

Velocity, A Managed Services Company, Inc.  
P.S.C. No. 1 - Telephone  
Effective Date: February 24, 2021

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TITLE SHEET  
  
NEW YORK INTEREXCHANGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS TARIFF  
  
OF  
  
VELOCITY, A MANAGED SERVICES COMPANY, INC.

This tariff contains the descriptions, regulations, and rates applicable to the furnishing of service or facilities for intrastate interexchange telecommunications services provided by Velocity, A Managed Services Company, Inc. ("Velocity"), with principal offices at 7130 Spring Meadows Drive W, Holland, Ohio 43528. This tariff applies for services furnished within the State of New York. This tariff is on file with the New York Public Service Commission, and copies may be inspected during normal business hours, at the Company's principal place of business.

P.S.C. Tariff No. 1 of Velocity, A Managed Services Company, Inc.  
replaces, in its entirety,  
P.S.C Tariff No. 1 of Velocity The Greatest Phone Company Ever, Inc.

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Issued By: William Werner, COO, Velocity, A Managed Services Company, Inc.,  
7130 Spring Meadows Drive W, Holland, Ohio 43528

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### CONTACTING THE COMPANY WITH A COMPLAINT

In the case of a dispute between the Customer and the Company, please contact the Company by phone, email, or mail.

1. Email: [customerservice@velocitymsc.com](mailto:customerservice@velocitymsc.com)
2. By Phone: Customer Service 1-866-983-5624
3. By Mail:  
Velocity, A Managed Services Company, Inc.  
7130 Spring Meadows Drive W  
Holland, Ohio 43528

### CONTACTING THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE WITH A COMPLAINT

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. Online: <http://www.dps.ny.gov/complaints> or,
2. By Phone:  
Helpline (for complaints/inquiries):  
1-800-342-3377 for Continental United States (M-F 8:30 am – 4:00 pm); or  
1-800-662-1220 for Hearing/Speech Impaired: TDD or,  
518-472-8502 for fax
3. By Mail:  
NYS Department of Public Service  
Office of Consumer Services, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
3 Empire State Plaza  
Albany, New York 12223-1350

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CONCURRING, CONNECTING OR  
OTHER PARTICIPATING CARRIERS

1. Concurring Carriers - None
2. Connecting Carriers - None
3. Other Participating Carriers - None

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### TARIFF FORMAT

A. Sheet Numbering: Sheet numbers appear in the upper right corner of the sheet. Sheets are numbered sequentially. However, new sheets are occasionally added to the tariff. When a new sheet is added between sheets already in effect, a decimal is added. For example, a new sheet added between sheets 11 and 12 would be sheet 11.1.

B. Sheet Revision Numbers: Revision numbers also appear in the upper right corner of each sheet where applicable. These numbers are used to indicate the most current sheet version on file with the Commission. For example, 4th Revised Sheet 13 cancels 3rd Revised Sheet 13. Consult the Check Sheet for the sheets 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)

D. Check Sheets: When a tariff filing is made with the Commission, an updated Check Sheet accompanies the tariff filing. The Check Sheet lists the sheets contained in the tariff, with a cross reference to the current Revision Number. When new sheets are added, the Check Sheet is changed to reflect the revision. All revisions made in a given filing are designated by an asterisk (\*). There will be no other symbols used on this sheet if these are the only changes made to it (i.e., the format, etc. remains the same, just revised revision levels on some sheets). The tariff user should refer to the latest Check Sheet to find out if a particular sheet is the most current on Commission file.

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### **SYMBOLS**

The following are the only symbols used for the purposes indicated below:

C - To Signify Changed Regulation

D - Delete or Discontinue

I - Change Resulting In An Increase to A Customer's Bill

M - Moved from Another Tariff Location

N - New

R - Change Resulting In A Reduction to A Customer's Bill

T - Change in Text or Regulation But No Change In Rate or Charge

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## SECTION 1 - TECHNICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Access Line - An arrangement from a local exchange telephone company or other common carrier, using either dedicated or switched access, which connects a Customer's location to the Company's location or switching center.

Authorization Code - A numerical code, one or more of which may be assigned to a Customer, to enable the Company to identify the origin of the Customer so it may rate and bill the call. Automatic number identification (ANI) is used as the authorization code wherever possible.

Commission - Used throughout this tariff to mean the New York Public Service Commission.

Company or Velocity - Used throughout this tariff to mean Velocity, A Managed Services Company, Inc., a Delaware Corporation.

Customer - The person, firm, corporation or other legal entity which orders the services of the Company and is responsible for the payment of charges and for compliance with the Company's tariff regulations.

Dedicated Access - The Customer gains entry to the Company's services by a direct path from the Customer's location to the Company's point of presence.

Resp. Org - Responsible Organization or entity identified by a Toll-Free service Customer that manages and administers records in the toll-free number database and management system.

Telecom Unit - A measurement of telecommunications service equivalent to one minute of usage between any two points within the State of New York.

Switched Access - The Customer gains entry to the Company's services by a transmission line that is switched through the local exchange carrier to reach the company's point of presence.

Telecommunications - The transmission, between or among points specified by the user, of information of the user's choosing, without change in the form or content of the information as sent and received.

Underlying Carrier - The telecommunications carrier whose network facilities provide the technical capability and capacity necessary for the transmission and reception of Customer telecommunications traffic.

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## SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS

### 2.1 Undertaking of the Company

This tariff contains the regulations and rates applicable to intrastate interexchange telecommunications services provided by the Company for telecommunications between points within the State of New York. Services are furnished subject to the availability of facilities and subject to the terms and conditions of this tariff in compliance with limitations set forth in the Commission's rules. The Company's services are provided on a statewide basis and are not intended to be limited geographically. The Company offers service to all those who desire to purchase service from the Company consistent with all of the provisions of this tariff. Customers interested in the Company's services shall file a service application with the Company which fully identifies the Customer, the services requested and other information requested by the Company. The Company may act as the Customer's agent for ordering access connection facilities provided by other carriers or entities when authorized by the Customer, to allow connection of a Customer's location to a service provided by the Company. The Customer shall be responsible for all charges due for such service arrangement.

- 2.1.1 The services provided by the Company are not part of a joint undertaking with any other entity providing telecommunications channels, facilities, or services, but may involve the resale of the Message Toll Services (MTS) and Wide Area Telecommunications Services (WATS) of underlying common carriers subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission.
- 2.1.2 The rates and regulations contained in this tariff apply only to the services furnished by the Company and do not apply, unless otherwise specified, to the lines, facilities, or services provided by a local exchange telephone company or other common carriers for use in accessing the services of the Company.
- 2.1.3 The Company reserves the right to limit the length of communications, to discontinue furnishing services, or limit the use of service necessitated by conditions beyond its control, including, without limitation: lack of satellite or other transmission medium capacity; the revision, alteration or repricing of the Underlying Carrier's tariffed offerings; or when the use of service becomes or is in violation of the law or the provisions of this tariff.

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## 2.2 Use of Services

- 2.2.1 The Company's services may be used for any lawful purpose consistent with the transmission and switching parameters of the telecommunications facilities utilized in the provision of services, subject to any limitations set forth in this Section 2.2.
- 2.2.2 The use of the Company's services to make calls which might reasonably be expected to frighten, abuse, torment, or harass another or in such a way as to unreasonably interfere with use by others is prohibited.
- 2.2.3 The use of the Company's services without payment for service or attempting to avoid payment for service by fraudulent means or devices, schemes, false or invalid numbers, or false calling or credit cards is prohibited.
- 2.2.4 The Company's services are available for use 24 hours per day, seven days per week.
- 2.2.5 The Company does not transmit messages, but the services may be used for that purpose.
- 2.2.6 The Company's services may be denied for nonpayment of charges or for other violations of this tariff.
- 2.2.7 Customers shall not use the service provided under this tariff for any unlawful purpose.
- 2.2.8 The Customer is responsible for notifying the Company immediately of any unauthorized use of services.

