RECEIVED

FEB 24 2003

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

REGULATION AND SCHEDULE OF CHARGES

APPLICABLE TO ACCESS SERVICES

WITHIN THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

1-800-RECONEX, INC.

This tariff contains the descriptions, regulations, and rates applicable to the furnishing of service and facilities for telecommunications services provided by 1-800-RECONEX, Inc. This tariff is on file with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission. Copies may be inspected during normal business hours at the Company's principal place of business at 2500 Industrial Avenue, Hubbard, Oregon 97032

ISSUED: November 4, 2002 **EFFECTIVE: December 4, 2002**

4/8/2003

TC02-082

BY: Anne Lynch, Regulatory Manager
1-800-RECONEX, Inc.
2500 Industrial Avenue
Hubbard, Oregon 97032

CHECK SHEET

All Pages of this tariff are effective as of the date shown. Original and revised pages, as named below, comprise all changes from the original tariff in effect on the date indicated.

Page	Revision	Page	Revision
1	Original	38	Original
2	Original	39	Original
3	Original	40	Original
4	Original	41	Original
5	Original	42	Original
6	Original	43	Original
7	Original	44	Original
8	Original	45	Original
9	Original	46	Original
10	Original	47	Original
11	Original	48	Original
12	Original	49	Original
13	Original	50	Original
14	Original	51	Original
15	Original		
16	Original		
17	Original		
18	Original		
19	Original		
20	Original		
21	Original		
22	Original		
23	Original		
24	Original		
25	Original		
26	Original		
27	Original		
28	Original		
29	Original		
30	Original		
31	Original		
32	Original		
33	Original		
34	Original		
35	Original		
36	Original		
37	Original		

ISSUED: November 4, 2002

EFFECTIVE: December 4, 2002

BY: Anne Lynch, Regulatory Manager
1-800-RECONEX, Inc.
2500 Industrial Avenue
Hubbard, Oregon 97032

RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE SHEET 1

CHECK SHEET 2

TABLE OF CONTENTS 4

EXPLANATION OF SYMBOLS 7

APPLICATION OF TARIFF 8

1. DEFINITIONS 9

2. REGULATIONS 13

2.1 Undertaking of the Company 13
2.1.1 Scope 13
2.1.2 Shortage of Equipment or Facilities 13
2.1.3 Terms and Conditions 13
2.1.4 Liability of the Company 14
2.1.5 Notification of Service-Affecting Activities 17
2.1.6 Provision of Equipment & Facilities 18
2.1.7 Non-routine Installation 19
2.1.8 Special Construction 19
2.1.9 Ownership of Facilities 19

2.2 Prohibited Uses 20

2.3 Obligations of the Customer 20
2.3.1 Obligations 20
2.3.2 Claims 21
2.3.3 Jurisdictional Reporting 22

TABLE OF CONTENTS (contd.)

2.4 Customer Equipment and Channels....26
2.4.1 In General....26
2.4.2 Station Equipment....26
2.4.3 Interconnection of Facilities....26
2.4.4 Inspections....27

2.5 Payment Arrangements....27
2.5.1 Payment for Service....27
2.5.2 Billing and Collection of Charges....28
2.5.3 Advance Payments....32
2.5.4 Reserved....32
2.5.5 Refusal and Discontinuance of Service....33
2.5.6 Cancellation of Application for Service....35

2.6 Reserved For Future Use....36

2.7 Cancellation of Service....37

2.8 Transfers and Assignments....37

2.9 Notices and Communications....37

2.10 Application of Rates....38
2.10.1 Charges Based on Duration of Use....38

2.11 Billing Name & Address....39
2.11.1 Service Description....39
2.11.2 General....39

3. ACCESS SERVICE ORDER....31

3.1 General....41
3.1.1 Information Required....41
3.1.2 Access Service Request Modifications....42
3.1.3 Service Commencement Date Changes....42
3.1.4 Design Change Charge....42
3.1.5 Expedited Order Charge....43
3.1.6 Cancellation of an Access Service Request....43
3.1.7 Minimum Period of Service....44

TABLE OF CONTENTS (contd.)

4. SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE DESCRIPTION 45

4.1 General 45
4.1.1 Feature Group Access 45
4.1.2 Local Exchange Access Service 46
4.1.3 8XX Data Base Access Service 47

5. SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE RATES 48

5.1 General 48
5.2 Rate Categories 48
5.2.1 Originating Access 48
5.2.2 Terminating Access 48
5.2.3 Local Exchange Access 48
5.2.4 8XX Data Base Query 48

5.3 Miscellaneous Charges 49
5.3.1 Returned Check Charge 49
5.3.2 Service Date Change 49
5.3.3 BNA Information 49

6. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS 50

6.1 Individual Case Basis (ICB) Arrangements 50

6.2 Contracts 50

EXPLANATION OF SYMBOLS

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

D	-	**To signify deleted or 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.**

APPLICATION OF TARIFF

This tariff sets forth the service offerings, rates, terms and conditions applicable to the furnishing of intrastate access service within the State of South Dakota by 1-800-RECONEX, Inc. (hereinafter "the Company"). The provision of service by the Company as set forth in this tariff does not constitute a joint undertaking with the Customer for the furnishing of any service.

1. DEFINITIONS

Certain terms used generally throughout this tariff for the Access Services of this Company are defined below.

8XX Data Base Access Service: The term "8XX Data Base Access Service" denotes a toll-free originating Trunkside Access Service when the 8XX Service Access Code (i.e., 800, 822, 833, 844, 855, 866, 877, or 888 as available) is used. The term 8XX is used interchangeably with 800 Data Base Service throughout this Tariff to describe this service.

Access Code: A uniform five or seven digit code assigned by the Company to an individual customer. The five digit code has the form 10XXX, and the seven digit code has the form 950-XXXX or 101XXXX.

Access Service: Switched or Special Access to the network of an Interexchange Carrier for the purpose of originating or terminating communications.

Access Service Request (ASR): The industry service order format used by Access Service customers and access providers as agreed to by the Ordering and Billing Forum. Also referred to as Access Service Order.

Access Tandem: An Exchange Carrier's switching system that provides a concentration and distribution function for originating or terminating traffic between local switching centers and Customers' premises.

Authorized User: A person, firm, corporation or other entity that either is authorized by the Customer to use Access Services or is placed in a position by the Customer, either through acts or omissions, to use Access Services.

Carrier or Common Carrier: See Interexchange Carrier or Exchange Carrier.

Channel(s): An electrical or, in the case of fiber optic-based transmission systems, a photonic communications path between two or more points of termination.

Commission: The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission.

Common Channel Signaling (CCS): A high speed packet switched communications network which is separate (out of band) from the public packet switched and message networks. It is used to carry addressed signaling messages for individual trunk circuits and/or database related services between signaling points in the CCS network.

Company: 1-800-RECONEX, Inc., which is the issuer of this tariff.

Conventional Signaling: The inter-machine signaling system has been traditionally used in North America for the purpose of transmitting the called number's address digits from the originating Local Switching Center which terminates the call. In this system, all of the dialed digits are received by the originating switching machine, a path is selected, and the sequence of supervisory signals and outpulsed digits is initiated. No overlap outpulsing ten digit ANI, ANI information digits, or acknowledgement link are included in this signaling sequence.

Customer: The person, firm, corporation or other entity which orders service and is responsible for the payment of charges and for compliance with the Company's tariff regulations. The Customer could be an interexchange carrier, a wireless provider, or any other carrier authorized to operate in the state.

Dedicated: A facility or equipment system or subsystem set aside for the sole use of a specific customer.

Duplex Service: Service which provides for simultaneous transmission in both directions.

End User: Any individual, association, corporation, governmental agency or any other entity other than an Interexchange Carrier which subscribes to intrastate service provided by an Exchange Carrier.

Exchange Carrier: Any individual, partnership, association, joint-stock company, trust, governmental entity or corporation engaged in the provision of local exchange telephone service.

