

Clear Rate Communications, LLC
PSC No. 2 - Telephone
Effective Date: May 20, 2022

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ACCESS SERVICES

*This Tariff, PSC No. 2, issued by Clear Rate Communications, LLC,
cancels and supersedes in its entirety
PSC NY No. 2 issued by Clear Rate Communications, Inc.*

CLEAR RATE COMMUNICATIONS, LLC

REGULATIONS AND SCHEDULE OF INTRASTATE CHARGES

APPLYING TO COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES WITHIN

THE STATE OF NEW YORK

This tariff contains the descriptions, regulations, and rates applicable to the furnishing of access services within the state of New York by Clear Rate Communications, LLC (Clear Rate). This tariff is on file with the New York Public Service Commission and copies may be inspected during normal business hours.

Clear Rate Communications, LLC
2600 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite 450
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Clear Rate Communications, LLC
PSC No. 2 - Telephone
Effective Date: May 20, 2022

Leaf: 2
Revision: 0
Superseding Revision:

ACCESS SERVICES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	2
EXPLANATIONS OF SYMBOLS	4
TARIFF FORMAT SHEET.....	5
SECTION 1 – GENERAL INFORMATION	6
SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS	7
SECTION 3 – SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE	22
SECTION 4 – CARRIER COMMON LINE ACCESS SERVICE	29
SECTION 5 – SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS.....	30
SECTION 6 – RECIPROCAL COMPENSATION ARRANGEMENTS.....	32
SECTION 7 – DEFINITIONS.....	33

Clear Rate Communications, LLC
PSC No. 2 - Telephone
Effective Date: May 20, 2022

Leaf: 3
Revision: 0
Superseding Revision:

ACCESS SERVICES

CONCURRING CARRIERS

None

CONNECTING CARRIERS

None

OTHER PARTICIPATING CARRIERS

None

Clear Rate Communications, LLC
PSC No. 2 - Telephone
Effective Date: May 20, 2022

Leaf: 4
Revision: 1
Superseding Revision: 0

ACCESS SERVICES

EXPLANATION OF NOTES

- (C) Indicates Changed Regulation
- (D) Indicates Discontinued Rate or Regulation
- (I) Indicated Rate Increase
- (M) Indicates Move in Location of Text
- (N) Indicates New Rate or Regulation
- (R) Indicates Rate Reduction
- (T) Indicates Change of Text Only
- (Z) Indicates a Correction

(N)

Clear Rate Communications, LLC
PSC No. 2 - Telephone
Effective Date: May 20, 2022

Leaf: 5
Revision: 0
Superseding Revision:

ACCESS SERVICES

TARIFF FORMAT

- A. Leaf Numbering – Leaf numbers appear in the left corner of the page. Leafs are numbered sequentially. However, new leafs are occasionally added to the tariff. When a new leaf is added between leafs already in effect, a decimal is added. For example, a new leaf added between leafs 13 and 14 would be 13.1.
- B. Leaf Revision Numbers – Leaf revision numbers also appear in the upper left corner of each leaf. These numbers are used to determine the most current leaf version on file with the Commission. Consult the check sheet for the leaf currently in effect.
- C. Paragraph Numbering Sequence – There are nine levels of paragraph coding. Each level of coding is subservient to its next higher level:

- 2
- 2.1
- 2.1.1
- 2.1.1.A
- 2.1.1.A.1
- 2.1.1.A.1.(a)
- 2.1.1.A.1.(a).I
- 2.1.1.A.1.(a).I.(i)
- 2.1.1.A.1.(a).I.(i).(1)

Clear Rate Communications, LLC
PSC No. 2 - Telephone
Effective Date: May 20, 2022

Leaf: 6
Revision: 0
Superseding Revision:

ACCESS SERVICES

SECTION 1 - GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 APPLICATION OF TARIFF

This tariff contains regulations, rates and charges applicable to the provision of access services by Clear Rate Communications, LLC to Customers.

The provision of service by the Company as set forth in this tariff does not constitute a joint undertaking with the Customer for the furnishing of any service.

1.2 UNDERTAKING OF THE COMPANY

The Company shall be responsible only for the installation, operation and maintenance of service which it provides and does not undertake to transmit messages under this tariff.

Services provided under this tariff are provided 24 hours a day, seven days per week, unless otherwise specified in applicable sections of this tariff.

1.3 CONTACTING THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the case of a dispute between the Customer and the Company which cannot be resolved with mutual satisfaction, the Customer may file a complaint by contacting the New York State Department of Public Service by phone, online or by mail.

1. By Phone:

Helpline (for complaints/inquiries):
1-800-342-3377 for Continental United States or,
1-800-662-1220 for Hearing/Speech Impaired: TDD or,
518-472-8502 for fax

2. Online:

<http://www.dps.ny.gov/complaints.html> or,

3. By Mail:

NYS Department of Public Service
Office of Consumer Services
3 Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12223-1350

Clear Rate Communications, LLC
PSC No. 2 - Telephone
Effective Date: May 20, 2022

Leaf: 7
Revision: 0
Superseding Revision:

ACCESS SERVICES

SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS

2.1 USE OF FACILITIES AND SERVICE

2.1.1 Use of Service

- A. Service may be used for any lawful purpose by the Customer or by any End User.
- B. The Customer obtains no property right or interest in the use of any specific type of facility, service, equipment, number, process, or code. All right, title and interest to such items remain, at all times, solely with the Company.
- C. Recording of telephone conversations of service provided by the Company under this tariff is prohibited except as authorized by applicable federal, state and local laws.
- D. Any service provided under this Tariff may be resold to or shared (jointly used) with other persons at the Customer's option. The Customer remains solely responsible for all use of service ordered by it or billed to its account(s) pursuant to this Tariff, for determining who is authorized to use its service, and for promptly notifying the Company of any unauthorized use. The Customer may advise its customers that a portion of its service is provided by the Company, but the Customer shall not represent that the Company jointly participates with the Customer in the provision of the service.
 - 1. Service may be used for any lawful purpose by the Customer or by any End User.
 - 2. The Customer obtains no property right or interest in the use of any specific type of facility, service, equipment, number, process, or code. All right, title and interest to such items remain, at all times, solely with the Company.
 - 3. Recording of telephone conversations of service provided by the Company under this tariff is prohibited except as authorized by applicable federal, state and local laws.