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## 2.3 Liability of the Company

- 2.3.1 The Company shall not be liable for any claim, loss, expense or damage for any interruption, delay, error, omission, or defect in any service, facility or transmission provided under this tariff, if caused by the Underlying Carrier, an act of God, fire, war, civil disturbance, act of government, or due to any other causes beyond the Company's control.
- 2.3.2 The Company shall not be liable for and shall be fully indemnified and held harmless by the Customer against any claim, loss, expense, or damage for defamation, libel, slander, invasion, infringement of copyright or patent, unauthorized use of any trademark, trade name or service mark, proprietary or creative right, or any other injury to any person, property or entity arising out of the material, data or information transmitted.
- 2.3.3 No agent or employee of any other carrier or entity shall be deemed to be an agent or employee of the Company.
- 2.3.4 The Company's liability for damages, resulting in whole or in part from or arising in connection with the furnishing of service under this tariff, including but not limited to mistakes, omissions, interruptions, delays, errors, or other defects or misrepresentations shall not exceed an amount equal to the charges provided for under this tariff for the long-distance call for the period during which the call was affected. No other liability in any event shall attach to the Company.
- 2.3.5 In the absence of gross negligence or willful misconduct, the Company shall not be liable for and shall be indemnified and saved harmless by any Customer or by any other entity from any and all loss, claims, demands, suits, or other action or any liability whatsoever, whether suffered, made, instituted, or asserted by any Customer or any other entity for any personal injury to, or death of, any person or persons, and for any loss, damage, defacement or destruction of the premises of any Customer or any other entity or any other property whether owned or controlled by the Customer or others.

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2.3.6 The Company shall not be liable for any indirect, special, incidental, or consequential damages under this tariff including, but not limited to, loss of revenue or profits, for any reason whatsoever, including the breakdown of facilities associated with the service, or for any mistakes, omissions, delays, errors, or defects in transmission occurring during the course of furnishing service.

2.3.7 The remedies set forth herein are exclusive and in lieu of all other warranties and remedies, whether express, implied, or statutory, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.

#### 2.4 Responsibilities of the Customer

2.4.1 The Customer is responsible for placing any necessary orders and complying with tariff regulations. The Customer is also responsible for the payment of charges for services provided under this tariff.

2.4.2 The Customer is responsible for charges incurred for special construction and/or special facilities which the Customer requests and which are ordered by the Company on the Customer's behalf.

2.4.3 If required for the provision of the Company's services, the Customer must provide any equipment space, supporting structure, conduit and electrical power without charge to the Company.

2.4.4 The Customer is responsible for arranging access to its premises at times mutually agreeable to the Company and the Customer when required for Company personnel to install, repair, maintain, program, inspect or remove equipment associated with the provision of the Company's services.

2.4.5 The Customer shall cause the temperature and relative humidity in the equipment space provided by Customer for the installation of the Company's equipment to be maintained within the range normally provided for the operation of microcomputers.

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- 2.4.6 The Customer shall ensure that the equipment and/or system is properly interfaced with the Company's facilities or services, that the signals emitted into the Company's network are of the proper mode, bandwidth, power and signal level for the intended use of the subscriber and in compliance with criteria set forth in this tariff, and that the signals do not damage equipment, injure personnel, or degrade service to other Customers. If the Federal Communications Commission or some other appropriate certifying body certifies terminal equipment as being technically acceptable for direct electrical connection with interstate communications service, the Company will permit such equipment to be connected with its channels without the use of protective interface devices. If the Customer fails to maintain the equipment and/or the system properly, with resulting imminent harm to Company equipment, personnel or the quality of service to other Customers, the Company may, upon written notice, require the use of protective equipment at the Customer's expense. If this fails to produce satisfactory quality and safety, the Company may, upon written notice, terminate the Customer's service.
- 2.4.7 The Customer must pay the Company for replacement or repair of damage to the equipment or facilities of the Company caused by negligence or willful act of the Customer or others, by improper use of the services, or by use of equipment provided by Customer or others.
- 2.4.8 The Customer must pay for the loss through theft of any Company equipment installed at Customer's premises.
- 2.4.9 If the Company installs equipment at Customer's premises, the Customer shall be responsible for payment of any applicable installation charge.
- 2.4.10 The Customer must use the services offered in this tariff in a manner consistent with the terms of this tariff and the policies and regulations of all state, federal and local authorities having jurisdiction over the service.

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## 2.5 Cancellation or Interruption of Services

- 2.5.1 Without incurring liability, upon thirteen (13) working days' (defined as any day on which the company's business office is open and the U.S. Mail is delivered) written notice to the Customer, the Company may immediately discontinue services to a Customer or may withhold the provision of ordered or contracted services:
- 2.5.1.A For nonpayment of any sum due the Company for more than thirty (30) days after issuance of the bill for the amount due,
- 2.5.1.B For violation of any of the provisions of this tariff,
- 2.5.1.C For violation of any law, rule, regulation, policy of any governing authority having jurisdiction over the Company's services, or
- 2.5.1.D By reason of any order or decision of a court, public service commission or federal regulatory body or other governing authority prohibiting the Company from furnishing its services.
- 2.5.2 Without incurring liability, the Company may interrupt the provision of services at any time in order to perform tests and inspections to assure compliance with tariff regulations and the proper installation and operation of Customer and the Company's equipment and facilities and may continue such interruption until any items of noncompliance or improper equipment operation so identified are rectified.
- 2.5.3 Service may be discontinued by the Company without notice to the Customer, by blocking traffic to certain countries, cities or NXX exchanges, or by blocking calls using certain Customer authorization codes, when the Company deems it necessary to take such action to prevent unlawful use of its service. The Company will restore service as soon as it can be provided without undue risk, and will, upon request by the Customer affected, assign a new authorization code to replace the one that has been deactivated.

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2.5.4 The Customer may terminate service upon thirty (30) days written notice for the Company's standard month to month contract. Customer will be liable for all usage on any of the Company's service offerings until the Customer actually leaves the service. Customers will continue to have Company usage until the Customer notifies its local exchange carrier and changes its long distance carrier. Until the Customer so notifies its local exchange carrier, it shall continue to generate and be responsible for long distance usage.

## 2.6 Credit Allowance

2.6.1 Credit may be given for disputed calls, on a per call basis.

2.6.2 Credit shall not be issued for unavailability of long distance services.

## 2.7 Restoration of Service

The use and restoration of service shall be in accordance with the priority system specified in part 64, Subpart D of the Rules and Regulations of the Federal Communications Commission.

## 2.8 Deposit

The Company does not require deposits.

## 2.9 Advance Payments

The Company reserves the right to collect an advance payment from Customers in an amount not to exceed one (1) month's estimated charges as an advance payment for service. This will be applied against the next month's charges, and if necessary, a new advance payment will be collected for the next month.