Firm Order Confirmation (FOC): Acknowledgment by the Company of receipt of an Access Service Request from the Customer and commitment by the Company of a Service Date.

Individual Case Basis (ICB): A service arrangement in which the regulations, rates and charges are developed based on the specific circumstances of the Customer's situation.

Interexchange Carrier (IC) or Interexchange Common Carrier: Any individual, partnership, association, joint-stock company, trust, governmental entity or corporation engaged in state or foreign communication for hire by wire or radio, between two or more exchanges.

Joint User: A person, firm or corporation designated by the Customer as a user of access facilities furnished to the Customer by the Company, and to whom a portion of the charges for such facilities are billed under a joint use arrangement.

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 for the provision and administration of communications services.

Line Information Data Base (LIDB): The data base which contains billing information such as telephone numbers, calling card numbers and associated billed number restriction data used in connection with the validation and billing of calls.

Local Access: The connection between a customer's premises and a point of presence of the Local Exchange Carrier.

Local Switching Center: The switching center where telephone exchange service customer station Channels are terminated for purposes of interconnection to each other and to interoffice trunks.

Meet Point: A point of interconnection that is not an end office or tandem.

Meet Point Billing: The arrangement through which multiple exchange carriers involved in providing access services, divide the ordering, rating, and billing of such services on a proportional basis, so that each exchange company involved in providing a portion of the access service agrees to bill under its respective tariff.

Network: The Company's digital fiber optics-based network located in the Continental United States.

Network Services: The Company's telecommunications access services offered on the Company's Network.

Non-Recurring Charges: The one-time initial charges for services or facilities, including but not limited to charges for construction, installation, or special fees, for which the customer becomes liable at the time the Service Order is executed.

Off-Hook: The active condition of switched access or a telephone exchange service line.

Off-Net: A Customer is considered to be Off-Net when its point of presence is not served by the same Hub in which the Company's Local Switching Center, which is providing service to the Customer, is located.

On-Hook: The idle condition of switched access or a telephone exchange service line.

On-Net: A Customer is considered to be On-Net when its point of presence is served by the same Hub in which the Company's Local Switching Center, which is providing service to the Customer, is located.

Out of Band Signaling: An exchange access signaling feature which allows customers to exchange call control and signaling information over a communications path which is separate from the message path.

Point of Presence: Location where the Customer maintains a facility for purposes of interconnecting to the Company's Network.

Point to Point Service: An unswitched full time transmission service utilizing the Company's facilities to connect two or more customer designated locations.

Premises: The space occupied by a Customer or Authorized User in a building or buildings or on contiguous property (except railroad rights-of-way, etc.).

Presubscription: An arrangement whereby an End User may select and designate to the Company an Interexchange Carrier (IXC)or Carriers it wishes to access, without an access code, for completing both intraLATA toll calls and/or interLATA calls. The selected IXC(s) are referred to as the End User's Primary

Interexchange Carrier (PIC). The End User may select any IXC that orders FGD Switched Access Service at the Local Switching Center that serves the end user.

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

Service Commencement Date: For Special Access Service and Direct Connect Switched Access Service, the first day following the date on which the Company notifies the Customer that the requested service or facility 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 of service. The parties may mutually agree on a substitute Service Commencement Date. If the Company does not have an executed Service Order from a Customer, the Service Commencement Date will be the first date on which the service or facility was used by the Customer. For Tandem Connect Customers, the Service Commencement Date will be the first date on which the service or facility was used by the Customer.

Service Order: The written request for Access Services executed by the Customer and the Company in a format devised by the Company; or, in the alternative, the submission of an Access Service Request by the Customer in the manner specified in this tariff. The signing of a Service Order or submission of an ASR by the Customer and acceptance thereof 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.

Service(s): The Company's telecommunications Access Services offered on the Company's network.

Shared Facilities: A facility or equipment system or subsystem which can be used simultaneously by several customers.

Signaling Point of Interface: The Customer designated location where the SS7 signaling information is exchanged between the Company and the Customer.

Signaling System 7 (SS7): The common Channel Out of Band Signaling protocol developed by the Consultative Committee for International Telephone and Telegraph (CCITT) and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

Signaling Transfer Point Access: Allows the Customer to access a specialized switch which provides SS7 network access and performs SS7 messaging routing and screening.

Special Access Service: Dedicated access between a Customer's Premises and another Point of Presence for the purpose of originating or terminating communications.

Switched Access Service: Access to the switched network of an Exchange Carrier for the purpose of originating or terminating communications.

Trunk: A communications path connecting two switching systems in a network, used in the establishment of an end-to-end connection.

2. REGULATIONS

2.1 Undertaking of the Company

2.1.1 Scope

Access Services consist of furnishing communications service in connection with one-way and/or two-way information transmission between points within the State of South Dakota under the terms of this tariff. The Company's services offered pursuant to this tariff are furnished for Switched Access Service. The Company may offer these services over its own or resold facilities. The Company installs, operates, and maintains the communications services provided herein in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth under this tariff. The Company may act as the Customer's agent for ordering access connection facilities provided by other carriers or entities as required in the Commission's rules and orders, when authorized by the Customer, to allow connection of a Customer's location to the Company network. The Customer shall be responsible for all charges due for such service agreement.

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

2.1.2 Shortage of Equipment or Facilities

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

2.1.2.2 The furnishing of service under this 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 from time to time, to furnish service as required at the sole discretion of the Company.

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

2.1.3 Terms and Conditions

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

2.1.3.2 Customers may be required to enter into written Service Orders which shall contain or reference the name of the Customer, 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. Customer will also be required to execute any other documents as may be reasonably requested by the Company.

2.1.3.3 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 30 days written notice. Any termination shall not relieve 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.

2.1.3.4 This tariff shall be interpreted and governed by the laws of the State of South Dakota without regard for the State's choice of laws provisions.

2.1.3.5 The Customer agrees to operate Company-provided equipment in accordance with instructions of the Company or the Company's agent. Failure to do so will void Company liability for interruption of service and may make the Customer responsible for damage to equipment pursuant to section 2.1.3.6 below.

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

2.1.4 <u>Liability of the Company</u>

2.1.4.1 The liability of the Company for damages arising out of the furnishing of its Services, including but not limited to mistakes, omissions, interruptions, delays, errors, other defects, or representations by the Company, or use of these services or damages arising out of the failure to furnish the service whether caused by act or omission, shall be determined in accordance with SDCL 49-13-1, 49-13-1.1 and any other applicable law. The extension of such allowances for interruption shall be the sole remedy of the Customer and the sole liability of the Company.

2.1.4.2 The Company's liability for willful misconduct, if established as a result of judicial or administrative proceedings, is not limited by this tariff. The Company's liability, if any, with regard to delayed installation of Company facilities or commencement of service, shall not exceed $1,000. With respect to any other claim or suit, by a Customer or by any others, for damages associated with the ordering (including the reservation of any specific number for use with a service), installation (including delays thereof), provision, termination, maintenance, repair interruption or restoration of any service or facilities offered under this tariff, and subject to the provisions of Section 2.6, the Company's liability, if any, shall be limited as provided herein.

2.1.4.3 The Company shall not be liable for any delay or failure of performance or equipment due to causes beyond its control, including but not limited to: acts of God, fire, flood, explosion or other catastrophes; any law, order, regulation, direction action, or request of The United States government or of any other government, including state and local governments having or claiming jurisdiction over the Company, or of any department, agency, commission, bureau, corporation, or other instrumentality of any one or more of these federal state, or local governments, or of any military authority; preemption of existing service in compliance with national emergencies; insurrections; riots; wars; unavailability of rights-of-way or materials; or strikes, lockouts work stoppages, or other labor difficulties.

2.1.4.4 The Company shall not be liable for (a) any act or omission of any entity furnishing the Company or the Company's Customers facilities or equipment used for interconnection with Access Services; or (b) for the acts or omissions of other Common Carriers or warehousemen.