Clear Rate Communications, LLC
PSC No. 2 - Telephone
Effective Date: May 20, 2022

Leaf: 8
Revision: 0
Superseding Revision:

ACCESS SERVICES

SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS (Cont'd)

2.1 USE OF FACILITIES AND SERVICE (Cont'd)

2.1.2 Limitations

- A. Service is offered subject to the availability of the necessary facilities and/or equipment and subject to the provisions of this tariff. The Company may decline applications for service to or from a location where the necessary facilities or equipment are not available. The Company may discontinue furnishing service in accordance with the terms of this tariff.
- B. The Company reserves the right to discontinue or limit service when necessitated by conditions beyond its control (examples of these conditions are more fully set forth elsewhere in this tariff), or when service is used in violation of provisions of this tariff or the law.
- C. The Company does not undertake to transmit messages, but offers the use of its service when available, and, as more fully set forth elsewhere in this tariff, shall not be liable for errors in transmission or for failure to establish connections.
- D. The Company reserves the right to discontinue service, limit service, or to impose requirements as required to meet changing regulatory or statutory rules and standards, or when such rules and standards have an adverse material effect on the business or economic feasibility of providing service, as determined by the Company in its reasonable judgment.
- E. The Company reserves the right to refuse an application for service made by a present or former Customer who is indebted to the Company for service previously rendered pursuant to this Tariff until the indebtedness is satisfied.

2.1.3 Customer-Authorized Use

Any service provided under this Tariff may be resold to or shared (jointly used) with other persons at the Customer's option. The Customer remains solely responsible for all use of service ordered by it or billed to its telephone number(s) pursuant to this Tariff, for determining who is authorized to use its service, and for promptly notifying the Company of any unauthorized use. The Customer may advise its customers that a portion of its service is provided by the Company, but the Customer shall not represent that the Company jointly participates with the Customer in the provision of the service.

Clear Rate Communications, LLC
PSC No. 2 - Telephone
Effective Date: May 20, 2022

Leaf: 9
Revision: 0
Superseding Revision:

ACCESS SERVICES

SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS (Cont'd)

2.1 USE OF FACILITIES AND SERVICE (Cont'd)

2.1.4 Use and Ownership of Equipment

The Company's equipment, apparatus, channels and lines shall be carefully used. Equipment furnished by the Company shall remain its property and shall be returned to the Company whenever requested, within a reasonable period following the request, in good condition (subject to reasonable wear and tear). The Customer is required to reimburse the Company for any loss of, or damage to, the facilities or equipment on the Customer's premises, including loss or damage caused by agents, employees or independent contractors of the Customer through any negligence.

2.2 MINIMUM PERIOD OF SERVICE

The minimum period for which services are provided and for which rates and charges are applicable is one month unless otherwise specified. When a service is discontinued prior to the expiration of the minimum period, charges are applicable, whether the service is used or not.

2.3 FLEXIBLE PRICING

2.3.1 General

Flexible Pricing sets minimum and maximum rates that can be charged for access service. The Company may change a specific rate within the range of the established minimum and maximum rates.

2.3.2 Conditions

- A. The Company reserves the right to change prices at any time subject to regulatory requirements by filing a revised Rate Attachment with the Commission.
- B. Customer notification of a rate change shall be made in accordance with Commission regulations. Where there are no regulations, notification will be made in a manner appropriate to the circumstances involved.
- C. A rate shall not be changed unless it has been in effect for at least thirty (30) days.

Clear Rate Communications, LLC
PSC No. 2 - Telephone
Effective Date: May 20, 2022

Leaf: 10
Revision: 1
Superseding Revision: 0

ACCESS SERVICES

SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS (Cont'd)

2.4 PAYMENT FOR SERVICE RENDERED

2.4.1 Service is provided and billed on a monthly basis. Bills are due and payable upon receipt. In the event that the Company incurs fees or expenses, including attorney's fees, collecting, or attempting to collect, any charges owed to the Company, the Company may charge the Customer all such fees and expenses reasonably incurred, including a collection fee on the overdue charges accruing at the rate of 1.5% per month or the highest rate allowed by law, whichever is lower. Collection fees on overdue charges shall begin to accrue when the Account is assigned to an outside collection agency. Such collection fees are separate and distinct from attorney's fees and other costs incurred in collecting charges owed to the Company.

2.4.2 The Customer is responsible for payment of all charges for service furnished to the Customer, or the Customer's agents, End Users or customers. All charges due by the Customer are payable to the Company or to the Company's authorized billing agent. Any objections to billed charges must be reported promptly to the Company.

2.4.3 The Company reserves the right to assess a charge of \$20.00 whenever a check or draft presented for payment of service is not accepted by the institution upon which it is written. The foregoing shall not limit the Company's right to discontinue service for returned checks or drafts.

(Z)

2.4.4 Application of Late Payment Charge

A. Late payment charges do not apply to final accounts.

B. Late payment charges do not apply to government agencies of the State of New York. These agencies are required to make payment in accordance with the provisions of Article XI-A of the New York State Finance Law (Chapter 153 of the Laws of 1984).