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## 2.10 Payment and Billing

- 2.10.1 Service is provided and billed on a billing cycle basis, beginning on the date that service becomes effective. Billing is payable upon receipt. Except as specified in Section 2.13 below, interest at the rate of 1.5% per billing cycle, or the amount otherwise authorized by law, whichever is lower, will accrue upon any unpaid amount commencing 30 days after rendition of bills.
- 2.10.2 The customer is responsible for payment of all charges for services furnished to the customer, as well as to all persons using the customer's codes, exchange lines, facilities, or equipment, with or without the knowledge or consent of the customer. The security of the customer's authorization codes, presubscribed exchange lines, and direct connect facilities is the responsibility of the customer. All calls placed using direct connect facilities, presubscribed exchange lines, or authorization codes will be billed to and must be paid by the customer. Recurring charges, deposits, and non-recurring charges are billed in advance. The initial billing may, at Company's option, also include one month's estimated usage billed in advance. Thereafter, charges based on actual usage during a month and any accrued interest will be billed monthly in arrears.
- 2.10.3 All bills are presumed accurate and shall be binding on the customer unless objection is received by the Company in writing within 30 days after such bills are rendered. No credits, refunds, or adjustments shall be granted if demand therefore is not received by the Company in writing within such 30-day period.
- 2.10.4 In the case of the State of New York and its agencies, the City University of New York, the Facilities Development Corporation, and the State University Construction Fund, payment shall be due within forty-five days after receipt of a bill from the Company. In the event payment is not received by such date, interest may be applied to the amount due beginning on the day after the required payment date and ending in the date payment is actually received.
- 2.10.5 The rate of interest charged pursuant to Section 2.10.1 above shall be equal to the rate set by the state tax commission for corporate taxes pursuant to Section 1096(e)(1) of the tax law in effect on the date the interest payment is made.

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## 2.11 Collection Costs

In the event Company is required to initiate legal proceedings to collect any amounts due to Company for regulated or non-regulated services, equipment or facilities, or to enforce any judgment obtained against a Customer, or for the enforcement of any other provision of this tariff or applicable law, Customer shall, in addition to all amounts due, be liable to Company for all reasonable costs incurred by Company in such proceedings and enforcement actions, including reasonable attorneys' fees, collection agency fees or payments, and court costs. In any such proceeding, the amount of collection costs, including attorneys' fees, due to the Company, will be determined by the court.

## 2.12 Taxes

In addition to all recurring, non-recurring, minimum, usage, or special charges, customer shall also be responsible for and shall pay all applicable federal, state and local taxes or surcharges, including sales, use, gross earnings, and gross revenue taxes. All such taxes shall be separately shown and charged on bills rendered by Company.

The State gross revenue and gross earnings surcharge shall be applied to all charges for recurring, non-recurring, minimum, usage, or special charges.

The applicable Gross Revenue Surcharge rates and MTA tax 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, or as directed by the Commission. Customers will be notified of any changes by bill insert or separate mailing no later than the first billing period following the date of the change. Whenever the state levies a new tax on the Company's gross revenues, repeals of 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.

Sales, use, and excise taxes shall be applied to all charges and shall also be applied to all applicable gross earnings, gross revenue and gross income taxes.

## 2.13 Late Charge

A late fee of 1.5% monthly or the amount otherwise authorized by law, whichever is lower, will be charged on any past due balances.



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#### 2.14 Returned Check Charge

A fee of \$20 for business customers, and \$10 for residential customers, will be charged whenever a check or draft presented for payment for service is not accepted by the institution on which it is written.

#### 2.15 Location of Service

The Company will provide service to Customers and their end users within the State of New York.

#### 2.16 Automatic number identification terms and conditions

A telephone corporation (TC) may provide Automatic Number Identification (ANI) associated with an intrastate service, by tariff, to any entity (ANI recipient), only under the following terms and conditions:

- 1) The ANI recipient or its designated billing agent may use or transmit ANI information (ANI Info) to third parties for billing and collection, routing, screening, ensuring network performance, and completion of a telephone subscriber's call or transaction, or for performing a service directly related to the telephone subscriber's original call or transaction.
- 2) The ANI recipient may offer to any telephone subscriber with whom the ANI recipient has an established customer relationship, a product or service that is directly related to products or services previously purchased by the telephone subscriber from the ANI recipient.
- 3) The ANI recipient or its designated billing agent is prohibited from utilizing ANI information to establish marketing lists or to conduct outgoing marketing calls, except as permitted by the preceding paragraph, unless the ANI recipient obtains the prior written consent of the telephone subscriber permitting the use of ANI Info for such purposes. The foregoing provisions notwithstanding, no ANI recipient or its designated billing agent may utilize ANI info if prohibited elsewhere by law.
- 4) The ANI recipient or its designated billing agent is prohibited from reselling, or otherwise disclosing ANI Info to any other third party for any use other than those listed in Provision 1, unless the ANI recipient obtains the prior written consent of the subscriber permitting such resale or disclosure.

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5) Tcs must make reasonable efforts to adopt and apply procedures designed to provide reasonable safeguards against the aforementioned abuses of ANI.

6) Violation of any of the foregoing terms and conditions by any ANI recipient other than a TC shall result, after a determination through the Commission's complaint process, in suspension of the transmission of ANI by the TC until such time as the Commission receives written confirmation from the ANI recipient that the violations have ceased or have been corrected. If the Commission determines that there have been 3 or more separate violations in a 24 month period, delivery of ANI to the offending party shall be terminated under terms and conditions determined by the Commission.

7) Violation of any of the foregoing terms and conditions by a TC may result in Commission prosecution of penalty and enforcement proceedings pursuant to Section 24,25&26 of Public Service Law.

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## 2.17 Additional Provisions Applicable to Residential Customers

### 1. Application of Rates

Residential rates as described in Section 6 and shown in Attachment B apply to service furnished in private homes or apartments (including all parts of the customer's domestic establishment) for domestic use. Residential rates also apply in college fraternity or sorority houses, convents and monasteries, and to the clergy for domestic use in residential quarters.

Residential rates do not apply to service in residential locations if the listing indicates a business or profession. Residential rates do not apply to service furnished in residential locations if there is an extension line from the residential location to a business location unless the extension line is limited to incoming calls.

The use of residential service and facilities is restricted to the customer, members of the customer's domestic establishment, and joint users.

### 2. Telephone Number Changes

When a residential customer requests a telephone number change, the referral period for the disconnected number is 90 days.

When service in an existing location is continued for a new customer, the existing number may be retained by the new customer only if the former customer consents in writing, and if all charges against the account are paid or assumed by the new customer.

### 3. Deposits

#### a. General

Except as provided in (b) following, the Company may require a deposit, as described in Section 2.4.2 of this Tariff, from a residential customer who is applying for service if the customer: 1) has had service terminated for nonpayment once within the preceding six month period, or 2) is delinquent in payment. A customer is delinquent in payment if that customer has received two consecutive telephone bills without making payment of at least one-half the total arrears due on the due date of the second bill. A customer is not

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considered delinquent, however, if an amount in dispute is not paid before the dispute is resolved.

An existing customer is an applicant for service who was a customer of the Company within twelve months of making the request, provided that prior service was not terminated for nonpayment, unless service is requested within 10 days of such termination for nonpayment. Applicants for residential service and existing residential customers are permitted to pay deposits in installments over a period not to exceed 6 months.

A new customer is an applicant for service who has not been a customer of the Company within twelve months of making the request for service. A new customer shall not be required to post a security deposit as a condition of receiving telephone service.

A seasonal customer is an individual who applies for and receives telephone service periodically each year, intermittently during the year or at other regular intervals scheduled at the time of application. A seasonal customer may be required to post a deposit.

b. Customers Exempt from Deposits

1. A new customer or existing customer who is 62 years of age or older shall be exempt from any deposit requirement unless such person's telephone service was terminated for nonpayment during the preceding six months. Proof of age will be required from any person claiming exemption from deposit requirements because of age. If the proof requested by the Company is not received within 30 days from the date service is connected, or 30 days from the date that verification of age is requested from an existing customer, the Company may suspend or terminate service unless the customer pays the required deposit. Any new customer or existing customer 62 years of age or older shall be permitted to pay a deposit in installments over a period not to exceed 12 months.

