

2. GENERAL REGULATIONS

2.1. UNDERTAKING OF THE COMPANY

2.1.1. GENERAL

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

The Company's services and facilities are provided on a monthly basis unless otherwise indicated, and are available 24 hours per day, seven days per week. For the purpose of computing charges in this Service Guide, a month is considered to have 30 days.

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 Service Guide. 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 service.

Service will be provided on a month-to-month basis at the then current rates unless terminated by either party. Any termination shall not relieve the Customer of the obligation to pay any charges incurred under the service orders, if any, and this Service Guide prior to termination. The Customer's rights and obligations incurred under this Service Guide, 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 Service Guide. The Company does not guarantee availability, except as stated or expressly provided for in this Service Guide.
- 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 Service Guide, the responsibility of the Company shall be limited to the furnishing of facilities offered under this Service Guide 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 household under any name if an outstanding bill exists at the address and the person responsible for that bill still resides at the address.

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 Service Guide.

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 Service Guide 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 Service Guide.

2. GENERAL REGULATIONS

2.2. LIABILITY OF THE COMPANY

2.2.1. SERVICE LIABILITY

- A. The Company's liability, if any, for its gross negligence or willful misconduct is not limited by this Service Guide. With respect to any other claim or suit by a Customer or by any others, for direct or consequential damages associated with the installation, provision, billing and collection, termination, maintenance, repair or restoration of a service, and subject to the provisions following, the Company's liability, if any, shall not exceed an amount equal to the proportionate charge for the service for the period during which the service was affected. The liability for damages shall be in addition to any amounts that may otherwise be due the Customer under this Service Guide as a Credit Allowance for Interruptions.
- B. The Company is not liable for any act or omission of any other communications carrier or other service provider that furnishes a portion of a service.
- C. The Company is not liable for damages to a premises resulting from the furnishing of service including the installation and removal of equipment or facilities and associated wiring, unless the damage is caused by the Company's negligence.
- D. The Company shall be indemnified, defended, and held harmless against any claim, loss or damage arising from the use of service offered under this Service Guide, involving:
 - 1. Claims for libel, slander, invasion of privacy, or infringement of copyright arising from any communication;
 - 2. Claims for patent infringement arising from the Customer or authorized user combining or using the service furnished by the Company in connection with facilities or equipment furnished by others; or
 - 3. All other claims arising out of any act or omission of others in the course of using services provided pursuant to this Service Guide.
- E. The Company does not guarantee or make any warranty with respect to its services when used in an explosive atmosphere. The Customer shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Company from any and all claims by any person relating to the services so provided.

2. GENERAL REGULATIONS

2.2. LIABILITY OF THE COMPANY (CONT'D)

2.2.1. SERVICE LIABILITY (CONT'D)

- F. No license under patent or copyright (other than the limited license to use) is granted by the Company or shall be implied or arise by estoppel, with respect to any service offered under this Service Guide. The Company will defend the Customer and authorized user against claims of patent infringement arising solely from the use by the Customer or authorized user of services offered under this Service Guide and will indemnify such Customer or authorized user for any damages awarded based solely on such claims.
- G. The Company's failure to provide or maintain services under this Service Guide shall be excused by labor difficulties, facility availability, governmental orders, civil commotion, preemption of existing services to restore services in compliance with Part 64, Subpart D, Appendix A, of the F.C.C.'s Rules and Regulations, acts of God and other circumstances beyond the Company's reasonable control.
- H. The Company's facilities are not suitable for use in the provision of dedicated alarm or emergency services, and the Company does not in any way guarantee the reliability of its services if used for the provision of dedicated alarm or emergency services.

2.2.2. TEMPORARY SUSPENSION FOR REPAIRS

The Company shall have the right to make necessary repairs or changes in its facilities at any time and will have the right to suspend or interrupt service temporarily for the purpose of making the necessary repairs or changes in its system. When such suspension or interruption of service for any appreciable period is necessary, the Company will provide the affected Customers with reasonable notice thereof, as circumstances permit. If practicable, the Company will perform the work at times that will cause the Customer the least inconvenience. When the Company is repairing or changing its facilities, it shall take appropriate precautions to avoid unnecessary interruptions of communications of the Customer's service.

2. GENERAL REGULATIONS

2.2. LIABILITY OF THE COMPANY (CONT'D)

2.2.3. CREDIT ALLOWANCE FOR INTERRUPTIONS

Except as may otherwise be specified in this Service Guide, interruptions of 24 hours or more, which are reported to or detected by the Company, and that are not due to the negligence or willful act of the Customer, are credited to the Customer at the proportionate monthly charge (1/30th of the service's monthly recurring charge) involved for each 24 hours or fraction thereof of interruption. This credit is subject to the Customer notifying the Company of the service interruption.