2.1.4.5 The Company shall not be liable for any damages or losses due to the fault or negligence of the Customer or due to the failure or malfunction of Customer-provided equipment or facilities.

2.1.4.6 The Company shall not be liable for any defacement of or damage to Customers Premises resulting from the furnishing of services or equipment on such Premises or the installation or removal thereof, unless such defacement or damage is caused by the negligence of the Company's agents or employees. No agents or employees of other participating Carriers shall be deemed to be agents or employees of the Company.

2.1.4.7 Notwithstanding the Customer's obligations as set forth in Section 2.3.2 below, the Company shall be indemnified, defended and held harmless by the Customer, or by others authorized by it to use the service, against any claim, loss or damage arising from Customer's use of services furnished under this tariff, including: claims for libel, slander, invasion of privacy or infringement of copyright arising from the material, data, information, or other content transmitted via the Company's service; and patent infringement claims arising from combining or connecting the service offered by the Company with apparatus and systems of the Customer or others; all other claims arising out of any act or omission of the Customer or others, in connection with any service provided by the Company pursuant to this tariff.

2.1.4.8 The Company shall be indemnified and held harmless by the End User against any claim, loss or damage arising from the End User's use of services offered under this tariff including: claims for libel, slander, invasion of privacy or infringement of copyright arising from the End User's own communications; patent infringement claims arising from the End User's combining or connecting the service offered by the Company with facilities or equipment furnished by the End User of another Interexchange Carrier; or all other claims arising out of any act or omission of the End User in connection with any service provided pursuant to this tariff.

2.1.4.9 The Company makes no warranties or representations, express or implied, either in fact or by operation of law, statutory or otherwise, including warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular use, except those expressly set forth herein.

2.1.4.10 The Company shall not be liable for any act or omission of any other company or companies furnishing a portion of the service, or for damages associated with service, Channels, or equipment which result from the operation of Customer-provided systems, equipment, facilities or service which are interconnected with Company services.

2.1.4.11 The Company does not guarantee nor make any warranty with respect to service installations at locations at which there is present an atmosphere that is explosive, prone to fire, dangerous or otherwise unsuitable for such installations. The Customer and End User shall indemnify and hold the Company harmless from any and all loss, claims, demands, suits or other actions, or any liability whatsoever, whether suffered, made, instituted or asserted by the Customer or by any other

party, for any personal injury to, or death of, any person or persons, or for any loss, damage or destruction of any property, whether owned by the Customer or others, caused or claimed to have been caused directly or indirectly, by the installation, operation, failure to operate, maintenance, removal, presence, condition, locations or use of service furnished by the Company at such locations.

2.1.4.12 The Company shall not be liable for the Customer's failure to fulfill its obligations to take all necessary steps including, without limitation, obtaining, installing and maintaining all necessary equipment, materials and supplies, for interconnecting the terminal equipment or communications system of the Customer, or any third party acting as its agent, to the Company's Network. The Customer shall secure all licenses, permits, rights-of-way, and other arrangements necessary for such interconnection. In addition, the Customer shall ensure that its equipment and/or system or that of its agent is properly interfaced with the Company's service, that the signals emitted into the Company's network are of the proper mode, bandwidth, power, data speed, and signal level for the intended use of the Customer and in compliance with the criteria set forth in Section 2.1.6 following, and that the signals do not damage Company equipment, injure its personnel or degrade service to other Customer. If the Customer or its agent fails to maintain and operate its equipment and/or system or that of its agent properly, with resulting imminent harm to Company equipment, personnel, or the quality of service to other Customers, the Company, may, upon written notice, require the use of protective equipment at the Customer's expense.

If this fails to produce satisfactory quality and safety, the Company may, upon written notice, terminate the Customer's service without liability.

2.1.4.13 The Company shall not be liable for any act or omission concerning the implementation of presubscription, as defined herein, unless it is due to the gross negligence of the Company.

2.1.4.14 With respect to Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS), any service provided by Company which involves receiving, translating, transmitting or delivering messages by telephone, text telephone, a telecommunications device for the deaf, or any other instrument over the facilities of Company or any connecting Carrier, Company's liability for the interruption or failure of the service shall not exceed an amount equal to the Company's charge for a one minute call to the called station at the time the affected calls was made.

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 Customer's 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

2.1.6.1 The Company shall use reasonable efforts to make available services to a Customer on or before a particular date, subject to the provisions of and compliance by the Customer with, the regulations contained in this 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.

2.1.6.2 The Company shall use reasonable efforts to maintain facilities and equipment that it furnishes to the Customer. The Customer may not, nor may the Customer permit others to, rearrange, disconnect, remove, attempt to repair or otherwise interfere with any of the facilities or equipment installed by the Company, except upon the written consent of the Company.

2.1.6.3 The Company may substitute, change or rearrange any equipment or facility at any time and from time to time, but shall not thereby alter the technical parameters of the service provided the Customer.

2.1.6.4 Equipment the Company provides or installs at the Customer premises for use in connection with the services the Company offers shall not be used for any purpose other than that for which the Company provided it.

2.1.6.5 The Customer shall be responsible for the payment of service charges imposed on the Company by another entity, for visits 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.

2.1.6.6 The Company shall not be responsible for the installation, operation, or maintenance of any Customer provided communications equipment. Where such equipment is connected to the facilities furnished pursuant to this 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. Notwithstanding the above, the Company shall not be responsible for:

(a) the transmission of signals by Customer-provided equipment or for the quality of, or defects in, such transmission;

(b) the reception of signals by Customer-provided equipment; or

(c) network control signaling where such signaling is performed by Customer-provided network control signaling equipment.

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

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

2.1.7 <u>Non-routine Installation</u>

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

2.1.8 Special Construction

Subject to the arrangement 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 and characterized by one or more of the following:

(a) where facilities are not presently available and there is no other requirement for the facilities so constructed;

(b) of a type other than that which the Company would normally utilize in the furnishing of its services;

(c) where facilities are to be installed over a route other than that which the Company would normally utilize in the furnishing of its services;

(d) where facilities are requested in a quantity greater than that which the Company would normally construct;

(e) where installation is on an expedited basis;

(f) on a temporary basis until permanent facilities are available;

(g) installation involving abnormal costs; or

(h) in advance of its normal construction schedules.

Special construction charges for Special and Switched Access Service will be determined as described in this tariff.

2.1.9 Ownership of Facilities

Title to all facilities provided in accordance with this tariff remains in the Company, its 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.

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 require a Customer to immediately shut down its transmission of signals if said transmission is causing interference to others.

2.3 Obligations of the Customer

2.3.1 The Customer shall be responsible for:

(a) the payment of all applicable charges pursuant to this tariff;

(b) reimbursing the Company for damage to, or loss of, the Company's facilities or equipment caused by the acts or omissions of the Customer; or the noncompliance by the Customer with these regulations; or by fire or theft or other casualty on the Customer Premises, unless caused by the negligence or willful misconduct of the employees or agents of the Company. The Company will, upon reimbursement for damages to its facilities or equipment, cooperate with the Customer in prosecuting a claim against the person causing such damage and the Customer shall be subrogated in the Company's right of recovery of damages to the extent of such payment;

(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 Customer Premises, 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 conduit necessary for installation of fiber optic cable and associated equipment used to provide Access 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) above. Any 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 subsection prior to accepting an order for service;

2.3 **Obligations of the Customer**

2.3.1 **The Customer shall be responsible for: (contd.)**

(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 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. friable 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 for obtaining under Section 2.3.1(d) above; and granting or obtaining permission for Company agents or employees to enter the Customer Premises 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; and

(g) not creating or allowing to be placed or maintained any liens or other encumbrances on the Company's equipment or facilities.

