



**MASTER INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT  
FOR THE STATE OF NEBRASKA**

*February 1, 2005*

*Sprint Communications Company, LP*

*and*

*United Telephone Company of the West d/b/a Sprint*

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## **INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT**

This Interconnection Agreement (the "Agreement"), dated this 1<sup>st</sup> day of February, 2005, is entered into by and between Sprint Communications Company, LP ("CLEC"), a Delaware limited partnership, and United Telephone Company of the West d/b/a Sprint ("Sprint"), a Delaware corporation, to establish the rates, terms and conditions for local interconnection (referred to as the "service").

WHEREAS, the Parties wish to interconnect their local exchange networks for the purposes of transmission and termination of calls, ("Local Interconnection"); and

WHEREAS, the Parties intend the rates, terms and conditions of this Agreement, and their performance of obligations thereunder, to comply with the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (the "Act"), the Rules and Regulations of the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC"), and the orders, rules and regulations of the Commission; and

WHEREAS, the parties wish to replace any and all other prior agreements, written and oral, applicable to the state of Nebraska .

Now, therefore, in consideration of the terms and conditions contained in this Agreement, CLEC and Sprint hereby mutually agree as follows:

## PART A - DEFINITIONS

### 1. DEFINED TERMS

- 1.1. Capitalized terms defined in this Section shall have the meanings as set forth in this Agreement. Other terms used but not defined will have the meanings ascribed to them in the Act or in the Rules and Regulations of the FCC or the Commission. The Parties acknowledge that other terms appear in this Agreement, which are not defined or ascribed as stated above. The parties agree that any such terms shall be construed in accordance with their customary usage in the telecommunications industry as of the Effective Date of this Agreement.
- 1.2. "911 Service" means a universal telephone number which gives the public direct access to the Public Safety Answering Point ("PSAP"). Basic 911 service collects 911 calls from one or more local exchange switches that serve a geographic area. The calls are then sent to the correct authority designated to receive such calls.
- 1.3. "Access Services" refers to interstate and intrastate switched access and private line transport services.
- 1.4. "Act" means the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.
- 1.5. "Affiliate" is as defined in the Act.
- 1.6. "Automated Message Accounting" ("AMA") is the structure inherent in switch technology that initially records telecommunication message information. AMA format is contained in the Automated Message Accounting document, published by Telcordia as GR-1100-CORE which defines the industry standard for message recording.
- 1.7. "Automatic Location Identification" ("ALI") means a feature that provides the caller's telephone number, address and the names of the Emergency Response agencies that are responsible for that address.
- 1.8. "Automatic Location Identification/Data Management System" ("ALI/DMS") means the emergency service ("E911/911") database containing subscriber location information (including name, address, telephone number, and sometimes special information from the local service provider) used to determine to which Public Safety Answering Point ("PSAP") to route the call.
- 1.9. "Automatic Number Identification" ("ANI") is a feature that identifies and displays the number of a telephone line that originates a call.
- 1.10. "Automatic Route Selection" ("ARS") is a service feature associated with a specific grouping of lines that provides for automatic selection of the least expensive or most appropriate transmission facility for each call based on criteria programmed into the system.
- 1.11. "Busy Line Verify/Busy Line Verify Interrupt" ("BLV/BLVI") means an operator call in which the caller inquires as to the busy status of, or requests an

interruption of a call on another subscriber's telephone line.

- 1.12. "Business Day(s)" means the days of the week excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and all Sprint holidays.
- 1.13. "Carrier Access Billing System" ("CABS") is the system which is defined in a document prepared under the direction of the Billing Committee of the OBF. The CABS document is published by Telcordia in Volumes 1, 1A, 2, 3, 3A, 4 and 5 as Special Reports SR-OPT-001868, SR-OPT-001869, SR-OPT-001871, SR-OPT-001872, SR-OPT-001873, SR-OPT-001874, and SR-OPT-001875, respectively, and contains the recommended guidelines for the billing of access and other connectivity services. Sprint's carrier access billing system is its Carrier Access Support System (CASS). CASS mirrors the requirements of CABS.
- 1.14. "Commission" means the Nebraska Public Service Commission..
- 1.15. "Common Channel Signaling" ("CCS") is a method of digitally transmitting call set-up and network control data over a digital signaling network fully separate from the public switched telephone network that carries the actual call.
- 1.16. "Common Transport" provides a local interoffice transmission path between End Office Switches, between End Office Switches and Tandem Switches and between Tandem Switches in Sprint's network. Common Transport is shared between multiple customers and is required to be switched at the Tandem Switch.
- 1.17. "Confidential and/or Proprietary Information" has the meaning set forth in Section 13 of Part A - General Terms and Conditions.
- 1.18. "Control Office" is an exchange carrier center or office designated as the Party's single point of contact for the provisioning and maintenance of its portion of local interconnection arrangements.
- 1.19. "Customer Proprietary Network Information" ("CPNI") is as defined in the Act.
- 1.20. "Database Management System" ("DBMS") is a computer process used to store, sort, manipulate and update the data required to provide selective routing and ALL.
- 1.21. "Day" means calendar days unless otherwise specified.
- 1.22. "Directory Assistance Database" refers to any subscriber record used by Sprint in its provision of live or automated operator-assisted directory assistance including but not limited to 411, 555-1212, NPA-555-1212.
- 1.23. "Directory Assistance Services" provides listings to callers. Directory Assistance Services may include the option to complete the call at the caller's direction.
- 1.24. "Effective Date" is the date referenced in the opening paragraph on page 1 of the Agreement, unless otherwise required by the Commission.
- 1.25. "Electronic Interface" means access to operations support systems consisting of

preordering, ordering, provisioning, maintenance and repair and billing functions.

- 1.26. "Emergency Response Agency" is a governmental entity authorized to respond to requests from the public to meet emergencies.
- 1.27. "Emergency Service Number" ("ESN") is a number assigned to the ALI and selective routing databases for all subscriber telephone numbers. The ESN designates a unique combination of fire, police and emergency medical service response agencies that serve the address location of each in-service telephone number.
- 1.28. "End User" or "End User Customer" means the residence or business subscriber that is the ultimate user of Telecommunications Services provided by either of the Parties, and, for purposes of this Agreement, CLEC's "end user" shall also include those residential and business customers who are the ultimate user of telecommunications service provided directly by Sprint or indirectly by Sprint via a third party that is acquiring telecommunications interconnection service from CLEC .
- 1.29. "Exchange Message Interface System" ("EMI") is the Industry standard for exchanging telecommunications message information for billable, non-billable, sample settlement and study records. The EMI is published by ATIS (Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions).
- 1.30. "End Date" is the date this Agreement terminates as referenced in 5.1.
- 1.31. "Enhanced 911 Service" ("E911") means a telephone communication service which will automatically route a call dialed "9-1-1" to a designated public safety answering point (PSAP) attendant and will provide to the attendant the calling party's telephone number and, when possible, the address from which the call is being placed and the Emergency Response agencies responsible for the location from which the call was dialed.
- 1.32. "FCC" means the Federal Communications Commission.
- 1.33. "Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier" ("ILEC") is as defined in the Act.
- 1.34. "Interexchange Carrier" ("IXC") means a provider of interexchange Telecommunications Services.
- 1.35. "Indirect Traffic" means traffic which is originated by one Party and terminated to the other Party in which a third party Telecommunications Carrier provides the intermediary transiting service. Indirect traffic does not require a physical direct trunk group between the Parties.
- 1.36. "ISP-Bound Traffic," for the purposes of this Agreement, is traffic that is transmitted to or returned from an Internet Service Provider (ISP) at any point during the duration of the transmission between the Parties.
- 1.37. "Interim Number Portability" ("INP") is a service arrangement whereby subscribers who change local service providers may retain existing telephone



numbers without impairment of quality, reliability, or convenience when remaining at their current location or changing their location within the geographic area served by the initial carrier's serving central office. Upon implementation of Local Number Portability, defined in this Section, INP services will be discontinued.

- 1.38. "Local Number Portability" ("LNP") means the ability of users of Telecommunications Services to retain, at the same Sprint served rate center, existing telecommunications numbers without impairment of quality, reliability, or convenience when switching from one telecommunications carrier to another.
- 1.39. "Local Service Request" ("LSR") means an industry standard form or a mutually agreed upon change thereof, used by the Parties to add, establish, change or disconnect local services.
- 1.40. "Local Traffic" "for the purposes of this Agreement the Parties shall agree that "Local Traffic" means traffic (excluding CMRS traffic) that is originated and terminated within Sprint's local calling area, or mandatory extended area service (EAS) area, as defined by the Commission or, if not defined by the Commission, then as defined in existing Sprint tariffs. For this purpose, Local Traffic does not include any ISP-Bound Traffic
- 1.41. "Multiple Exchange Carrier Access Billing" ("MECAB") refers to the document prepared by the Billing Committee of the ATIS Ordering and Billing Forum ("OBF"). The MECAB document contains the recommended guidelines for the billing of an access service provided to a customer by two or more providers or by one provider in two or more states within a single LATA.
- 1.42. "Multiple Exchange Carrier Ordering And Design" ("MECOD") refers to the guidelines for Access Services - Industry Support Interface, a document developed by the Ordering/Provisioning Committee under the auspices of the OBF, which functions under the auspices of the Carrier Liaison Committee ("CLC") of the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions ("ATIS"). The MECOD document, published by Telcordia as Special Report SR STS-002643, establishes recommended guidelines for processing orders for access service which is to be provided by two or more telecommunications carriers.
- 1.43. "National Emergency Number Association" ("NENA") is an association with a mission to foster the technological advancement, availability and implementation of 911 nationwide.
- 1.44. "Network Element" is as defined in the Act.
- 1.45. "North American Numbering Plan" ("NANP") means the plan for the allocation of unique 10-digit directory numbers consisting of a three-digit area code, a three-digit office code, and a four-digit line number. The plan also extends to format

variations, prefixes, and special code applications.

- 1.46. “Numbering Plan Area” (“NPA”) (sometimes referred to as an area code) is the three-digit indicator which is designated by the first three digits of each 10-digit telephone number within the NANP. Each NPA contains 800 possible NXX Codes. There are two general categories of NPA, “Geographic NPAs” and “Non-Geographic NPAs.” A “Geographic NPA” is associated with a defined geographic area, and all telephone numbers bearing such NPA are associated with services provided within that geographic area. A “Non-Geographic NPA,” also known as a “Service Access Code (SAC Code)” is typically associated with a specialized telecommunications service which may be provided across multiple geographic NPA areas; 500, 800, 900, 700, and 888 are examples of Non-Geographic NPAs.
- 1.47. “NXX,” “NXX Code,” “COC,” “Central Office Code,” or “CO Code” is the three-digit switch entity indicator which is defined by the fourth, fifth and sixth digits of a 10-digit telephone number within NANP.
- 1.48. “OBF” means the Ordering and Billing Forum, which functions under the auspices of the CLC of the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS).
- 1.49. “Operator Services” provides for:
  - 1.49.1. operator handling for call completion (e.g., collect calls);
  - 1.49.2. operator or automated assistance for billing after the subscriber has dialed the called number (e.g., credit card calls); and
  - 1.49.3. special services (e.g., BLV/BLI, Emergency Agency Call).
- 1.50. “Parity” means, subject to the availability, development and implementation of necessary industry standard Electronic Interfaces, the provision of interconnection by Sprint of telephone numbering resources under this Agreement to CLEC, including provisioning and repair, at least equal in quality to those offered to Sprint, its Affiliates or any other entity that obtains such telephone numbering resources. Until the implementation of necessary Electronic Interfaces, Sprint shall provide such telephone numbering resources on a non-discriminatory basis to CLEC as it provides to its Affiliates or any other entity that obtains such telephone numbering resources.
- 1.51. “P.01 Transmission Grade Of Service” (“GOS”) means a trunk facility provisioning standard with the statistical probability of no more than one call in 100 blocked on initial attempt during the average busy hour.
- 1.52. “Parties” means, jointly, Sprint and CLEC, and no other entity, affiliate, subsidiary or assign.
- 1.53. “Party” means either Sprint or CLEC, and no other entity, affiliate, subsidiary or assign.

- 1.54. “Percent Local Usage” (“PLU”) is a calculation which represents the ratio of the local minutes to the sum of local and intraLATA toll minutes between exchange carriers sent over Local Interconnection Trunks. Directory assistance, BLV/BLVI, 900, and 976 transiting calls from other exchange carriers and switched access calls are not included in the calculation of PLU.
- 1.55. “Physical Point of Interconnection” (“Physical POI”) is the physical point that establishes the technical interface, the test point, and the operational responsibility hand-off between CLEC and Sprint for the local interconnection of their networks.
- 1.56. “Proprietary Information” shall have the same meaning as Confidential Information.
- 1.57. “Rate Center” means the geographic point and corresponding geographic area which are associated with one or more particular NPA-NXX codes which have been assigned to Sprint or CLEC for its provision of Basic Exchange Telecommunications Services. The “rate center point” is the finite geographic point identified by a specific V&H coordinate, which is used to measure distance-sensitive end user traffic to/from the particular NPA-NXX designations associated with the specific Rate Center. The “rate center area” is the exclusive geographic area identified as the area within which Sprint or CLEC will provide Basic Exchange Telecommunications Services bearing the particular NPA-NXX designations associated with the specific Rate Center. The Rate Center point must be located within the Rate Center area.
- 1.58. “Routing Point” means a location which Sprint or CLEC has designated on its own network as the homing (routing) point for traffic inbound to Basic Exchange Services provided by Sprint or CLEC which bear a certain NPA-NXX designation. The Routing Point is employed to calculate mileage measurements for the distance-sensitive transport element charges of Switched Access Services. Pursuant to Telcordia Practice BR 795-100-100, the Routing Point may be an “End Office” location, or a “LEC Consortium Point of Interconnection.” Pursuant to that same Telcordia Practice, examples of the latter shall be designated by a common language location identifier (CLLI) code with (x)MD or X(x) in positions 9, 10, 11, where (x) may be any alphanumeric A-Z or 0-9. The above referenced Telcordia document refers to the Routing Point as the Rating Point. The Rating Point/Routing Point need not be the same as the Rate Center Point, nor must it be located within the Rate Center Area, but must be in the same LATA as the NPA-NXX.
- 1.59. “Small Exchange Carrier Access Billing” (“SECAB”) means the document prepared by the Billing Committee of the OBF. The SECAB document, published by ATIS as Special Report SR OPT-001856, contains the recommended guidelines for the billing of access and other connectivity services.
- 1.60. “Selective Routing” is a service which automatically routes an E911 call to the PSAP that has jurisdictional responsibility for the service address of the telephone

that dialed 911, irrespective of telephone company exchange or wire center boundaries.

- 1.61. "Street Index Guide" ("SIG") is a database defining the geographic area of an E911 service. It includes an alphabetical list of the street names, high-low house number ranges, community names, and Emergency Service Numbers provided by the counties or their agents to Sprint.
- 1.62. "Synchronous Optical Network" ("SONET") is an optical interface standard that allows interworking of transmission products from multiple vendors (i.e., mid-span meets). The base rate is 51.84 MHps (OC-1/STS-1 and higher rates are direct multiples of the base rate up to 1.22 GHps).
- 1.63. "Tariff" means a filing made at the state or federal level for the provision of a telecommunications service by a telecommunications carrier that provides for the terms, conditions and pricing of that service. Such filing may be required or voluntary and may or may not be specifically approved by the Commission or FCC.
- 1.64. "Technically Feasible" refers solely to technical or operational concerns, rather than economic, space, or site considerations.
- 1.65. "Telecommunications" is as defined in the Act.
- 1.66. "Telecommunications Carrier" is as defined in the Act.
- 1.67. "Telecommunications Service" is as defined in the Act.
- 1.68. "Transit Service" means the delivery of Transit Traffic.
- 1.69. "Transit Traffic" means Local Traffic or ISP-Bound Traffic that originated on one Party's network, transited through the other Party's network, and terminated to a third party Telecommunications Carrier's network or that is originated on a third party Telecommunications Carrier's network, transited through a Party's network, and terminated to the other Party's network.
- 1.70. "Wire Center" denotes a building or space within a building which serves as an aggregation point on a given carrier's network, where transmission facilities and circuits are connected or switched. Wire center can also denote a building in which one or more central offices, used for the provision of Basic Exchange Services and access services, are located.

## **PART B – GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

### **2. SCOPE OF THIS AGREEMENT**

- 2.1. This Agreement, including Parts A through M, specifies the rights and obligations of each party with respect to the establishment of Local Interconnection. Certain terms used in this Agreement shall have the meanings defined in PART A -- DEFINITIONS, or as otherwise elsewhere defined throughout this Agreement. Other terms used but not defined in this Agreement will have the meanings ascribed to them in the Act, in the FCC's, and in the Commission's Rules and Regulations. PART B sets forth the general terms and conditions governing this Agreement. The remaining Parts set forth, among other things, descriptions of the services, pricing, technical and business requirements, and physical and network security requirements.