Clear Rate Communications, LLC
PSC No. 2 - Telephone
Effective Date: May 20, 2022

Leaf: 11
Revision: 0
Superseding Revision:

ACCESS SERVICES

SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS (Cont'd)

2.5 DEPOSITS

- 2.5.1 The Company reserves the right to examine the credit record of the Customer. If the Customer's financial condition is unknown or unacceptable to the Company, the Customer may be required to provide the Company with a security deposit which the Company may apply against overdue charges. The amount of the security deposit shall be equal to two month's estimated usage but may vary with the Customer's credit history and projected usage. The Customer shall be apprised that after one year of service the Account shall be reviewed, and in the event that all amounts due have been paid within the terms and conditions of this tariff, the deposit shall be refunded in full. If subsequent payment or usage patterns change, the Company may request an increase in or resubmission of the security deposit as appropriate. The Company may also require a security deposit before service is restored (along with the payment of overdue charges) from the Customer whose service has been discontinued for nonpayment of overdue charges. Such security deposit may be based on a new credit history (taking into account the discontinuance of service) and estimates of usage.
- 2.5.2 The fact that a security deposit has been made in no way relieves the Customer from the prompt payment of bills upon presentation.
- 2.5.3 If the amount of a deposit is proven to be less than required to meet the requirements specified above, the Customer shall be required to pay an additional deposit upon request.
- 2.5.4 When a deposit is to be returned, the Customer may request that the full amount of the deposit be issued by check. If the Customer requests that the full amount be credited to amounts owed the Company, the Company will apply the deposit to any amount currently owed to the Company, and return any remaining amount of the deposit to the Customer by check.

2.6 ADVANCE PAYMENTS

The Company reserves the right to require an advance payment from the Customer instead of or in addition to a security deposit. The advance payment shall be in an amount equal to or less than estimated installation charges plus two months estimated billing.

Clear Rate Communications, LLC
PSC No. 2 - Telephone
Effective Date: May 20, 2022

Leaf: 12
Revision: 0
Superseding Revision:

ACCESS SERVICES

SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS (Cont'd)

2.7 DISPUTED BILLS

In the case of a billing dispute between the Customer and the Company for service furnished to the Customer, which cannot be settled with mutual satisfaction, the Customer may, within 30 days of the date of the bill containing the disputed amount, request, and the Company shall comply with the request, an in-depth investigation and review of the disputed amount. (The undisputed portion and subsequent bills must be paid on a timely basis or service shall be subject to cancellation under Section 2.9 following). The Company shall communicate to the Customer the results of such investigation and review as soon as reasonably possible.

2.8 INSPECTION, TESTING AND ADJUSTMENT

- 2.8.1 The Company may, upon reasonable notice, make such tests and inspections as may be necessary to determine whether the terms and conditions of this tariff are being complied with in the installation, operation or maintenance of the Customer's or the Company's facilities or equipment. The Company may interrupt service at any time, without penalty or liability, due to the departure from or reasonable suspicion of the departure from any of these terms and conditions.
- 2.8.2 The Customer shall be responsible for making arrangements or obtaining permission for safe and reasonable access for Company employees or agents of the Company to enter the premises of the Customer or any joint user or customer of the Customer at any reasonable hour for the purpose of inspecting, repairing, testing or removing any part of the Company's facilities.
- 2.8.3 Upon reasonable notice, the facilities or equipment provided by the Company shall be made available to the Company for such tests and adjustments as may be necessary for their maintenance in a condition satisfactory to the Company. No interruption allowance shall be granted for the time during which such tests and adjustments are made, unless such interruption exceeds twenty-four hours in length and is requested by the Customer.

Clear Rate Communications, LLC
PSC No. 2 - Telephone
Effective Date: May 20, 2022

Leaf: 13
Revision: 0
Superseding Revision:

ACCESS SERVICES

SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS (Cont'd)

2.9 SUSPENSION OR TERMINATION OF SERVICE

2.9.1 Suspension or Termination for Nonpayment

In the event that any bill rendered or any deposit required is not paid, the Company may suspend service or terminate service until the bill or the required deposit has been paid. If service is suspended or terminated for nonpayment, the Customer must remit a Connection Charge as well as any payment due and any applicable deposits prior to reconnection.

Suspension or termination shall not be made until:

- A. At least 10 days after written notification has been served personally on the Customer, or at least 20 days after written notification has been mailed to the billing address of the Customer or;
- B. At least 10 days after the Customer has either signed for or refused a registered letter containing written notification mailed to the billing address of the Customer.

Access service shall not be suspended or terminated for nonpayment on weekends, public holidays, other federal and state holidays proclaimed by the President or the Governor, or on days when the main business office of the Company is not open for business.

2.9.2 Exceptions to Suspension and Termination

Access service shall not be suspended or terminated for:

- A. Nonpayment of bills rendered for charges other than access service or deposits requested in connection with access service;
- B. Nonpayment for service for which a bill has not been rendered;
- C. Nonpayment for service which have not been rendered;
- D. Nonpayment of any billed charge which is in dispute or for the nonpayment of a deposit which is in dispute during the period before a determination of the dispute is made by the Company in accordance with Company's complaint handling procedures. These procedures are in accordance with the Public Service Commission Rules and Regulations contained in 16 NYCRR Sections 631.9 and 631.10.

Clear Rate Communications, LLC
PSC No. 2 - Telephone
Effective Date: May 20, 2022

Leaf: 14
Revision: 0
Superseding Revision:

ACCESS SERVICES

SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS (Cont'd)

2.9 SUSPENSION OR TERMINATION OF SERVICE (Cont'd)

2.9.2 Exceptions to Suspension and Termination (Cont'd)

- E. Access service may be suspended or terminated for nonpayment of the undisputed portion of a disputed bill or deposit if the Customer does not pay the undisputed portion after being asked to do so.