2.3.2 **Claims**

With respect to any service or facility provided by the Company; Customer shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Company from all claims, actions, damages, liabilities, costs, and expenses, excluding reasonable attorneys' fees and court costs, for:

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

(b) any claim, loss, damage, expense or liability for infringement of any copyright, patent, trade secret, or any proprietary or intellectual property right of any third party, arising from any act or omission by the Customer, including, without limitation, use of the Company's services and facilities in a manner not contemplated by the agreement between the Customer and the Company.

2.3.3 Jurisdictional Reporting

2.3.3.1 Percent Interstate Usage (PIU): The jurisdictional reporting requirements will be as specified below. When a Customer orders Access Service), the Customer must provide the Company with a report of its Projected Percent Interstate Usage (PIU). In addition, the Customer must provide the Company with an auditable PIU report in each calendar quarter following installation of service. The Customer must provide the PIU report in whole numbers. The PIU report will be used by the Company to apportion the Customer's use and/or charges between interstate and intrastate service. If the Customer fails to provide the required PIU report, the PIU factor will be determined as set forth in 2.3.3.1.1 below and shall not be retroactively adjusted if the Customer provides the factor at a later date.

2.3.3.1.1 Effective on the first of January, April, July and October of each year the Customer shall update the PIU factor and report the result to the Company (Quarterly PIU Report). The Quarterly PIU Report will be based on the Customer's traffic in preceding 3-month period (calendar quarter) ending the last day of December, March, June and September (calendar quarter), respectfully, and shall serve as the basis of the PIU factor to be used for the next calendar quarter.

2.3.3.1.1.1 If the Customer does not provide the Company a Quarterly PIU Report, the Company will assume the PIU factor to be the same as specified in the Quarterly PIU Report most recently provided by the Customer. If a Customer has never provided the Company a Quarterly PIU Report or the Customer is a new customer, the Company will assume the PIU factor to be the same as specified in the Access Service Request, except, of the Company can reasonably determine jurisdiction by the Customer's monthly call detail, the Company will determine the Customers' PIU on a monthly basis. If a Customer has never provided the Company a Quarterly PIU Report and has never provided a PIU factor in a Access Service Request, the Company will set the Customer's PIU factor on a default basis as 50 percent interstate and 50 percent intrastate traffic for the next calendar quarter.

2.3.3.1.2 Originating Access: Originating access minutes may be based on traffic originating at the State, LATA or Local Switching Center level, provided that the traffic being measured is only traffic originating from the Company Local Switching Center(s). Originating access minutes will be measured as follows, based on type of access:

2.3.3.1.2.1 For Feature Group D Switched Access Service(s), as defined in Section 5.2.1, where the Company can determine jurisdiction by it's call detail, the projected Percent Interstate Usage (PIU) will be developed by the Company on a monthly basis by dividing the measured interstate originating access minutes by the total originating access minutes.

2.3.3.1.2.2 For Feature Group D with 950 Access, as defined in Section 5.5.3.1, the Customer must provide the Company with a projected PIU factor by supplying the Company with an interstate percentage of originating access minutes.

2.3.3.1.2.3 For 500, 700, 800/888, calling card and operator service access, the Customer must provide the Company with a projected PIU factor for each type of access. Customers who provide a PIU factor shall supply the Company with an interstate percentage of originating access minutes.

2.3.3.1.3 Terminating Access: For Feature Group D Switched Access Service(s), the Customer must provide the Company with a projected PIU factor by supplying the Company with an interstate percentage of terminating access minutes on a quarterly basis, as described in Sections 2.3.3.1.

2.3.3.2 Percent Local Usage (PLU): The jurisdictional reporting requirements will be as specified below. When a Customer orders Access Service, the Customer must provide the Company with a report of its Projected Percent Local Usage (PLU). In addition, the Customer must provide the Company with an auditable PLU report in each calendar quarter following installation of service. The Customer must provide the PLU report in whole numbers. The PLU report will be used by the Company to apportion the Customer's use and/or charges between interstate and intrastate service. If the Customer fails to provide the required PLU report, the PLU will be determined as set forth in 2.3.3.2.1 below and shall not be retroactively adjusted if the Customer provides the factor as a later date.

2.3.3.2.1 Effective on the first of January, April, July and October of each year the Customer shall update the PLU factor and report the result to the Company (Quarterly PLU Report). The Quarterly PLU Report will be based on the Customer's traffic in preceding 3-month period (calendar quarter) ending the last day of December, March, June and September (calendar quarter), respectfully, and shall serve as the basis of the PLU factor to be used for the next calendar quarter.

2.3.3.2.1.1 If the Customer does not provide the Company a Quarterly PLU Report, the Company will assume the PLU factor to be the same as specified in the Quarterly PLU Report most recently provided by the Customer. If a Customer has never provided the Company a Quarterly PLU Report or the Customer is a new customer, the Company will assume the PLU factor to be the same as specified in the Access Service Request, except, of the Company can reasonably determine jurisdiction by the Customer's monthly call detail, the Company will determine the Customers' PLU on a monthly basis. If a Customer has never provided the Company a Quarterly PLU Report and has never provided a PLU factor in a Access Service Request, the Company will set the Customer's PLU factor on a default basis as 50 percent interstate and 50 percent intrastate traffic for the next calendar quarter.

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

The Customer shall keep records of call detail from which the percentage of interstate and intrastate use can be ascertained and, upon request of the Company, shall make the records available for inspection as reasonably necessary for purposes of verification of the percentages.

For Special Access Service, if a billing dispute arises or the Commission questions the projected PIU factor, the Company will provide the data used to determine the certified interstate percentage within 30 days of the Company's request. The Customer shall keep records of system design and functions from which the percentage was determined, and, upon request of the Company, shall make the records available for inspection as reasonably necessary for purposes of verifications of the percentages.

2.3.3.3.1 The Company reserves the right to conduct an audit of the Customer's PIU Report and PLU Report. The Company and/or the customer may request an audit of the PIU Report or the PLU Report within 6 months of the Company's receipt the PIU Report and/or PLU Report, as applicable. Such request must be made on no less than ten days written notice to the other party. Audits shall be conducted during normal business hours at the office of the party being audited. Such audit must be performed by an independent auditor mutually agreed to by the parties. Independent auditor cost will be paid for by the party which requests the audit.

2.3.3.4 Determination of Jurisdiction of Mixed Use Special Access Service: When an ASR is submitted for interstate and intrastate Special Access Service, the Customer will provide to the Company an estimate of whether the interstate traffic will comprise more than 10 percent or less than 10 percent of total traffic. For existing services, the Customer is required to certify the jurisdiction of its service.

(a) If the Customer estimates that the interstate traffic on the service involved constitutes 10 percent or less of the Customer's total traffic on that service, the service will be provided in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations of this tariff.

(b) If the Customer estimates that the interstate traffic on the service involved constitutes more than 10 percent of the Customer's total traffic on that service, the service will be provided in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations of the Company's federal tariffs.

2.4 Customer Equipment and Channels

2.4.1 In General

A Customer may transmit or receive information or signals via the facilities of the Company.

2.4.2 Station Equipment

2.4.2.1 The Customer is responsible for providing and maintaining any terminal equipment on the Customer Premises. The electric power consumed by such equipment shall be provided by, and maintained at the expense of, the Customer. All such terminal equipment must be registered with the FCC under 47 C.F.R., Part 68 and all wiring must be installed and maintained in compliance with those regulations. The Company will, where practicable, notify the Customer that temporary discontinuance of the use of a service may be required; however, where prior notice is not practicable, nothing contained herein shall be deemed to impair the Company's right to discontinue forthwith the use of a service temporarily if such action is reasonable under the circumstances. In case of such temporary discontinuance, the Customer will be promptly notified and afforded the opportunity to correct the condition which gave rise to the temporary discontinuance. During such period of temporary discontinuance, credit allowance for service interruptions as set forth in Section 2.6 following is not applicable.

2.4.2.2 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 other persons. Any additional protective equipment required to prevent such damage or injury shall be provided by the Company at the Customer's expense.