No interruption allowance shall be made for failures in facilities provided by any other person or entity except as may otherwise be provided in other sections of this Service Guide.

No interruption allowance shall apply where service is interrupted by the negligence or willful act of the subscriber or where the Company, pursuant to the terms of this Service Guide, suspends or terminates service because of nonpayment of bills due to the Company, unlawful or improper use of the facilities or service, or any other reason covered by this Service Guide. No allowance shall be made for interruptions due to electric power failure where, by the provisions of this Service Guide, the subscriber is responsible for providing electric power.

2. GENERAL REGULATIONS

2.2. LIABILITY OF THE COMPANY (CONT'D)

2.2.4. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

A. Unauthorized Computer Intrusion

With respect to any other claim or suit by a subscriber, common carrier, reseller, or any other party for damages caused by, or associated with, any unauthorized computer intrusion, including but not limited to the input of damaging information such as a virus, time bomb, any unauthorized access, interference, alteration, destruction, theft of, or tampering with, a Company computer, switch, data, database, software, information, network or other similar system, the Company's liability, if any, shall not exceed an amount equal to the proportionate charge by the Company for the service for the period during which the service provided by the Company was affected or so utilized.

Each subscriber of the Company shall be responsible for providing appropriate security measures to protect the subscriber's computer, data, or telecommunications network.

B. Transmission of Data

The Company shall not be held liable for any damage, harm or loss of data caused by the subscriber using the Company's voice-grade telephone access lines and/or facilities for the transmission of data. The Company's liability shall be limited to errors or damages to the transmission of voice messages over these facilities, and the liability shall be limited to an amount equal to the proportionate amount of the Company's billing for the period of service during which the errors or damages occur.

C. Unauthorized Devices

The Company shall not be held liable or responsible for any damage or harm that may occur as the result of unauthorized devices or the failure of the Company to detect unauthorized devices on the subscriber's line.

2. GENERAL REGULATIONS

2.3. OBLIGATIONS OF THE CUSTOMER

2.3.1. RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CUSTOMER

The Customer shall be responsible for:

- A. The payment of all applicable charges pursuant to this Service Guide, including visits by the Company's agents or employees to the premises of the Customer;
- 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

2.3. OBLIGATIONS OF THE CUSTOMER (CONT'D)

2.3.1. 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.

2.3.2. 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

2.4. PAYMENTS AND CHARGES

2.4.1. ESTABLISHMENT AND REESTABLISHMENT OF CREDIT

The Company will conduct a credit investigation of each Customer or applicant prior to accepting the Customer deposit or advance payment. 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.

2.4.2. 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 Service Guide. 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. GENERAL REGULATIONS

2.4. PAYMENTS AND CHARGES (CONT'D)

2.4.3. 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.

2.4.4. 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.

2.4.5. DEPOSITS

The Company may require a deposit of a Customer who cannot establish a credit standing satisfactory to the Company. The deposit may not exceed the actual or estimated rates and charges for the service for a three-month period. A deposit may be held during the life of the service.

The fact that a deposit may have been made in no way relieves the applicant or subscriber from complying with the Company's regulations as to the prompt payment of bills or constitutes a waiver or modification of the regular practices providing for discontinuance of service for non-payment of any sums due the Company for service rendered.

2. GENERAL REGULATIONS

2.4. PAYMENTS AND CHARGES (CONT'D)

2.4.6. RETURNED CHECK CHARGE

The Customer will be assessed a charge of twenty dollars (\$20.00) 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.

2.4.7. 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

2.5. CANCELLATION AND DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE

2.5.1. CANCELLATION OF SERVICE

The Customer may cancel service at any time upon written or oral notice to the Company. Upon such termination the Customer shall be responsible for the payment of all charges due. This includes all charges due for the period service has been rendered plus any unexpired portion of an initial service period or applicable termination charges, or both.

2.5.2. DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE

- A. The Company may, without incurring any liability, suspend or discontinue service under the following conditions.
1. For non-payment of any sum due until all charges due have been paid.
 - a. Suspension of service shall not be made until at least five days have elapsed following written notification to the Customer of the Company's intention to suspend service for non-payment.
 - b. Termination of service shall not be made until at least ten days have elapsed following written notification to the Customer of the Company's intention to terminate service for non-payment. Where termination follows suspension at least five days must elapse following the date of suspension before service is terminated unless the Customer consents to earlier termination.
 2. For failure to make a deposit as security for payment of future bills, the failure to provide a guarantee or establish credit, or the failure to comply with the material terms of a payment agreement.
 3. For use of telephone service for any property or purpose other than that described in the application.
 4. In the event of abandonment of the service or any other violation by the Customer of the rules, regulations or conditions under which service is furnished.
 5. If the Company deems that such action is necessary to prevent or to protect against fraud or to otherwise protect its personnel, agents, facilities, assets, or services.