2.9.3 Verification of Nonpayment

Access service shall not be suspended or terminated for nonpayment of a bill rendered or a required deposit unless The Company has verified, in a manner approved by the Public Service Commission, that payment has not been received at any office of the Company or at any office of an authorized collection agent through the end of the period indicated in the notice.

2.9.4 Termination for Cause Other Than Nonpayment

A. General

The Company, after notice in writing to the Customer and after having given the Customer an appropriate opportunity to respond to such notice, may terminate service and sever the connection(s) from the Customer's premises under the following conditions:

1. in the event of prohibited, unlawful or improper use of the facilities or service, or any other violation by the Customer of the rules and regulations governing the facilities and service furnished, or
2. if, in the judgment of the Company, any use of the facilities or service by the Customer may adversely affect the Company's personnel, plant, property or service. The Company shall have the right to take immediate action, including termination of the service and severing of the connection, without notice to the Customer when injury or damage to telephone personnel, plant, property or service is occurring, or is likely to occur, or

Clear Rate Communications, LLC
PSC No. 2 - Telephone
Effective Date: May 20, 2022

Leaf: 15
Revision: 0
Superseding Revision:

ACCESS SERVICES

SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS (Cont'd)

2.9 SUSPENSION OR TERMINATION OF SERVICE (Cont'd)

2.9.4 Termination for Cause Other Than Nonpayment (Cont'd)

A. General (Cont'd)

3. in the event of unauthorized use, where the Customer fails to take reasonable steps to prevent the unauthorized use of the facilities or service received from the Company, or
4. in the event that service is connected for a Customer who is indebted to the Company for service or facilities previously furnished, that service may be terminated by the Company unless the Customer satisfies the indebtedness within 20 days after written notification.

B. Prohibited, Unlawful or Improper Use of the Facilities or Service

Prohibited, unlawful or improper use of the facilities or service includes, but is not limited to:

1. The use of facilities or service of the Company without payment of tariff charges;
2. Permitting fraudulent use.

Clear Rate Communications, LLC
PSC No. 2 - Telephone
Effective Date: May 20, 2022

Leaf: 16
Revision: 0
Superseding Revision:

ACCESS SERVICES

SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS (Cont'd)

2.9 SUSPENSION OR TERMINATION OF SERVICE (Cont'd)

2.9.4 Termination for Cause Other Than Nonpayment (Cont'd)

C. Abandonment or Unauthorized Use of Facilities

1. If it is determined that facilities have been abandoned, or are being used by unauthorized persons, or that the Customer has failed to take reasonable steps to prevent unauthorized use, the Company may terminate access service.
2. In the event that access service is terminated for abandonment of facilities or unauthorized use and service is subsequently restored to the same Customer at the same location:
 - (a) No charge shall apply for the period during which service had been terminated, and
 - (b) Reconnection charges will apply when service is restored. However, no charge shall be made for reconnection if the service was terminated due to an error on the part of the Company.
 - (c) Change in the Company's Ability to Secure Access

Any change in the Company's ability (a) to secure and retain suitable facilities and rights for the construction and maintenance of the necessary circuits and equipment or (b) to secure and retain suitable space for its plant and facilities in the building where service is provided to the Customer may require termination of a Customer's service until such time as new arrangements can be made. No charges will be assessed the Customer while service is terminated, and no connection charges will apply when the service is restored.

Clear Rate Communications, LLC
PSC No. 2 - Telephone
Effective Date: May 20, 2022

Leaf: 17
Revision: 0
Superseding Revision:

ACCESS SERVICES

SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS (Cont'd)

2.9 SUSPENSION OR TERMINATION OF SERVICE (Cont'd)

2.9.5 Emergency Termination of Service

The Company will immediately terminate the service of any Customer, on request, when the Customer has reasonable belief that the service is being used by an unauthorized person or persons. The Company may require that the request be submitted in writing as a follow-up to a request made by telephone.

2.10 OBLIGATIONS OF THE CUSTOMER

2.10.1 Damages

The Customer shall reimburse the Company for damages to Company facilities utilized to provide services under this tariff caused by the negligence or willful act of the Customer, or resulting from improper use of the Company's facilities, or due to malfunction of any facilities or equipment provided by other than the Company, except that no Customer shall be liable for another Customer's actions.

2.10.2 Ownership of Facilities

Facilities utilized by the Company to provide service under the provisions of this tariff shall remain the property of the Company. Such facilities shall be returned to the Company by the Customer, whenever requested, within a reasonable period following the request in as good condition as reasonable wear permits.

2.10.3 Equipment Space and Power

The Customer shall furnish to the Company, at no charge, equipment space and electrical power required by the Company to provide services under this tariff at the points of termination of such services. The selection of AC or DC power shall be mutually agreed to by the Customer and the Company. The Customer shall make necessary arrangements in order that the Company will have access to such spaces at reasonable times for installation, testing, repair, maintenance or removal of Company service.

Clear Rate Communications, LLC
PSC No. 2 - Telephone
Effective Date: May 20, 2022

Leaf: 18
Revision: 0
Superseding Revision:

ACCESS SERVICES

SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS (Cont'd)

2.10 OBLIGATIONS OF THE CUSTOMER (Cont'd)

2.10.4 Testing

The services provided under this tariff shall be made available to the Company at mutually agreed upon times in order to permit the Company to test, adjust and maintain the services in satisfactory operating condition. No credit will be allowed for any interruption during such tests and adjustments.

2.10.5 Design of Customer Services

The Customer shall be responsible for its own expense for the overall design of its services and for any redesigning or rearrangements of its services which may be required because of changes in facilities, operations or procedures of the Company, minimum protection criteria or operating or maintenance characteristics of the facilities.