2.4.3 Interconnection of Facilities

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

2.4.3.2 Access Services may be connected to the services or facilities of other communications carriers only when authorized by, and in accordance with, the terms and conditions of the tariffs of the other communications carriers which are applicable to such connections.

2.4.4 Inspections

2.4.4.1 Upon reasonable notification to the Customer, and at reasonable times, 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 2.4.2.2 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. No credit will be allowed for any interruptions occurring during such inspections.

2.4.4.2 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. The Company will, upon request 24 hours in advance, provide the Customer with a statement of technical parameters that the Customer's equipment must meet.

2.5 Payment Arrangements

2.5.1 Payment for Service

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

2.5.1.1 Taxes

The Customer is responsible for the payment of any sales, use, gross receipts, excise, access or other local, state and federal taxes, charges or surcharges (however designated) excluding taxes on the Company's net income imposed on or based upon the provision, sale or use of Access Services. All such taxes shall be separately designated on the Company's invoices. Any taxes imposed by a local jurisdiction (e.g., county and municipal taxes) will only be recovered from those Customers located in the affected jurisdictions. If an entity other than the Company (e.g. another carrier or a supplier) imposes charges on the Company, in addition to its own internal costs, in connection with a service for which the Company's non-recurring charge is specified, those charges will be passed on to the Customer. It shall be the responsibility of the Customer to pay any such taxes that subsequently become applicable retroactively.

2.5.1.2 A surcharge is imposed on all charges for service originating at addresses in states which levy, or assert a claim of right to levy, a gross receipts tax on the Company's operations in any such state, or a tax on interstate access charges incurred by the Company for originating access to telephone exchanges in that state. This surcharge is based on the particular state's receipts tax and other state taxes imposed directly or indirectly upon the Company by virtue of, and measured by, the gross receipts or revenues of the Company in that state and/or payment of interstate access charges in that state. The surcharge will be shown as a separate line item on the Customer's monthly invoice.

2.5.2 <u>Billing and Collection of Charges</u>

The Company shall bill on a current basis all charges incurred by, and credits due to, the Customer under this tariff attributable to services established, provided, or discontinued during the preceding billing period. All bills for services provided to or on behalf of the Customer by the company are due immediately.

2.5.2.1 Non-Recurring Charges are payable when the service for which they are specified has been performed. Recurring Charges which are not dependant on usage will be billed in advance of the month in which service is provided. The Company bills Non-Recurring Charges and Recurring Charges monthly to the Customers.

2.5.2.2 All bills for services provided to or on behalf of the Customer by the Company are due and payable upon receipt. Charges which have not been paid within 30 days of the invoice date are considered past due.

2.5.2.2.1 If the payment due date would cause payment to be due on a Saturday, Sunday or Holiday (New Year's Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, or any day which is a legally observed Federal government Holiday), the payment due date shall be as follows:

2.5.2.2.1.1 If the payment due date falls on a Sunday or on a Holiday which is observed on Monday, the payment date shall be the first non-Holiday day following that day, and;

2.5.2.2.1.2 If the payment due date falls on a Saturday or on a Holiday which is observed on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday, the payment date shall be the last non-Holiday day following such Saturday or Holiday.

2.5.2.3 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, based on a thirty-day month.

2.5.2.4 Billing of the Customer by the Company will begin on the Service Commencement Date. Billing accrues through and includes the day that the service, circuit, arrangement or component is discontinued.

2.5.2.5 Amounts not paid within 30 days after the date of invoice will be considered past due and subject to the following late payment provisions.

2.5.2.5.1 Late Payment Charges: If (i) no payment is received by the Company from the Customer, (ii) a partial payment of the amount due is received by the Company after the payment due date and/or (iii) payment is received by the Company in funds that are not immediately available to the Company, a late payment charge shall be applied. The late payment charge will be fifteen percent (15%) per year, or one point twenty five percent (1.25%) per month of the late payment charges.

Interest shall not be assessed on any previously assessed late payment charges.

If the Company becomes concerned at any time about the ability of a Customer to pay its bills, the Company may require that the Customer pay its bills within a specified number of days less than 30 days after the date of the invoice and make such payments in cash or the equivalent of cash. If a service is disconnected by the Company in accordance with Section 2.5.5 following and later restored, restoration of service will be subject to all applicable installation charges.

2.5.2.6 <u>Billing Dispute</u>: The Customer shall notify the Company of any disputed items on an invoice. The customer may dispute the bill orally or in writing at any time once the invoice is received. 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 regulations. If the customer disputes a bill and the dispute requires documentation, the Customer must document its claim to the Company in writing.

2.5.2.6.1 For written complaints sufficient documentation consists of, but is not limited to, the following information, where such information is relevant to the dispute and available to the Customer:

The nature of the dispute (i.e., alleged incorrect rate, alleged incorrect minutes of use, etc.), including the basis for the Customer's belief that the bill is incorrect;

The type of usage (i.e., originating or terminating);

The Company end office where the minutes of use originated or terminated (if applicable);

The number of minutes in dispute;

The billing account number(s) (BANs) assigned by the Company;

The dollar amount in dispute;

The date of the bill(s) in question;

Circuit number or complete system identification and DS3 system identification if the dispute concerns a Connecting Facility Assignment (CFA) on a DS1. Line number, trunk number and Two Six Code (TSC) should also be provided;

Purchase Order Number (PON) and dates involved (due date or as-of date) for disputes involving order activity and what the Customer believe is incorrect (e.g. non-recurring charge, mileage, circuit identification) and why they believe it to be incorrect (not received, not ordered, incorrect rate, etc.) For order activity disputes documentation should include traffic reports, billing cycle, and, is the service is shared, both main and shared service BANs. Line number, trunk number and Two Six Code as well as end-office identification should also be provided; and/or,

Any other information necessary to facilitate dispute resolution.

If additional information from the Customer would assist in resolving the dispute, the Customer may be requested to provide this information. This data may include, but is not limited to, summarized usage data by time of day. The request for such additional information shall not affect the dispute date established by this section.

2.5.2.6.2 The date of resolution shall be the date on which the Company completes its investigation of the dispute, notifies the Customer of the disposition and, if the billing dispute is resolved in favor of the Customer, applies the credit for the amount of the dispute resolved in the Customer's favor to the Customer's bill, including the disputed amount interest credit, as appropriate.

2.5.2.7 Ordering, Rating and Billing of Access Services Where More Than One Exchange Carrier is Involved.

All Recurring and Non-Recurring Charges for services provided by each Exchange Carrier are billed under each Company's applicable tariffs. Under a Meet Point Billing arrangement, the Company will only bill for charges for traffic carried between the Company Local Switching Center and the End User.

The multiple billing arrangement described in this section is subject to the provisions of the Multiple Exchange Carrier Access Billing Guidelines (MECAB) and the Multiple Exchange Carrier Ordering and Design Guidelines (MECOD), except that the Company will not bill for local transport as described in MECAB. The Company will bill the Tandem Connect (as defined in Section 5.3.3.1.1) rate elements as specified in this Tariff.

The Company must notify the Customer of: 1) the meet point option that will be used; 2) the Carrier(s) that will render the bill(s); 3) the Carrier(s) to whom payment should be remitted; and 4) the Carrier(s) that will provide the bill inquiry function. The Company shall provide such notification at the time orders are placed for Access Service. Additionally, the Company shall provide this notice in writing 30 days in advance of any changes in the arrangement.

The Company will handle the rating and billing of Access Services under this tariff where more than one Exchange Carrier is involved in the provision of Access Services, as follows: each company will provide its portion of access service based on the regulations, rates and charges contained in its respective access service tariff, subject to the following rules, as appropriate:

(a) The application of non-distance sensitive rate elements varies according to the rate structure and the location of the facilities involved:

(i) when rates and charges are listed on a per minute basis, the Company's rates and charges will apply to traffic originating from the Customer's Premises and terminating at the End User's premises, and vice versa.

