

2. GENERAL REGULATIONS

2.1. UNDERTAKING OF THE COMPANY

2.1.1. GENERAL

The Company undertakes to provide the services offered in this Tariff on the terms and conditions and at the rates and charges specified herein.

Services, features and functions will be provided where facilities, including but not limited to billing capability and technical capability, are available without unreasonable expense to the Company, as determined in the Company's sole discretion.

2.1.2. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Customers may be required to enter into written service orders that may contain or reference a specific description of the service ordered, the rates to be charged, and the terms and conditions in this Tariff. The customer may also be required to execute any other documents as may reasonably be requested by the Company in connection with the provisioning of Local Exchange Service.

Any termination shall not relieve the customer of the obligation to pay any charges incurred under the service orders, if any, and this Tariff prior to termination. The customer's rights and obligations incurred under this Tariff, which by their nature extend beyond termination of service, shall survive such termination.

2. GENERAL REGULATIONS

2.1. UNDERTAKING OF THE COMPANY (CONT'D)

2.1.3. PROVISION OF EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

- A. The Company shall use reasonable efforts to make services available to a customer on or before a particular date, subject to the provisions of and compliance by the customer with the regulations contained in this Tariff. The Company does not guarantee availability, except as stated or expressly provided for in this Tariff.
- B. The Company shall use reasonable efforts to maintain facilities and equipment used to provide services that it furnishes to the customer. The customer may not, nor may the customer permit others to rearrange, disconnect, remove, attempt to repair, or otherwise interfere with any of the facilities or equipment installed by the Company, except upon the written consent of the Company.
- C. The Company may substitute, change or rearrange any equipment or facility at any time and from time to time, but shall not thereby materially alter the parameters of the service provided to the customer.
- D. Equipment the Company provides or installs at the customer premises for use in connection with the services the Company offers shall not be used for any purpose other than that for which the Company provides, installs, or has installed on its behalf.
- E. The customer shall be responsible for the payment of service charges, as set forth herein, for visits by the Company's agents or employees to the premises of the customer when the service difficulty or trouble report results from the use of equipment or facilities provided by any party other than the Company, including but not limited to the customer.
- F. The Company shall not be responsible for the installation, operation or maintenance of any customer-provided communications equipment. Where such equipment is connected to the facilities furnished pursuant to this Tariff, the responsibility of the Company shall be limited to the furnishing of facilities offered under this Tariff and to the maintenance and operation of such facilities. The customer is responsible for ensuring that customer-provided equipment and wiring connected to Company equipment and facilities is compatible with Company-provided equipment and facilities.

2. GENERAL REGULATIONS

2.1. UNDERTAKING OF THE COMPANY (CONT'D)

2.1.3. PROVISION OF EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES (CONT'D)

- G. Equipment that the Company provides or installs at a customer premises for use in connection with the telephone services shall remain the property of the Company. If the customer cancels service or the Company lawfully terminates, discontinues, suspends or refuses to continue providing service to the customer, the Company has the right to recover this equipment. The Company shall contact the customer for permission to enter the customer's premises to remove this equipment and the customer shall not unreasonably refuse such entry. If the customer refuses to allow removal of this equipment, the customer shall be liable to the Company for the actual cost of the equipment plus administrative costs and attorney's fees. These fees may be added to the customer's telephone bill and the customer agrees to pay these fees. The customer shall assume responsibility for any and all such unrecovered equipment.
- H. The Company is not obligated to provide service to a business under any name if an outstanding bill exists at the address and the person responsible for that bill remains a principal in the business.

2.1.4. RELEASE OF INFORMATION TO CARRIERS

The Company will provide information to a Carrier who needs the information for allocation, billing or service purposes in compliance with all State and Federal requirements applicable to Customer Proprietary Network Information (CPNI).

2. GENERAL REGULATIONS

2.1. UNDERTAKING OF THE COMPANY (CONT'D)

2.1.5. CUSTOMER EQUIPMENT

A customer may transmit or receive information or signals via the facilities of the Company by use of customer-provided equipment.

A. Station Equipment

Customer-provided terminal equipment on the customer premises, and the electric power consumed by such equipment, shall be provided by and maintained at the expense of the customer. Additionally, the Company-provided equipment shall be maintained by the customer, and the electric power consumed by such equipment, shall be at the expense of the customer.

The customer is responsible for ensuring that customer-provided equipment connected to Company equipment and facilities is compatible with Company equipment and facilities. The magnitude and character of the voltages and currents impressed on Company-provided equipment and wiring by the connection, operation or maintenance of such equipment and wiring must be such as not to cause damage to the Company-provided equipment and wiring or injury to the Company's employees or other persons. If the Company, in its sole discretion, reasonably determines that additional protective equipment is required to prevent such damage or injury, it shall be provided at the customer's expense.