2.10.6 Network Contingency Coordination

The Customer shall, in cooperation with the Company, coordinate in planning the actions to be taken to maintain maximum network capability following natural or man-made disasters which affect telecommunications service.

Clear Rate Communications, LLC
PSC No. 2 - Telephone
Effective Date: May 20, 2022

Leaf: 19
Revision: 0
Superseding Revision:

ACCESS SERVICES

SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS (Cont'd)

2.10 OBLIGATIONS OF THE CUSTOMER (Cont'd)

2.10.7 Jurisdictional Reports

For Switched Access services, the Company will use the percentage of interstate originating feature group D to determine the percent of interstate usage to apply to all other switched access services provided by the Company to the Customer.

For Switched Access services for which the Company cannot determine the jurisdictional nature of Customer traffic and its related access minutes, the Company reserves the right to require the Customer to provide a projected estimate of its traffic, split between the interstate and intrastate jurisdictions. The Customer shall upon ordering service, and annually thereafter, report the percentage of interstate use and such report will be used for billing purposes until the Customer reports a different projected interstate percentage for a working trunk group. When the Customer adds trunks to or removes trunks from an existing group, the Customer shall furnish a revised projected interstate percentage that applies to the total trunk group. The revised report will serve as the basis for future billing and will be effective on the next bill date.

No pro-rating or back-billing will be done based on the report. The Company may require call detail records to substantiate projected interstate usage provided to the Company. In the event that the required jurisdictional report is not provided, the Company recorded or estimated percentage of interstate usage will be applied to the bill.

The Company may request this detailed information annually. If the audit results represent a substantial deviation from the Customer's previously reported PIU for the period upon which the audit was based, the call detail records may be requested more than once annually.

Clear Rate Communications, LLC
PSC No. 2 - Telephone
Effective Date: May 20, 2022

Leaf: 20
Revision: 0
Superseding Revision:

ACCESS SERVICES

SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS (Cont'd)

2.10 OBLIGATIONS OF THE CUSTOMER (Cont'd)

2.10.8 Mixed Interstate and Intrastate Access Service

When mixed interstate and intrastate Access Service is provided, all charges, including nonrecurring charges, usage charges, and optional features, will be prorated between interstate and intrastate. The percentage provided in the reports as set forth in 2.10.7 will serve as the basis for prorating the charges. The percentage of an Access Service to be charged as intrastate is applied in the following manner:

- A. For nonrecurring chargeable rate elements, multiply the percent intrastate use times the quantity of chargeable elements times the state tariff rate per element.
- B. For usage sensitive chargeable rate elements, multiply the percent intrastate use times actual use (measure or Company assumed average use) times the stated rate.

2.11 DETERMINATION OF MILEAGE

Service for which rates are mileage sensitive are rated on the airline distance between the Company's switch location and Customer-designated premises or the end office of the Customer-designated premises.

2.12 SURCHARGES

2.12.1 New York State Gross Revenue Tax Surcharge

A surcharge to recover the State Excise Tax on Telecommunications Services and Gross Earnings Tax (Gross Revenue Tax), applies to all rates and charges for services in this tariff. The applicable Gross Revenue Tax Surcharge rates are shown on a statement which is attached to this tariff. Any changes to these rates will be filed on 15 days' notice to the Commission, and as directed by the Commission. Customers will be notified of such changes on the first bill following the rate change. Whenever the state levies a new tax on the Company's gross revenues, repeals such a tax, or changes the rate of such tax, the Commission may approve new surcharge factors, and the Company will file revised surcharges as directed by the Commission.

Clear Rate Communications, LLC
PSC No. 2 - Telephone
Effective Date: May 20, 2022

Leaf: 21
Revision: 0
Superseding Revision:

ACCESS SERVICES

SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS (Cont'd)

2.12 SURCHARGES (Cont'd)

2.12.2 Metropolitan Commuter Transportation District Tax Surcharge

In the counties listed following, a surcharge to recover the additional expense related to the Temporary Metropolitan Transportation Business Tax Surcharge (MTA Tax) applies to all rates and charges for services in this tariff:

Dutchess County
Bronx County
Nassau County
Kings County
Orange County
New York County
Putman County
Queens County
Rockland County
Richmond County
Suffolk County
Westchester County

The applicable MTA Tax rate is shown on a statement which is attached to this tariff. Any changes to this rate will be filed on 15 days' notice to the Commission, and as directed by the Commission. Customers will be notified of such changes on the first bill following the rate change. Whenever the state levies a new tax on the Company's gross revenues, repeals such a tax, or changes the rate of such tax, the Commission may approve new surcharge factors, and the Company will file a revised surcharge as directed by the Commission.

Clear Rate Communications, LLC
PSC No. 2 - Telephone
Effective Date: May 20, 2022

Leaf: 22
Revision: 0
Superseding Revision:

ACCESS SERVICES

SECTION 3 - SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE

3.1 GENERAL

Switched Access Service, which is available to Customers for their use in furnishing their services to End Users, provides a two-point electrical communications path between a Customer's premises and an End User's premises. It provides for the use of common terminating, switching and trunking facilities, and for the use of common subscriber plant of the Company. Switched Access Service provides for the ability to originate calls from an End User's premises to a Customer's premises in the LATA where it is provided.

The application of rates for Switched Access Service is described in Sections 3.5 and 3.6 following. Rates and charges for services other than Switched Access Service, e.g., a Customer interLATA toll message service, may also be applicable when Switched Access Service is used in conjunction with these other services.

Clear Rate Communications, LLC
PSC No. 2 - Telephone
Effective Date: May 20, 2022

Leaf: 23
Revision: 0
Superseding Revision:

ACCESS SERVICES

SECTION 3 - SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE (Cont'd)

3.2 RATE CATEGORIES

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

Local Switching

Local Transport

Common Line

3.2.1 Local Switching

Local Switching provides for the use of end office switching equipment. Included in Local Switching are:

Common Switching, which provides the local end office switching functions and optional features.

