

RCLEC, INC.
P.S.C. No. 5 – Access Services Tariff

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Section 4
Page 1
Revision No. 0
Superseding Rev. No.:

ACCESS SERVICES

SECTION 4 - SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE

4.1 General

Switched Access Service, which is available to Customers for their use in furnishing their services to End Users, provides a two-way communications path between a Customer's Premises and an End User's Premises. It provides for the use of common terminating, switching and transport facilities. Switched Access Service provides the ability to originate calls from an End User's Premises to a Customer's Premises, and to terminate calls from a Customer's Premises location to an End User's Premises in the LATA where it is provided. Switched Access Service must be ordered separately for each LATA in which the Customer desires to originate or terminate calls.

Notwithstanding the above language, Company may provide only a portion of Switched Access Service. Company is only responsible for the portions of the service it provides. For purposes of clarity, Customer may not withhold payment from Company for the portions of the service Company provides based on any dispute Customer may have with another carrier for the services such carrier may provide.

4.1.1 Rate Categories

There are four rate categories which apply to Switched Access Service:

- Switched Transport
- End Office Switching
- Chargeable Optional Features
- Database

When more than one Company is involved in providing the Switched Access Service, the Local Transport rates are applied as set forth in 2.6.6 preceding.

Tandem Switched Transport: Tandem Switched Transport is comprised of a Tandem Switched Transport Termination rate and a Tandem Switched Transport Facility rate. Both rate elements apply for the transmission facility between an End Office and the Company POI. This consists of circuits used in common by multiple Customers. The Tandem Switched Transport Termination rate element covers the circuit equipment at the end of the transmission facilities. For Tandem Switched Transport Termination, the amount billed will be the product of the quantity of Access Minutes multiplied by the Tandem Switched Transport Termination rate. The Tandem Switched Transport Termination charge will be applied for each location where the Company provides termination.

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Effective Date: December 21, 2016

Section 4
Page 2
Revision No. 0
Superseding Rev. No.:

ACCESS SERVICES

SECTION 4 - SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE (CONT'D)

4.1 General (Cont'd)

4.1.1 Rate Categories (Cont'd)

Tandem Switched Transport Facility: The Tandem Switched Transport Facility rate element provides for the transmission facilities, including intermediate circuit equipment between an End Office and a Company POI or Access Tandem. For purposes of determining the per-mile rate, mileage will be measured as airline mileage using the V&H coordinates method.

Common Transport Multiplexing Charge: Transport multiplexing equipment is utilized in the End Office side of the Access Tandem when transport is provided between the Access Tandem and the subtending End Offices. The rate (if applicable) is assessed for DS3 to DS1 multiplexing on a per-MOU basis, and is in addition to Tandem Switched Transport charges.

End Office Switching: End Office Switching provides for the use of End Office switching functions, i.e., the common switching functions associated with the various Switched Access Service arrangements. The End Office Switching rate is assessed on a per-MOU basis to all originating and terminating access minutes utilizing the end office.

End Office Shared Port: The End Office Shared Port or Shared Port Charge rate provides for the termination of common transport trunks in shared end office ports and in remote switching system ports. The End Office Shared Port rate is assessed on a per-MOU basis to all trunk side originating and terminating access minutes utilizing tandem routing to the end office. If tandem routing is being utilized to a remote switching system (via a host office), the End Office Shared Port rate is assessed to the access minutes originating or terminating from the remote switching system.

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Effective Date: December 21, 2016

Section 4
Page 3
Revision No. 0
Superseding Rev. No.:

ACCESS SERVICES

SECTION 4 - SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE (CONT'D)

4.1 General (Cont'd)

4.1.2 Description and Provision of Switched Access Service Arrangements

(A) Manner of Provision

Switched Access is furnished in quantities of trunks or in busy hour minutes of capacity (BHMCs). Switched Access Service Access is furnished on a BHMC and on a per trunk basis as set forth in 3.2 preceding.

BHMCs are differentiated by type and directionality of traffic carried over a Switched Access Service arrangement. Differentiation of traffic among BHMC types is necessary for the Company to properly design Switched Access Service to meet the traffic carrying capacity requirement of the Customer.