2. The Company shall not require any person it knows to be a recipient of public assistance, supplemental security income or additional state payments to post a deposit.

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c. Recent Payment History

A customer who has a recent payment history (within the preceding twelve months) with the Company is entitled to service without payment of a deposit unless his or her records indicate a delinquency in payment or a termination of service for nonpayment. A customer who still owes money to the Company for residential service on a prior account shall be offered a deferred payment plan provided that the customer had service for three months and was not terminated for nonpayment during that period. (See Deferred Payment Agreements, 7 below.)

New deposits from a residential customer is reviewed after the first 3 monthly bills have been rendered; if too much has been taken, the excess is returned. The entire deposit is returned to a residential customer after 1 year, unless the customer is delinquent in payment, in which case the Company may continue to retain the deposit until the delinquency is satisfied. If the service is discontinued, the deposit is applied against the final bill, and any balance is returned to the customer.

4. Installment Billing For Nonrecurring Charges

A residential customer may elect to pay service connection and other nonrecurring charges associated with a service order in monthly installments for up to a 12 month period. When installment billing is requested, all nonrecurring charges associated with a given service order will be included in the calculation of the monthly installment.

Installment billing is subject to the following restrictions:

- a. Installment billing may be used only by residential customers;
- b. Charges will be billed in the number of installments of equal dollar amounts as requested by the customer up to a maximum of 12 installments over the course of 12 months;
- c. A customer may not pay a portion of the charges and then request installment billing for the remaining charges;

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- d. More than one installment plan may be in effect for the same customer at the same time;
- e. If a customer disconnects service during the installment payment period, all unbilled charges will be included in the final bill rendered;
- f. A customer may elect to pay the unbilled charges before the expiration of the installment plan;
- g. Installment billing payments will continue even when an account is temporarily suspended;
- h. No interest or carrying charges will be applied to the outstanding balance during the installment period.

5. Adjusted Payment Schedule

A customer on a fixed income (e.g., pension and public assistance) shall be offered the opportunity to pay his or her bills on a reasonable schedule that is adjusted for periodic receipt of income.

6. Suspension or Termination for Nonpayment

- a. Suspension/termination notices may not be issued until at least 25 days after the date of the bill. Bills must be mailed to the customer no later than 6 business days after the date of the bill.
- b. After issuing the written notification, at least one attempt shall be made during non-working hours to contact the residential customer by telephone before the scheduled date of suspension/termination.
- c. Suspension/termination may occur only between 8:00 AM and 7:30 PM on Monday through Thursday, and between 8:00 AM and 3:00 PM on Friday, provided that such day or the following day is not a public holiday or a day on which the main office is closed. In addition, service may not be disconnected during the periods of December 23 through the 26 and December 30 through January 2.
- d. Telephone 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.

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Suspended or terminated residential service shall be reconnected within 24 hours following payment or within 24 hours of the end of circumstances beyond the Company's control which delay the reconnection. The Commission may direct that service be reconnected in less than 24 hours.

7. Deferred Payment Agreements

Service will not be suspended or terminated unless the customer has been advised that a deferred payment plan can be arranged. An existing residential customer with three or more months service and for whom service has not been terminated for nonpayment is eligible for Deferred Payment Arrangements (DPA). The Company must offer an eligible customer a DPA in accordance with the Commission's order in Case 90-C-1148 issued on August 7, 1992. Final notice of suspension/termination will advise the customer of deferred payment arrangements and will include, in bold print, a notice that assistance in reaching an agreement may be obtained from the Commission. The DPA notice will be mailed no less than six days before termination of total service.

A Deferred Payment Agreement will be for a period agreed to by both the customer and the Company.

If the Company believes that the customer has the resources to pay the bill, it shall notify both the customer and the Commission in writing of the reasons for its belief. The Commission shall make the final determination as to whether a DPA should be provided. A customer with medical emergencies and a customer who is elderly, blind or disabled shall be exempt from such eligibility criteria.

8. Dishonored Checks

When a check received from a residential customer is dishonored, the company shall make two attempts, one outside of normal business hours, to contact the customer within 24 hours. The customer shall be given an additional 24 hours to pay before suspension/termination. The additional notice will be given provided that the customer has not submitted a dishonored check within the past 12 months.

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9. Suspension or Termination - Abandonment

Suspension/termination of residential service for abandonment or unauthorized use may occur only after the Company makes a reasonable attempt to determine occupancy or authorized use, or the customer takes reasonable steps to prevent unauthorized use. A notice must be sent to the customer five days before such suspension or termination. The notification requirement is waived when previous mailings are returned by the Post Office or the company is advised that a new customer has moved into the location.

10. Suspension or Termination - Medical Emergencies

In the event of a medical emergency as defined in 16NYCRR, Sec. 609, an additional 30 days will be allowed for a residential customer before suspension or termination. A medical certificate as defined in 16NYCRR, Sec. 609, must be supplied. The medical emergency status may be extended beyond 30 days upon submission of specified documentation. During the emergency, the customer will be able to defer payment of monthly charges up to an amount specified by the Commission until the emergency ceases or it is determined that the customer has the ability to pay the charges. Charges in any month in excess of the amount specified are due by the due date of the bill.

11. Suspension or Termination - Elderly, Blind or Disabled

An additional 20 days will be allowed before suspension or termination may occur when:

- a) the customer is known to or identified to the Company as being blind or disabled, as defined in 16NYCRR, Sec. 609, or
- b) the customer is 62 years of age or older, and all other residents of the customer's household are: under 18 years of age, over 62 years of age, blind or disabled.

In cases where service has been suspended or terminated and the Company subsequently learns that the customer is entitled to the protection established herein, the Company shall within 24 hours of such notification restore service for an additional 20 days and make a diligent effort to contact in person an adult resident at the customer's premises for the purpose of devising a payment plan.



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## 12. Backbilling for Residential Customers

The Company shall not charge a residential customer for previously unbilled service or adjust upward a bill previously rendered when the period for the unbilled service or billing adjustment is more than six months prior to the mailing of the bill or the upward adjustment unless the conduct of the customer caused or contributed to the failure of the Company to render timely accurate billing. Unless the customer causes the late billing, the Company shall explain the reason for the late billing and shall advise the customer that suspension/termination of service is not permitted for charges billed in excess of six months after the service was provided. The customer will be given the opportunity to pay the charges under an installment plan on a schedule equal in time to the length of the backbilling period.

## 2.18 IntraLATA Presubscription Implementation Plan

### I. Purpose

The intent of this Plan is to provide a proposal that, upon implementation, would provide customers the ability to select the telecommunications carrier of their choice for routing their intraLATA toll calls.

### II. Carrier Selection Procedures

Applicant will implement the full 2-PIC (Primary Interexchange Carrier) carrier selection methodology. With the full 2-PIC methodology, customers will be able to presubscribe to one telecommunications carrier for interLATA toll calls and presubscribe to the same or a different participating telecommunications carrier, including their existing local exchange company, for all intraLATA toll calls. Orders for changes will be accepted and processed beginning on the implementation date.

Applicant employees who communicate with the public, accept customer orders, and serve in customer service capacities will be trained to explain the process to customers for making PIC changes for intraLATA toll calls. Business Office personnel will be prepared to make changes in customer records based upon requests from customers or carriers and direct customers to their chosen intraLATA carriers. Processes will be in place to provide new customers with an opportunity to choose their intraLATA toll carrier from a list of available carriers.