B. Inspections

Upon reasonable notification to the customer, and at a reasonable time, the Company may make such tests and inspections as may be necessary to determine that the customer is complying with the requirements specified in this Tariff.

If the customer fails to comply with the protective requirements described in A., above, the Company may take such action as it deems necessary to protect its facilities, equipment and personnel. The Company may immediately, and without notice, deny service when the customer (a) subjects Company or non-Company personnel to hazardous conditions, (b) circumvents the Company's ability to charge for its services, prevent and protect against fraud, or (c) acts in a way that may cause immediate harm to the local network or other Company services.

2. GENERAL REGULATIONS

2.1. UNDERTAKING OF THE COMPANY (CONT'D)

2.1.6. ABUSE AND FRAUDULENT USE

Service is furnished subject to the condition that there will be no abuse or fraudulent use of the service. The Company may discontinue, suspend, or refuse to furnish any and/or all service(s) without incurring any liability if the Company deems that such action is necessary to prevent or to protect against abuse or fraud or to otherwise protect its personnel, agents, facilities, assets or services.

Except for willful misconduct, the discontinuance or suspension of service by the Company does not relieve the customer of any obligation to pay the Company for charges due and owed for service furnished up to the time of discontinuance or suspension.

A. Abuse

The abuse of service is prohibited. The following activities constitute abuse:

1. Using the service to make calls which might reasonably be expected to frighten, abuse, torment, or harass another.
2. Using the service in such a way that it interferes unreasonably with the use of the service by others.
3. Establishing a pattern of behavior with respect to the Company that is intended to vex, harass, threaten or annoy the Company, its employees or agents. A pattern of behavior is intended to vex, harass, threaten or annoy if its purpose is to disturb, irritate or interrupt the Company's operations through continued and repeated acts.

2. GENERAL REGULATIONS

2.1. UNDERTAKING OF THE COMPANY (CONT'D)

2.1.6. ABUSE AND FRAUDULENT USE (CONT'D)

B. Fraudulent Use

The fraudulent use of, or the intended or attempted fraudulent use of, the service is prohibited. The following activities constitute fraudulent use:

1. Rearranging, tampering with, or making connections not authorized by this Tariff to any service components used to furnish local service.
2. Using the service with the intent of gaining access to another customer's outbound calling capabilities on an unauthorized basis.
3. Using fraudulent means or devices, tricks, schemes, false or invalid numbers, false representation, false credit devices or electronic devices to defraud or mislead callers.
4. Refusing to provide, or providing false information to the Company regarding the customer's identity, address, credit worthiness, current or past use of telecommunications services or its planned use of the Company's service.
5. Refusing to provide payment, or security for the payment for service(s), advance payments or deposits as specified in this Tariff.

2. GENERAL REGULATIONS

2.2. OBLIGATIONS OF THE CUSTOMER

2.2.1. RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CUSTOMER

The customer shall be responsible for:

- A. The payment of all charges for facilities and services furnished the customer, including charges for services originated, or charges accepted, at such facilities.
- B. Damage to or loss of the Company's facilities or equipment caused by the acts or omissions of the customer, or the noncompliance by the customer with these regulations, or by fire or theft or other casualty on the customer premises, unless caused by the negligence or willful misconduct of the employees or agents of the Company;
- C. Obtaining, maintaining, and otherwise having full responsibility for all easements necessary for installation of any associated equipment or facilities used to provide Local services to the customer from the property line to the location of the equipment installed on the customer's premises. Any costs associated with obtaining and maintaining the easements described herein including the costs of altering the structure to permit installation of the Company-provided equipment or facilities shall be borne entirely by, or may be charged by the Company to the customer;
- D. Providing a safe place to work and complying with all laws and regulations regarding the working conditions on the premises at which Company employees, agents and/or suppliers shall be installing or maintaining the Company's facilities and equipment. The Company reserves the right to refuse to install its equipment in a hazardous area. The customer shall be responsible for identifying, monitoring, removing and disposing of any hazardous material prior to any construction or installation work;

2. GENERAL REGULATIONS

2.2. OBLIGATIONS OF THE CUSTOMER (CONT'D)

2.2.1. RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CUSTOMER (CONT'D)

- E. Complying with all laws and regulations applicable to, and obtaining all consents, approvals, licenses and permits as may be required with respect to the location of Company facilities and equipment in any customer premises or the easements for which the customer is responsible under this section; and granting or obtaining permission for Company agents or employees to enter the premises of the customer for the purpose of installing, inspecting, maintaining, repairing, or upon termination of service as stated herein, removing the facilities or equipment of the Company; and
- F. Not creating or allowing to be placed any liens or other encumbrances on the Company's equipment or facilities.