2.5.3 Advance Payments

To safeguard its interests, the Company may in its sole discretion require a Customer to make an Advance Payment before services and facilities are furnished. The Advance Payment will not exceed an amount equal to the Non-Recurring Charge(s) for installation costs and special construction, and one month's charges for the service or facility ordered. In addition, where special construction is involved, the Advance Payment may also include an amount equal to the estimated Non-Recurring charges for the special construction and Recurring Charges (if any) for a period to be set by agreement between the Company and the Customer. The Advance Payment will be credited in its entirety to the Customer's initial bill. The advance payment is due 10 business days following the date the Company confirms acceptance of the order, or on the application date, whichever is later. If the advance payment is not received by such payment date, the order may be cancelled. When the Customer cancels an access service request, the order will be withdrawn. An Advance Payment may be required in addition to a deposit.

2.5.4 Reserved for Future Use

2.5.5 Refusal and Discontinuance of Service

2.5.5.1 Upon nonpayment of any amounts owing to the Company, the Company may, by giving prior written notice to the Customer advising that it has 7 days to make settlement on the account or have service disconnected, discontinue or suspend service without incurring any liability.

2.5.5.2 Upon violation of any of a material term or condition for furnishing service the Company may, by giving 7 days' prior notice in writing to the Customer, discontinue or suspend service without incurring any liability if such violation continues during that period.

2.5.5.3 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.

2.5.5.4 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.

2.5.5.5 Upon the Company's discontinuance of service to the Customer under Section 2.5.5.1 or 2.5.5.2 above, the Company, in addition to all other remedies that may be available to the Company at law or in equity or under any other provision of this tariff, may declare all future monthly and other charges which would have been payable by the Customer during the remainder of the term for which such services would have otherwise been provided to the Customer to be immediately due and payable.

2.5.5.6 When Access Service is provided by more than one Company, the companies involved in providing the joint service may individually or collectively deny service to a Customer for nonpayment. Where the Company(s) affected by the nonpayment is incapable of effecting discontinuance of service without cooperation from the other joint providers of Switched Access Service, such other Company(s) will, if technically feasible, assist in denying the joint service to the Customer. Service denial for such joint service will only include calls originating or terminating within, or transiting, the operating territory of the Company initiating the service denial for nonpayment. When more than one of the joint providers must deny service to effectuate termination for nonpayment, in cases where a conflict exists in the applicable tariff provisions, the tariff regulations of the company whose Local Switching Center serves the Customer shall apply for joint service discontinuance.

2.5.5.7 The Company may discontinue the furnishings of any and/or all service(s) to a Customer, without incurring any liability:

2.5.5.7.1 Immediately and without notice if the Company deems that such action is necessary to prevent or to protect against fraud or to otherwise protect its personnel, agents, facilities or services. The Company may discontinue service pursuant to this sub-section 2.5.5.7.1.(a-f), if

(a) The Customer refuses to furnish information to the Company regarding the Customer's credit-worthiness, its past or current use of common carrier communications services or its planned use of service(s); or

(b) The Customer provides false information to the Company regarding the Customer's identity, address, credit-worthiness, past or current use of common carrier communications services, or its planned use of the Company's service(s); or

(c) The Customer states that it will not comply with a request of the Company for security for the payment for service(s) in accordance with Section 2.5.4.1 above; or

(d) The Customer has been given written notice by the Company of any past due amount (which remains unpaid in whole or in part) for any of the Company's other common carrier communications services to which the Customer either subscribes or had subscribed or used; or

(e) The Customer uses service to transmit a message, locate a person or otherwise give or obtain information without payment for the service; or

(f) The Customer uses, or attempts or use, service with the intent to avoid the payment, either in whole or in part, of the tariffed charges for the service by:

(1) Using or attempting to use service by rearranging, tampering with, or making connections to the Company's service not authorized by this tariff; or

(2) Using tricks, schemes, false or invalid numbers, false credit devices, electronic devices; or

(3) Any other fraudulent means or devices.

2.5.5.7.2 Immediately upon written notice to the Customer, after failure of the Customer to comply with a request made by the Company for security for the payment of service in accordance with Section 2.5.4.1, above; or

2.5.5.7.3 Ten (10) days after sending the Customer written notice of noncompliance with any provision of this tariff if the noncompliance is not corrected within that ten (10) day period. The discontinuance of service(s) by the Company pursuant to this Section does not relieve the Customer of any obligation to pay the Company for charges due and owing for service(s) furnished up to the time of discontinuance.

2.5.6 Cancellation of Application for Service

2.5.6.1 Applications for service are non-cancelable unless the Company otherwise agrees. Where the Company permits the 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 as may be specified in this Section and Section 3.2.3.

2.5.6.2 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 the Company incurred, 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 begun.

2.5.6.3 The special charges described in 2.5.6.1 through 2.5.6.2 will be calculated and applied on a case-by-case basis.

2.6 **Reserved for Future Use.**

2.7 Cancellation of Service

2.7.1 If a Customer cancels services before the completion of the term for any reason whatsoever , the Customer agrees to pay to the Company the following sums which shall become due and owing as of the effective date of the cancellation or termination and shall be payable within the period set forth in Section 2.5.2: all costs, fees, and expenses reasonably incurred in connection with 1) all Non-Recurring Charges reasonably expended by Company to establish service to Customer, plus 2) any disconnection, early cancellation or termination charges reasonably incurred and paid to third parties by Company on behalf of Customer, plus 3) all Recurring Charges specified in the applicable Service Order Tariff for the balance of the then current term.

The terms and conditions specified in Section 3.2.3 will apply for cancellation of an Access Service Request.

2.8 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 (a) to any subsidiary, parent Company or affiliate of the Company (b) pursuant to any sale or transfer of substantially all the assets of the Company; or(c) pursuant to any financing, merger or reorganization of the Company.

2.9 Notices and Communications

2.9.1 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.

2.9.2 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 the Company may designate a separate address, on each bill for service, to which the Customer shall mail payment on that bill.

2.9.3 All notices or other communications required to be given pursuant to this tariff shall 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 deposit 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.

2.9.4 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.

2.10 Application of Rates

The regulations set forth in this section govern the application of rates for services contained in other sections of this tariff.

2.10.1 Charges Based on Duration of Use

Customer traffic to end offices will be measured (i.e., recorded or assumed) by the Company at end office switches or access tandem switches. Originating and terminating calls will be measured (i.e., recorded or assumed) by the Company to determine the basis for computing chargeable access minutes. In the event the Customer message detail is not available because the company lost or damages tapes or experienced recording system outages, the Company will estimate the value of lost Customer access minutes of use based on previously known values. For originating calls over Feature Group D, usage measurement begins when the originating Feature Group D switch receives the first wink supervisory signal forwarded from the Customer's point of termination.

The measurement of originating call usage ends when the originating Feature Group D switch receives disconnect supervision from either the originating end user's end office, indicating the originating end user has disconnected, or the Customer's point of termination, whichever is recognized first by the switch.

For terminating calls over Feature Group D, the measurement of access minutes begins when the terminating Feature Group D switch receives answer supervision from the terminating end user's end office, indicating the terminating end user has answered. For terminating calls over FGD Access Service, the measured minutes are chargeable access minutes. Where assumed minutes are used, the assumed minutes are the chargeable access minutes.

The measurement of terminating call usage over Feature Group D ends when the terminating Feature Group D switch receives disconnect supervision from either the terminating end user's end office, indicating the terminating end user has disconnected, or the Customer's point of termination, whichever is recognized first by the switch.

FGD access minutes or fractions thereof, the exact value of the fraction being a function of the switch technology where the measurement is made, are accumulated over the billing period for each end office, and are then rounded up to the nearest access minutes for each end office.

2.11 Billing Name and Address

2.11.1 Service Description

Billing Name and Address (BNA) service provides account detail of the Company's customers to interexchange carriers, operator service providers, enhanced service providers, and any other provider of interstate telecommunications services.

2.11.2 General

A. Upon acceptance of an order for BNA service, the Company will furnish account detail for each working number submitted. Account detail consists of current data base information including the end user's billing name and billing address.