Transport Termination, which provides for the trunk side arrangements which terminate the Local Transport facilities. The number of Transport Terminations provided will be determined by the Company.

Where end offices are appropriately equipped, international dialing may be provided. International dialing provides the capability of switching international calls with service prefix and address codes having more digits than are capable of being switched through a standard equipped end office.

Clear Rate Communications, LLC
PSC No. 2 - Telephone
Effective Date: May 20, 2022

Leaf: 24
Revision: 0
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ACCESS SERVICES

SECTION 3 - SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE (Cont'd)

3.2 RATE CATEGORIES (Cont'd)

3.2.2 Local Transport

The Local Transport rate category provides the transmission facilities between the Customer premises and the end office switch(es) where the Customer traffic is switched to originate or terminate its communications.

Local Transport is a two-way voice frequency transmission path composed of facilities determined by the Company. The two-way voice frequency path permits the transport of calls in the originating direction (from the End User end office switch to the Customer's premises) and in the terminating direction (from the Customer premises to the end office switch), but not simultaneously. The voice frequency transmission path may be comprised of any form or configuration of plant capable of and typically used in the telecommunications industry for the transmission of voice and associated telephone signals within the frequency bandwidth of approximately 300 to 3000 Hz.

The Company will work cooperatively with the Customer in determining (1) whether the service is to be directly routed to an end office switch or through an access tandem switch, and (2) the directionality of the service.

A. Transmission Paths

The number of Transport transmission paths provided is based on the Customer's order and is determined by the Company.

B. Interconnection

Interconnection of non-Company switched access transport facilities is available between an end office and a Customer point of presence where such facilities are provided.

Clear Rate Communications, LLC
PSC No. 2 - Telephone
Effective Date: May 20, 2022

Leaf: 25
Revision: 0
Superseding Revision:

ACCESS SERVICES

SECTION 3 - SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE (Cont'd)

3.2 RATE CATEGORIES (Cont'd)

3.2.3 800 Database Access Service

When a 1+800+NXX-XXXX call is originated by an end user, the Company will utilize the Signaling System 7 (SS7) network to query an 800 database to perform the identification function. The call will then be routed to the identified customer. The manner in which 800 database access service is provided is dependent upon the availability of SS7 service at the end office from which the service is provided as outlined following:

Service Switching Point (SSP) capability for querying centralized databases, all such service will be provisioned from that end office.

When 800 database access service originates at an end office not equipped with SSP customer identification capability, the 800 call will be delivered to the access tandem on which the end office is homed and which is equipped with the SSP feature to query centralized databases.

3.3 OBLIGATIONS OF THE COMPANY

The Company has certain obligations pertaining only to the provision of Switched Access Service. These obligations are as follows:

3.3.1 Network Management

The Company will administer its network to provide acceptable service levels to all telecommunications users of the Company's network services. Generally, service levels are considered acceptable only when both End Users and Customers are able to establish connections with little or no delay encountered within the Company's network. The Company maintains the right to apply protective controls, i.e., those actions, such as call gapping, which selectively cancel the completion of 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 a failure or overload of Company or customer facilities, natural disasters, mass calling or national security demands.

Clear Rate Communications, LLC
PSC No. 2 - Telephone
Effective Date: May 20, 2022

Leaf: 26
Revision: 0
Superseding Revision:

ACCESS SERVICES

SECTION 3 - SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE (Cont'd)

3.3 OBLIGATIONS OF THE COMPANY (Cont'd)

3.3.2 Design and Traffic Routing of Switched Access Service

The Company shall design and determine the routing of Switched Access Service, including the selection of the first point of switching and the selection of facilities from the interface to any switching point and to the end offices where busy hour minutes of capacity are ordered. The Company shall also decide if capacity is to be provided by originating only, terminating only, or two-way trunk groups. Finally, the Company will decide whether trunk side access will be provided through the use of two-wire or four-wire trunk terminating equipment. Selection of facilities and equipment and traffic routing of the service are based on standard engineering methods, available facilities and equipment and the Company's traffic routing plans. If the Customer desires different routing or directionality than that determined by the Company, the Company will work cooperatively with the Customer in determining (1) whether the service is to be routed directly to an end office or through an access tandem switch and (2) the directionality of the service.

3.3.3 Provision of Service Performance Data

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

3.3.4 Trunk Group Measurements Reports

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

Clear Rate Communications, LLC
PSC No. 2 - Telephone
Effective Date: May 20, 2022

Leaf: 27
Revision: 0
Superseding Revision:

ACCESS SERVICES

SECTION 3 - SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE (Cont'd)

3.4 OBLIGATIONS OF THE CUSTOMER

The Customer has certain specific obligations pertaining to the use of Switched Access Service. These obligations are as follows:

3.4.1 Report Requirements

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

A. 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 2.10.7 preceding. Charges will be apportioned in accordance with those reports.

B. Code Screening Reports

When a Customer orders service call routing, trunk access limitation or call gapping arrangements, it must report the number of trunks and/or the appropriate codes to be instituted in each end office or access tandem switch, for each of the arrangements ordered.

The Company will administer its network in such a manner that the impact of traffic surges due to peaked 900 Access Service traffic on other access service traffic is minimized. Network management controls may be implemented at the Company option to ensure acceptable service levels

3.4.2 On and Off-Hook Supervision

The Customer facilities shall provide the necessary on and off-hook supervision for accurate timing of calls.

3.4.3 Trunk Group Measurements Reports

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

Clear Rate Communications, LLC
PSC No. 2 - Telephone
Effective Date: May 20, 2022

Leaf: 28
Revision: 0
Superseding Revision:

ACCESS SERVICES

SECTION 3 - SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE (Cont'd)

3.5 RATE REGULATIONS

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

Access Charges are applied on a per access minute basis. Access minute charges are accumulated over a monthly period.