2.2.2. CLAIMS

With respect to any service or facility provided by the Company, the customer shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Company from and against all claims, actions, damages, liabilities, costs and expenses for:

- A. Any loss, destruction or damage to property of the Company or any third party, or the death or injury to persons, including, but not limited to, employees or invitees of either party, to the extent caused by or resulting from the negligent or intentional act or omission of the customer, its employees, agents, representatives or invitees; or
- B. Any claim, loss, damage, expense or liability for infringement of any copyright, patent, trade secret, or any proprietary or intellectual property right of any third party, arising from any act or omission by the customer, including, without limitation, use of the Company's services and facilities in a manner not contemplated by the agreement between the customer and the Company.

2. GENERAL REGULATIONS

2.3. PAYMENTS AND CHARGES

2.3.1. ESTABLISHMENT AND REESTABLISHMENT OF CREDIT

A customer whose service has been discontinued for non-payment of bills for any telecommunications service will be required to pay all bills due the Company for telecommunications services or make other arrangements satisfactory to the Company and to re-establish credit before service is restored or any service started.

If service is established and it is subsequently determined that the customer or applicant is indebted to the Company for service previously furnished, the Company may suspend or terminate the current service until satisfactory arrangements have been made for the payment of the prior indebtedness.

2.3.2. BILLING AND COLLECTION

The customer is responsible for payment of all charges for equipment or facilities and services furnished by the Company to the customer.

The Company will establish a monthly billing date for each customer account and shall bill all charges incurred by and credits due to the customer under this Tariff. Recurring charges are billed monthly, in advance of the month(s) in which service is provided, except for usage sensitive charges, which will be billed monthly for the preceding billing period. Bills are due upon receipt and payment must be received no later than the payment due date shown on the bill.

When the customer's service does not begin on the first day of the billing cycle or end the last day of the billing cycle, the charge for the fraction of the billing cycle in which service was furnished will be calculated on a pro rata basis or a bill credit may be applied for the fraction of the billing cycle in which service was not furnished.

2.3.3. BILLING DISPUTES

The customer is responsible for notifying the Company of any charges in dispute and the specific basis of such dispute. All charges not in dispute shall be paid by the customer by the payment due date. If the Customer and the Company are unable to resolve the dispute to their mutual satisfaction, the Customer may file a complaint with the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers.

. GENERAL REGULATIONS

2.3. PAYMENTS AND CHARGES (CONT'D)

2.3.4. ADVANCE PAYMENTS

The Company may require a customer to make an advance payment as a condition of continued or new service. The Company reserves the right to require from an applicant for service advance payments of recurring and nonrecurring charges, estimated usage charges, and other charges and guarantees in such amount as may be deemed necessary by the Company for safeguarding its interests. In addition, where special construction is involved, advance payment of the construction charges quoted may be required at the time of application.

2.3.6. RETURNED CHECK CHARGE

The customer will be assessed a charge of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) for each check, draft, or electronic funds transfer, in addition to any late payment charges, submitted by the customer to the Company which a financial institution refuses to honor.

2.3.7. LATE PAYMENT CHARGE

Where payment of any billed amount is not received within five (5) days after the due date, the unpaid balance carried forward to the next month's bill may be subject to a Late Payment Charge in the amount of 1.5% of the unpaid balance.

Late Payment charges do not apply to the disputed amounts portion of unpaid balances, if resolved in favor of the customer. The disputed portion of unpaid balances, if resolved in favor of the Company, may be subject to the late payment charge as of the original due date noted on the customer's bill. Undisputed amounts of the same bill may be subject to the late payment charge if they remain unpaid by the due date on the customer's bill.

2. GENERAL REGULATIONS

2.4. PROVISION FOR CERTAIN LOCAL TAXES AND FEES

Any assessments, franchise fees, privilege, license, occupation, excise, or other similar fees or taxes, whether in a lump sum or at a flat rate, or based on receipts, or based on poles, wire or other utility property units, imposed upon the Company by any governmental authority shall be added pro rata, insofar as practical, to the rates and charges stated in the Company's standard schedules, in amounts which in the aggregate for the Company's customers of any political entity shall be equal to the amount of any such fee or tax upon the Company. The Company shall, so long as any such tax or fee is in effect, add to the bills of the customers in such political entity pro rata on the basis of the revenue derived by the Company from each such customer, an amount sufficient to recover any such tax or fee, and may list this amount separately on the bill.

2.5. NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS

All notices or other communications required to be given pursuant to this Tariff will be in writing except where notice is provided in this Tariff. Notices and other communications of either party, and all bills mailed by the Company, shall be presumed to have been delivered to the other party on the third business day following placement of the notice, communication, or bill with the U.S. Mail or a private delivery service, postage prepaid and properly addressed, or when actually received or refused by the addressee, whichever occurs first.

The Company or the customer shall advise the other party of any changes to the addresses designated for notices, other communications, or billing.

2. GENERAL REGULATIONS

2.6. SPECIAL CONSTRUCTION

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

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