B. Only current information which resides in the Company's data base will be provided. Customers ordering BNA service must accept BNA account detail on an "as is" basis.

C. The Company will specify the location where requests for BNA service are to be received, and the format in which the requests are to be provided.

D. The subscribing customer must agree that BNA information will not be resold or otherwise provided to any other person, corporation, partnership or entity, other than Customer's authorized billing agent, and that Billing Name and Address shall be used by Customer or Customer's authorized billing agent solely for:

1. Billing its customers for using Customer's telecommunications services.
2. Any purpose associated with the equal access requirement of United States v. AT&T, 552 F. Supp. 131 (D.D.C. 1982).
3. Verification of service orders of new customers, identification of customers who have moved to a new address, fraud prevention, and similar nonmarketing purposes.

For calling card calls and collect and third party billed calls, Billing Name and Address for ANI service is not available on accounts of nonpublished/unlisted end users who, by request to the Company (which request may be submitted at any time), have specified that such information not be released.

E. Manual Request

1. At the customer's option, the Company will provide BNA via manual request procedures.
2. BNA service information will be provided by the Company in standard paper format via facsimile or first class U.S. mail.
3. The data will be provided in a time frame mutually agreed to by the customer and the company. Availability of data may be delayed if errors exist in the request received from the customer.

F. Mechanized Request

1. At the customer's option, the Company will provide BNA, subject to procedures established for Customer Account Record Exchange (CARE).
2. The customer will submit its requests through proper CARE procedures, as revised or amended.

G. Upon receipt of a request from a vendor for BNA, the Company will provide the requested information to the vendor within ten (10) business days of the Company's receipt of the vendor's request. Both the request and the provision of the BNA information will be in a mutually agreed-upon format.

The number of BNA records for which charges apply will be accumulated by the Company, and billed to the customer on a monthly basis at the rates set forth in this tariff.

ACCESS SERVICE ORDER

3.1 General: An Access Service Order is used by the Company to provide a customer Access Service.

3.1.1 Information Required

When placing an order for Access Service, the customer shall provide, at a minimum the following information:

A. For Feature Group D Switched Access Service, the Customer shall specify the number of busy hour minutes of capacity (BHMC) from the customer's premises to the end office by Feature Group and by traffic type. This information is used to determine the number of transmission paths. The Customer shall also specify the Local Transport and Local Switching options. Customers may, at their option, order FGD by specifying the number of trunks and the end office when direct routing to the end office is desired and the Local Transport and Local Switching options desired. When ordering by trunk quantities rather than BHMC quantities to an end office, the customer must also provide the Company an estimate of the amount of traffic it will generate to and/or from each end office subtending an access tandem operated by another Exchange Telephone Company to assist the Company in its own efforts to project further facility requirements.

In addition, for Feature Group D with the SS7 option. the customer shall specify the switching point codes and trunk circuit identification codes for trunks with the SS7 option, and the STP point codes, signaling link codes and link type for each Common Channel Signaling Access (CCSA) connection ordered.

When a customer orders FGD in trunks, the Customer is responsible to assure that sufficient access facilities have been ordered to handle its traffic.

B. For 8XX Data Base Access Service, the customer shall order the service in accordance with the preceding provisions set forth for Feature Group D.

C. For Local Access Service, the customer shall specify the number of trunks or facilities and the end office when direct routing to the end office is desired and the options desired. When ordering trunks or facilities to an end office, the customer must also provide the Company an estimate of the amount of traffic to be generated to and/or from each end office subtending an access tandem operated by another Exchange Telephone Company to assist the Company in the effort to project further facility requirements. In addition, when the customer orders trunks or facilities, the customer is responsible for assuring that sufficient access facilities have been ordered to handle its traffic.

3.1.2 Access Service Request Modifications: The Customer may request a modification of its ASR prior to the Service Commencement Date. All modifications must be in writing using the industry ASR process. The Company, in its sole discretion, may accept a verbal modification from the Customer. The Company will make every effort to accommodate a requested modification when it is able to do so with the normal work force assigned to complete such an order within normal business hours. Charges for access service order modification will apply as set forth below, on a per occurrence basis.

Any increase in the number of Special Access Service Channels, Switched Access Service lines, trunks, Direct Connect transport facilities, Out of Band Signaling connections or any change in engineering or functionality of a service will be treated as a new ASR with a new Service Date interval.

3.1.3 Service Commencement Date Changes: ASR service dates for the installation of new services or rearrangement of existing services may be changed, but the new service date may not exceed the original Service Commencement Date by more than 30 calendar days. When, for any reason, the Customer indicates that service cannot be accepted for a period not to exceed 30 calendar days, and the Company accordingly delays the start of service, a Service Date Change Charge will apply. In addition, when the Customer submits a request for a Service Date Change that is less than five business days from the date of notification by the Customer, a Service Date Change Charge and an Expedite Charge will apply. No Expedite Charge will apply if the Customer requests a Service Date Change that is more than 5 business days from the date of request by the Customer but earlier than the original requested Service Commencement Date.

If the Customer requested service date is more than 30 calendar days after the original service date, the order will be cancelled by the Company on the 31st day. Appropriate cancellation charges will be applied. If the Customer still requires the service, the Customer must place a new ASR with the Company.

The Service Date Change Charge will apply on a per order, per occurrence basis for each service date changed.

3.1.4 Design Change Charge: The Customer may request a Design Change to the service ordered. A Design Change is any change to an ASR which requires Engineering Review. An Engineering Review is a review by Company personnel of the service ordered and the requested changes to determine what change(s) in the design, if any, are necessary to meet the Customer's request. Design Changes include such changes as the addition or deletion of optional features or functions, a change in the type of Transport Termination (Switched Access only) or type of Channel interface. Any other changes are not considered Design Changes for purpose of this subsection and will require issuance of a new ASR and the cancellation of the original ASR with appropriate cancellation charges applied.
The Design Change Charge will apply on a per order, per occurrence basis, for each order requiring a Design Change.

3.1.5 Expedited Order Charge: When placing an Access Order for service(s) for which a Standard Interval exists, a Customer may request a Service Commencement Date that is earlier than the Standard Interval Service Date, in which case an Expedite Charge will apply. The Expedite Charge will not apply if the new Service Commencement Date is more than five days from the date of the request to the Company of the expedited order request. The request for an earlier service date may be received from the Customer prior to its issuance of an ASR, or after the ASR has been issued but prior to the service date. The Company has the exclusive right to accept or deny the Expedite Order request. However if, upon reviewing availability of equipment and scheduled work load, the Company agrees to provide service on an expedited basis and the Customer accepts the Company's proposal, an Expedite Charge will apply.

If the Company is subsequently unable to meet an agreed upon expedited service date, then the Expedite Charge will not apply.

In the event the Company provides service on an expedited basis on the Customer's request, and the Customer delays service or is not ready for delivery of service at the time of installation, a Service Date Change Charge will apply in addition to the Expedite Charge.

In the event that the Customer cancels an expedite request, the Expedite Charge will be added to any applicable Cancellation Charge specified herein.

In the event that the Customer requests a Service Date Change after the Company has received the original expedite request, the Expedite Charge will still apply.

An Expedite Charge will not be applied to orders expedited for Company reasons.

If costs other than additional administrative expenses are to be incurred when the Access Order is expedited, the regulations and charges for Special Construction as set forth in this tariff will apply.

The Expedited Order Charge will apply on a per order, per occurrence basis, as specified in the customer service agreement.

3.1.6 Cancellation of an Access Service Request: A Customer may cancel an ASR for the installation of Switched Access Service at any time prior to notification by the Company that service is available for the Customer's use. The cancellation date is the date the Company receives written or verbal notice from the Customer that the order is to be cancelled. The verbal notice must be followed by written confirmation within 10 days. A Customer may negotiate an extension of a service date of an ASR for installation of new services or rearrangement of existing service, in which case a Service Date Change Charge will apply. However, the new service date cannot exceed the originally established service date by more than 30 calendar days. On the 31st day beyond the original service date, the ASR will be cancelled and the appropriate Cancellation Charge will be applied.