### **3. NETWORK CHANGES**

- 3.1. Sprint shall provide notice of network changes and upgrades in accordance with §§ 51.325 through 51.335 of Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Sprint may discontinue any interconnection arrangement provided or required hereunder due to network changes or upgrades after providing CLEC notice as required by this Section. Sprint agrees to cooperate with CLEC and/or the appropriate regulatory body in any transition resulting from such discontinuation of service and to minimize the impact to customers, which may result from such discontinuance of service.

### **4. REGULATORY APPROVALS**

- 4.1. This Agreement, and any amendment or modification hereof, will be submitted to the Commission for approval in accordance with § 252 of the Act within thirty (30) Days after obtaining the last required Agreement signature. Sprint and CLEC shall use their best efforts to obtain approval of this Agreement by any regulatory body having jurisdiction over this Agreement. In the event any governmental authority or agency rejects any provision hereof, the Parties shall negotiate promptly and in good faith such revisions as may reasonably be required to achieve approval.
- 4.2. The Parties acknowledge that the respective rights and obligations of each Party as set forth in this Agreement are based on the texts of the Act and the orders, rules and regulations promulgated thereunder by the FCC and the Commission as of the Effective Date ("Applicable Rules"). In the event of any amendment of the Act, any effective legislative action or any effective regulatory or judicial order, rule, regulation, arbitration award, dispute resolution procedures under this Agreement or other legal action purporting to apply the provisions of the Act to the Parties or in which the court, FCC or the Commission makes a generic determination that is generally applicable which revises, modifies or reverses the Applicable Rules (individually and collectively, "Amended Rules"), either Party may, by providing written notice to the other Party, require that the affected

provisions of this Agreement be renegotiated in good faith and this Agreement shall be amended accordingly within sixty (60) days of the date of the notice to reflect the pricing, terms and conditions of each such Amended Rules relating to any of the provisions in this Agreement.

- 4.3. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement to the contrary Section 4.2 hereof shall control. Any rates, terms or conditions thus developed or modified shall be substituted in place of those previously in effect and shall be effective under this Agreement as of the effective date established by the Amended Rules, whether such action was commenced before or after the Effective Date of this Agreement. Should the Parties be unable to reach agreement with respect to the applicability of such order or the resulting appropriate modifications to this Agreement, either party may invoke the Dispute Resolution provisions of this Agreement, it being the intent of the parties that this Agreement shall be brought into conformity with the then current obligations under the Act as determined by the amended rules. Sprint may charge rates to CLEC under this Agreement that are approved by the Commission in a generic cost proceeding, whether such action was commenced before or after the Effective Date of this Agreement, as of the effective date of the Commission decision.
- 4.4. In the event that as a result of any effective decision, order, or determination of any judicial or regulatory authority with jurisdiction over the subject matter hereof, Sprint determines that it is not required to furnish any service, facility, arrangement, or benefit required to be furnished or provided to CLEC under this Agreement, then Sprint may discontinue any service, facility, arrangement, or benefit ("Discontinued Arrangement") to the extent permitted by any such decision, order, or determination by providing sixty (60) days' written notice to CLEC. Immediately upon provision of such written notice to CLEC, CLEC will be prohibited from ordering and Sprint will not provide new Discontinued Arrangements.

## **5. TERM AND TERMINATION**

- 5.1. This Agreement shall be deemed effective upon the Effective Date first stated above, and continue for a period of two years until January 31, 2007 ("End Date"), unless earlier terminated in accordance with this Section 4.4, provided however that if CLEC has any outstanding past due obligations to Sprint, this Agreement will not be effective until such time as any past due obligations with Sprint are paid in full. This agreement shall become binding upon execution by the Parties. No order or request for services under this Agreement shall be processed before the Effective Date, except as otherwise agreed to in writing by the Parties. No order or request for services under this Agreement shall be processed before CLEC has established a customer account with Sprint and has completed the Implementation Plan described in this Agreement.
- 5.2. In the event of either Party's material breach of any of the terms or conditions hereof, including the failure to make any undisputed payment when due, the non-defaulting Party may immediately terminate this Agreement in whole or in part if

the non-defaulting Party so advises the defaulting Party in writing of the event of the alleged default and the defaulting Party does not remedy the alleged default within sixty (60) Days after written notice thereof. The non-defaulting Party may pursue all available legal and equitable remedies for such breach.

- 5.3. Sprint may terminate this Agreement upon thirty (30) Days notice if CLEC is not exchanging traffic with Sprint or has not submitted orders pursuant to this Agreement within one-hundred-eighty (180) Days of the Effective Date. In addition, Sprint reserves the right to terminate this Agreement immediately upon notice from the CLEC that it has ceased doing business in this state. In addition to notice from CLEC, Sprint may utilize any publicly available information in concluding that CLEC is no longer doing business in this state, and immediately terminate this Agreement.
- 5.4. Termination of this Agreement for any cause shall not release either Party from any liability which at the time of termination has already accrued to the other Party or which thereafter may accrue in respect to any act or omission prior to termination or from any obligation which is expressly stated in this Agreement to survive termination.
- 5.5. Notwithstanding the above, should Sprint sell or trade substantially all the assets in an exchange or group of exchanges that Sprint uses to provide Telecommunications Services, then Sprint may terminate this Agreement in whole or in part as to that particular exchange or group of exchanges upon sixty (60) Days prior written notice.

## **6. POST EXPIRATION INTERIM SERVICE ARRANGEMENTS**

- 6.1. No later than one-hundred sixty (160) Days prior to the End Date, CLEC will provide Sprint notice to commence negotiations pursuant to Sections 251 and 252 of the Act for terms, conditions and rates for a successor agreement to be effective on or before the End Date.
- 6.2. In the event that this Agreement expires under Section 6.1, and the Parties have not executed a successor agreement at the time of expiration, provided the Parties are actually in arbitration or mediation before the Commission or FCC under § 252 of the Act or the Parties have a written agreement to continue negotiations, it is the intent of the Parties to provide in this Section for post-expiration interim service arrangements between the Parties so that service to their respective end users will not be interrupted should a new agreement not be consummated prior to the End Date. Therefore, except in the case of termination as a result of the events under Sections 5.2, 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5, services that had been available under this Agreement, were ordered prior to the End Date and are actually in service as of the End Date may continue uninterrupted after the End Date at the written request of either Party only until the earlier to occur of (i) the Parties execute a successor agreement, or (ii) the issuance of an order, whether a final non-appealable order or not, by the Commission or FCC, approving an agreement resulting from the resolution of the issues set forth in such arbitration or

mediation request.

- 6.3. In the event that on the End Date the Parties have not executed a successor agreement and Section 6.2 does not apply, Sprint will continue to provide services pursuant to one of the following:
  - 6.3.1. Such standard terms and conditions or tariffs approved by and made generally available by the Commission, if they exist; or
  - 6.3.2. An existing agreement between Sprint and another carrier adopted by CLEC for the remaining term of that agreement. If CLEC fails to designate an agreement under this subsection, then Sprint may designate such agreement.

## **7. CHARGES AND PAYMENT**

- 7.1. In consideration of the services provided by Sprint under this Agreement, CLEC shall pay the charges set forth in Table One.
- 7.2. Subject to the terms of this Agreement, the Parties shall pay invoices by the due date shown on the invoice. For invoices not paid when due, late payment charges will be assessed under Section 7.4. If the payment due date is a Saturday, Sunday or a designated bank holiday, payment shall be made the next business day.
  - 7.2.1. If an invoice is not paid within sixty (60) Days after the bill date, Sprint will suspend processing new orders and cancel any pending orders.
  - 7.2.2. If the account remains delinquent ninety (90) Days after the bill date, Sprint will terminate all services under this Agreement.
- 7.3. Billed amounts for which written, itemized disputes or claims have been filed are not due for payment until such disputes or claims have been resolved in accordance with the provisions governing dispute resolution of this Agreement. Itemized, written disputes must be filed with Sprint's National Exchange Access Center ("NEAC"), National Access Service Center ("NASC"), or appropriate equivalent center no later than the due date of the related invoice. A copy of the dispute must be sent with the remittance of the remainder of the invoice.



- 7.4. Parties will assess late payment charges to the other party until the amount due is paid in full. Such late payment charges will be calculated using a rate equal to the lesser of
- 7.4.1. the total amount due times the highest rate (in decimal value) which may be levied by law for commercial transactions, compounded daily for the number of days from the payment date to and including the date the billed party actually makes the payment to, the billing party or
- 7.4.2. the total amount due multiplied by a factor of 0.000329 times the number of days which occurred between the payment due date and (including) the date billed party actually makes the payment to the billing party .
- 7.5. Sprint reserves the right to secure the account with a suitable form of security deposit in accordance with Section 34.

## **8. AUDITS AND EXAMINATIONS**

- 8.1. Each Party to this Agreement will be responsible for the accuracy and quality of its data as submitted to the other Party involved. Subject to each Party's reasonable security requirements and except as may be otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement, either Party, at its own expense, may audit the other Party's books, records and other documents directly related to billing and invoicing once in any twelve (12) month period for the purpose of evaluating the accuracy of the other Party's billing and invoicing. "Audit" shall mean a comprehensive review of bills for services performed under this Agreement; "Examination" shall mean an inquiry into a specific element of or process related to bills for services performed under this Agreement. Either party (the "Requesting Party") may perform one (1) Audit per twelve (12) month period commencing with the Effective Date, with the assistance of the other Party, which will not be unreasonably withheld. The Audit period will include no more than the preceding twelve (12) month period as of the date of the Audit request. The Requesting Party may perform Examinations, as it deems necessary, with the assistance of the other Party, which will not be unreasonably withheld.
- 8.2. Upon thirty (30) Days written notice by the Requesting Party to Audited Party, Requesting Party shall have the right through its authorized representative to make an Audit, during normal business hours, of any records, accounts and processes which contain information bearing upon the billing and invoicing of the services provided under this Agreement. Within the above-described thirty (30) Day period, the Parties shall reasonably agree upon the scope of the Audit or Examination, the documents and processes to be reviewed, and the time, place and manner in which the Audit or Examination shall be performed. Audited Party agrees to provide Audit or Examination support, including appropriate access to and use of Audited Party's facilities (e.g.: conference rooms, telephones, copying machines).

- 8.3. Each party shall bear its own expenses in connection with the conduct of the Audit or Examination. The reasonable cost of special data extraction required by the Requesting Party to conduct the Audit or Examination will be paid for by the Requesting Party. For purposes of this Section 8.3, a "Special Data Extraction" shall mean the creation of an output record or informational report (from existing data files) that is not created in the normal course of business. If any program is developed to Requesting Party's specifications and at Requesting Party's expense, Requesting Party shall specify at the time of request whether the program is to be retained by Audited party for reuse for any subsequent Audit or Examination.
- 8.4. Adjustments based on the audit findings may be applied to the twelve (12) month period included in the audit. Adjustments, credits or payments shall be made and any corrective action shall commence within thirty (30) Days from the requesting Party's receipt of the final audit report to compensate for any errors or omissions which are disclosed by such Audit or Examination and are agreed to by the Parties. Interest shall be calculated in accordance with Section 7.4 above.
- 8.5. Neither such right to examine and audit nor the right to receive an adjustment shall be affected by any statement to the contrary appearing on checks or otherwise, unless such statement expressly waiving such right appears in writing, is signed by the authorized representative of the party having such right and is delivered to the other party in a manner sanctioned by this Agreement.
- 8.6. This Section shall survive expiration or termination of this Agreement for a period of one (1) year after expiration or termination of this Agreement.

## **9. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY**

- 9.1. Except as otherwise set forth in this Agreement, neither Party shall be responsible to the other for any indirect, special, consequential or punitive damages, including (without limitation) damages for loss of anticipated profits or revenue or other economic loss in connection with or arising from anything said, omitted, or done hereunder (collectively "Consequential Damages"), whether arising in contract or tort except that the foregoing shall not limit a Party's obligation under Section 10 to indemnify, defend, and hold the other party harmless against amounts payable to third parties. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in no event shall Sprint's liability to CLEC for a service outage exceed an amount equal to the proportionate charge for the service(s) provided for the period during which the service was affected.

## **10. INDEMNIFICATION**

- 10.1. Each Party agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the other Party from and against claims by third parties for damage to tangible personal or real property and/or personal injuries to the extent caused by the negligence or willful misconduct or omission of the indemnifying Party.

- 10.2. CLEC shall indemnify and hold harmless Sprint from all claims by CLEC's subscribers.
- 10.3. Sprint shall indemnify and hold harmless CLEC from all claims by Sprint's subscribers.
- 10.4. The indemnifying Party under this Section agrees to defend any suit brought against the other Party either individually or jointly with the indemnified Party for any such loss, injury, liability, claim or demand.
- 10.5. The indemnified Party agrees to notify the other Party promptly, in writing, of any written claims, lawsuits, or demands for which it is claimed that the indemnifying Party is responsible under this Section and to cooperate in every reasonable way to facilitate defense or settlement of claims.
- 10.6. The indemnifying Party shall have complete control over defense of the case and over the terms of any proposed settlement or compromise thereof. The indemnifying Party shall not be liable under this Section for settlement by the indemnified Party of any claim, lawsuit, or demand, if the indemnifying Party has not approved the settlement in advance, unless the indemnifying Party has had the defense of the claim, lawsuit, or demand tendered to it in writing and has failed to promptly assume such defense. In the event of such failure to assume defense, the indemnifying Party shall be liable for any reasonable settlement made by the indemnified Party without approval of the indemnifying Party.
- 10.7. When the lines or services of other companies and CLECs are used in establishing connections to and/or from points not reached by a Party's lines, neither Party shall be liable for any act or omission of the other companies or carriers.
- 10.8. In addition to its indemnity obligations hereunder, each Party shall, to the extent allowed by law or Commission Order, provide, in its tariffs and contracts with its subscribers that relate to any Telecommunications Services provided or contemplated under this Agreement, that in no case shall such Party or any of its agents, contractors or others retained by such Party be liable to any subscriber or third party for
  - 10.8.1. any loss relating to or arising out of this Agreement, whether in contract or tort, that exceeds the amount such Party would have charged the applicable subscriber for the service(s) or function(s) that gave rise to such loss, and
  - 10.8.2. Consequential Damages (as defined in Section 9 above).

## **11. BRANDING**

- 11.1. CLEC shall provide the exclusive interface to CLEC subscribers, except as CLEC shall otherwise specify for the reporting of trouble or other matters identified by CLEC for which Sprint may directly communicate with CLEC subscribers. In those instances where CLEC requests that Sprint personnel interface with CLEC subscribers, such Sprint personnel shall inform the CLEC subscribers that they are

representing CLEC, or such brand as CLEC may specify.

- 11.2. Other business materials furnished by Sprint to CLEC subscribers shall bear no corporate name, logo, trademark or tradename.
- 11.3. Except as specifically permitted by a Party, in no event shall either Party provide information to the other Party's subscribers about the other Party or the other Party's products or services.
- 11.4. Sprint shall share pertinent details of Sprint's training approaches related to branding with CLEC to be used by Sprint to assure that Sprint meets the branding requirements agreed to by the Parties.
- 11.5. This Section shall not confer on either Party any rights to the service marks, trademarks and/or trade names owned by or used in connection with services by the other Party, except as expressly permitted in writing by the other Party

## **12. REMEDIES**

- 12.1. Except as otherwise provided herein, all rights of termination, cancellation or other remedies prescribed in this Agreement, or otherwise available, are cumulative and are not intended to be exclusive of other remedies to which the injured Party may be entitled in case of any breach or threatened breach by the other Party of any provision of this Agreement, and use of one or more remedies shall not bar use of any other remedy for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this Agreement.

## **13. CONFIDENTIALITY AND PUBLICITY**

- 13.1. All information which is disclosed by one party ("Disclosing Party") to the other ("Recipient") in connection with this Agreement, or acquired in the course of performance of this Agreement, shall be deemed confidential and proprietary to the Disclosing Party and subject to this Agreement, such information including but not limited to, orders for services, usage information in any form, and CPNI as that term is defined by the Act and the rules and regulations of the FCC ("Confidential and/or Proprietary Information").
- 13.2. During the term of this Agreement, and for a period of one (1) year thereafter, Recipient shall
  - 13.2.1. use it only for the purpose of performing under this Agreement,
  - 13.2.2. hold it in confidence and disclose it only to employees or agents who have a need to know it in order to perform under this Agreement, and
  - 13.2.3. safeguard it from unauthorized use or Disclosure using no less than the degree of care with which Recipient safeguards its own Confidential Information.
- 13.3. Recipient shall have no obligation to safeguard Confidential Information

- 13.3.1. which was in the Recipient's possession free of restriction prior to its receipt from Disclosing Party,
  - 13.3.2. which becomes publicly known or available through no breach of this Agreement by Recipient,
  - 13.3.3. which is rightfully acquired by Recipient free of restrictions on its Disclosure, or
  - 13.3.4. which is independently developed by personnel of Recipient to whom the Disclosing Party's Confidential Information had not been previously disclosed.
- 13.4. Recipient may disclose Confidential Information if required by law, a court, or governmental agency, if the Disclosing Party has been notified of the requirement promptly after Recipient becomes aware of the requirement, and the Recipient undertakes all lawful measures to avoid disclosing such information until Disclosing Party has had reasonable time to obtain a protective order. Recipient will comply with any protective order that covers the Confidential Information to be disclosed.
  - 13.5. Each Party agrees that in the event of a breach of this Section 13 by Recipient or its representatives, Disclosing Party shall be entitled to equitable relief, including injunctive relief and specific performance. Such remedies shall not be exclusive, but shall be in addition to all other remedies available at law or in equity.
  - 13.6. Unless otherwise agreed, neither Party shall publish or use the other Party's logo, trademark, service mark, name, language, pictures, symbols or words from which the other Party's name may reasonably be inferred or implied in any product, service, advertisement, promotion, or any other publicity matter, except that nothing in this paragraph shall prohibit a Party from engaging in valid comparative advertising. This Section 13.6 shall confer no rights on a Party to the service marks, trademarks and trade names owned or used in connection with services by the other Party or its Affiliates, except as expressly permitted by the other Party.
  - 13.7. Neither Party shall produce, publish, or distribute any press release nor other publicity referring to the other Party or its Affiliates, or referring to this Agreement, without the prior written approval of the other Party. Each party shall obtain the other Party's prior approval before discussing this Agreement in any press or media interviews. In no event shall either Party mischaracterize the contents of this Agreement in any public statement or in any representation to a governmental entity or member thereof.
  - 13.8. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Section 13, nothing herein shall be construed as limiting the rights of either Party with respect to its customer information under any applicable law, including without limitation § 222 of the Act.