3.5.1 Minimum Periods

Switched Access Service is provided for a minimum period of one month.

3.6 RATES AND CHARGES

3.6.1 Recurring Charges

A. Local Switching

Per Access Minute:

Terminating and originating intrastate local switching access rates are equivalent to the interstate rates shown in the Company's federal tariff(s) filed under the jurisdiction of the Federal Communications Commission.

B. Local Transport

Per Access Minute:

Terminating and originating intrastate local transport access rates are equivalent to the interstate rates shown in the Company's federal tariff(s), filed under the jurisdiction of the Federal Communications Commission.

C. 800 Data Base Access Service

Per Query:

<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
\$0.000000	\$0.004400

Notwithstanding the maximum rate levels shown in this tariff, total combined charges for intrastate switched rates, on an average per-minute of use basis, including switching, transport and carrier common line (CCL), cannot exceed the average rate per-minute realized by the largest carrier in the LATA, without a showing that higher rates are cost-based and in the public interest, pursuant to the Commission's Order in Cases 94-C-0095 and 28425 (Opinion 98-10, issued and effective June 2, 1998).

Clear Rate Communications, LLC
PSC No. 2 - Telephone
Effective Date: May 20, 2022

Leaf: 29
Revision: 0
Superseding Revision:

ACCESS SERVICES

SECTION 4 - CARRIER COMMON LINE ACCESS SERVICE

4.1 GENERAL

The Company will provide Carrier Common Line Access Service to Customers in conjunction with Switched Access Service provided in Section 3 of this tariff. Carrier Common Line provides for the use of End Users' Company-provided common lines by Customers for access to such End Users to furnish Intrastate Communications.

4.2 LIMITATIONS

No telephone number or detailed billing will be provided with Carrier Common Line Access. Directory listings and intercept arrangements are not included in the rates and charges for Carrier Common Line Access.

4.3 APPLICATION OF INTRASTATE CHARGES

Intrastate rates apply only to that portion of Carrier Common Line Service provided for intrastate usage. Jurisdictional reporting is required as described in Section 2.10.7 of this tariff.

4.4 RATES AND CHARGES

Per access minute:

<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum*</u>
\$0.00	\$0.02

*See Section 2.3 of this tariff.

Clear Rate Communications, LLC
PSC No. 2 - Telephone
Effective Date: May 20, 2022

Leaf: 30
Revision: 0
Superseding Revision:

ACCESS SERVICES

SECTION 5 - SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS

5.1 SPECIAL CONSTRUCTION

5.1.1 Basis for Charges

Basis for Charges where the Company furnishes a facility or service for which a rate or charge is not specified in the Company's tariffs, charges will be based on the costs incurred by the Company (including return) and may include:

- A. nonrecurring charges;
- B. recurring charges;
- C. termination liabilities; or
- D. combinations of A, B, and C.

5.1.2 Termination Liability

To the extent that there is no other requirement for use by the Company, a termination liability may apply for facilities specially constructed at the request of a customer.

- A. The period on which the termination liability is based is the estimated service life of the facilities provided.
- B. The amount of the maximum termination liability is equal to the estimated amounts (including return) for:
 - 1. Costs to install the facilities to be provided including estimated costs for the rearrangements of existing facilities. These costs include:
 - (a) equipment and materials provided or used;
 - (b) engineering, labor, and supervision;
 - (c) transportation; and
 - (d) rights of way and/or any required easements;
 - 2. license preparation, processing, and related fees;
 - 3. tariff preparation, processing and related fees;
 - 4. cost of removal and restoration, where appropriate; and
 - 5. any other identifiable costs related to the specially constructed or rearranged facilities.

Clear Rate Communications, LLC
PSC No. 2 - Telephone
Effective Date: May 20, 2022

Leaf: 31
Revision: 0
Superseding Revision:

ACCESS SERVICES

SECTION 5 - SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS (Cont'd)

5.2 NON-ROUTINE INSTALLATION AND/OR MAINTENANCE

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

5.3 INDIVIDUAL CASE BASIS (ICB) ARRANGEMENTS

Rates for ICB arrangements will be developed on a case-by-case basis in response to a bona fide request from a customer or prospective customer for services which vary from tariffed arrangements. Rates quoted in response to such requests may be different for tariffed services than those specified for such services in the Rate Attachment. ICB rates will be offered to customers in writing and will be made available to similarly situated customers. A summary of each ICB contract pricing arrangement offered pursuant to this paragraph will be filed as an addendum to this Tariff within 30 days after the contract is signed by both the Company and the customer. The following information will be included in the summary:

- A. LATA and type of switch
- B. Service description
- C. Rates and charges
- D. Quantity
- E. Length of the agreement.

Clear Rate Communications, LLC
PSC No. 2 - Telephone
Effective Date: May 20, 2022

Leaf: 32
Revision: 0
Superseding Revision:

ACCESS SERVICES

SECTION 6 - RECIPROCAL COMPENSATION ARRANGEMENTS

6.1 GENERAL

Reciprocal Compensation Arrangements are available to Other Network Providers ("ONP's") who are also certified providers of local exchange service. Under a Reciprocal Compensation Arrangement, the Company compensates the ONP for Company traffic terminating on the ONP's network and the ONP compensates the Company for ONP traffic terminating on the Company's network.

Compensation for terminating local traffic can be determined through reciprocal compensation agreements or by local call termination rates filed in this tariff, subject to the provisions of the Commission's Order in Case 94-C-0095, "Order Instituting Framework For Directory Listings, Carrier Interconnection And Intercarrier Compensation." Issued and Effective September 27, 1995.