2. GENERAL REGULATIONS

2.5. CANCELLATION AND DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE (CONT'D)

2.5.2. DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE (CONT'D)

A. (Cont'd)

6. Any use of service by a Customer in such a manner as to interfere unreasonably with or impair the use of service rendered to one or more other Customers or that is used for any purpose other than as a means of communication.
7. For violation of any Service Guide provision so as to threaten the safety of any person or the integrity of the service delivery system of the Company.
8. In the event of unauthorized or fraudulent use or material misrepresentation of identity to obtain telephone service.

B. The Company may discontinue, suspend or refuse service without notice under the following conditions:

1. The Customer provides false information to the Company regarding the Customer's identity, address, credit-worthiness, past or current use of communications services, or its planned use of the Company's service.
2. The Customer states that it will not comply with a request of the Company for security for the payment for service or advance payments, as specified in this Service Guide.
3. The Customer uses service to transmit a message, locate a person or otherwise give or obtain information without payment for the service.
4. Use of the service by the Customer endangers the safety of a person or appears likely to prove physically harmful to the service delivery system of the Company.
5. The Customer uses, or attempts to use, service with the intent to avoid the payment, either in whole or in part, of the Service Guide charges for the service by:
 - a. Using or attempting to use service by rearranging, tampering with, or making connections to the Company's service not authorized by this Service Guide; or
 - b. Using tricks, schemes, false or invalid numbers, false credit devices, electronic devices; or
 - c. Use of any other fraudulent means or devices.

2. GENERAL REGULATIONS

2.5. CANCELLATION AND DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE (CONT'D)

2.5.2. DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE (CONT'D)

B. (Cont'd)

6. The Company shall have the right to refuse or discontinue service without advance notice if the acts of the Customer are such as to indicate intention to defraud the Company, including fraudulently placing and receiving calls and/or providing false credit information. In an attempt to limit the Company's exposure to risk from fraudulent acts, the Company will undertake the following:
 - a. The Customer's usage patterns will be evaluated on the basis of documented usage from accounts with fraudulent activity. Examples of usage criteria used in the assessment of probable fraudulent activity include:
 - call duration
 - call destination
 - volume (frequency)
 - method used to place or receive calls
 - b. A letter will be sent to the Customer on the date their service is discontinued explaining the reasons for such action and how to contact the Company for additional information.
 - c. In lieu of disconnection, the Company at its sole discretion may temporarily limit a Customer's ability to place toll calls, place calls to directory assistance (including directory assistance call completion), or to receive collect calls.

2.5.3. CHANGES IN SERVICE

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

2. GENERAL REGULATIONS

2.5. CANCELLATION AND DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE (CONT'D)

2.5.4. RESTORATION OF SERVICE

When a Customer's service has been disconnected in accordance with the Service Guide and the service has been terminated through the completion of a Company service order, service will be re-established only upon the basis of an application for new service.

If any Customer's service is restored after having been suspended in accordance with the Service Guide but a Company service order to terminate such service has not been completed when such service is restored, the Customer may be required to pay a restoral of service charge.

If a service has been suspended or discontinued for nonpayment, service will be re-established upon receipt of all charges due, which includes charges for services and facilities during the period of suspension and which may include a service restoral fee. If the Customer has a history of payments returned for insufficient funds, the Company may require payment by cash, money order or certified check. If such payment is made by personal check, restoral of service will be effected upon bank clearance of the check.

2.5.5. ASSIGNMENT OR TRANSFER OF SERVICE

The Customer may not assign or transfer its rights or duties in connection with the services and equipment or facilities provided by the Company without the written consent of the Company. The Company may assign its rights and duties (a) to any subsidiary, parent Company, or affiliate of the Company, (b) pursuant to any sale or transfer of substantially all the assets of the Company, or (c) pursuant to any financing, merger or reorganization of the Company.

2. GENERAL REGULATIONS

2.6. 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.

2.7. NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS

All notices or other communications required to be given pursuant to this Service Guide will be in writing except where notice is provided in this Service Guide. 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

2.8. SPECIAL CONSTRUCTION

Subject to the agreement of the Company and to all of the regulations contained in this Service Guide, 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.