**14. DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTIES**

14.1. EXCEPT AS SPECIFICALLY PROVIDED ELSEWHERE IN THIS AGREEMENT TO THE CONTRARY, NEITHER PARTY MAKES ANY REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, WITH RESPECT TO QUALITY, FUNCTIONALITY OR CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SERVICES PROVIDED PURSUANT TO THIS AGREEMENT, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND/OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. NO REPRESENTATION OR STATEMENT MADE BY EITHER PARTY OR ANY OF ITS AGENTS OR EMPLOYEES, ORAL OR WRITTEN, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ANY SPECIFICATIONS, DESCRIPTIONS OR STATEMENTS PROVIDED OR MADE SHALL BE BINDING UPON EITHER PARTY AS A WARRANTY.

**15. ASSIGNMENT AND SUBCONTRACT**

15.1. If any Affiliate of either Party succeeds to that portion of the business of such Party that is responsible for, or entitled to, any rights, obligations, duties, or other interests under this Agreement, such Affiliate may succeed to those rights, obligations, duties, and interest of such Party under this Agreement. In the event of any such succession hereunder, the successor shall expressly undertake in writing to the other Party the performance and liability for those obligations and duties as to which it is succeeding a Party to this Agreement. Thereafter, the successor Party shall be deemed CLEC or Sprint and the original Party shall be relieved of such obligations and duties, except for matters arising out of events occurring prior to the date of such undertaking.

15.2. Except as provided in Section 15.1, any assignment of this Agreement or of the work to be performed, in whole or in part, or of any other interest of a Party hereunder, without the other Party's written consent, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed, shall be void.

**16. GOVERNING LAW**

16.1. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the Act, the FCC's Rules and Regulations and orders of the Commission, except insofar as state law may control any aspect of this Agreement, in which case the domestic laws of the Commission's state, without regard to its conflicts of laws principles, shall govern.

**17. RELATIONSHIP OF PARTIES**

17.1. It is the intention of the Parties that each Party shall be an independent contractor and nothing contained herein shall constitute the Parties as joint venturers, partners, employees or agents of one another, and neither Party shall have the right or power to bind or obligate the other.

**18. NO THIRD PARTY BENEFICIARIES**

18.1. The provisions of this Agreement are for the benefit of the Parties hereto and not for any other person, and this Agreement shall not provide any person not a party hereto with any remedy, claim, liability, reimbursement, right of action, or other right in excess of those existing without reference hereto. This shall not be construed to prevent CLEC from providing its Telecommunications Services to other carriers.

**19. NOTICES**

19.1. Except as otherwise provided herein, all notices or other communication hereunder shall be deemed to have been duly given when made in writing and delivered in person or deposited in the United States mail, certified mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested and addressed as follows:

<b>If to Sprint:</b>	Asst. Vice President Strategic Markets Sprint DBA United Telephone 6480 Sprint Parkway KS Overland Park, KS 66251	<b>If to CLEC:</b>	Director Local Carrier Markets Sprint 6450 Sprint Parkway KSOPHN0116-1B671 Overland Park, KS 66251
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With a  
copy to:

With a  
copy to:

19.2. If delivery, other than certified mail, return receipt requested, is used to give notice, a receipt of such delivery shall be obtained and the notice shall be effective when received. If delivery via certified mail, return receipt requested, is used, notice shall be effective when sent. The address to which notices or communications may be given to either Party may be changed by written notice given by such Party to the other pursuant to this Section.

**20. WAIVERS**

- 20.1. No waiver of any provisions of this Agreement and no consent to any default under this Agreement shall be effective unless the same shall be in writing and properly executed by or on behalf of the Party against whom such waiver or consent is claimed.
- 20.2. No course of dealing or failure of any Party to strictly enforce any term, right, or condition of this Agreement in any instance shall be construed as a general waiver or relinquishment of such term, right or condition.
- 20.3. Waiver by either party of any default by the other Party shall not be deemed a waiver of any other default.

## **21. SURVIVAL**

21.1. Termination of this Agreement, or any part hereof, for any cause shall not release either Party from any liability which at the time of termination had already accrued to the other Party or which thereafter accrues in any respect to any act or omission occurring prior to the termination or from an obligation which is expressly stated in this Agreement to survive termination including but not limited to Sections 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 18, 20, and 23.

## **22. FORCE MAJEURE**

22.1. Neither Party shall be held liable for any delay or failure in performance of any part of this Agreement from any cause beyond its control and without its fault or negligence, such as acts of God, acts of civil or military authority, embargoes, epidemics, war, terrorist acts, riots, insurrections, fires, explosions, earthquakes, nuclear accidents, floods, power blackouts, strikes, work stoppage affecting a supplier or unusually severe weather. No delay or other failure to perform shall be excused pursuant to this Section 22 unless delay or failure and consequences thereof are beyond the control and without the fault or negligence of the Party claiming excusable delay or other failure to perform. Subject to Section 4.4 hereof, in the event of any such excused delay in the performance of a Party's obligation(s) under this Agreement, the due date for the performance of the original obligation(s) shall be extended by a term equal to the time lost by reason of the delay. In the event of such delay, the delayed Party shall perform its obligations at a performance level no less than that which it uses for its own operations. In the event of such performance delay or failure by Sprint, Sprint agrees to resume performance in a nondiscriminatory manner and not favor its own provision of Telecommunications Services above that of CLEC.

## **23. DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

23.1. The Parties recognize and agree that the Commission has continuing jurisdiction to implement and enforce all terms and conditions of this Agreement. Accordingly, the Parties agree that any dispute arising out of or relating to this Agreement that the Parties cannot resolve may be submitted to the Commission for resolution. If the Parties are unable to resolve the dispute, the Parties agree to seek expedited resolution by the Commission, and shall request that resolution occur in no event later than sixty (60) Days from the date of submission of such dispute. If the Commission appoints an expert(s) or other facilitator(s) to assist in its decision making, each party shall pay half of the fees and expenses so incurred. During the Commission proceeding each Party shall continue to perform its obligations under this Agreement provided, however, that neither Party shall be required to act in any unlawful fashion. This provision shall not preclude the Parties from seeking relief available in any other forum.

23.2. If any matter is subject to a bona fide dispute between the Parties, the disputing Party shall within thirty (30) Days of the event giving rise to the dispute, give



written notice to the other Party of the dispute and include in such notice the specific details and reasons for disputing each item.

- 23.3. If the Parties are unable to resolve the issues related to the dispute in the normal course of business within thirty (30) Days after delivery of notice of the Dispute, to the other Party, the dispute shall be escalated to a designated representative who has authority to settle the dispute and who is at a higher level of management than the persons with direct responsibility for administration of this Agreement. The designated representatives shall meet as often as they reasonably deem necessary in order to discuss the dispute and negotiate in good faith in an effort to resolve such dispute, but in no event shall such resolution exceed 60 Days from the initial notice. The specific format for such discussions will be left to the discretion of the designated representatives, provided, however, that all reasonable requests for relevant information made by one Party to the other Party shall be honored.
- 23.4. After such period either Party may file a complaint with the FCC or the Commission.

## **24. COOPERATION ON FRAUD**

- 24.1. The Parties agree that they shall cooperate with one another to investigate, minimize and take corrective action in cases of fraud. The Parties' fraud minimization procedures are to be cost effective and implemented so as not to unduly burden or harm one party as compared to the other.

## **25. TAXES**

- 25.1. Definition. For purposes of this Section, the terms "taxes" and "fees" shall include but not be limited to federal, state or local sales, use, excise, gross receipts or other taxes or tax-like fees of whatever nature and however designated (including tariff surcharges and any fees, charges or other payments, contractual or otherwise, for the use of public streets or rights of way, whether designated as franchise fees or otherwise) imposed, or sought to be imposed, on or with respect to the services furnished hereunder or measured by the charges or payments therefore, excluding any taxes levied on income.
- 25.2. Taxes and Fees Imposed Directly On Either Providing Party or Purchasing Party.
  - 25.2.1. Taxes and fees imposed on the providing Party, which are not permitted or required to be passed on by the providing Party to its customer, shall be borne and paid by the providing Party.

- 25.2.2. Taxes and fees imposed on the purchasing Party, which are not required to be collected and/or remitted by the providing Party, shall be borne and paid by the purchasing Party.
- 25.3. Taxes and Fees Imposed on Purchasing Party but Collected And Remitted By Providing Party.
  - 25.3.1. Taxes and fees imposed on the purchasing Party shall be borne by the purchasing Party, even if the obligation to collect and/or remit such taxes or fees is placed on the providing Party.
  - 25.3.2. To the extent permitted by applicable law, any such taxes and/or fees shall be shown as separate items on applicable billing documents between the Parties. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the purchasing Party shall remain liable for any such taxes and fees regardless of whether they are actually billed by the providing Party at the time that the respective service is billed.
  - 25.3.3. If the purchasing Party determines that in its opinion any such taxes or fees are not payable, the providing Party shall not bill such taxes or fees to the purchasing Party if the purchasing Party provides written certification, reasonably satisfactory to the providing Party, stating that it is exempt or otherwise not subject to the tax or fee, setting forth the basis therefore, and satisfying any other requirements under applicable law. If any authority seeks to collect any such tax or fee that the purchasing Party has determined and certified not to be payable, or any such tax or fee that was not billed by the providing Party, the purchasing Party may contest the same in good faith, at its own expense. In any such contest, the purchasing Party shall promptly furnish the providing Party with copies of all filings in any proceeding, protest, or legal challenge, all rulings issued in connection therewith, and all correspondence between the purchasing Party and the taxing authority.
  - 25.3.4. In the event that all or any portion of an amount sought to be collected must be paid in order to contest the imposition of any such tax or fee, or to avoid the existence of a lien on the assets of the providing Party during the pendency of such contest, the purchasing Party shall be responsible for such payment and shall be entitled to the benefit of any refund or recovery.
  - 25.3.5. If it is ultimately determined that any additional amount of such a tax or fee is due to the imposing authority, the purchasing Party shall pay such additional amount, including any interest and penalties thereon.
  - 25.3.6. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, the purchasing Party shall protect, indemnify and hold harmless (and defend at the purchasing Party's expense) the providing Party from and against any such tax or fee, interest or penalties thereon, or other charges or payable expenses (including reasonable attorney fees) with respect thereto, which are

incurred by the providing Party in connection with any claim for or contest of any such tax or fee.

- 25.3.7. Each Party shall notify the other Party in writing of any assessment, proposed assessment or other claim for any additional amount of such a tax or fee by a taxing authority; such notice to be provided, if possible, at least ten (10) Days prior to the date by which a response, protest or other appeal must be filed, but in no event later than thirty (30) Days after receipt of such assessment, proposed assessment or claim.
- 25.4. Taxes and Fees Imposed on Providing Party But Passed On To Purchasing Party.
  - 25.4.1. Taxes and fees imposed on the providing Party, which are permitted or required to be passed on by the providing Party to its customer, shall be borne by the purchasing Party.
  - 25.4.2. To the extent permitted by applicable law, any such taxes and/or fees shall be shown as separate items on applicable billing documents between the Parties. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the purchasing Party shall remain liable for any such taxes and fees regardless of whether they are actually billed by the providing Party at the time that the respective service is billed.
  - 25.4.3. If the purchasing Party disagrees with the providing Party's determination as to the application or basis for any such tax or fee, the Parties shall consult with respect to the imposition and billing of such tax or fee. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the providing Party shall retain ultimate responsibility for determining whether and to what extent any such taxes or fees are applicable, and the purchasing Party shall abide by such determination and pay such taxes or fees to the providing Party. The providing Party shall further retain ultimate responsibility for determining whether and how to contest the imposition of such taxes and fees; provided, however, that any such contest undertaken at the request of the purchasing Party shall be at the purchasing Party's expense.
  - 25.4.4. In the event that all or any portion of an amount sought to be collected must be paid in order to contest the imposition of any such tax or fee, or to avoid the existence of a lien on the assets of the providing Party during the pendency of such contest, the purchasing Party shall be responsible for such payment and shall be entitled to the benefit of any refund or recovery.
  - 25.4.5. If it is ultimately determined that any additional amount of such a tax or fee is due to the imposing authority, the purchasing Party shall pay such additional amount, including any interest and penalties thereon.
  - 25.4.6. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, the purchasing Party shall protect, indemnify and hold harmless (and defend at the purchasing Party's expense) the providing Party from and against any such tax or

fee, interest or penalties thereon, or other reasonable charges or payable expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees) with respect thereto, which are incurred by the providing Party in connection with any claim for or contest of any such tax or fee.

25.4.7. Each Party shall notify the other Party in writing of any assessment, proposed assessment or other claim for any additional amount of such a tax or fee by a taxing authority; such notice to be provided, if possible, at least ten (10) Days prior to the date by which a response, protest or other appeal must be filed, but in no event later than thirty (30) Days after receipt of such assessment, proposed assessment or claim.

25.5. Mutual Cooperation. In any contest of a tax or fee by one Party, the other Party shall cooperate fully by providing records, testimony and such additional information or assistance as may reasonably be necessary to pursue the contest. Further, the other Party shall be reimbursed for any reasonable and necessary out-of-pocket copying and travel expenses incurred in assisting in such contest.

## **26. AMENDMENTS AND MODIFICATIONS**

26.1. No provision of this Agreement shall be deemed waived, amended or modified by either party unless such a waiver, amendment or modification is in writing, dated, and signed by both Parties.

## **27. SEVERABILITY**

27.1. Subject to Section 4.2, if any part of this Agreement is held to be invalid, void or unenforceable for any reason, such invalidity will affect only the portion of this Agreement which is invalid. In all other respects this Agreement will stand as if such invalid provision had not been a part thereof, and the remainder of the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect and shall in no way be affected, impaired or invalidated thereby.

## **28. HEADINGS NOT CONTROLLING**

28.1. The headings and numbering of Sections and Parts in this Agreement are for convenience only and shall not be construed to define or limit any of the terms herein or affect the meaning or interpretation of this Agreement.

## **29. ENTIRE AGREEMENT**

29.1. This Agreement, including all Parts and subordinate documents attached hereto or referenced herein, all of which are hereby incorporated by reference herein, subject only to the terms of any applicable tariff on file with the state Commission or the FCC, constitute the entire matter thereof, and supersede all prior oral or written agreements, representations, statements, negotiations, understandings, proposals, and undertakings with respect to the subject matter thereof.

**30. SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS**

30.1. Subject to the terms of this Agreement, Sprint and CLEC agree this Agreement shall be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the Parties hereto and their respective successors and permitted assigns.

**31. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

31.1. Implementation Team. This Agreement sets forth the overall standards of performance for the services, processes, and systems capabilities that the Parties will provide to each other, and the intervals at which those services, processes and capabilities will be provided. The Parties understand that the arrangements and provision of services described in this Agreement shall require technical and operational coordination between the Parties. Accordingly, the Parties agree to form a team (the "Implementation Team") which shall develop and identify those processes, guidelines, specifications, standards and additional terms and conditions necessary to support and satisfy the standards set forth in this Agreement and implement each Party's obligations hereunder.

31.2. Dispute Resolution. If the Implementation Team is unable to agree upon any of the matters to be included in the Implementation Plan, then either Party may invoke the procedures set forth in Part A Section 23.

**32. FEDERAL JURISDICTIONAL AREAS**

32.1. Article 1, § 8, Clause 17 of the United States Constitution provides the authority to Congress to exercise exclusive jurisdiction over areas and structures used for military purposes (Federal Enclaves). Thus, Telecommunications Services to such Federal Enclaves are not subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission. The Parties agree that Services provided within Federal Enclaves are not within the scope of this Agreement. To the extent Sprint has contracts with federal entities that limit or prohibit the ability of CLEC to provide resale such contract will govern Telecommunications Services on such Federal Enclave. If the contract with the federal entity provides for service on the Federal Enclave, Sprint will provide CLEC with the information regarding the provision of service on the Federal Enclave.