6.2 MEASUREMENT OF ACCESS MINUTES AND DETERMINATION OF BALANCE

The Company and Other Network Providers will measure, on a monthly basis, the originating and terminating local usage.

Clear Rate Communications, LLC
PSC No. 2 - Telephone
Effective Date: May 20, 2022

Leaf: 33
Revision: 0
Superseding Revision:

ACCESS SERVICES

SECTION 7 - DEFINITIONS

ACCESS CODE - Denotes a uniform code assigned by the Company to an individual Customer. The code has the form 10XXX, 10XXXXX, 950-0XXX, or 950-1XXX.

ACCESS MINUTES - Denotes that usage of exchange facilities in intrastate service for the purpose of calculating chargeable usage.

ACCESS TANDEM - A switching system that provides a traffic concentration and distribution function for originating or terminating traffic between end offices and a Customer's premises.

ANSWER SUPERVISION - The transmission of the switch trunk equipment supervisory signal (off-hook or on-hook) to the Customer's point of termination as an indication that the called party has answered or disconnected.

CALL - A Customer attempt for which the complete address code is provided to the service end office.

CARRIER OR COMMON CARRIER - Any individual, partnership, association, corporation or other entity engaged in intrastate communication for hire by wire or radio between two or more exchanges.

CENTRAL OFFICE - A local Company switching system where exchange service customer station loops are terminated for purposes of interconnection to each other and to trunks.

CHANNEL - A communications path between two or more points of termination.

COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM - Denotes channels and other facilities which are capable of communications between terminal equipment provided by other than the Company.

COMPANY - (company name)

CUSTOMER - Any individual, partnership, association, corporation or other entity which subscribes to the services offered under this tariff, including both Interexchange Carriers and End Users.

CUSTOMER DESIGNATED PREMISES - The premises specified by the Customer for termination of Access Services.

DUAL TONE MULTIFREQUENCY (DTMF) - Tone signaling, also known as touch tone signaling.

END OFFICE SWITCH - A Company switching system where exchange service customer station loops are terminated for purposes of interconnection to each other and to trunks.

Clear Rate Communications, LLC
PSC No. 2 - Telephone
Effective Date: May 20, 2022

Leaf: 34
Revision: 0
Superseding Revision:

ACCESS SERVICES

SECTION 7 – DEFINITIONS (Cont'd)

END USER - Any customer of an intrastate telecommunications service that is not a Carrier or Common Carrier, except that a Carrier shall be deemed to be an End User when such Carrier uses a telecommunications service for administrative purposes. A person or entity that offers telecommunications service exclusively as a reseller shall be deemed to be an End User if all resale transmissions offered by such reseller originate on the premises of such reseller when making such service available to others, directly or indirectly.

ENTRY SWITCH - First point of switching.

EXCHANGE - A group of lines in a unit generally smaller than a LATA established by the Company for the administration of communications service in a specified area. An Exchange may consist of one or more central offices together with the associated facilities used in furnishing communications service within that area.

FACILITIES - Denotes any cable, poles, conduit, carrier equipment, wire center distribution frames, central office switching equipment, etc., utilized to provide the service offered under this tariff.

FIRST POINT OF SWITCHING - The first Company location at which switching occurs on the terminating path of a call proceeding from the Customer premises to the terminating end office and, at the same time, the last Company location at which switching occurs on the originating path of a call proceeding from the originating end office to the Customer premises.

INTERSTATE COMMUNICATIONS - Any communications that crosses over a state boundary. Interstate Communications includes interstate and international communications.

INTRASTATE COMMUNICATIONS - Any communication which originates and terminates within the same state and is subject to oversight by a state regulatory commission as provided by the laws of the state involved.

LOCAL ACCESS AND TRANSPORT AREA (LATA) - A geographic area established for the provision and administration of communications service. A LATA encompasses designated exchanges, which are grouped to serve common social, economic and other purposes.

LOCAL CALLING AREA - A geographical area, as defined in the Company's local or general exchange service tariff in which an End User may complete a call without incurring toll usage charges.

MESSAGE - A Message is a Call as defined above.

Clear Rate Communications, LLC
PSC No. 2 - Telephone
Effective Date: May 20, 2022

Leaf: 35
Revision: 0
Superseding Revision:

ACCESS SERVICES

SECTION 7 – DEFINITIONS (Cont'd)

OFF-HOOK - The active condition of Switched Access Service or a telephone exchange line.

ON-HOOK - The idle condition of Switched Access Service or a telephone exchange line.

ORIGINATING DIRECTION - The use of Switched Access Service for the origination of calls from an End User premises to a carrier's premises.

POINT OF TERMINATION - The point of demarcation within a customer-designated premises at which the Company's responsibility for the provision of access service ends. The point of demarcation is the point of interconnection between Company communications facilities and customer-provided facilities as defined in Part 68 of the Federal Communications Commission's Rules and Regulations.

PREMISES - A building or buildings on contiguous property, not separated by a public highway or right-of-way.

SERVING WIRE CENTER - The wire center from which the Customer-designated premises normally obtains dial tone from the Company.

SPECIAL ACCESS CIRCUIT - The physical pathway for transmission of information between a dedicated originating point and a dedicated terminating point.

TERMINATING DIRECTION - The use of Switched Access Service for the completion of calls from a carrier's premises to an End User premises.

TRANSMISSION PATH - An electrical path capable of transmitting signals within the range of the service offering. A transmission path is comprised of physical or derived facilities consisting of any form or configuration of plant used in the telecommunications industry.

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

TRUNK GROUP - A set of trunks which are traffic engineered as a unit for the establishment of connections between switching systems in which all of the communications paths are interchangeable.

WIRE CENTER - A physical location in which one or more central offices, used for the provision of exchange services, are located.