(B) Trunk Configuration

Trunks used for Switched Access Service may be configured for one-way (either originating only or terminating only) or for two-way directionality. It is the Customer's responsibility to order a sufficient number of trunks of each type in order to meet its desired grade of service objective. At the Customer's request, the Company will assist the Customer in sizing Switched Access Trunk groups.

(C) Cross Connects

This service connects two facilities from the same customer or facilities from two different customers in the Company's central office(s). Cross connect service is provided at a DS1, DS3, OCX, or GigE level.

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Section 4
Page 4
Revision No. 0
Superseding Rev. No.:

ACCESS SERVICES

SECTION 4 - SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE (CONT'D)

4.2 Undertaking of the Company

In addition to the obligations of the Company set forth in Section 3 preceding, the Company has certain other obligations concerning the provision of Switched Access Service. These obligations are as follows:

4.2.1 Network Management

The Company will administer its network to insure the provision of acceptable service levels to all telecommunications users of the Company's network services. The Company maintains the right to apply protective controls, i.e., those actions which selectively cancel the completion of traffic, over any traffic carried over its network, including that associated with a Customer's Switched Access Service. Generally, such protective measures would only be taken as a result of occurrences such as failure or overload of Company or Customer facilities, natural disasters, mass calling or national security demands. In the event that the protective controls applied by the Company result in the complete loss of service by the Customer, the Customer will be granted a Credit Allowance for Service Interruption as set forth in Section 2 preceding.

4.2.2 Provision of Service Performance Data

Subject to availability, end-to-end service performance data available to the Company through its own service evaluation routine and may also be made available to the Customer based on previously arranged intervals and format. These data provide information on overall end-to-end call completion and non-completion performance, e.g., Customer equipment blockage, failure results and transmission performance. These data do not include service performance data which are provided under other tariff sections, e.g., testing service results. If data are to be provided in other than paper format, the charges for such exchange will be determined on an individual case basis.

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Effective Date: December 21, 2016

Section 4
Page 5
Revision No. 0
Superseding Rev. No.:

ACCESS SERVICES

SECTION 4 - SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE (CONT'D)

4.2 Undertaking of the Company (Cont'd)

4.2.3 Determination of Number of Transmission Paths

For Common Transport, the Company will determine the number of Switched Access Service transmission paths to be provided for the Switched Access Feature Group D busy hour minutes of capacity ordered. The number of transmission paths will be developed using the total busy hour minutes of capacity by type (as described in 3.2(A) preceding) for the end offices for each Feature Group ordered from a Customer's designated premises. The total busy hour minutes of capacity by type (e.g., originating, terminating) for the end office will be converted to transmission paths using standard Company traffic engineering methods. The number of transmission paths provided shall be the number required based on (1) the use of access tandem switches and end office switches, (2) the use of the end office switches only, or (3) the use of the tandem switches only

4.2.4 Trunk Group Measurement Reports

Subject to availability, the Company will make available trunk group data in the form of usage in CCS and overflow, to the Customer based on previously agreed to intervals.

4.3 Obligations of the Customer

In addition to the obligations of the Customer set forth in Section 2 preceding, the Customer has certain specific obligations pertaining to the use of Switched Access Service. These obligations are as follows:

4.3.1 Report Requirements

Customers are responsible for providing the following report to the Company, when applicable.

4.3.2 Jurisdictional Reports

When a Customer orders Switched Access Service for both interstate and intrastate use, the Customer is responsible for providing reports as set forth in Section 2 preceding. Charges will be apportioned in accordance with those reports. The method to be used for determining the interstate charges is set forth in Section 2 preceding.

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Section 4
Page 6
Revision No. 0
Superseding Rev. No.:

ACCESS SERVICES

SECTION 4 - SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE (CONT'D)

4.3 Obligations of the Customer (Cont'd)

4.3.3 Trunk Group Measurement Reports

With the agreement of the Customer, trunk group data in the form of usage in CCS and overflow for its end of all access trunk groups, where technologically feasible, will be made available to the Company. These data will be used to monitor trunk group utilization and service performance and will be based on previously arranged intervals and format.