## **PART C - GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

### **33. PRICE SCHEDULE**

- 33.1. All prices under this agreement are set forth in the attachments designated Table One and Table Two of this Agreement are hereby incorporated into, and made a part of, this Agreement.
- 33.2. Subject to the provisions of Part B, Section 4 of this Agreement, all rates provided under this Agreement shall remain in effect for the term of this Agreement.

### **34. SECURITY DEPOSIT**

- 34.1. Sprint reserves the right to secure the account with a suitable form of security deposit, unless satisfactory credit has already been established through twelve (12) consecutive months of current payments for carrier services to Sprint and all ILEC affiliates of Sprint. A payment is not considered current in any month if it is made more than thirty (30) Days after the bill date.
- 34.2. The security deposit shall take the form of cash or cash equivalent, an irrevocable letter of credit or other form of security acceptable to Sprint.

- 34.3. If a security deposit is required on a new account, such security deposit shall be made prior to inauguration of service. If a security deposit is requested for an existing account, payment of the security deposit will be made prior to acceptance by Sprint of additional orders for service.
- 34.4. The security deposit shall be two (2) months' estimated billings as calculated by Sprint, or twice the most recent month's invoices from Sprint for existing accounts. All security deposits will be subject to a minimum deposit level of \$10,000.
- 34.5. The fact that a security deposit has been made in no way relieves CLEC from complying with Sprint's regulations as to advance payments and the prompt payment of bills on presentation, nor is it a waiver or modification of the regular practices of Sprint for the discontinuance of service for non-payment of any sums due Sprint.
- 34.6. Sprint may increase the security deposit requirements when, in Sprint's reasonable judgment, changes in CLEC's financial status so warrant and/or gross monthly billing has increased beyond the level initially used to determine the security deposit. If payment of the additional security deposit amount is not made within 30 days of the request, Sprint may stop processing orders for service and CLEC will be considered in breach of the Agreement.
- 34.7. Any security deposit shall be held by Sprint as a guarantee of payment of any charges for carrier services billed to CLEC. Sprint may exercise its right to credit any cash deposit to CLEC's account, or to demand payment from the issuing bank or bonding company of any irrevocable bank letter of credit, upon the occurrence of any one of the following events:
  - 34.7.1. when CLEC undisputed balances due to Sprint that are more than thirty (30) Days past due; or
  - 34.7.2. when CLEC files for protection under the bankruptcy laws; or
  - 34.7.3. when an involuntary petition in bankruptcy is filed against CLEC and is not dismissed within sixty (60) Days;  
when this Agreement expires or terminates;
  - 39.7.5 any letter of credit issued hereunder or any bank issuing a letter of credit hereunder (each, a "Letter of Credit Bank") fails to meet the terms, conditions, and requirements set forth in this Section 39; or
  - 34.7.4. CLEC fails to provide Sprint with a replacement letter of credit on the terms set forth herein at least 10 business days prior to the expiration of any letter of credit issued to Sprint hereunder.
- 34.8. Any security deposit may be held during the continuance of the service as security for the payment of any and all amounts accruing for the service. No interest will accrue or be paid on deposits. Cash or cash equivalent security deposits will be

returned to CLEC when CLEC has made current payments for carrier services to Sprint and all Sprint ILEC affiliates for twelve (12) consecutive months.

- 34.9. Any letter of credit issued to Sprint hereunder must meet the following requirements:
- 34.9.1. The bank issuing any letter of credit hereunder (the "Letter of Credit Bank") must maintain a minimum credit rating of A (by Standard & Poors) or A2 (by Moody's). If CLEC proposes that the letter of credit be issued by a bank that is not so rated by Standard & Poors or Moody's, then CLEC must obtain the prior written approval of such bank by Sprint.
  - 34.9.2. The letter of credit shall be in such form and on terms that are acceptable to Sprint.
  - 34.9.3. If CLEC receives notice from the Letter of Credit Bank of any non-renewal of a letter of credit issued hereunder, then CLEC shall promptly notify Sprint of such notice of non-renewal. Not later than 10 business days prior to the expiration of the expiring letter of credit, CLEC shall provide Sprint a replacement letter of credit on substantially identical terms to the expiring letter of credit (or such other terms as are acceptable to Sprint). If CLEC provides a replacement letter of credit not later than 10 business days prior to the expiration of the expiring letter of credit, then Sprint shall not make a drawing under the expiring letter of credit. Upon receipt of a replacement letter of credit meeting the requirements set forth in this Agreement, Sprint will provide the original, expiring letter of credit to CLEC.
  - 34.9.4. If CLEC desires to replace any letter of credit issued to Sprint hereunder, whether due to non-renewal or otherwise, each such replacement letter of credit and the Letter of Credit Bank issuing such replacement letter of credit must meet the terms, conditions and requirements set forth in this Section.



**35. INDIVIDUAL CASE BASIS PRICING**

- 35.1. Individual Case Basis (ICB) pricing will be provided by Sprint upon request from the CLEC for customer specific rates or terms for network services and features that are not otherwise provided for in this Agreement.
- 35.2. Sprint will process ICB Pricing requests upon receipt from the CLEC. Sprint will provide CLEC a price quote within thirty (30) business days from the receipt of the request. Price quote intervals may vary depending upon the complexity of the request but shall not exceed thirty (30) business days from the receipt of the request.

**36. OPERATIONS SUPPORT SYSTEMS (OSS)**

- 36.1. Sprint will offer unbundled access to Sprint's operations support systems to the extent technically feasible in a non-discriminatory manner at Parity. OSS consists of pre-ordering, ordering, provisioning, maintenance and repair, and billing functions supported by Sprint's databases and information.

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## PART D - INTERCONNECTION

### 37. LOCAL INTERCONNECTION TRUNK ARRANGEMENT

- 37.1. The Parties shall reciprocally terminate Local Traffic and IntraLATA/InterLATA toll calls originating on the other Party's network as follows:
- 37.1.1. The Parties shall make available to each other two-way trunks for the reciprocal exchange of combined Local Traffic, and non-equal access IntraLATA toll traffic. Neither Party is obligated under this Agreement to order reciprocal trunks or build facilities in the establishment of interconnection arrangements for the delivery of Internet traffic.
- 37.1.1.1. The Parties agree to initially use two-way trunks (one-way directionalized) for an interim period. The Parties shall transition from directionalized two-way trunks upon mutual agreement, absent engineering or billing issues. The Parties shall transition all one-way trunks established under this Agreement.
- 37.1.2. Separate two-way trunks will be made available for the exchange of equal-access InterLATA or IntraLATA interexchange traffic.
- 37.1.3. Separate trunks will be utilized for connecting CLEC's switch to each 911/E911 tandem.
- 37.2. Points of Interconnection
- 37.2.1. Point of Interconnection. Unless interconnecting with Sprint on an indirect basis subject to Section 60, CLEC must establish a minimum of one Physical POI within each LATA, at any technically feasible point, on Sprint's network. To the extent CLEC terminates traffic to Sprint end-users served by different tandems, CLEC must interconnect at each tandem where it terminates or receives originating traffic.
- 37.2.1.1. CLEC will be responsible for engineering and maintaining its network on its side of the Physical POI. Sprint will be responsible for engineering and maintaining its network on its side of the Physical POI. Sprint reserves the right to provide its own transport to CLEC's network for the delivery of Sprint originated traffic as provided for herein.
- 37.2.1.2. For construction of new facilities when the Parties choose to interconnect at a mid-span meet, CLEC and Sprint will jointly provision the facilities that connect the two networks. Sprint will be the "controlling carrier" for purposes of MECOD guidelines, as described in the joint implementation plan. Sprint will provide fifty percent (50%) of the facilities or to its exchange boundary, whichever is less. The construction of new facilities for a mid-span meet is only applicable when traffic is roughly balanced.

- 37.2.1.3. If third party (*i.e.* Competitive Access Provider or “CAP”) leased facilities are used for interconnection, the Physical POI will be defined as the Sprint office in which the third party’s leased circuit terminates.
- 37.2.1.4. CLEC will establish a minimum of one Physical POI per LATA that it wishes to exchange traffic with Sprint or receive Sprint-originated traffic. In addition CLEC will also establish a physical POI at each Sprint tandem where CLEC wishes to exchange traffic with Sprint.
- 37.2.1.5. Additional POIs may be established by mutual agreement and may be established at any Technically Feasible point.

37.3. Technical Requirements for Interconnection

37.3.1. Interconnection at the Sprint Tandem:

- 37.3.1.1. Interconnection to Sprint Tandem Switch(es) will provide CLEC local interconnection for local service purposes to the Sprint end offices and NXXs which subtend that tandem(s), where local trunking is provided, and access to the toll network.
- 37.3.1.2. Interconnection to a Sprint Tandem for transit purposes will provide access to telecommunications carriers which are connected to that Tandem Switch.
- 37.3.1.3. Where a Sprint Tandem Switch also provides End-Office Switch functions, interconnection to a Sprint tandem serving that exchange will also provide CLEC access to Sprint’s end offices.

37.3.2. Interconnection at the Sprint End Office

- 37.3.2.1. Interconnection to Sprint End Office Switch will provide CLEC local interconnection for local service purposes to the Sprint NXX codes served by that end office and any Sprint NXXs served by remotes that subtend those End Offices.

**38. INTERCARRIER COMPENSATION**

- 38.1. The Parties agree to “Bill and Keep” for mutual reciprocal compensation for the termination of Local Traffic on the network of one Party which originates on the network of the other Party. Under Bill and Keep, each Party retains the revenues it receives from end user customers, and neither Party pays the other Party for terminating the Local Traffic which is subject to the Bill and Keep compensation mechanism. The Bill and Keep arrangement is subject to the following conditions:

- 38.1.1. Bill and Keep is only applicable if terminating traffic between the Parties is balanced within 10 percent.
- 38.1.2. Either Party can cancel the Bill and Keep compensation arrangement when traffic volumes require the installation of more than 24 one-way trunks or when the usage is out of balance by more than 10%. Formal notification of the cancellation must be provided in writing 90 days prior to the Effective Date. Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement to the contrary, the Parties may continue the Bill and Keep compensation arrangement by mutual agreement.
- 38.1.3. If either Party does deliver such written notice, the Parties will negotiate an amendment to this Agreement under applicable law reflecting charges to be assessed by each Part for terminating Local Traffic. If the Parties are unable to negotiate such an amendment, the Parties agree to resolve the issue under the dispute resolution section of this Agreement.
- 38.1.4. Bill and Keep does not apply to local traffic originated by the CLEC, transiting Sprint's network, and terminated by a third party in which case applicable transit charges will apply. Sprint will not assume transport and termination liabilities on behalf of the calls originated by the CLEC.
- 38.1.5. ISP-Bound Traffic will be exchanged on a "Bill and Keep" basis. Under Bill and Keep, each Party retains the revenues it receives from end user customer, and neither Party pays the other Party for terminating the ISP-Bound Traffic.
- 38.1.6. The Parties agree that by executing this Agreement and carrying out the intercarrier compensation rates, terms and conditions herein, neither Party waives any of its rights, and expressly reserves all of its rights, under the *Order on Remand and Report and Order*, FCC 01-131, CC Dockets No. 96-98 and 99-68, adopted April 18, 2001 (the "ISP Compensation Order"), including but not limited to Sprint's option, to the extent Sprint has not opted into the FCC interim compensation regime, to invoke on a date specified by Sprint the FCC's ISP interim compensation regime, after which date ISP-bound traffic will be subject to the FCC's prescribed interim compensation regime including the terminating compensation rates, and other terms and conditions. CLEC agrees that on the date designated by ILEC, the Parties will begin billing Reciprocal Compensation to each other at the rates, terms and conditions specified in the FCC's ISP Compensation Order, unless the Parties are exchanging traffic (Local Traffic and/or ISP-Bound traffic) at Bill and Keep, such Bill and Keep arrangement shall continue.
- 38.1.7. CLEC shall pay a transit rate, comprised of the transport and tandem rate elements, as set forth in Table One of this Part when CLEC uses a Sprint access tandem to terminate a local call to a third party LEC or another CLEC. Sprint shall pay CLEC a transit rate equal to the Sprint rate referenced above when Sprint uses a CLEC switch to terminate a local call

to a third party LEC or another CLEC.

- 38.1.8. Sprint reserves the right to discontinue the use, for delivering traffic from its network, of all, or a portion, of the facilities provided by CLEC. This provision does not negate any obligations either Party may have regarding such facilities, such as, but not limited to term and notice provisions. Nothing herein will obligate Sprint to utilize facilities obtained from a third Party.
- 38.1.9. Each Party shall pay its proportionate share of the recurring charges for transport facilities based on the percentage of the total traffic originated by that Party (excluding any toll traffic and ISP Bound Traffic). At either Party's request, but no more than twice per year, the Parties shall determine the applicable percentages twice per year based on the previous six (6) months' minutes of use billed by each Party. The Parties shall share the results of the minutes of use billed by the other Party and will work cooperatively on a mutually agreeable percentage. Each Party shall be responsible for ordering and paying for any facilities for two-way trunks carrying only its toll, transit or ISP Bound traffic.
- 38.2. Compensation for the termination of toll traffic and the origination of 800 traffic between the interconnecting parties shall be based on the applicable access charges in accordance with FCC and Commission Rules and Regulations and consistent with the provisions of Part F of this Agreement.
- 38.3. Calls terminated to end users physically located outside the local calling area in which their NPA/NXXs are homed (Virtual NXXs), are not local calls for purposes of intercarrier compensation and access charges shall apply. For Sprint-originated traffic terminated to CLEC's Virtual NXXs, Sprint shall not be obligated to pay reciprocal compensation, including any shared interconnection facility costs, for such traffic.
- 38.4. Voice calls that are transmitted, in whole or in part, via the public Internet or a private IP network (VoIP) shall be compensated in the same manner as voice traffic (e.g. reciprocal compensation, interstate access and intrastate access).
- 38.5. A call placed on a non-local basis (e.g., a toll call or 8yy call) to an ISP shall not be treated as ISP-Bound Traffic for compensation purposes. The Parties agree that, to the extent such "non-Local" ISP calls are placed, that the rates, terms and conditions for IntraLATA and/or InterLATA calling shall apply, including but not limited to rating and routing according to the terminating parties' Exchange Access intrastate and/or interstate tariffs.
- 38.6. INP is available in all Sprint service areas where LNP is not available. Once LNP is available, all INP arrangements will be converted to LNP. Where INP is available and a toll call is completed through Sprint's INP arrangement (e.g., remote call forwarding) to CLEC's subscriber, CLEC shall be entitled to applicable access charges in accordance with the FCC and Commission Rules and

Regulations. If a national standard billing method has not been developed for a CLEC to directly bill a carrier access for a toll call that has been completed using interim number portability, then the INP Rate specific to Access Settlements in this Part C will be used.

38.6.1. The ported party shall charge the porting party on a per line basis using the INP Rate specific to Access Settlements in lieu of any other compensation charges for terminating such traffic. The traffic that is not identified as subject to INP will be compensated as local interconnection as set forth above.

38.7. CLEC will identify the Percent Local Usage (PLU) factor on each interconnection order to identify its "Local Traffic," as defined herein, for reciprocal compensation purposes. Sprint may request CLEC's traffic study documentation of the PLU at any time to verify the factor, and may compare the documentation to studies developed by Sprint. Should the documentation indicate that the factor should be changed by Sprint, the Parties agree that any changes will be prospective. For non-local traffic, the Parties agree to exchange traffic and compensate one another based on the rates and elements included in each party's access tariffs. CLEC will transmit calling party number (CPN) as required by FCC rules (47 C.F.R. 64.1601).

38.7.1. To the extent technically feasible, each Party will transmit calling party number (CPN) for each call being terminated on the other's network. If the percentage of calls transmitted with CPN is greater than 90%, all calls exchanged without CPN will be billed as local or intrastate in proportion to the MOUs of calls exchanged with CPN. If the percentage of calls transmitted with CPN is less than 90%, all calls transmitted without CPN will be billed as intraLATA toll traffic.

38.8. Compensation for Shared Interconnection Facility

38.8.1. The transmission facility that connects Sprint and CLEC network is defined as the "Interconnection Facility." The Interconnection Facility may be a shared facility used by both parties to originate and terminate traffic.

38.8.1.1. Notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary, if CLEC provides one-hundred percent (100%) of the Interconnection Facility via lease of meet-point circuits between Sprint and a third-party; lease of Sprint facilities, lease of third party facilities; or construction of its own facilities; the POI for the mutual exchange of traffic will be the Sprint office where the leased facility terminates.

38.8.1.2. CLEC may charge Sprint for Sprint's proportionate share of the recurring charges for transport facilities leased from Sprint based on the percentage of the total traffic originated by Sprint (excluding any toll traffic, and ISP Bound Traffic).