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### New Customers

Customers who contact Applicant requesting new telephone exchange service will be provided a list of telecommunications carriers available to provide interLATA toll service. Upon implementation of intraLATA toll presubscription, the customer will be provided a second list of carriers, including Applicant, that provide intraLATA toll service in their exchange. The list of intraLATA toll carriers will be presented in a competitively neutral manner. Customers who do not make a positive choice for an intraLATA toll carrier will be identified within Applicant's system as a "no-PIC" and will not be automatically defaulted to a carrier. Customers identified as "no-PIC" within Applicant's systems will be required to dial 10XXX to place intraLATA toll calls until they make an affirmative choice for an intraLATA toll carrier.

### III. Customer Education/Notification

Customers will receive information explaining their opportunity to select an intraLATA carrier a minimum of 30 days in advance of the offering of intraLATA toll dialing parity via a bill message. In addition, during the 30 days following implementation of intraLATA Dialing Parity, customers will receive a bill insert also explaining their opportunity to select an intraLATA carrier. Applicant anticipates that promotional strategies by carriers will contribute to customer awareness of intraLATA toll dialing parity. Customer telephone directories will be updated as new editions are published to reflect the opportunity for customers to choose an intraLATA toll carrier.

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#### IV. Carrier Notification

Current interexchange carriers will be notified of Applicant's intraLATA toll dialing parity implementation via letter approximately 90 days in advance of the proposed implementation date. Carriers should provide a list of exchanges in which they plan to offer intraLATA toll service at least 60 days in advance of Applicant's implementation date. Applicant needs notification in advance to include the carrier on the list of participating carriers in each Applicant exchange. Certified carriers who enter the market after implementation will be added to the list of participating carriers within 30 days of notifying Applicant.

Applicant will provide subscriber listing information to carriers in "readily accessible" tape or electronic formats in a timely manner as requested through the processes that currently exist for the interLATA market. The process includes subscriber listing updates to carriers for new customers who choose that carrier or of existing customers of a carrier who revise their subscriber listing information. In addition, carriers can obtain complete subscriber listings in several formats. The provision of this information is in compliance with FCC Order No. 96-333, Paragraph 389.

Applicant will comply with Part 51, Sections, 305, 307, 325, 327, 329, 331, 333 and 335 of the FCC Order in providing the required information and notice to the public of network changes. Applicant plans to file a public notice with the FCC, with possible migration of the notice to the Internet process as described in Section 329. The notice will include network information as outlined in Section 327. The notice will be provided within the timeframes described in Sections 331-333.

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### SECTION 3 - DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE

#### 3.1 Computation of Charges

- 3.1.1 The total charge for each completed call may be a variable measured charge dependent on the duration, distance and time of day of the call. The total charge for each completed call may also be a fixed charge dependent only on the duration of the call, i.e. a statewide flat rate per minute charge. The variable measured charge is specified as a rate per minute which is applied to each minute. Fractions of a billing increment are rounded up to a full billing increment on a per call basis. Fractions of a cent per minute are rounded up to a full cent on a per call basis.
- 3.1.2 Where mileage bands appear in a rate table, rates for all calls are based upon the airline distance between the originating and terminating points of the call, as determined by the vertical and horizontal coordinates associated with the exchange (the area code and three digit central office code) associated with the originating and terminating telephone numbers. If the Customer obtains access to the Company's network by a dedicated access circuit, that circuit will be assigned an exchange for rating purposes based upon the Customer's main telephone number at the location where the dedicated access circuit terminates. The vertical and horizontal (V & H) coordinates for each exchange and the airline distance between them will be determined according to the V&H Coordinate table contained in AT&T's FCC Tariff No. 10 which is incorporated herein by reference.
- 3.1.3 Timing begins when the called station is answered and two way communication is possible, as determined by standard industry methods generally in use for ascertaining answer, including hardware answer supervision in which the local telephone company sends a signal to the switch or the software utilizing audio tone detection. Recognition of answer supervision is the responsibility of the Underlying Carrier. Timing for each call ends when either party hangs up. The Company will not bill for uncompleted calls.

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### 3.2 Customer Complaints and/or Billing Disputes

Customer inquiries or complaints regarding service or accounting may be in writing or by telephone to the Company at:

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Holland, Ohio 43528  
(866) 983-5624

Any objections to billed charges should be reported promptly to the Company. Adjustments to Customers' bills shall be made to the extent that records are available and/or circumstances exist which reasonably indicate that such charges are not in accordance with approved rates or that an adjustment may otherwise be appropriate. Where overbilling of a subscriber occurs, due either to Company or subscriber error, no liability exists which will require the Company to pay any interest, dividend or other compensation on the amount overbilled.

If notice of a dispute as to charges is not received in writing by the Company, within thirty (30) days after an invoice is rendered, such invoice shall be deemed to be correct and binding upon the Customer.

If a Customer accumulates more than One Dollar of undisputed delinquent Company 800 Service charges, the Company Resp. Org. reserves the right not to honor that Customer's request for a Resp. Org. change until such undisputed charges are paid in full.

### 3.3 Level of Service

A Customer can expect end to end network availability of not less than 99% at all times for all services.

### 3.4 Billing Entity Conditions

When billing functions on behalf of the Company or its intermediary are performed by local exchange telephone companies or others, the payment of charge conditions and regulations of such companies and any regulations imposed upon these companies by regulatory bodies having jurisdiction apply. The Company's name and toll-free telephone number will appear on the Customer's bill.

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### 3.5 Service Offerings

#### 3.5.1 1+ Dialing

The customer dials "1" plus ten digits or dials "101XXXX" followed by "1 + ten digits". This service permits Customers to originate calls via switched or dedicated access lines.

#### 3.5.2 Travel Cards

The Customer utilizes an 11 digit "toll-free" access number established by the Company to access a terminal. Upon receiving a voice prompt, the Customer uses push button dialing to enter an identification code assigned by the Company, and the ten digit number of the called party.

#### 3.5.3 Toll-Free Service

This service is inbound calling only where an 800, 888 or other toll-free prefix number rings into a Customer's premise routed to a specific telephone number or terminated over a dedicated facility.

#### 3.5.4 Blocking Service

##### 1. General

Blocking service is a feature that permits customers to restrict access from their telephone line to various discretionary services. The following blocking options are available to residential and business customers:

- a. 900, 700 Blocking - allows the subscriber to block all calls beginning with the 900 and 700 prefixes (i.e. 900-XXX-XXXX) from being placed.
- b. 976 Central Office Code Blocking - allows the subscriber to block placement of all calls to numbers with a 976 central office code (i.e. XXX-976-XXXX).

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- c. Third Number Billed and Collect Call Restriction - provides the subscriber with a method of denying all third number billed and collect calls to a specific telephone number provided the transmitting operator checks their validation data base.
- d. Toll Restriction (1+ and 0+ Blocking) - provides the subscriber with local dialing capabilities but blocks any customer-dialed call that has a long distance charge associated with it.  
  
Toll Restriction will not block the following types of calls: 911 (Emergency), 1 + 800 (Toll Free), and operator assisted toll calls.
- e. Toll Restriction Plus - provides subscribers with Toll Restriction, as described in 1.d. of this Section, and blocking of 411 calls.
- f. Direct Inward Dialing Blocking (Third Party and Collect Call) - provides business customers who subscribe to DID service to have Third Party and Collect Call Blocking on the number ranges provided by the Company.

## 2. Regulations

- a. The Company will not be liable for any charge incurred when any long distance carrier or alternative operator service provider accepts third number billed or collect calls.
- b. Blocking Service is available where equipment and facilities permit.

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3. Rates and Charges

a. Recurring and Nonrecurring Charges

The following rates and charges are in addition to all other applicable rates and charges for the facilities furnished.

