variable, Busy Line, No Answer

Voicemail Services

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Section 7

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# **SECTION 7 – ACCESS SERVICES**

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#### **SECTION 8 – SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS**

# 8.1 Individual Case Basis (ICB) Arrangements

Arrangements will be developed on a case-by-case basis in response to a bona fide special request from a Customer or prospective Customer to develop a competitive bid for a service not generally offered under this tariff. Rates quoted in response to such competitive requests may be different than those specified for such services in this tariff. ICB rates will be offered to the Customer in writing and on a nondiscriminatory basis.

ICB will be filed with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission.

#### 8.2 Non-Routine Installation and/or Maintenance

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

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## **SECTION 9 - PROMOTIONAL OFFERINGS**

## 9.1 Demonstration of Service

From time to time the Company may demonstrate service for potential Customers by providing free use of its network on a limited basis for a period of time, not to exceed one (1) month. Demonstration of service and the type, duration or quantity of service provided will be at the Company's discretion.

## 9.2 Special Promotions

From time to time, the Carrier may provide promotional offerings to introduce a current or potential Subscriber to a service not being used by the subscriber. These offerings may be limited to certain dates, times or locations and may waive or reduce recurring or non-recurring charges. The Company will notify the Commission prior to the effective date of any promotional offering.

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