CLEC will bill Sprint an amount equal to a percentage of Sprint's total interconnection facilities billing to CLEC at the same rates Sprint bills CLEC for those facilities. CLEC shall be financially responsible for any facilities, or portion of facilities, used to carry ISP-Bound traffic terminated by CLEC or toll traffic.

- 38.8.2. . In the event that CLEC elects to offer service within Sprint's serving area using a switch located outside the LATA where Sprint's serving area is located, CLEC agrees to provide the interconnection facility for both Parties' traffic outside the LATA where Sprint's serving area in which CLEC offers service is located, at no charge to Sprint. Sprint will not compensate CLEC for the shared interconnection facility beyond LATA boundary where Sprint's serving area in which CLEC offers service is located.
- 38.8.3. Sprint is not obligated to utilize interconnection facilities provided by CLEC to terminate Sprint originated traffic to CLEC.
- 38.8.4. Should Sprint elect to provision its own transport to CLEC's network to deliver its originated traffic or if CLEC elects to use Indirect Interconnection, there is no shared interconnection facility for which Sprint would compensate CLEC. Should Sprint elect to provision its own transport to CLEC's network to deliver its originated traffic, Sprint reserves the right to only provision to the boundary of Sprint's contiguous serving area in the LATA.

### **39. SIGNALING NETWORK INTERCONNECTION**

- 39.1. Sprint will offer interconnection to its signaling transfer points (STPs) for CLEC switches which connect to Sprint's STPs via "A" links or for CLEC's "B" or "D" links which are dedicated to the transport of signaling for local interconnection.
- 39.2. Signaling protocol. The parties will interconnect their networks using SS7 signaling where technically feasible and available as defined in FR 905 Telcordia Standards including ISDN User Part (ISUP) for trunk signaling and TCAP for CCS-based features in the interconnection of their networks. All Network Operations Forum (NOF) adopted standards shall be adhered to.
- 39.3. Standard interconnection facilities shall be Extended Superframe (ESF) with B8ZS line code. Where ESF/B8ZS is not available, CLEC will use other interconnection protocols on an interim basis until the standard ESF/B8ZS is available. Sprint will provide anticipated dates of availability for those areas not currently ESF/B8ZS compatible.

- 39.4. Where CLEC is unwilling to utilize an alternate interconnection protocol, CLEC will provide Sprint an initial forecast of 64 Kbps clear channel capability (“64K CCC”) trunk quantities within thirty (30) Days of the Effective Date consistent with the forecasting agreements between the parties. Upon receipt of this forecast, the parties will begin joint planning for the engineering, procurement, and installation of the segregated 64K CCC Local Interconnection Trunk Groups, and the associated ESF facilities, for the sole purpose of transmitting 64K CCC data calls between CLEC and Sprint. Where additional equipment is required, such equipment would be obtained, engineered, and installed on the same basis and with the same intervals as any similar growth job for IXC, CLEC, or Sprint internal customer demand for 64K CCC trunks.



- 39.5. Signaling Systems
  - 39.5.1. Signaling Link Transport
    - 39.5.1.1. Signaling Link Transport is a set of two or four dedicated 56 Kbps transmission paths between CLEC-designated Signaling Points of Interconnection (SPOI) that provides appropriate physical diversity and a cross connect at a Sprint STP site.
    - 39.5.1.2. Technical Requirements. Signaling Link transport shall consist of full duplex mode 56 Kbps transmission paths.
  - 39.5.2. Signaling Transfer Points (STPs)
    - 39.5.2.1. STPs provide functionality that enables the exchange of SS7 messages among and between switching elements, databases and third party signaling transfer points.
- 39.6. Technical Requirements. STPs provide interconnection to the functions of signaling networks or to third party SS7 networks connected to the Sprint SS7 network. These functions include:
  - 39.6.1. Sprint local switching or Tandem Switching;
  - 39.6.2. Sprint Service Control Points (SCPs)/Databases if arranged for under separate agreements;
  - 39.6.3. Third-party local or Tandem Switching systems subject to any additional conditions or terms of the Third Party and
  - 39.6.4. Third party provider STPs subject to any additional conditions or terms of the Third Party.
- 39.7. Interface Requirements. Sprint shall provide the following STP options to connect CLEC or CLEC-designated local switching systems or STPs to the Sprint SS7 network:
  - 39.7.1. An A-link interface from CLEC local switching systems; and
  - 39.7.2. B- or D-link interface from CLEC STPs.
  - 39.7.3. Each type of interface shall be provided by one or more sets (layers) of signaling links, as follows:
    - 39.7.3.1. An A-link layer shall consist of two links,
    - 39.7.3.2. A B- or D-link layer shall consist of four links,
- 39.8. Signaling Point of Interconnection (SPOI) for each link shall be located at a cross-connect element, such as a DSX-1, in the Central Office (CO) where the Sprint STP is located. Interface to Sprint's STP shall be the 56kb rate. The 56kb rate can be part of a larger facility, and CLEC shall pay multiplexing/demultiplexing

and channel termination, plus mileage of any leased facility.

#### **40. TRUNK FORECASTING**

40.1.1. The Parties shall work towards the development of joint forecasting responsibilities for traffic utilization over trunk groups. Orders for trunks that exceed forecasted quantities for forecasted locations will be accommodated as facilities and/or equipment are available. The Parties shall make all reasonable efforts and cooperate in good faith to develop alternative solutions to accommodate orders when facilities are not available. Intercompany forecast information must be provided by the Parties to each other twice a year. The initial trunk forecast meeting should take place soon after the first implementation meeting. A forecast should be provided at or prior to the first implementation meeting. The semi-annual forecasts shall project trunk gain/loss on a monthly basis for the forecast period, and shall include:

- 40.1.1.1. Semi-annual forecasted trunk quantities (which include baseline data that reflect actual Tandem and end office Local Interconnection and meet point trunks and Tandem-subtending Local Interconnection end office equivalent trunk requirements) for no more than two years (current plus one year);
- 40.1.1.2. The use of Common Language Location Identifier (CLLI-MSG), which are described in Telcordia documents BR 795-100-100 and BR 795-400-100;
- 40.1.1.3. Description of major network projects that affect the other Party will be provided in the semi-annual forecasts. Major network projects include but are not limited to trunking or network rearrangements, shifts in anticipated traffic patterns, or other activities by either party that are reflected by a significant increase or decrease in trunking demand for the following forecasting period.

40.1.2. Parties shall meet to review and reconcile their forecasts if forecasts vary significantly.

40.1.3. Each Party shall provide a specified point of contact for planning forecasting and trunk servicing purposes.

40.1.4. Trunking can be established to Tandems or end offices or a combination of both via either one-way or two-way trunks. Trunking will be at the DS-0, DS-1, DS-3/OC-3 level, or higher, as agreed upon by CLEC and Sprint.

40.1.5. The parties agree to abide by the following if a forecast cannot be agreed to: local interconnection trunk groups will be provisioned to the higher forecast. A blocking standard of one percent (1%) during the average

busy hour shall be maintained. Should the Parties not agree upon the forecast, and the Parties engineer facilities at the higher forecast, the Parties agree to abide by the following:

- 40.1.5.1. In the event that one Party over-forecasts its trunking requirements by twenty percent (20%) or more, and the other Party acts upon this forecast to its detriment, the other Party may recoup any actual and reasonable expense it incurs.
  - 40.1.5.2. The calculation of the twenty percent (20%) over-forecast will be based on the number of DS-1 equivalents for the total traffic volume to Sprint.
  - 40.1.5.3. Expenses will only be recouped for non-recoverable facilities that cannot otherwise be used at any time within twelve (12) months after the initial installation for another purpose including but not limited to: other traffic growth between the Parties, internal use, or use with another party.
- 40.2. Grade of Service. An overall blocking standard of one percent (1%) during the average busy hour, as defined by each Party's standards, for final trunk groups between a CLEC end office and a Sprint access Tandem carrying meet point traffic shall be maintained. All other Tandem trunk groups are to be engineered with a blocking standard of one percent (1%). Direct end office trunk groups are to be engineered with a blocking standard of one percent (1%).
- 40.3. Trunk Servicing. Orders between the Parties to establish, add, change or disconnect trunks shall be processed by use of an ASR, or another industry standard eventually adopted to replace the ASR for trunk ordering.

#### **41. NETWORK MANAGEMENT**

- 41.1. Protective Protocols. Either Party may use protective network traffic management controls such as 7-digit and 10-digit code gaps on traffic toward each other's network, when required to protect the public switched network from congestion due to facility failures, switch congestion or failure or focused overload. CLEC and Sprint will immediately notify each other of any protective control action planned or executed.
- 41.2. Expansive Protocols. Where the capability exists, originating or terminating traffic reroutes may be implemented by either party to temporarily relieve network congestion due to facility failures or abnormal calling patterns. Reroutes will not be used to circumvent normal trunk servicing. Expansive controls will only be used when mutually agreed to by the parties.
- 41.3. Mass Calling. CLEC and Sprint shall cooperate and share pre-planning information, where available, regarding cross-network call-ins expected to generate large or focused temporary increases in call volumes, to prevent or mitigate the impact of these events on the public switched network. Mass calling

numbers cannot be used in conjunction with INP.

#### **42. USAGE MEASUREMENT**

- 42.1. Each Party shall calculate terminating interconnection minutes of use based on standard AMA recordings made within each Party's network, these recordings being necessary for each Party to generate bills to the other Party. In the event either Party cannot measure minutes terminating on its network where technically feasible, the other Party shall provide the measuring mechanism or the Parties shall otherwise agree on an alternate arrangement.
- 42.2. Measurement of minutes of use over Local Interconnection trunk groups shall be in actual conversation seconds. The total conversation seconds over each individual Local Interconnection trunk group will be totaled for the entire monthly bill period and then rounded to the next whole minute.
- 42.3. Prior to the commencement of billing for interconnection, each Party shall provide to the other, the PLU of the traffic terminated to each other over the Local Interconnection trunk groups.
  - 42.3.1. The Parties agree to review the accuracy of the PLU on a regular basis. If the initial PLU is determined to be inaccurate by more than twenty percent (20%), the Parties agree to implement the new PLU retroactively to the Effective Date of the contract.

#### **43. TRANSIT TRAFFIC**

- 43.1. Transit Traffic means the delivery of Local Traffic or ISP-Bound Traffic by CLEC or Sprint originated by the end user of one Party and terminated to a third party LEC, ILEC, or CMRS provider over the local/intraLATA interconnection trunks.
- 43.2. While the Parties agree that it is the responsibility of CLEC to enter into arrangements with each third party carrier (ILECs or other CLECs) to deliver or receive transit traffic, Sprint acknowledges that such arrangements may not currently be in place and an interim arrangement will facilitate traffic completion on an interim basis. Accordingly, until the earlier of (i) the date on which either Party has entered into an arrangement with third-party carrier to exchange transit traffic to CLEC and (ii) the date transit traffic volumes exchanged by CLEC and third-party carrier exceed the volumes specified in Section 44.3.1.3, Sprint will provide CLEC with transit service. CLEC agrees to use reasonable efforts to enter into agreements with third-party carriers as soon as possible after the Effective Date. Sprint may require separate trunking for the delivery of such Transit Traffic in order to accurately measure and bill it. Transit Traffic means the delivery of Local Traffic or ISP-Bound Traffic by CLEC or Sprint originated by the end user of one Party and terminated to a third party LEC, ILEC, or CMRS provider over the local/intraLATA interconnection trunks.
- 43.3. Terms and Conditions

- 43.3.1. Each Party acknowledges that a third-party LEC may block transit traffic. To the extent the originated Party's traffic is blocked by a third party, the transiting Party shall have no obligation to resolve the dispute. Each Party acknowledges that the transiting Party does not have any responsibility to pay any third-party Telecommunications Carrier charges for termination of any identifiable Transit Traffic from the originating Party. Both Parties reserve the right not to pay such charges on behalf of the originating Party. Each Party acknowledges that it is the originating Party's responsibility to enter into arrangements with each third party LEC, CLEC, or CMRS provider for the exchange of transit traffic to that third party. Each Party acknowledges that the Transit Provider does not have any responsibility to pay any third party LEC, CLEC or CMRS provider charges for termination or any transit traffic from the originating Party. Both Parties reserve the right not to pay such charges on behalf of the originating Party.
- 43.3.2. Each terminating Party is responsible for billing the originating company for traffic terminated on its respective network. For Indirect Traffic, the originating Party will provide the originating billing information to the terminating Party, if technically feasible. If the originating Party cannot provide the originating billing information to the terminating Party, then the terminating Party must obtain the originating billing information from the third-party transit company. Any costs incurred by the terminating Party in obtaining the records, and costs incurred in manual billing, will be billed back to the originating Party. It is each Party's responsibility to enter into appropriate contractual arrangements with the third-party transit company in order to obtain the originating billing information from the transit company.
- 43.4. Sprint will make every effort within reason to meet CLEC's transit needs; however, when the tandem through which the Parties are interconnected is unable to, or is forecasted to be unable to, support additional traffic loads for any period of time (tandem exhaust), the Parties will work together to develop an end office trunking plan that will alleviate the tandem capacity shortage, by establishing direct trunk arrangements between CLEC and the other carrier. CLEC will agree to exercise its best effort to implement such direct connections within 60 days. If Sprint disagrees that CLEC is using its best efforts to implement a direct connection, Sprint may seek relief pursuant to the Dispute Resolution provisions. In addition, after the direct trunks are established between CLEC and the other carrier(s), Sprint will continue to provide tandem transiting services for overflow traffic Payment Terms and Conditions
- 43.4.1.1. In addition to the payment terms and conditions contained in other Sections of this Agreement, the originating Party shall pay to the transiting Party a transit service charge as set forth in Table One.
- 43.4.1.2. CLEC shall pay a transit rate, comprised of the transport and tandem rate elements, as set forth in Table One of this Part

when CLEC uses a Sprint access tandem to terminate a local or ISP-bound call to a third party LEC or another CLEC. Sprint shall pay CLEC a transit rate equal to the Sprint rate referenced above when Sprint uses a CLEC switch to terminate a local call to a third party LEC or another CLEC.

43.5. Billing Records and Exchange of Data

43.5.1. Parties will use the best efforts to convert all network's transporting transit traffic to deliver each call to the other Party's network with SS7 Common Channel Interoffice Signaling (CCIS) and other appropriate TCAP messages in order to facilitate full interoperability and billing functions. The Parties agree to send all message indicators, including originating telephone number, local routing number and CIC.

43.5.2. The transiting Party agrees to provide the terminating Party information on traffic originated by a third party CLEC, ILEC, or CMRS provider. To the extent Sprint incurs additional cost in providing this billing information, CLEC agrees to reimburse Sprint for its direct costs of providing this information.

43.5.3. To the extent that the industry adopts a standard record format for recording originating and/or terminating transit calls, both Parties agree to comply with the industry-adopted format to exchange records.

**44. INDIRECT TRAFFIC**

44.1. Interconnection

44.1.1. For purposes of exchanging Indirect Traffic there is no physical or direct point of interconnection between the Parties, therefore neither Party is required to construct new facilities or make mid-span meet arrangements available to the other Party for Indirect Traffic. Indirect interconnection with Sprint shall only be allowed to the extent CLEC is interconnected at the tandem which Sprint's end office subtends.

44.1.2. Interconnection to a CLEC will provide Sprint with access to the CLEC's end-users and to other companies which are likewise connected to CLEC for local and toll service purposes.

44.1.3. Notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary, once the Indirect Traffic volume between CLEC and a Sprint end office exceeds a DS1 equivalent of traffic, Sprint will no longer allow indirect interconnection and CLEC must establish a direct interconnection with Sprint for the exchange of traffic. Sprint will notify CLEC when the traffic volume reaches a DS1 equivalent of traffic. Within sixty (60) Days of such notification CLEC shall establish a direct interconnection with Sprint.

44.2. Exchange Of Traffic

- 44.2.1. The Parties may send each other Indirect Traffic.
- 44.2.2. Each Party acknowledges that it is the originating Party's responsibility to enter into transiting arrangements with the third party providing the transit services.
- 44.2.3. Each Party is responsible for the transport of originating calls from its network to its point of interconnection with the transiting party. The originating Party is responsible for the payment of transit charges assessed by the transiting party.
- 44.3. Compensation for Indirect Traffic
  - 44.3.1. Non-Local and Non-ISP-Bound Indirect Traffic
    - 44.3.1.1. Compensation for the termination of non-Local traffic, non-ISP-Bound Traffic and the origination of 800 traffic between the interconnecting Parties shall be based on the applicable access charges in accordance with FCC and Commission Rules and Regulations.
    - 44.3.1.2. Toll traffic, switched access, and special access traffic, if separately chargeable, shall be charged the appropriate rate out of the terminating LEC's tariff or via other appropriate meet point access arrangements. Where exact transport mileage is not available, an average, arrived at by mutual agreement of the Parties, will be used.
    - 44.3.1.3. Once total Indirect Traffic volume between CLEC and Sprint reaches a DS1 equivalent of traffic, CLEC shall either implement a direct interconnection as provided for in this Agreement or reimburse Sprint for any third party transit charges incurred by Sprint.
  - 44.3.2. Local Traffic and ISP-Bound Traffic. The rates set forth on Table One shall apply, in accordance with Section 38.
    - 44.3.2.1. Indirect Traffic Terminating to Sprint
      - 44.3.2.1.1. Each rate element utilized in completing a call shall be charged for completion of that call. For example, a call terminating from CLEC through the transiting party, and over Sprint facilities to a Sprint End Office Switch would include charges from Sprint to CLEC for Common Transport to the End Office Switch and End Office switching. A call terminating from CLEC through the transiting party, and then over Sprint facilities through a Sprint End Office Switch to a Sprint Remote Switch would

include charges from Sprint to CLEC for Common Transport to the End Office Switch (except where the transiting party is collocated in the Sprint End Office), End Office switching, and Common Transport to the Remote Switch.