4.3.4 Supervisory Signaling

The Customer's facilities shall provide the necessary on-hook, off-hook, answer and disconnect supervision.

4.3.5 Short Duration Mass Calling Requirements

When a Customer offers service for which a substantial call volume is expected during a short period of time (e.g., 900 service media stimulated events), the Customer must notify the Company at least 48 hours in advance of each peak period. Notification should include the nature, time, duration, and frequency of the event, an estimated call volume, and the telephone number(s) to be used.

The Company may invoke network management controls, (e.g., call gapping and code blocking) to reduce the probability of excessive network congestion, on the basis of the information provided, The Company will work cooperatively with the Customer to determine the appropriate level of such control.

4.4 Optional Features

Where transmission facilities permit, the individual transmission paths between the Customers' designated premises and the first point of switching may, at the option of the Customer, be provided with the following optional features as set forth and described following.

- Supervisory Signaling
- Customer Specified Entry Switch Receive Level
- Customer Specification of Local Transport Termination
- Signaling System 7 (SS7) Signaling

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Section 4
Page 7
Revision No. 0
Superseding Rev. No.:

ACCESS SERVICES

SECTION 4 - SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE (CONT'D)

4.4 Optional Features (Cont'd)

4.4.1 Local Transport Optional Features

(A) Supervisory Signaling

Supervisory Signaling allows the Customer to order an optional supervisory signaling arrangement for each transmission path provided where the transmission parameters permit, and where signaling conversion is required by the Customer to meet its signaling capability.

(B) Signaling System 7 (SS7) Signaling

This feature provides common channel out of band transmission of address and supervisory SS7 protocol signaling information between the end office switch or the tandem office switching system and the Customer's designated premises.

(C) 64 Clear Channel Capability

The 64 Clear Channel Capability (64 CCC) option employs the Bipolar 8 Zero Suppression (B8ZS) technique to permit Customers to use the full 64 Kbps bandwidth of a DS0 channel. 64 CCC is available with Interface Group 6 for Switched Access with Signaling System 7 signaling.

(D) Session Initiation Protocol (SIP)

SIP is an IETF-defined signaling protocol, widely used for controlling multimedia communication sessions such as voice and video calls over Internet Protocol (IP). A Customer may access the Company's network using SIP via dedicated GigE circuits, dedicated internet access or public Internet access.

4.4.2 Local Number Portability (LNP)

Local Number Portability gives end users the ability to move numbers from another service provider to the Company's local exchange service. The charge for this service is a carrier charge that covers the specific costs the Company incurs to dip an LNP database.

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Section 4
Page 8
Revision No. 0
Superseding Rev. No.:

ACCESS SERVICES

SECTION 4 - SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE (CONT'D)

4.5 Rate Regulations

This section contains the specific regulations governing the rates and charges that apply for Switched Access Service.

4.5.1 Rate Zones

Rate zones may be applicable to all Switched Access Service rate categories when determining rates in LEC territories that use zone pricing.

- Direct Trunked Termination and Common Transport Termination rates are dependent upon the assignment of the Serving Wire Center and the Company access tandem or the end office.
- Direct Trunked Transport and Common Transport that is computed between wire centers in different rate zones will be assigned the rates in the higher rate zone.
- Network blocking rates will be determined by the designation of the end office.

4.5.2 Description and Application of Rates and Charges

There are three types of rates and charges that apply to Switched Access Service. These are recurring rates, usage rates and nonrecurring charges. These rates and charges are applied directly to various rate elements as set forth following.

- Recurring Rates

Recurring rates are flat rates that apply each month or fraction thereof that a specific rate element is provided. For billing purposes, each month is considered to have 30 days.

- Usage Rates

Usage rates are rates that apply only when a specific rate element is used. These are applied on a per occurrence (e.g., access minute, message call or query) basis. Usage rates are accumulated over a monthly period.