	Nonrecurring Charge	
	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
900 and 700 Blocking		
- Residential	\$0.00	\$0.00
- Business (up to 200 lines)	\$0.00	\$10.00
976 Central Office Code Blocking		
- Residential	\$0.00	\$0.00
- Business (up to 200 lines)	\$0.00	\$10.00

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The nonrecurring charge for initial request of one and two-line business customers is waived for 90 days from the customer's service establishment date.



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Third Number Billed and Collect Call Restriction	Monthly Charges	
	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
- Residential	\$0.00	\$5.00
- Business (up to 200 lines)	\$0.00	\$5.00
Toll Restriction		
- Residential	\$0.01	\$5.00
- Business (up to 200 lines)	\$0.01	\$5.00
Toll Restriction Plus		
- Residential	\$0.01	\$5.00
- Business (up to 200 lines)	\$0.01	\$5.00
Direct Inward Dialing Blocking (Third Party and Collect Call)		
- Initial Activation	\$0.01	\$50.00
- Subsequent Activation (per line)	\$0.01	\$10.00

- b. Pricing for Blocking Service for a business customer with more than 200 lines will be based on the costs incurred by Company to provide the service.

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3.5.5 Directory Assistance.

Access to long distance directory assistance is obtained by dialing 1 + 555-1212 for listings within the originating area code and 1 + (area code) + 555-1212 for other listings. When more than one number is requested in a single call, a charge will apply for each number requested. A charge will be applicable for each number requested, whether or not the number is listed or published.

3.5.6 Specialized Pricing Arrangements.

Customized service packages and competitive pricing packages at negotiated rates may be furnished on a case-by-case basis in response to requests by Customers to the Company for proposals or for competitive bids. Service offered under this tariff provision will be provided to Customers pursuant to contract. Unless otherwise specified, the regulations for such arrangements are in addition to the applicable regulations and prices in other sections of the tariff. Specialized rates or charges will be made available to similarly situated Customers on a non-discriminatory basis.

3.5.7 Emergency Call Handling Procedures  
Emergency "911" calls are not routed to company but are completed through the local network at no charge.

3.5.8 Promotional Offerings

The Company may, from time to time, make promotional offerings to enhance the marketing of its services. These offerings may be limited to certain dates, times and locations. The Company will notify the Commission of such offerings as required by Commission rules and regulations.

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## SECTION 4 - RATES

### 4.1 Minimum and Maximum Rates

This tariff contains minimum and maximum rates pursuant to the New York State Public Service Commission's flexible pricing plan. Rates and service changes may be effective on one days notice to affected customers and to the Commission. Customers will have until the conclusion of the billing cycle for which the change in rate was effective to terminate service or decline to accept service at the new rate. If the customer so terminates service, recurring rate elements will be billed at the old rate for the remainder of the billing cycle in which the change is made. If the customer does not terminate service, rates for non-recurring elements will change as of the date specified by the Company. In all cases, all other rate elements, including usage and non-recurring charges, will change as of the date specified by the Company. Acceptance of service beyond the billing cycle in which the change occurred shall be deemed full acceptance by the customer of the new rate.

### 4.2 1 + Dialing

The Company will charge a flat rate per minute and a monthly service charge as follows:

<u>Min.</u>	<u>Max.</u>
\$.05	\$.50 - rate per minute
\$1.00	\$10.00 - per month service charge

### 4.3 Travel Cards

The Company will charge a flat rate per minute and a per call service charge as follows:

<u>Min.</u>	<u>Max.</u>
\$.05	\$1.00 - rate per minute
\$.05	\$1.00 - per call service charge

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#### 4.4 Toll-Free Service

The Company will charge a flat rate per minute and a monthly service charge per number as follows:

<u>Min.</u>	<u>Max.</u>
\$ .05	\$1.00 - rate per minute
	\$1.00        \$25.00 - per month service charge per number

#### 4.5 Carrier Cost Recovery Charge

In order to recover costs the Company incurs with regard to TeleRelay service, National Number Portability and Federal Regulatory fees, a \$.99 monthly surcharge will be assessed per account per month. This surcharge will appear as a separate line item on your invoice.

#### 4.6 Rate Periods

Day:	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.*, Monday - Friday
Evening:	5 p.m. - 11 p.m.*, Sunday - Friday
Night:	11 p.m. - 8 a.m.*, All Days
Weekend:	8 a.m. - 11 p.m.*, Saturday
Weekend:	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.*, Sunday

\* To, but not including

When a message spans more than one rate period, total charges for the minutes in each rate period are calculated and the results for each rate period are totaled to obtain the total message charge. If the calculation results in a fractional charge, the amount will be rounded up to the higher cent.

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4.7 Directory Assistance Charges

A charge per number will be:

<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
\$0.10	\$2.00

In no event shall such charges exceed those charged by AT&T and Verizon.

4.8 Quarterly Payment Plan

The Company shall offer any residential customer, sixty-two years of age or older, a plan for payment on a quarterly basis of charges for service rendered, provided that such customer's average annual billing, as projected from at least one full year's experience as a customer of Company, or based on estimates of future use in the case of a new customer, is not more than \$150.

4.9 Payphone Dial Around Surcharge

A dial around surcharge of \$.30 per call will be added to any completed INTRASTATE toll access code and subscriber toll-free 800/888 type calls placed from a public or semi-public payphone.

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## SECTION 5 – DISCOUNTS SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES DISCOUNT PROGRAM

### 5.1. GENERAL

The Schools and Libraries Discount Program permits eligible schools (public and private, grades Kindergarten through 12) and libraries to purchase the Company services offered in this tariff at a discounted rate, in accordance with the Rules adopted by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in its Universal Service Order 97-157, issued May 8, 1997 and the New York State Public Service Commission in its Opinion and Order 97-11 Adopting Discounts for Services for Schools and Libraries, issued June 25, 1997. The Rules are codified at 47 Code of Federal Regulation (C.F.R.) 54.500 et. seq.

As indicated in the Rules, the discounts will be between 20 and 90 percent of the pre-discount price, which is the price of services to schools and libraries prior to application of a discount. The level of discount will be based on an eligible school or library's level of economic disadvantage and by its location in either an urban or rural area. A school's level of economic disadvantage will be determined by the percentage of its students eligible for participation in the national school lunch program, and a library's level of economic disadvantage will be calculated on the basis of school lunch eligibility in the public school district in which the library is located. A non-public school may use either eligibility for the national school lunch program or other federally approved alternative measures to determine its level of economic disadvantage. To be eligible for the discount, schools and libraries will be required to comply with the terms and conditions set forth in the Rules. Discounts are available only to the extent that they are funded by the universal service fund. Schools and libraries may aggregate demand with other eligible entities to create a consortium.

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## 5.2. REGULATIONS

### 5.2.1. Obligation of eligible schools and libraries

#### a. Request for Service

1. Schools and libraries and consortia shall participate in a competitive bidding process for all services eligible for discounts, in accordance with any state and local procurement rules.
2. Schools and libraries and consortia shall submit requests for services to the Schools and Libraries Corporation, as designated by the FCC, and follow established procedures.
3. Services requested will be used for educational purposes.
4. Services will not be sold, resold or transferred in consideration for money or any other thing of value.

### 5.2.2. Obligations of the Company

- a. The Company will offer discounts to eligible schools and libraries on commercially available telecommunications services contained in this tariff. Those services contained in this tariff which are excluded from the discount program, in accordance with the Rules are included as an attachment to this tariff.
- b. The Company will offer services to eligible schools, libraries and consortia at prices no higher than the lowest price it charges to similarly situated non-residential customers for similar services (lowest corresponding price).
- c. In competitive bidding situations, the Company may offer flexible pricing or rates other than in this tariff, where specific flexible pricing arrangements are allowed, subject to New York State Public Service Commission approval.