44.3.2.2. Indirect Traffic Terminating to CLEC:

44.3.2.2.1. For Indirect Traffic terminating on CLEC's network, CLEC will bill Sprint the same rates as Sprint charges CLEC for Indirect Local Traffic terminating on Sprint's network in accordance with Section 38.

**45. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES**

- 45.1. Sprint and CLEC will review engineering requirements consistent with the Implementation Plan described in Part B, Part C, Part F and as otherwise set forth in this Agreement.
- 45.2. CLEC and Sprint shall share responsibility for all Control Office functions for Local Interconnection Trunks and Trunk Groups, and both parties shall share the overall coordination, installation, and maintenance responsibilities for these trunks and trunk groups.
- 45.3. CLEC and Sprint shall:
  - 45.3.1. Provide trained personnel with adequate and compatible test equipment to work with each other's technicians.
  - 45.3.2. Notify each other when there is any change affecting the service requested, including the due date.
  - 45.3.3. Coordinate and schedule testing activities of their own personnel, and others as applicable, to ensure its interconnection trunks/trunk groups are installed per the interconnection order, meet agreed-upon acceptance test requirements, and are placed in service by the due date.
  - 45.3.4. Perform sectionalization to determine if a trouble is located in its facility or its portion of the interconnection trunks prior to referring the trouble to each other.
  - 45.3.5. Advise each other's Control Office if there is an equipment failure which may affect the interconnection trunks.
  - 45.3.6. Provide each other with a trouble reporting/repair contact number that is readily accessible and available twenty-four (24) hours/seven (7) days a week. Any changes to this contact arrangement must be immediately provided to the other party.
  - 45.3.7. Provide to each other test-line numbers and access to test lines.



45.3.8. Cooperatively plan and implement coordinated repair procedures for the meet point and Local Interconnection trunks and facilities to ensure trouble reports are resolved in a timely and appropriate manner.

## **PART E - INTERIM NUMBER PORTABILITY**

### **46. SPRINT PROVISION OF INTERIM NUMBER PORTABILITY**

46.1. Sprint shall provide INP in accordance with requirements of the Act and FCC Rules and Regulations. INP shall be provided with minimum impairment of functionality, quality, reliability and convenience to subscribers of CLEC services until such time as LNP service is offered in the Sprint rate center, in which case INP will be discontinued. Beginning on the date LNP is available in an area, INP orders will no longer be processed, and the Parties will work together to convert the existing INP lines to LNP.

### **47. INTERIM NUMBER PORTABILITY**

- 47.1. Interim Number Portability (INP) shall be provided to the extent technical capabilities allow, by a Sprint directed Remote Call Forwarding (RCF). In the event RCF is a purchased feature of the CLEC end user, there is no relationship between RCF and INP. Once LNP is generally available in Sprint's serving area, RCF will be provided only as a retail service offering by Sprint.
- 47.2. Remote Call Forwarding (RCF) is an INP method to provide end users with service-provider portability by redirecting calls within the telephone network. When RCF is used to provide interim number portability, calls to the ported number will first route to the Sprint switch to which the ported number was previously assigned. The Sprint switch will then forward the call to a number associated with the CLEC designated switch to which the number is ported. CLEC may order any additional paths to handle multiple simultaneous calls to the same ported telephone number.
- 47.3. The trunking requirements will be agreed upon by Sprint and CLEC resultant from application of sound engineering principles. These trunking options may include SS7 signaling, in-band signaling, and may be one-way or two-way. The trunks used may be the same as those used for exchange of other Local Traffic and toll traffic between Sprint and CLEC.
- 47.4. Local Exchange Routing Guide (LERG) Reassignment. Portability for an entire NXX shall be provided by utilizing reassignment of the block to CLEC through the LERG. Updates to translations in the Sprint switching office from which the telephone number is ported will be made by Sprint prior to the date on which LERG changes become effective, in order to redirect calls to the CLEC switch via route indexing.
- 47.5. Other Currently Available Number Portability Provisions:
- 47.5.1. Where SS7 is available, Sprint shall exchange with CLEC, SS7 TCAP messages as required for the implementation CLASS or other features available in the Sprint network, if technically feasible.

- 47.5.2. Upon notification that CLEC will be initiating INP, Sprint shall disclose to CLEC any technical or capacity limitations that would prevent use of the requested INP in the affected switching office. Sprint and CLEC shall cooperate in the process of porting numbers to minimize subscriber out-of-service time, including promptly updating switch translations, where necessary, after notification that physical cut-over has been completed (or initiated), as CLEC may designate.
- 47.5.3. For INP, CLEC shall have the right to use the existing Sprint 911 infrastructure for all 911 capabilities. When RCF is used for CLEC subscribers, both the ported numbers and shadow numbers shall be stored in ALI databases. CLEC shall have the right to verify the accuracy of the information in the ALI databases.
- 47.5.3.1. When any INP method is used to port a subscriber, the donor provider must maintain the LIDB record for that number to reflect appropriate conditions as reported to it by the porting service provider. The donor must outclear call records to CLEC for billing and collection from the subscriber. Until such time as Sprint's LIDB has the software capability to recognize a ported number as CLEC's, Sprint shall store the ported number in its LIDB at no charge and shall retain revenue for LIDB look-ups to the ported number. At such time as Sprint's LIDB has the software capability to recognize that the ported number is CLEC's then, if CLEC desires to store numbers on Sprint's LIDB, the parties shall negotiate a separate LIDB database storage and look-up agreement.
- 47.5.4. Sprint will send a CARE transaction 2231 to notify IXC that access is now provided by a new CLEC for that number.

## **48. REQUIREMENTS FOR INP**

### **48.1. Cut-Over Process**

- 48.1.1. Sprint and CLEC shall cooperate in the process of porting numbers from one LEC to another so as to limit service outage for the ported subscriber.
- 48.1.1.1. For a Coordinated Cutover Environment, Sprint and CLEC will coordinate the disconnect and switch translations as close to the requested time as possible. The coordination shall be pre-specified by CLEC and agreed to by both Parties and in no case shall begin more than thirty (30) minutes after the agreed upon time.
- 48.1.1.2. For a Non-Coordinated Cutover Environment, the Parties will agree to a mutually satisfactory cutover time and Sprint shall schedule an update of disconnect and switch translations at the agreed upon cutover time. Such updates will be available to

CLEC at Parity with Sprint's own availability for such activity. Sprint and CLEC shall each provide an appropriate operations contact with whom the Parties can contact in the event manual intervention is needed to complete the cutover. In the event of manual intervention, and if Sprint is unable to resolve the issue within sixty (60) minutes, Sprint shall notify CLEC of the issue and CLEC and Sprint shall determine the plan to resolve it.

- 48.2. Testing. Sprint and CLEC shall cooperate in conducting CLEC's testing to ensure interconnectivity between systems. Sprint shall inform CLEC of any system updates that may affect the CLEC network and Sprint shall, at CLEC's request, perform tests to validate the operation of the network. Additional testing requirements may apply as specified by this Agreement.
- 48.3. Installation Timeframes
  - 48.3.1. Installation Time Frames for RCF INP, where no other work is required, will be completed using Sprint's standard interval for service installation of complex services.
  - 48.3.2. If an end user elects to move its Telephone Exchange Service back to Sprint while on an INP arrangement, Sprint shall notify CLEC of the end user's termination of service with CLEC and the end user's instructions regarding its telephone number(s) at Parity with what is offered to other Sprint customers.
- 48.4. Call Referral Announcements. Should CLEC direct Sprint to terminate INP measures, Sprint shall allow CLEC to order a referral announcement available in that switch.
- 48.5. Engineering and Maintenance. Sprint and CLEC will cooperate to ensure that performance of trunking and signaling capacity is engineered and managed at levels which are at Parity with that provided by Sprint to its end users and to ensure effective maintenance testing through activities such as routine testing practices, network trouble isolation processes and review of operational elements for translations, routing and network fault isolation.
- 48.6. Operator Services and Directory Assistance
  - 48.6.1. With respect to operator services and directory assistance associated with INP for CLEC subscribers, Sprint shall provide the following:
    - 48.6.1.1. While INP is deployed:
      - 48.6.1.1.1. Sprint shall allow CLEC to order provisioning of Telephone Line Number (TLN) calling cards and Billed Number Screening (BNS), in its LIDB, for ported numbers, as specified by CLEC. Sprint shall continue to allow CLEC access to its LIDB. Other LIDB provisions are specified in this Agreement.

48.6.1.1.2. Where Sprint has control of directory listings for NXX codes containing ported numbers, Sprint shall maintain entries for ported numbers as specified by CLEC.

48.6.2. Sprint OSS shall meet all requirements specified in “Generic Operator Services Switching Requirements for Number Portability,” Issue 1.00, Final Draft, April 12, 1996. Editor - Nortel.

48.7. Number Reservation. When an end user ports to another service provider and has previously secured, via a tariffed offering, a reservation of line numbers from the donor provider for possible activation at some future point, these reserved but inactive numbers shall “port” along with the active numbers being ported by the end user in order to ensure that the end user subscriber will be permitted to expand its service using the same number range it could use if it remained with the donor provider. However, Sprint will not port vacant numbers.

## **PART F - LOCAL NUMBER PORTABILITY**

### **49. INTRODUCTION**

- 49.1. Upon implementation of LNP, both Parties agree to conform and provide such LNP pursuant to FCC regulations and compliance with the Industry Forum. To the extent consistent with the FCC and Industry rules as amended from time to time, the requirements for LNP shall include the following:
- 49.1.1. End users must be able to change local service providers and retain the same telephone number(s) within the serving wire center utilizing the portability method in effect within the porting MSA, as offered by the porting LEC within the area of portability as defined by the FCC or Commission.
  - 49.1.2. The LNP network architecture shall not subject Parties to any degradation of service in any relevant measure, including transmission quality, switching and transport costs, increased call set-up time and post-dial delay.
  - 49.1.3. Parties agree that when an NXX is defined as portable, it shall also be defined as portable in all LNP capable offices which have direct trunks to the given switch.
  - 49.1.4. When an end user ports to another service provider and has previously secured a reservation of line numbers from the donor provider for possible activation at some future point, these reserved but inactive numbers shall port along with the active numbers being ported by the end user only in states where appropriate charges from Sprint tariffs are executed for reserved numbers.
  - 49.1.5. NXX Availability. Not all NXXs in each CO may be available for porting.
  - 49.1.6. LERG Reassignment. Portability for an entire NXX shall be provided by utilizing reassignment of the NXX to CLEC through the LERG.
  - 49.1.7. Coordination of service order work outside normal business hours (8:00AM to 5:00PM) shall be at requesting Party's expense. Premium rates will apply for service order work performed outside normal business hours, weekends, and holidays.
  - 49.1.8. Mass Calling Events. Parties will notify each other at least seven (7) Days in advance where ported numbers are utilized. Parties will only port mass calling numbers using switch translations and a choke network for call routing. Porting on mass calling numbers will be handled outside the normal porting process and comply with any applicable state or federal regulatory requirements developed for mass calling numbers.

**50. TRANSITION FROM INP TO LNP**

- 50.1. Existing INP Arrangements. As Sprint provisions LNP according to the industry schedule in a Wire Center/Central Office, there will be a maximum of a ninety (90) Day transition from INP to LNP. At that time, the CLEC will be required to fully implement LNP according to industry standards.
- 50.2. Once LNP is available in an area, all new portability will be LNP and INP will no longer be offered.

**51. TESTING**

- 51.1. An Interconnection Agreement (or Memorandum of Understanding, or Porting Agreement) detailing conditions for LNP must be in effect between the Parties prior to testing.
- 51.2. Testing and operational issues will be addressed in the implementation plans as described in Part B, Section 31 of the agreement.
- 51.3. CLEC must be NPAC certified and have met Sprint testing parameters prior to activating LNP. If LNP implementation by a CLEC/CMRS provider occurs past the FCC activation date, testing and porting will be done at CLEC's expense.
- 51.4. Parties will cooperate to ensure effective maintenance testing through activities such as routine testing practices, network trouble isolation processes and review of operational elements for translations, routing and network fault isolation.
- 51.5. Parties shall cooperate in testing performed to ensure interconnectivity between systems. All LNP providers shall notify each connected provider of any system updates that may affect the CLEC or Sprint network. Each LNP provider shall, at each other's request, jointly perform tests to validate the operation of the network. Additional testing requirements may apply as specified by this Agreement or in the Implementation Plan.

**52. ENGINEERING AND MAINTENANCE**

- 52.1. Each LNP provider will monitor and perform effective maintenance through testing and the performance of proactive maintenance activities such as routine testing, development of and adherence to appropriate network trouble isolation processes and periodic review of operational elements for translations, routing and network faults.
- 52.2. It will be the responsibility of the Parties to ensure that the network is stable and maintenance and performance levels are maintained in accordance with state commission requirements. It will be the responsibility of the Parties to perform fault isolation in their network before involving other providers.
- 52.3. Additional engineering and maintenance requirements shall apply as specified in this Agreement or the Implementation Plan.

**53. E911/911**

- 53.1. When a subscriber ports to another service provider, the donor provider shall unlock the information in the 911/ALI database. The porting provider is responsible for updating the 911 tandem switch routing tables and 911/ALI database to correctly route, and provide accurate information to PSAP call centers.
- 53.2. Prior to implementation of LNP, the Parties agree to develop, implement, and maintain efficient methods to maintain 911 database integrity when a subscriber ports to another service provider. The Parties agree that the customer shall not be dropped from the 911 database during the transition.

**54. BILLING FOR PORTED NUMBERS**

- 54.1. When an IXC terminates an InterLATA or IntraLATA toll call to either party's local exchange customer whose telephone number has been ported from one party to the other, the parties agree that the party to whom the number has been ported shall receive revenues from those IXC access charges associated with end office switching, local transport, RIC, and CCL, as appropriate, and such other applicable charges. The party from whom the number has been ported shall be entitled only to receive any entrance facility fees, access tandem fees and appropriate local transport charges as set forth in this Agreement. Such access charge payments will be adjusted to the extent that the paying party has already paid Reciprocal Compensation for the same minutes of use. When a call for which access charges are not applicable is terminated to a party's local exchange customer whose telephone number has been ported from the other party, the parties agree that the Reciprocal compensation arrangements described in this Agreement shall apply.
- 54.2. Non-Payment. Customers lose the right to the ported telephone number upon suspension of service. Sprint will not port telephone numbers of customers whose service has been suspended.



## **PART G - GENERAL BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS**

### **55. PROCEDURES**

#### 55.1. Contact with End Users

55.1.1. Each Party at all times shall be the primary contact and account control for all interactions with its end users, except as specified by that Party.

Subscribers include active end users as well as those for whom service orders are pending.

55.1.2. Each Party shall ensure that any of its personnel who may receive end user inquiries, or otherwise have opportunity for end user contact from the other Party's end user regarding the other Party's services: (i) provide appropriate referrals to subscribers who inquire about the other Party's services or products; (ii) do not in any way disparage or discriminate against the other Party, or its products or services; and (iii) do not provide information about its products or services during that same inquiry or end user contact.

55.1.3. Sprint shall not use CLEC's request for end user information, order submission, or any other aspect of CLEC's processes or services to aid Sprint's marketing or sales efforts.

#### 55.2. Expedite and Escalation Procedures

55.2.1. Sprint and CLEC shall develop mutually acceptable escalation and expedite procedures which may be invoked at any point in the Service Ordering, Provisioning, Maintenance, and Subscriber Usage Data transfer processes to facilitate rapid and timely resolution of disputes. In addition, Sprint and CLEC will establish intercompany contacts lists for purposes of handling end user and other matters which require attention/resolution outside of normal business procedures within thirty (30) Days after CLEC's request. Each party shall notify the other party of any changes to its escalation contact list as soon as practicable before such changes are effective.

### **56. ORDERING AND PROVISIONING**

56.1.1. Sprint shall provide, as requested by CLEC, through the NEAC, provisioning and premises visit installation support in the form of coordinated scheduling, status, and dispatch capabilities during Sprint's standard business hours and at other times as agreed upon by the parties to meet end user demand.

56.2. Street Index Guide (SIG). Within thirty (30) Days of CLEC's written request, Sprint shall provide to CLEC the SIG data in the National Emergency Number Association Two (NENA2) format. A CDROM containing the SIG data will be shipped to the CLEC's designated contact on a monthly basis until the request is

cancelled.