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Section 4
Page 9
Revision No. 0
Superseding Rev. No.:

ACCESS SERVICES

SECTION 4 - SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE (CONT'D)

4.5 Rate Regulations (Cont'd)

4.5.2 Description and Application of Rates and Charges (Cont'd)

- Nonrecurring Charges

Nonrecurring charges are on-time charges that apply for a specific work activity (i.e., installation of new services or rearrangements of installed services).

(1) Installation of Service

- (a) A nonrecurring charge applies for each initial installation of an Entrance Facility. For each Entrance Facility of the same type, ordered at the same time, for the same date and from the same Customer premises to the same serving wire center, the applicable Entrance Facility nonrecurring charge will apply on a first and additional basis.

(2) Direct Trunked Transport Rates

- (a) The Direct Trunked Transport rate category is composed of two flat rated monthly recurring rate elements. These are the Direct Trunked Facility and the Direct Trunked Termination rate elements.

The Direct Trunked Facility charge applies per mile of interoffice transport provided over Direct Trunked services. The Facility charge does not apply to Direct Trunked circuits if the interoffice mileage is zero. The mileage measurement for determining the monthly rate for Direct Trunked Facility is specified in Section 4.5.4.

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Effective Date: December 21, 2016

Section 4
Page 10
Revision No. 0
Superseding Rev. No.:

ACCESS SERVICES

SECTION 4 - SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE (CONT'D)

4.5 Rate Regulations (Cont'd)

4.5.3 Measuring Access Minutes

Customer traffic to end offices will be measured by the Company at end office switches or access tandem switches. Originating and terminating calls will be measured by the Company to determine the basis for computing chargeable access minutes. In the event the Customer message detail is not available because the Company lost or damaged tapes or experienced recording system outages, the Company will estimate the volume of lost Customer access minutes of use based on previously known values.

For terminating calls over Switched Access Service, the measured minutes are chargeable access minutes.

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

Customer traffic to end offices will be measured by the Company at end office switches or access tandem switches. Originating and terminating calls will be measured by the Company to determine the basis for computing chargeable access minutes. In the event the Customer message detail is not available because the Company lost or damaged tapes or experienced recording system outages, the Company will estimate the volume of lost Customer access minutes of use based on previously known values.

For originating calls over Switched Access Service, usage measurement begins when the originating switch receives the set up message to initiate the call set up.

The measurement of originating call usage ends when either leg of the call is dropped.

For terminating calls over Switched Access Service, the measurement of access minutes begins when the terminating switch receives an initial address message from the originating switch.

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Section 4
Page 11
Revision No. 0
Superseding Rev. No.:

ACCESS SERVICES

SECTION 4 - SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE (CONT'D)

4.5 Rate Regulations (Cont'd)

4.5.3 Measuring Access Minutes (Cont'd)

The measurement of terminating call usage over Switched Access ends when either leg of the call is dropped.

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

4.5.4 Mileage Measurement

The mileage to be used to determine the Direct Trunked Facility charges is calculated on the airline distance, as set forth in (A) through (C) following. The V&H coordinates method is used to determine mileage.

To determine the rate to be billed, first compute the mileage usage the V&H coordinates method. If the calculation results in a fraction of a mile, always round up to the next whole mile. If the Switched Transport is Direct Trunked, then multiply the rounded mileage by the corresponding Direct Trunked Transport rate.

- (A) When Direct Trunked Transport is ordered to the end office, Direct Trunked Transport is measured on an airline distance basis between the end office and the Customer's serving wire center.
- (B) When a Customer orders Direct Trunked Transport between its serving wire center and a tandem or a hubbing location or between a hub and an end office, the mileage used to determine the monthly rate for direct Trunked Transport is calculated on the airline mileage basis, between the Customer's serving wire center and the access tandem or hub, or between the hub or the end office, respectively.
- (C) For SS7 signaling, the mileage to be used to determine the monthly rate for the STP Link facility is calculated on the airline distance between the serving wire center associated with the Customer's designated premises (Signaling Point of Interface) and the wire center providing the STP Port.

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