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### 5.3. DISCOUNTED RATES FOR SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES

- 5.3.1. Discounts for eligible schools and libraries and consortia shall be set as a percentage from the pre-discount price, which is the price of services to schools and libraries prior to application of a discount.
- 5.3.2. The discount rate will be applied to eligible intrastate services purchased by eligible schools, libraries, or consortia.
- 5.3.3. The discount rate is based on each school or library's level of economic disadvantage as determined in accordance with the FCC Order or other federally approved alternative measures (as permitted by the Rules) and by its location in either an urban or rural area.
- 5.3.4. The discount matrix for eligible schools, libraries and consortia is included as an attachment to this tariff.

#### A. SERVICES INELIGIBLE FOR SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES DISCOUNT

1. Voice Mail Services

#### B. SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES DISCOUNT MATRIX

		<u>% DISCOUNT LEVEL</u>	
<u>HOW DISADVANTAGED</u>	Urban	Rural	
	<u>discount</u>	<u>discount</u>	
% of students eligible for national school lunch program			
1		20	25
1-19		40	50
20-34	50	60	
35-49	60	70	
50-74	80	80	
75-100	90	90	



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## 5.4 GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS SUPPORT PROGRAM

### 5.4.1. GENERAL

The purpose of the Health Care Providers Support Program is to enable public and non-profit rural health care providers to have access to telecommunications services necessary for the provision of health care services at rates comparable to those paid for similar services in urban areas. The Health Care Providers Support Program offers eligible public and non-profit health care providers located in rural areas reduced rates for company intrastate services, available in this Tariff. Such services must be purchased in accordance with the Rules adopted by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in its Universal Service Order 97-157, issued May 8, 1997 and the New York State Public Service Commission in its Order in Cases 94-C-0095 and 28425, issued November 4, 1997. The FCC Rules are codified at 47 Code of Federal Regulation (C.F.R) 54.601 et. seq., and any amendments made thereto.

### 5.4.2. REGULATIONS

- a. To be eligible for the reduced rates, rural health care providers are required to comply with the terms and conditions set forth in the FCC Rules.
- b. Reduced rates are available only to the extent that they are funded by the federal universal service fund.
- c. Eligible rural health care providers may aggregate demand with other entities to create a consortium. Universal service support shall apply only to the portion of eligible services used by an eligible health care provider.
- d. Responsibility of eligible health care providers
  1. Rural health care providers and consortia shall participate in a competitive bidding process for all services eligible for reduced rates in accordance with any state and local procurement rules.
  2. Rural health care providers and consortia shall submit requests for services to the program Administrator, as designated by the FCC, and follow established procedures.

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3. Services requested must be used for purposes related to the provision of health care services or instruction that the health care provider is legally authorized to provide under the law.
4. A health care provider that cannot obtain toll free access to an Internet service provider and who is eligible for support for limited toll-free access under the Rules must certify that it lacks toll-free Internet access and that it is an eligible health care provider.
5. Services cannot be sold, resold, or transferred in consideration for money or any other thing of value.

e. Responsibility of the Company

1. The Company shall offer the rates and charges as specified in Section 3, to eligible health care providers to the extent that facilities and services are available and offered in the tariffs specified in 1. preceding.
2. The Company shall offer services to eligible rural health care providers and consortia at prices no higher than the highest urban rate as defined in the FCC Order and Rules.
3. In competitive bidding situations, where specific flexible pricing arrangements are allowed, the Company may offer flexible pricing (to determine the reduced rate) subject to New York State Public Service Commission approval.

#### 5.4.3. RATES AND CHARGES

The following price adjustments will be available to eligible rural health care providers, except subparagraph c., which shall be available to all eligible health care providers, regardless of location:

- a. A reduced rate for telecommunications services, using a bandwidth capacity of up to 1.544 Mbps, not to exceed the highest tariffed or publicly available rate charged to a commercial customer for a similar service provided over the same distance in the nearest city in New York State with a population of at least 50,000.

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- b. An exemption from some mileage charges for any telecommunications services, using a bandwidth capacity of up to 1.544 Mbps, that is necessary for the provision of health care services. The exempted mileage includes the distance between the rural health care provider and the most distant perimeter of the nearest city in New York State with a population of 50,000 or more, less the standard urban distance, which is the maximum average diameter of all cities with population of 50,000 or more in the state.
- c. Each eligible health care provider that cannot obtain toll-free access to an Internet service provider is entitled to receive toll charge credits for toll charges imposed for connecting to an Internet service provider as per the FCC Rules. Such toll charge credits are available pursuant to applicable toll tariffs.

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## SECTION 6 - Telecommunications Service Priority

### 6.1. General

a. The Telecommunications Service Priority (TSP) Program is a federal program used to identify and prioritize telecommunications services that support national security or emergency preparedness (NS/EP) missions.

NS/EP services are defined as those telecommunications services which are used to maintain a state of readiness or respond to and manage any event or crisis which causes or could cause injury or harm to the population, damage or loss to property, or degrades or threatens the NS/EP posture of the United States.

TSP restoration and/or provisioning shall be provided in accordance with Part 64, Appendix A of the Federal Communications Commission's Rules and Regulations (47 C.F.R.), and the "Service Vendor Handbook For The Telecommunications Service Priority (TSP) Program" and the "Service User Manual for the Telecommunications Service Priority (TSP) System" (NCS Manual 3-1-1) (Service User Manual) issued and updated as necessary by the Office of Priority Telecommunications (OPT) of the National Communications System. Any changes to or reissuance of these regulations or manuals supersede tariff language contained herein.

b. The TSP program has two components, restoration and provisioning.

i. A restoration priority is applied to new or existing telecommunications services to ensure restoration before any other services during a service outage. TSP restoration priorities must be requested and assigned before a service outage occurs.

ii. A provisioning priority is obtained to facilitate priority installation of new telecommunications services during a service outage. Provisioning on a priority basis becomes necessary when an end-user has an urgent requirement for a new NS/EP service that must be installed immediately or by a specific due date that can be met only by a shorter than standard or expedited Company provisioning time frame. As a matter of general practice, existing TSP services will be restored before provisioning new TSP services.

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## 6.2. TSP Request Process – Restoration

To request a TSP restoration priority assignment, a prospective TSP user must:

- a. determine that the user's telecommunications service supports an NS/EP function under one of the following four TSP categories.
  1. National Security Leadership
  2. National Security Posture and U.S. Population Attack Warning
  3. Public Health, Safety, and Maintenance of Law and Order
  4. Public Welfare and Maintenance of National Economic Posture
- b. Identify the priority level to be requested for the telecommunications service. The priority level is determined by the end-user's TSP category and service profile. The service profile defines the user's level of support to the portion of the telecommunications service that the user owns and operates, such as customer premises equipment or wiring. The five levels of priority and seven element groups that define the service profile are contained in the Service User Manual.
- c. Complete the TSP Request for Service Users form (SF 315) available on the National Communications System (NCS) website (<http://tsp.ncs.gov/>).
- d. For non-federal users, have their TSP requests approved by a federal agency sponsor. Non-federal users should contact the OPT, at the NCS website (<http://tsp.ncs.gov/>), for information on identifying a sponsor for TSP requests.
- e. Submit the SF 315 to the OPT.
- f. Upon receipt of the TSP Authorization Code from the OPT, notify the Company, and include the TSP Authorization Code in any service order to the Company requesting restoration of NS/EP services.