56.3. Number Administration/Number Reservation

56.3.1. Sprint shall provide testing and loading of CLEC's NXX on the same basis as Sprint provides itself or its affiliates. Further, Sprint shall provide CLEC with access to abbreviated dialing codes, and the ability to obtain telephone numbers, including vanity numbers, while a subscriber is on the phone with CLEC. When CLEC uses numbers from a Sprint NXX, Sprint shall provide the same range of number choices to CLEC, including choice of exchange number, as Sprint provides its own subscribers. Reservation and aging of Sprint NXX's shall remain Sprint's responsibility.

56.3.2. In conjunction with an order for service, Sprint shall accept CLEC orders for vanity numbers and blocks of numbers for use with complex services including, but not limited to, DID, CENTREX, and Hunting arrangements, as requested by CLEC.

56.3.3. For simple services number reservations and aging of Sprint's numbers, Sprint shall provide real-time confirmation of the number reservation when the Electronic Interface has been implemented. For number reservations associated with complex services, Sprint shall provide confirmation of the number reservation within twenty-four (24) hours of CLEC's request. Consistent with the manner in which Sprint provides numbers to its own subscribers, no telephone number assignment is guaranteed until service has been installed.

56.4. Service Order Process Requirements

56.4.1.1. A general Letter of Agency (LOA) initiated by CLEC or Sprint will be required to process a PLC change order. Providing the LOA, or a copy of the LOA, signed by the end user will not be required to process a PLC ordered by CLEC or Sprint. CLEC and Sprint agree that PLC change orders will be supported with appropriate documentation and verification as required by FCC and Commission rules. In the event of a subscriber complaint of an unauthorized PLC record change where the Party that ordered such change is unable to produce appropriate documentation and verification as required by FCC and Commission rules (or, if there are no rules applicable to PLC record changes, then such rules as are applicable to changes in long distance carriers of record), such Party shall be liable to pay and shall pay all nonrecurring and/or other charges associated with reestablishing the subscriber's local service with the original local carrier.

56.4.2. Intercept Treatment and Transfer Service Announcements. Sprint shall provide unbranded intercept treatment and transfer of service

announcements to CLEC's subscribers. Sprint shall provide such treatment and transfer of service announcement in accordance with local tariffs and as provided to similarly situated Sprint subscribers for all service disconnects, suspensions, or transfers.

#### 56.4.3. Due Date

- 56.4.3.1. Sprint shall supply CLEC with due date intervals to be used by CLEC personnel to determine service installation dates.
- 56.4.3.2. Sprint shall use reasonable efforts to complete orders by the CLEC requested DDD within agreed upon intervals.

#### 56.4.4. Firm Order Confirmation (FOC)

- 56.4.4.1. Sprint shall provide to CLEC, a Firm Order Confirmation (FOC) for each CLEC order. The FOC shall contain the appropriate data elements as defined by the OBF standards.
- 56.4.4.2. For a revised FOC, Sprint shall provide standard detail as defined by the OBF standards.
- 56.4.4.3. Sprint shall provide to CLEC the date that service is scheduled to be installed.

#### 56.4.5. Order Rejections

- 56.4.5.1. Sprint shall reject and return to CLEC any order that Sprint cannot provision, due to technical reasons, missing information, or jeopardy conditions resulting from CLEC ordering service at less than the standard order interval. When an order is rejected, Sprint shall, in its reject notification, specifically describe all of the reasons for which the order was rejected. Sprint shall reject any orders on account of the customer Desired Due Date conflicts with published Sprint order provisioning interval requirements.

#### 56.4.6. Service Order Changes

- 56.4.6.1. In no event will Sprint change a CLEC initiated service order without a new service order directing said change. If an installation or other CLEC ordered work requires a change from the original CLEC service order in any manner, CLEC shall initiate a revised service order. If requested by CLEC, Sprint shall then provide CLEC an estimate of additional labor hours and/or materials.
  - 56.4.6.1.1. When a service order is completed, the cost of the work performed will be reported promptly to CLEC.

- 56.4.6.2. If a CLEC subscriber requests a service change at the time of installation or other work being performed by Sprint on behalf of CLEC, Sprint, while at the subscriber premises, shall direct the CLEC subscriber to contact CLEC, and CLEC will initiate a new service order.
- 56.5. Network Testing. Sprint shall perform all its standard pre-service testing prior to the completion of the service order.
- 56.6. Order Completion Notification. Upon completion of the requests submitted by CLEC, Sprint shall provide to CLEC a completion notification in an industry standard, OBF, or in a mutually agreed format. The completion notification shall include detail of the work performed, to the extent this is defined within OBF guidelines, and in an interim method until such standards are defined.
- 56.7. Systems Interfaces and Information Exchanges
  - 56.7.1. General Requirements
    - 56.7.1.1. Sprint shall provide to CLEC Electronic Interface(s) for transferring and receiving information and executing transactions for all business functions directly or indirectly related to Service Ordering and Provisioning of features, functions and Telecommunications Services, to the extent available.
    - 56.7.1.2. Until the Electronic Interface is available, Sprint agrees that the NEAC or similar function will accept CLEC orders. Orders will be transmitted to the NEAC via an interface or method agreed upon by CLEC and Sprint.
    - 56.7.1.3. If the method of connectivity is File Transfer Protocol (FTP), the response(s) will be loaded to the server every hour and it is the responsibility of CLEC to retrieve their response(s) from the server.
    - 56.7.1.4. It is the responsibility of CLEC to provide Sprint with the LOA (Letter of Authorization) when another party is involved and is working on their behalf.
  - 56.7.2. For any CLEC subscriber Sprint shall provide, subject to applicable rules, orders, and decisions, CLEC with access CPNI without requiring CLEC to produce a signed LOA, based on CLEC's blanket representation that subscriber has authorized CLEC to obtain such CPNI.
    - 56.7.2.1. The preordering Electronic Interface includes the provisioning of CPNI from Sprint to CLEC. The Parties agree to execute a LOA agreement with the Sprint end user prior to requesting CPNI for that Sprint end user, and to request end user CPNI only when the end user has

specifically given permission to receive CPNI. The Parties agree that they will conform to FCC and/or state regulations regarding the provisioning of CPNI between the parties, and regarding the use of that information by the requesting party.

- 56.7.2.2. The requesting Party will document end user permission obtained to receive CPNI, whether or not the end user has agreed to change local service providers. For end users changing service from one party to the other, specific end user LOAs may be requested by the Party receiving CPNI requests to investigate possible slamming incidents, and for other reasons agreed to by the Parties.
- 56.7.2.3. The receiving Party may also request documentation of an LOA if CPNI is requested and a subsequent service order for the change of local service is not received. On a schedule to be determined by Sprint, Sprint will perform a comparison of requests for CPNI to service orders received for the change of Local Service to CLEC. Sprint will produce a report of unmatched requests for CPNI, and may require an LOA from CLEC for each unmatched request. CLEC agrees to provide evidence of end user permission for receipt of CPNI for all end users in the request by Sprint within three (3) Business Days of receipt of a request from Sprint. Should Sprint determine that there has been a substantial percentage of unmatched LOA requests, Sprint reserves the right to immediately disconnect the preordering Electronic Interface.
- 56.7.2.4. If CLEC is not able to provide the LOA for ninety-five percent (95%) of the end users requested by Sprint, or if Sprint determines that an LOA is inadequate, CLEC will be considered in breach of the agreement. CLEC can cure the breach by submitting to Sprint evidence of an LOA for each inadequate or omitted LOA within three (3) Business Days of notification of the breach.
- 56.7.2.5. Should CLEC not be able to cure the breach in the timeframe noted above, Sprint will discontinue processing new service orders until, in Sprint's determination, CLEC has corrected the problem that caused the breach.
- 56.7.2.6. Sprint will resume processing new service orders upon Sprint's timely review and acceptance of evidence provided by CLEC to correct the problem that caused the breach.
- 56.7.2.7. If CLEC and Sprint do not agree that CLEC requested CPNI for a specific end user, or that Sprint has erred in not

accepting proof of an LOA, the Parties may immediately request dispute resolution in accordance with Part B. Sprint will not disconnect the preordering Electronic Interface during the Alternate Dispute Resolution process.

56.8. CLEC may use Sprint's ordering process (IRES) to:

56.8.1. to assign telephone number(s) (if the subscriber does not already have a telephone number or requests a change of telephone number) at Parity.

56.8.1.1. to schedule dispatch and installation appointments at Parity.

56.8.1.2. to access Sprint subscriber information systems which will allow CLEC to determine if a service call is needed to install the line or service at Parity.

56.8.1.3. to access Sprint information systems which will allow CLEC to provide service availability dates at Parity.

56.8.1.4. transmit status information on service orders, including acknowledgement, firm order confirmation, and completion at Parity.

## **57. BILLING**

57.1. Sprint shall comply with various industry, OBF, and other standards referred to throughout this Agreement. Sprint will review any changes to industry standards, and implement the changes within the industry-defined window. Sprint will notify CLEC of any deviations to the standards.

57.2. Sprint shall bill CLEC for each service supplied by Sprint to CLEC pursuant to this Agreement at the rates set forth in this Agreement.

57.3. Sprint shall provide to CLEC a single point of contact for interconnection at the National Access Service Center (NASC), to handle any Connectivity Billing questions or problems that may arise during the implementation and performance of the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

57.4. Sprint shall provide a single point of contact for handling of any data exchange questions or problems that may arise during the implementation and performance of the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

57.5. Subject to the terms of this Agreement, CLEC shall pay Sprint within thirty (30) Days from the Bill Date. If the payment due date is a Saturday, Sunday or has been designated a bank holiday payment shall be made the next business day.

57.6. Billed amounts for which written, itemized disputes or claims have been filed

shall be handled in accordance with the Dispute Resolution procedures set forth in Part B of this Agreement.

- 57.7. Sprint will assess late payment charges to CLEC in accordance with Part B, Section 7.4 of this Agreement.
- 57.8. Sprint shall credit CLEC for incorrect Connectivity Billing charges including without limitation: overcharges, services ordered or requested but not delivered, interrupted services, services of poor quality and installation problems if caused by Sprint. Such reimbursements shall be set forth in the appropriate section of the Connectivity Bill pursuant to CABS, or SECAB standards.
- 57.9. Where Parties have established interconnection, Sprint and the CLEC agree to conform to MECAB and MECOD guidelines. They will exchange Billing Account Reference and Bill Account Cross Reference information and will coordinate Initial Billing Company/Subsequent Billing Company billing cycles. Sprint and CLEC will exchange the appropriate records to bill exchange access charges to the IXC. Sprint and CLEC agree to capture EMI records for inward terminating and outward originating calls and send them to the other, as appropriate, in a daily or other agreed upon interval, via and agreed upon media (e.g.: Connect Direct or cartridge).
- 57.10. Revenue Protection. Sprint shall make available to CLEC, at Parity with what Sprint provides to itself, its Affiliates and other local telecommunications CLECs, all present and future fraud prevention or revenue protection features, including prevention, detection, or control functionality. These features include, but are not limited to screening codes, information digits assigned such as information digits '29' and '70' which indicate prison and COCOT pay phone originating line types respectively, call blocking of domestic, international, 800, 888, 900, NPA-976, 700, 500 and specific line numbers, and the capability to require end-user entry of an authorization code for dial tone. Sprint shall, when technically capable and consistent with the implementation schedule for Operations Support Systems (OSS), additionally provide partitioned access to fraud prevention, detection and control functionality within pertinent OSS.

## **58. GENERAL NETWORK REQUIREMENTS**

- 58.1. Sprint shall provide on a regional basis, a point of contact for CLEC to report vital telephone maintenance issues and trouble reports twenty four (24) hours and seven (7) days a week.
- 58.2. Sprint shall provide CLEC maintenance dispatch personnel on the same schedule that it provides its own subscribers.
- 58.3. Sprint shall give maximum advanced notice to CLEC of all non-scheduled maintenance or other planned network activities to be performed by Sprint on any network element, including any hardware, equipment, software, or system, providing service functionality of which CLEC has advised Sprint may potentially impact CLEC end users.

- 58.4. Notice of Network Event. Each party has the duty to alert the other of any network events that can result or have resulted in service interruption, blocked calls, or negative changes in network performance.
- 58.5. If Sprint initiates trouble handling procedures, it will bear all costs associated with that activity. If CLEC requests the trouble dispatch, and either there is no trouble found, or the trouble is determined to be beyond the end user demarcation point, then CLEC will bear the cost.

## **59. MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES AND FUNCTIONS**

### **59.1. General**

59.1.1. To the extent that Sprint does not provide the services described in this Section 59 to itself, Sprint will use reasonable efforts to facilitate the acquisition of such services for or by CLEC through the existing service provider. CLEC must contract directly with the service provider for such services.

### **59.1.2. Basic 911 and E911 General Requirements**

59.1.2.1. Basic 911 and E911 provides a caller access to the appropriate emergency service bureau by dialing a 3-digit universal telephone number (911). Basic 911 and E911 access from Local Switching shall be provided to CLEC in accordance with the following:

59.1.2.1.1. E911 shall provide additional routing flexibility for 911 calls. E911 shall use subscriber data, contained in the ALI/DMS, to determine to which PSAP to route the call.

59.1.2.2. If required by CLEC, Sprint, at CLEC's sole expense, shall interconnect direct trunks from the CLEC network to the E911 PSAP, or the E911 Tandems as designated by CLEC. Such trunks may alternatively be provided by CLEC.

59.1.2.3. In government jurisdictions where Sprint has obligations under existing agreements as the primary provider of the 911 System to the county (Host SPRINT), CLEC shall participate in the provision of the 911 System as follows:

59.1.2.3.1. Each party shall be responsible for those portions of the 911 System for which it has control, including any necessary maintenance to each party's portion of the 911 System.



- 59.1.2.3.2. Host Sprint shall be responsible for maintaining the E-911 database. Sprint shall be responsible for maintaining the E-911 routing database.
- 59.1.3. If a third party is the primary service provider to a government agency, CLEC shall negotiate separately with such third party with regard to the provision of 911 service to the agency. All relations between such third party and CLEC are totally separate from this Agreement and Sprint makes no representations on behalf of the third party.
- 59.1.4. If CLEC or its Affiliate is the primary service provider to a government agency, CLEC and Sprint shall negotiate the specific provisions necessary for providing 911 service to the agency and shall include such provisions in an amendment to this Agreement.
- 59.1.5. Interconnection and database access shall be priced as specified in Table One.
- 59.1.6. Sprint shall comply with established, competitively neutral intervals for installation of facilities, including any, diversity requirements, etc.
- 59.1.7.
- 59.1.8. The following are Basic 911 and E911 Database Requirements
  - 59.1.8.1. The ALI database shall be managed by Sprint, but is the property of Sprint and CLEC for those records provided by CLEC.
  - 59.1.8.2. To the extent allowed by the governmental agency, and where available, copies of the SIG shall be provided within three business days from the time requested and provided on diskette, or in a format suitable for use with desktop computers.
  - 59.1.8.3. CLEC shall be solely responsible for providing CLEC database records to Sprint for inclusion in Sprint's ALI database on a timely basis.
  - 59.1.8.4. Sprint and CLEC shall arrange for the automated input and periodic updating of the E911 database information related to CLEC end users. Sprint shall work cooperatively with CLEC to ensure the accuracy of the data transfer by verifying it against the SIG. Sprint shall accept electronically transmitted files that conform to NENA Version #2 format.
  - 59.1.8.5. CLEC shall assign an E911 database coordinator charged with the responsibility of forwarding CLEC end user ALI record information to Sprint or via a third-party entity, charged with the responsibility of ALI record transfer.

CLEC assumes all responsibility for the accuracy of the data that CLEC provides to Sprint.

- 59.1.8.6. Sprint agrees to treat all data on CLEC subscribers provided under this Agreement as confidential and to use data on CLEC subscribers only for the purpose of providing E911 services.
- 59.1.8.7. Sprint shall adopt use of a CLEC Code (NENA standard five-character field) on all ALI records received from CLEC. The CLEC Code will be used to identify the CLEC of record in LNP/INP configurations.
- 59.1.8.8. Sprint shall identify which ALI databases cover which states, counties or parts thereof, and identify and communicate a Point of Contact for each.

59.1.9. The following are basic 911 and E911 Network Requirements

- 59.1.9.1. Sprint, at CLEC's option, shall provide a minimum of two (2) E911 trunks per 911 switching entity, or that quantity which will maintain P.01 transmission grade of service, whichever is the higher grade of service. Where applicable these trunks will be dedicated to routing 911 calls from CLEC's switch to a Sprint selective router.
- 59.1.9.2. Sprint may provide the selective routing of E911 calls received from CLEC's switching office. This includes the ability to receive the ANI of CLEC's subscriber, selectively route the call to the appropriate PSAP, and forward the subscriber's ANI to the PSAP. In those cases Sprint shall provide CLEC with the appropriate CLLI codes and specifications regarding the Tandem serving area associated addresses and meet-points in the network.
- 59.1.9.3. Each ALI discrepancy report shall be jointly researched by Sprint and CLEC. Corrective action shall be taken immediately by the responsible party.
- 59.1.9.4. Where Sprint controls the 911 network, Sprint should provide CLEC with a detailed written description of, but not limited to, the following information:
  - 59.1.9.4.1. Geographic boundaries of the government entities, PSAPs, and exchanges as necessary.
  - 59.1.9.4.2. LECs rate centers/exchanges, where "Rate Center" is defined as a geographically specified area used for determining mileage dependent

rates in the Public Switched Telephone Network.