A Customer may cancel an ASR for the installation of Special Access Service without incurring a charge at any time prior to the acceptance of a Negotiated Interval Service Date by the Customer. Cancellation Charges will apply for Special Access Service if the Customer cancels more than 48 hours after the Application Date. Cancellation Charges for Expedited Orders will be applied for any order cancelled from the Application Date forward.

If the Company misses a service date for a Standard or Negotiated Interval Access Order by more than 30 days due to circumstances such as acts of God, governmental requirements, work stoppages and civil commotions, the Company shall not be liable for such delay and the Customer may cancel the ASR without incurring cancellation charges.

3.1.7 Minimum Period of Service: The minimum period for which Access Service is provided and for which charges are applicable is specified in a written agreement signed by the customer.

3.1.8 When Service is disconnected prior to the expiration of the minimum period, charges are applicable for the balance of the minimum period. For Switched Access Service, the charge for a month or fraction thereof is equivalent to 50,000 billed minutes of use for the applicable service. All applicable Non Recurring Charges for the service will be billed in addition to the Minimum Period Charge.

4. SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE DESCRIPTION

4.1 General

Switched Access Service, which is available to Customers for their use in furnishing their services to end users, provides a two-point communications path between a Customer's Premises and an End User's Premises. It provides for the use of common terminating, switching and transport facilities. Switched Access Service provides the ability to originate calls from an End User's Premises to a customer's premises, and to terminate calls from a Customer's Premises location to an End User's Premises. Switched Access Service is only available when originating or terminating calls from or to an end user which subscribes to the Company's Local Exchange Services.

4.1.1 Feature Group Access

Feature Group (FG) Access provides trunk-side access to Local Switching Center switches, for the Customer's use in originating and terminating communications.

When the Customer has no direct facilities to the Company all traffic is routed to and from the Company's local switching center via the Customer's tandem provider (Tandem Connect Access). Delivery of calls to, or acceptance of calls from, the Company's end user customer locations via Tandem Connect Access over Company-switched local exchange services shall constitute an agreement by the Customer to purchase Tandem Connect Access services. The Company reserves the right to submit an ASR for Tandem Connect Access.

A. Originating Access

The access code for FG Access switching is a uniform code of the form 101XXXX. (Other supported call types may include FGA, FGB, and 500/700/900 access.) A single access code will be the assigned number of all FG Access provided to the Customer by the Company. When the access code is used, FG Access switching also provides for dialing the digit 0 for access to the Customer's operator service, 911 for access to emergency service, and/or the end of dialing digit (#) for cut-through access to the Customer's premises. Originating 101XXXX FG Access rates also apply where service is accessed via "1+" where presubscription is available.

B. Terminating Access

Originating and Terminating FG Access provides trunk-side access to Local Switching Center switches with an associated 101XXXX access code for the customer's use in originating or terminating communications. Terminating FG Access may only be used to access end users who are subscribing to the Company's Local Exchange Services. Calls in the terminating direction will not be completed to 950-0XXX or 950-1XXX access codes, local operator assistance (0- and 0+), Directory Assistance, (411 or 555-1212) service codes 611 and 911 and 101XXXX access codes. The customer is responsible to assure that sufficient access facilities have been ordered to handle its traffic.

4.1.2 Local Exchange Access Service

Local Exchange Access Service is available only to customers that are authorized providers of local exchange telephone service, provides trunk side access to Company end office switches in the terminating direction only for the customer's use in terminating local calls dialed to an NPA-NXX code directly assigned to the Company.

1) Definition

As used in this section, "local exchange call" means a telephone communication (a) that is originated by a company that is authorized by the appropriate regulatory agency to provide local exchange telephone service, (b) that originates and terminates within a single "exchange area" or "local calling area" as defined in the approved tariffs of the originating company, and (c) that is dialed to an NPA-NXX code directly assigned to the Company in the State of South Dakota.

2) Description

Local Exchange Access Service is a service offering providing trunk side access to the Company's end office switches in the terminating direction only, for use by authorized providers of local exchange telephone service for the completion of local exchange calls that originate in local calling areas of adjoining states and terminate in the state of South Dakota.

3) Obligation of the Local Exchange Provider

(a) The Company may request an annual audit of the authorized local exchange provider billings for Local Exchange Access Services (calls originating from the Company's end-user to the authorized local exchange provider's end-user). The audit requirement is needed to ensure accurate billing between local exchange calls and non-local exchange calls.

(b) The authorized local exchange provider will be requested to provide a forecast of total usage by each trunk group or facility ordered from the Company for each POI used in a Local Exchange Access Service arrangement.

4) Rating of Local Exchange Access Service: For billing purposes, Local Exchange Access Service calls originating from an authorized local exchange provider and terminating on the Company's network (for completion to a Company end user) will be rated at the Company's end office.

The Terminating Usage rate will be applied on a per minute-of-use basis for the completion of calls from an authorized local exchange provider end-user to a Company end-user.

4.1.3 <u>8XX Data Base Access Service</u>

8XX Data Base Access Service provides originating trunk side switched access. When an 8XX+NXX+XXXX call is originated by an End User the Company will perform the 8XX database query to determine the proper 8XX provider to which the call will be routed.

5. SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE RATES

5.1 General

This section contains the specific regulations governing the rates and charges that apply for Switched Access Services. There are three types of rates and charges that may apply to Switched Access Service:

Non-Recurring Charges: One-time charges that apply for a specific work activity.

Recurring Charges: Fixed charges apply each month and depend on the number and type of facilities in place.

Usage Charges: Charges that are applied on a per access minute basis. Usage rates are accumulated over a monthly period.

5.2 Rate Categories

5.2.1 Originating Access

$0.038905 per minute.

5.2.2 Terminating Access

$0.038905 per minute.

5.2.3 Local Exchange Access

$0.038905per minute.

5.2.4 8XX Data Base Query

The 8XX Data Base Query Charge, will apply for each Toll-Free 8XX call query received at the Company's (or its provider's) 8XX data base.

Basic Query:	$0.02080300
POTS translation	$0.00000183
Call handling and destination feature:	$0.00000061

5.2.5 End Office Call Termination

$0.000702 per minute.

5.2.6 Transport/Tandem Switching

$0.000690 per minute.

5.2 Rate Categories (Cont'd)

5.2.7 Interconnection/Tandem Transmission

0-8 miles $0.000412 + $0.000012 per mile
8-25 miles $0.000406 + $0.000014 per mile
25-50 miles $0.000408 + $0.000013 per mile
Over 50 miles $0.000410 + $0.000009 per mile

5.3 Miscellaneous Charges

5.3.1 Returned Check Charge

$20.00 per occurrence.

5.3.2 Service Date Change

$20.00 per occurrence.

5.3.3 BNA Information

$0.50 per customer inquiry.

Each individual name or address requested during an inquiry will be charged the $0.50 inquiry fee stated above.

SECTION 6.0 - SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS

6.1 Individual Case Basis (ICB) Arrangements

Arrangements will be developed on an Individual Case Basis (ICB) in response to a bona fide special request from a customer or prospective Customer to develop a competitive bid for a service, or to establish rates for services for which the Company has not yet established generically tariffed rates. ICB rates will be offered to the Customer in writing and on a non-discriminatory basis.

6.2 Contracts

The Company may provide any of the services offered under this tariff, or combinations of services, to Customers on a contractual basis. The terms and conditions of each contract offering are subject to the agreement of both the Customer and Company. Such contract offerings will be made available to similarly situated Customers in substantially similar circumstances. Rates in other sections of this tariff do not apply to Customers who agree to contract arrangements, with respect to services within the scope of the contract.

Services provided under contract are not eligible for any promotional offerings which may be offered by the Company from time to time.