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### 6.3. TSP Request Process – Provisioning

To request a TSP provisioning priority assignment, a prospective TSP user must follow the same steps listed in 2a. above for restoration priority assignment except for the following differences. The user should:

- a. Certify that its telecommunications service is an Emergency service. Emergency services are those that support one of the NS/EP functions listed in 2a(a) above and are so critical that they must be provisioned at the earliest possible time, without regard to cost to the user.
- b. Verify that the Company cannot meet the service due date without a TSP assignment.
- c. Obtain approval from the end-user's invocation official to request a provisioning priority. Invocation officials are designated individuals with the authority to request TSP provisioning for a telecommunications service and include the head or director of a federal agency, commander of a unified/specified military command, chief of a military service, commander of a major military command, or state governor.

### 6.4. Responsibilities of the End-User

End-users or entities acting on their behalf must perform the following:

- a. Identify telecommunications services requiring priority.
- b. Request, justify, and revalidate all priority level assignments. Revalidation must be completed every 2 years, and must be done before expiration of the end-user's TSP Authorization Code(s).
- c. Accept TSP services by the service due dates.
- d. Have Customer Premises Equipment (CPE) and Customer Premises Wiring (CPW) available by the requested service due date and ensure (through contractual means or otherwise) priority treatment for CPE and CPW necessary for end-to-end service continuity.
- e. Pay the Company any authorized costs associated with priority services.

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f. Report to the Company any failed or unusable services with priority levels.

g. Designate a 24-hour point of contact for each TSP request and apprise the OPT.

h. Cooperate with the OPT during reconciliation (comparison of NS/EP service information and resolution of any identified discrepancies) and revalidation.

#### 6.4.1. Responsibilities of the Company

The Company will perform the following:

- a. Provide TSP service only after receipt of a TSP authorization code.
- b. Revoke TSP services at the direction of the end-user or OPT.
- c. Ensure that TSP Program priorities supersede any other telecommunications priority that may be provided (other than control services and order wires).
- d. Designate a 24-hour point of contact to receive reports of TSP service outages from TSP service users.
- e. Designate a 24-hour point of contact to coordinate TSP processes with the OPT.
- f. Confirm completion of TSP service order activity to the OPT.
- g. Participate in reconciliation of TSP information at the request of the OPT.
- h. Ensure that all subcontractors complete reconciliation of TSP information with the service vendor.
- i. Ensure that other carriers supplying underlying facilities are provided information necessary to implement priority treatment of facilities that support NS/EP services.
- j. Assist in ensuring that priority level assignments of NS/EP services are accurately identified "end-to-end" by providing to subcontractors and interconnecting carriers the restoration priority level assigned to a service.

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- k. Disclose content of the NS/EP TSP database only as may be required by law.
- l. Comply with regulations and procedures supplemental to and consistent with guidelines issued by the OPT.

## 6.5 Preemption

When spare facilities are not available, it may be necessary for the Company to preempt the facilities required to provision or restore a TSP service. When preemption is necessary, non-TSP services may be preempted based on the Company's best judgment. If no suitable spare or non-TSP services are available, the Company may preempt an existing TSP service to restore a TSP service with a higher restoration priority assignment. When preemption is necessary, prior consent of the service user whose service will be preempted is not required; however, the Company will make every reasonable effort to notify the preempted customer of the action to be taken.



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## SECTION 7 – Critical Facilities Administration Service

### 7.1. Program Overview

- a. Facilities-based carriers are responsible to provide data on the physical path of qualified circuits to customers who request such information. Such carriers are required to maintain facilities associated with qualified circuits in such a manner as to ensure that notification of a change in the physical routing of a qualifying circuit is communicated quickly to the affected customer, and the physical path data promptly updated. Such carriers will maintain the data and establish appropriate methods of identification and authentication to secure the data and restrict access by each customer to information relative to that customer's qualifying circuits.
- b. Customers are required to demonstrate for each qualifying circuit that the circuit has been registered under the federal Telecommunications Service Priority program in order to participate.

### 7.2. Customer Obligations

Customers participating under the Critical Facilities Administration program will be required to:

- a. Identify critical facilities by enrolling circuits in the federal Telecommunications Service Priority program and demonstrating the sponsorship of a federal agency supporting the designation of those circuits as qualifying under the federal Telecommunications Service Priority program. Such circuits will be referred to as "qualifying circuits."
- b. Subscribe to the Critical Facilities Administration service offered by their carrier, and identify which qualifying circuits it wishes to enroll in the service. Such circuits will be referred to as "subscribed circuits."

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### 7.3. Carrier Obligations

Facilities-based carriers will be obligated to identify the physical path of each subscribed circuit as follows:

- a. Physical path information will be provided by reference to the latitude and longitude coordinates of suitable points along the circuit's path (e.g., cable entrances to buildings, manholes, riser poles, crossboxes, carrier equipment cabinets, and other circuit access points in the outside plant of the carrier) so as to allow the customer to ascertain with a reasonable degree of accuracy the actual physical path of each subscribed circuit.
- b. Physical path information for newly provisioned subscribed circuits is to be available to the customer within 5 business days after the circuit has been installed, and within 15 business days for existing, in-place subscribed circuits.
- c. Any planned moves, changes, or rearrangements that affect the physical path of a subscribed circuit are to be communicated at least 24 hours in advance to the customer, and information related to a move, change, or rearrangement that was as a result of unplanned activity is to be provided within 24 hours of the change.
- d. Updated information regarding the revised physical path of subscribed circuits would be available to the customer within 5 business days for planned actions, and within 15 business days for unplanned activities.
- e. Provision of the service would be suspended altogether in the instance of a major telephone outage. Once restored to service, current physical path information for a subscribed circuit would be developed and made available to the customer within ninety days of the restoration of service.
- f. The carrier must establish a secure database or other means that would allow the customer to obtain information of the physical path for only its subscribed circuits, subject to appropriate authentication and authorization. Where practicable, the information should be made available on a 24 hour by seven day basis.

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#### 7.4 Rates

Rates for CFA are based upon the time required to collect the circuit path data. The company will give the customer a good faith estimates of the time period needed to perform the requested service. The customer will be billed those charges, along with the tariff charges established by any connecting carrier for the service.

Per Hour

\$ICB

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## SECTION 8 – New York Relay Service

### 8.1. General

The Company will provide access to a telephone relay center for New York Relay Service. The service permits telephone communications between hearing and/or speech impaired individuals who must use a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) or a Teletypewriter (TTY) and individuals with normal hearing and speech. The Relay Service can be reached by dialing an 800 number. Specific 800 numbers have been designated for both impaired and non-impaired customers to use.

### 8.2. Regulations

- a. Only intrastate calls can be completed using the New York Relay Service under the terms and conditions of this tariff.
- b. Charges for calls placed through the Relay Service will be billed as if direct distance dialed (DDD) from the point of origination to the point of termination. The actual routing of the call does not affect billing.
- c. Calls through the Relay Service may be billed to a third number only if that number is within New York State. Calls may also be billed to calling cards issued by the Company or other carriers who may choose to participate in this service.
- d. The following calls may not be placed through the Relay Service:
  1. calls to informational recordings and group bridging service;
  2. calls to time or weather recorded messages;
  3. station sent paid calls from coin telephones; and
  4. operator-handled conference service and other teleconference calls.

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### 8.3. Liability

The Company contracts with an outside provider for the provision of this service. The outside provider has complete control over the provision of the service except for the facilities provided directly by the Company. In addition to other provisions of this Tariff dealing with liability, in the absence of gross negligence or willful misconduct on the part of the Company, the Company shall not be liable for and the customer, by using the service, agrees to release, defend and hold harmless for all damages, whether direct, incidental or consequential, whether suffered, made, instituted or asserted by the customer or by any other person, for any loss or destruction of any property, whatsoever whether covered by the customer or others, or for any personal injury to or death of, any person. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, in no event shall the Company be liable for any special, incidental, consequential, exemplary, or punitive damages of any nature whatsoever.

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