59.1.9.4.3. Technical specifications for network interface, Technical specifications for database loading and maintenance.

59.1.9.4.4. Sprint shall identify special routing arrangements to complete overflow.

59.1.9.4.5. Sprint shall begin restoration of E911 and/or E911 trunking facilities immediately upon notification of failure or outage. Sprint must provide priority restoration of trunks or networks outages on the same terms/conditions it provides itself and without the imposition of Telecommunications Service Priority (TSP).

59.1.9.4.6. Repair service shall begin immediately upon receipt of a report of a malfunction. Repair service includes testing and diagnostic service from a remote location, dispatch of or in-person visit(s) of personnel. Technicians will be dispatched without delay.

59.1.9.5. Trunking shall be arranged to minimize the likelihood of central office isolation due to cable cuts or other equipment failures. There will be an alternate means of transmitting a 911 call to a PSAP in the event of failures.

59.1.9.6. Circuits shall have interoffice, loop and CLEC system diversity when such diversity can be achieved using existing facilities. Circuits will be divided as equally as possible across available CLEC systems. Diversity will be maintained or upgraded to utilize the highest level of diversity available in the network.

59.1.9.7. All 911 trunks must be capable of transmitting and receiving Baudot code or ASII necessary to support the use of Telecommunications Devices for the Deaf (TTY/TDDs).

#### 59.1.10. Basic 911 and E911 Additional Requirements

59.1.10.1. All CLEC lines that have been ported via INP shall reach the correct PSAP when 911 is dialed. Sprint shall send both the ported number and the CLEC number (if both are received from CLEC). The PSAP attendant shall see both numbers where the PSAP is using a standard ALI display screen and

the PSAP extracts both numbers from the data that is sent.

- 59.1.10.2. Sprint shall work with the appropriate government agency to provide CLEC the ten-digit POTS number of each PSAP which sub-tends each Sprint selective router/911 Tandem to which CLEC is connected.
- 59.1.10.3. Sprint shall notify CLEC forty-eight (48) hours in advance of any scheduled testing or maintenance affecting CLEC 911 service, and provide notification as soon as possible of any unscheduled outage affecting CLEC 911 service.
- 59.1.10.4. CLEC shall be responsible for reporting all errors, defects and malfunctions to Sprint. Sprint shall provide CLEC with the point of contact for reporting errors, defects, and malfunctions in the service and shall also provide escalation contacts.
- 59.1.10.5. CLEC may enter into subcontracts with third parties, including CLEC Affiliates, for the performance of any of CLEC's duties and obligations stated herein.
- 59.1.10.6. Sprint shall provide sufficient planning information regarding anticipated moves to SS7 signaling, for 911 services, for the next twelve (12) months.
- 59.1.10.7. Sprint shall provide notification of any impacts to the 911 services provided by Sprint to CLEC resulting from any pending Tandem moves, NPA splits, or scheduled maintenance outages, with enough time to react.
- 59.1.10.8. Sprint shall identify processes for handling of "reverse ALI" inquiries by public safety entities.
- 59.1.10.9. Sprint shall establish a process for the management of NPA splits by populating the ALI database with the appropriate new NPA codes.

## 59.2. Directory Listings Service Requests

- 59.2.1. These requirements pertain to Sprint's Listings Service Request process that enables CLEC to (a) submit CLEC subscriber information for inclusion in Directory Listings databases; (b) submit CLEC subscriber information for inclusion in published directories; and (c) provide CLEC subscriber delivery address information to enable Sprint to fulfill directory distribution obligations.
- 59.2.2. When implemented by the Parties, Sprint shall accept orders on a real-time basis via electronic interface in accordance with OBF Directory Service Request standards within three (3) months of the effective date

of this Agreement. In the interim, Sprint shall create a standard format and order process by which CLEC can place an order with a single point of contact within Sprint.

- 59.2.3. Sprint will provide to CLEC the following Directory Listing Migration Options, valid under a Facilities-Based access method:
  - 59.2.3.1. Migrate with no Changes. Retain all white page listings for the subscriber in both DA and DL. Transfer ownership and billing for white page listings to CLEC.
  - 59.2.3.2. Migrate with Additions. Retain all white page listings for the subscriber in DL. Incorporate the specified additional listings order. Transfer ownership and billing for the white page listings to CLEC.
  - 59.2.3.3. Migrate with Deletions. Retain all white page listings for the subscriber in DL. Delete the specified listings from the listing order. Transfer ownership and billing for the white page listings to CLEC.
  - 59.2.3.4. To ensure accurate order processing, Sprint or its directory publisher shall provide to CLEC the following information, with updates promptly upon changes:
    - 59.2.3.4.1. A matrix of NXX to central office;
    - 59.2.3.4.2. Geographical maps if available of Sprint service area;
    - 59.2.3.4.3. A description of calling areas covered by each directory, including but not limited to maps of calling areas and matrices depicting calling privileges within and between calling areas;
    - 59.2.3.4.4. Listing format rules;
    - 59.2.3.4.5. Standard abbreviations acceptable for use in listings and addresses;
    - 59.2.3.4.6. Titles and designations; and
    - 59.2.3.4.7. A list of all available directories and their Business Office close dates
- 59.2.4. Based on changes submitted by CLEC, Sprint shall update and maintain directory listings data for CLEC subscribers who:
  - 59.2.4.1. Disconnect Service;
  - 59.2.4.2. Change CLEC;

- 59.2.4.3. Install Service;
  - 59.2.4.4. Change any service which affects DA information;
  - 59.2.4.5. Specify Non-Solicitation; and
  - 59.2.4.6. Are Non-Published, Non-Listed, or Listed.
- 59.2.5. Sprint shall not charge for storage of CLEC subscriber information in the DL systems.
- 59.2.6. CLEC shall not charge for storage of Sprint subscriber information in the DL systems.
- 59.3. Directory Listings General Requirements. CLEC acknowledges that many directory functions including but not limited to yellow page listings, enhanced white page listings, information pages, directory proofing, and directory distribution are not performed by Sprint but rather are performed by and are under the control of the directory publisher. CLEC acknowledges that for a CLEC subscriber's name to appear in a directory, CLEC must submit a Directory Service Request (DSR). Sprint shall use reasonable efforts to assist CLEC in obtaining an agreement with the directory publisher that treats CLEC at Parity with the publisher's treatment of Sprint.
- 59.3.1. This Section 59.3 pertains to listings requirements published in the traditional white pages.
  - 59.3.2. Sprint shall include in its master subscriber system database all white pages listing information for CLEC subscribers in Sprint territories where CLEC is providing local telephone exchange services and has submitted a DSR.
  - 59.3.3. Sprint agrees to include one basic White pages listing for each CLEC customer located within the geographic scope of its White Page directories, at no additional charge to CLEC. A basic White Pages listing is defined as a customer name, address and either the CLEC assigned number for a customer or the number for which number portability is provided, but not both numbers. Basic White Pages listings of CLEC customers will be interfiled with listings of Sprint and other LEC customers.
  - 59.3.4. CLEC agrees to provide CLEC customer listing information, including without limitation directory distribution information, to Sprint, at no charge. Sprint will provide CLEC with the appropriate format for provision of CLEC customer listing information to Sprint. The parties agree to adopt a mutually acceptable electronic format for the provision of such information as soon as practicable. In the event OBF adopts an industry-standard format for the provision of such information, the parties agree to adopt such format.

- 59.3.5. Sprint agrees to provide White Pages database maintenance services to CLEC. CLEC will be charged a Service Order entry fee upon submission of Service Orders into Sprint's Service Order Entry (SOE) System, which will include compensation for such database maintenance services. Service Order entry fees apply when Service Orders containing directory records are entered into Sprint's SOE System initially, and when Service Orders are entered in order to process a requested change to directory records.
- 59.3.6. CLEC customer listing information will be used solely for the provision of directory services, including the sale of directory advertising to CLEC customers.
- 59.3.7. In addition to a basic White Pages listing, Sprint will provide, tariffed White Pages listings (e.g.: additional, alternate, foreign and non-published listings) for CLEC to offer for resale to CLEC's customers.
- 59.3.8. Sprint, or its directory publisher, agree to provide White Pages distribution services to CLEC customers within Sprint's service territory at no additional charge to CLEC. Sprint represents that the quality, timeliness, and manner of such distribution services will be at Parity with those provided to Sprint and to other CLEC customers.
- 59.3.9. Sprint agrees to include critical contact information pertaining to CLEC in the "Information Pages" of those of its White Pages directories containing information pages, if CLEC meets criteria established by its directory publisher. Critical contact information includes CLEC's business office number, repair number, billing information number, and any other information required to comply with applicable regulations, but not advertising or purely promotional material. CLEC will not be charged for inclusion of its critical contact information. The format, content and appearance of CLEC's critical contact information will conform to applicable Sprint directory publisher's guidelines and will be consistent with the format, content and appearance of critical contact information pertaining to all CLECs in a directory.
- 59.3.10. Sprint will accord CLEC customer listing information the same level of confidentiality that Sprint accords its own proprietary customer listing information. Sprint shall ensure that access to CLEC customer proprietary listing information will be limited solely to those of Sprint and Sprint's directory publisher's employees, agents and contractors that are directly involved in the preparation of listings, the production and distribution of directories, and the sale of directory advertising. Sprint will advise its own employees, agents and contractors and its directory publisher of the existence of this confidentiality obligation and will take appropriate measures to ensure their compliance with this obligation. Notwithstanding any provision herein to the contrary, the furnishing of White Pages proofs to a CLEC that contains customer listings of both

Sprint and CLEC will not be deemed a violation of this confidentiality provision.

- 59.3.11. Sprint will sell or license CLEC's customer listing information to any third parties unless CLEC submits written requests that Sprint refrain from doing so. Sprint and CLEC will work cooperatively to share any payments for the sale or license of CLEC customer listing information to third parties. Any payments due to CLEC for its customer listing information will be net of administrative expenses incurred by Sprint in providing such information to third parties. The parties acknowledge that the release of CLEC's customer listing to Sprint's directory publisher will not constitute the sale or license of CLEC's customer listing information causing any payment obligation to arise pursuant to this Section 59.3.11.
- 59.4. Other Directory Services. Sprint will exercise reasonable efforts to cause its directory publisher to enter into a separate agreement with CLEC which will address other directory services desired by CLEC as described in this Section 59.4. Both parties acknowledge that Sprint's directory publisher is not a party to this Agreement and that the provisions contained in this Section 59.4 are not binding upon Sprint's directory publisher.
  - 59.4.1. Sprint's directory publisher will negotiate with CLEC concerning the provision of a basic Yellow Pages listing to CLEC customers located within the geographic scope of publisher's Yellow Pages directories and distribution of Yellow Pages directories to CLEC customers.
  - 59.4.2. Directory advertising will be offered to CLEC customers on a nondiscriminatory basis and subject to the same terms and conditions that such advertising is offered to Sprint and other CLEC customers. Directory advertising will be billed to CLEC customers by directory publisher.
  - 59.4.3. Directory publisher will use commercially reasonable efforts to ensure that directory advertising purchased by customers who switch their service to CLEC is maintained without interruption.
  - 59.4.4. Information pages, in addition to any information page or portion of an information page containing critical contact information as described above in Section 59.3.9 may be purchased from Sprint's directory publisher, subject to applicable directory publisher guidelines, criteria, and regulatory requirements.
  - 59.4.5. Directory publisher maintains full authority as publisher over its publishing policies, standards and practices, including decisions regarding directory coverage area, directory issue period, compilation, headings, covers, design, content or format of directories, and directory advertising sales.



59.5. Directory Assistance Data. This Section refers to the residential, business, and government subscriber records used by Sprint to create and maintain databases for the provision of live or automated operator assisted Directory Assistance. Directory Assistance Data is information that enables telephone exchange CLECs to swiftly and accurately respond to requests for directory information, including, but not limited to name, address and phone numbers. Under the provisions of the Act and the FCC's Interconnection order, Sprint shall provide unbundled and non-discriminatory access to the residential, business and government subscriber records used by Sprint to create and maintain databases for the provision of live or automated operator assisted Directory Assistance. This access shall be provided under separate contract.

59.6. Systems Interfaces and Exchanges

59.6.1. Directory Assistance Data Information Exchanges and Interfaces

59.6.1.1. Subscriber List Information

59.6.1.1.1. Sprint shall provide to CLEC, at CLEC's request, all published Subscriber List Information (including such information that resides in Sprint's master subscriber system/accounts master file for the purpose of publishing directories in any format as specified by the Act) via an electronic data transfer medium and in a mutually agreed to format, on the same terms and conditions and at the same rates that the Sprint provides Subscriber List Information to itself or to other third parties. All changes to the Subscriber List Information shall be provided to CLEC pursuant to a mutually agreed format and schedule. Both the initial List and all subsequent Lists shall indicate for each subscriber whether the subscriber is classified as residence or business class of service.

59.6.1.1.2. CLEC shall provide directory listings to Sprint pursuant to the directory listing and delivery requirements in the approved OBF format, at a mutually agreed upon timeframe. Other formats and requirements shall not be used unless mutually agreed to by the parties.

59.7. Listing Types

LISTED

The listing information is available for all directory requirements.

- NON-LISTED      The listing information is available to all directory requirements, but the information does not appear in the published street directory.
- NON-PUBLISHED      A directory service may confirm, by name and address, the presence of a listing, but the telephone number is not available. The listing information is not available in either the published directory or directory assistance.

## **PART H - REPORTING STANDARDS**

### **60. GENERAL**

60.1. Sprint shall satisfy all service standards, intervals, measurements, specifications, performance requirements, technical requirements, and performance standards and will pay any penalties for violation of the performance standards that are required by law or regulation. In addition, Sprint's performance under this agreement shall be provided to CLEC at parity with the performance Sprint provides itself for like service(s).

### **61. MISCELLANEOUS**

61.1. Brokers. CLEC warrants that it has had no dealings with any broker or agent in connection with this Agreement, and covenants to pay, hold harmless and indemnify Sprint from and against any and all cost, expense or liability for any compensation, commissions and charges claimed by any broker or agent with respect to this Agreement or the negotiation thereof.

61.2. Authorized Representatives. The individuals executing this Agreement on behalf of CLEC represent and warrant to Sprint they are fully authorized and legally capable of executing this Agreement on behalf of CLEC.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement the day and year first above written.

**SPRINT (United Telephone of the West)**

**CLEC (Sprint Communications Co., LP)**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

William E. Check  
(Printed Name)

W. Richard Morris  
(Printed Name)

AVP Strategic Sales

VP – External Affairs

**Table One**

KEY CODES		SPRINT RATE ELEMENT COST SUMMARY: NEBRASKA		
MRC	NRC	DESCRIPTION	MRC	NRC
<b>USAGE FILE CHARGES</b>				
UF01		Message Provisioning, per message	\$0.00307	
UF02		Data Transmission, per message	\$0.00000	
	DB008	Media Charge - per CD / per request (Price reflects shipping via regular U.S. Mail)		\$18.00
<b>TRIP CHARGE</b>				
	OC003	Trip Charge		\$19.56
<b>RATE ELEMENT</b>				
<b>SERVICE ORDER / INSTALLATION / REPAIR</b>				
	SO001	Manual Service Order		\$30.78
	SO002	Manual Service Order - Listing Only		\$16.22
	SO003	Manual Service Order - Change Only		\$15.07
	SO004	Electronic Service Order		\$4.18
	SO005	Electronic Service Order - Listing Only		\$0.45
	SO006	Electronic Service Order - Change Only		\$1.82
<b>RECIPROCAL COMPENSATION</b>				
RC001		Local Traffic	Bill & Keep	N/A
RC002		ISP-Bound Traffic	Bill & Keep	N/A
<b>TRANSIT SERVICE</b>				
RC002		Transit Service Charge, per minute of use	\$0.007285	N/A
<b>COMMON CHANNEL SIGNALING INTERCONNECTION SERVICE SS7</b>				
TT027	TT016	STP Port	\$214.02	\$289.54
TT028		STP Switching	\$1.78	N/A
	TT017	STP Transport Link 56.0 Kbps SS7 Link	Refer to Tariff	\$153.38
	TT010	SS7 Originating Point Code (OPC)		\$30.70
	TT011	SS7 GlobalTitle Address Translation (GTT)		\$15.35
<b>DATABASE, available via contract or tariff</b>				
DB001		Local Number Portability query (LNP) - Contracted	\$0.00030	
DB002		Toll Free Code query (TFC) - Simple - Contracted	\$0.00200	
DB003		Toll Free Code query (TFC) - Complex Additive - Contracted	\$0.00020	