

Sterling Telecom, Inc.
PSC No. 2 – Telephone
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This tariff supersedes and replaces in its entirety, the PSC No. 2 – Telephone, originally filed by Sterling Telecom, LLC. with the Public Service Commission, State of New York.

STERLING TELECOM, INC.

REGULATIONS AND SCHEDULE OF INTRASTATE CHARGES
APPLYING TO COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES WITHIN
THE STATE OF NEW YORK

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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

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CONCURRING CARRIERS

There are no Concurring Carriers.

CONNECTING CARRIERS

There are no Connecting Carriers.

OTHER PARTICIPATING CARRIERS

There are no Other Participating Carriers.

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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
- (S) Indicates Incorporation of New Material in a Supplement
- (X) Indicates Change of Text Only

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SECTION 1 - GENERAL REGULATIONS

1.1 APPLICATION OF TARIFF

This tariff contains regulations, rates and charges applicable to the provision of carrier common line, switched access, and special access services, and other miscellaneous services, hereinafter referred to collectively as service(s) provided by Sterling Telecom, Inc. 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.

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SECTION 1 - GENERAL REGULATIONS (Cont'd)

1.2 DEFINITIONS

ACCESS CODE - Denotes a uniform five or seven digit 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.

AGENCY - For 911 or E911 service, the government agency(s) designated as having responsibility for the control and staffing of the emergency report center.

ALTERNATE ROUTING ("AR") - Allows E911 calls to be routed to a designated alternate location if (1) all E911 exchange lines to the primary PSAP (see definition of PSAP below) are busy, or (2) the primary PSAP closes down for a period (night service).

ANALOG - A transmission method employing a continuous (rather than a pulsed or digital) electrical signal that varies in amplitude or frequency in response to changes of sound, light, position, etc., impressed on a transducer in the sending device.

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.

APARTMENTS - A building or group of buildings used primarily to provide complete residential apartments but not lodging on a day-to-day basis.

ASCII - American Standard Code for Information Interchange. An eight-level code for data transfer adopted by the American Standards Association.

ASYNCHRONOUS - Transmission in which each information character is individually synchronized usually by the use of start-stop elements. The gap between each character is not of a fixed length.

AUTHORIZED USER - A person, corporation or other entity that is authorized by the Company's customer to utilize service provided by the Company to the customer. The customer is responsible for all charges incurred by an Authorized User

ATTENDANT - An operator of a PBX console or telephone switchboard.

AUTOMATIC LOCATION IDENTIFICATION ("ALI") - The name and address associated with the calling party's telephone number (identified by ANI as defined below) is forwarded to the PSAP for display. Additional telephones with the same number as the calling party's (secondary locations, off premises, etc.) will be identified with the address of the telephone number at the main location.

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SECTION 1 - GENERAL REGULATIONS (Cont'd)

1.2 DEFINITIONS (Cont'd)

AUTOMATIC NUMBER IDENTIFICATION ("ANI") - A system whereby the calling party's telephone number is identified and sent forward with the call record for routing and billing purposes. E911 Service makes use of this system.

BIT - The smallest unit of information in the binary system of notation.

BUILDING - A structure enclosed within exterior walls or firewalls, built, erected and framed of component structural parts and designed for permanent occupancy.

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

CALL ORIGINATION - The point in time when the exchange network facility are initially allocated for the establishment of a specific call.

CALL TERMINATION - The point in time when the exchange network facility allocated to a specific call is released for reuse by the network.

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.

CENTRAL OFFICE LINE - A line providing direct or indirect access from a telephone or switchboard to a central office. Central office lines subject to PBX rate treatment are referred to as central office trunks.

CHANNEL - A point-to-point bi-directional path for digital transmission. A channel may be furnished in such a manner as the Company may elect, whether by wire, fiber optics, radio or a combination thereof and whether or not by means of single physical facility or route. One 1.544 Mbps Service is equivalent to 24 channels.

CHANNEL CONVERSION - The termination of 1.544. Mbps Service at a customer's location with conversion of the digital signal to 24 analog voice grade circuits. Channel Conversion can be furnished by the customer.

CHANNEL SERVICE UNIT ("CSU") - The equipment located at the customer's premises, which terminates each 1.544 Mbps Digital Loop and performs such functions as proper termination of facilities, regeneration of signals, recognition and correction of signal format errors and provides remote loop-back capability.

COLLEGE - An establishment for higher education authorized to confer degrees where lodging for the students is maintained on the premises.

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SECTION 1 - GENERAL REGULATIONS (Cont'd)

1.2 DEFINITIONS (Cont'd)

COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS - Channels and other facilities which are capable of two-way communications between subscriber -provided terminal equipment or Telephone Company stations, even when not connected to exchange and message toll communications service.

COMMISSION - New York State Public Service Commission.

COMPANY - Refers to Sterling Telecom, Inc., unless otherwise clearly indicated from the context.

CUSTOMER - The person, firm, corporation, or other entity, which orders service pursuant to this Tariff and utilizes service provided under Tariff by the Company. A customer is responsible for the payment of charges and for compliance with all terms of the Company's Tariff.

CUSTOMER PREMISES EQUIPMENT (CPE) - Equipment provided by the customer for use with the Company's services. CPE can include a station set, facsimile machine, key system, PBX, or other communication system.

DEFAULT ROUTING ("DR") - When an incoming E911 call cannot be selectively routed due to an ANI failure, garbled digits or other causes, such incoming calls are routed from the E911 Control Office to a default PSAP. Each incoming E911 facility group to the Control Office is assigned to a designated default PSAP.

DEMARCATIION POINT - The physical dividing point between the Company's network and the customer.

DIAL PULSE ("DP") - The pulse type employed by a rotary dial station set.

DIRECT INWARD DIAL ("DID") - A service attribute that routes incoming calls directly to stations, bypassing a central answer point.

DIRECT OUTWARD DIAL ("DOD") - A service attribute that allows individual station users to access and dial outside numbers directly.

DIGITAL - A method of storing, processing and transmitting information through the use of distinct electronic or optical pulses that represent the binary digits (bits) 0 and 1. Digital transmission/switching technologies employ a sequence of discrete, individually distinct pulses to represent information, as opposed to the continuously variable signal of analog technologies.

DUAL TONE MULTI-FREQUENCY ("DTMF") - The pulse type employed by tone dial station sets. (Touch-tone)

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SECTION 1 - GENERAL REGULATIONS (Cont'd)

1.2 DEFINITIONS (Cont'd)

EMERGENCY SERVICE NUMBER ("ESN") - A unique code, assigned by the Company, used to define specific combinations of police, fire and/or ambulance jurisdictions, or any other authorized agency, which are designated by the customer.

E911 SERVICE AREA - The geographic area in which the government agency will respond to all E911 calls and dispatch appropriate emergency assistance.

E911 CUSTOMER = A governmental agency that is the customer of record and is responsible for all negotiations, operations and payment of bills in connection with the provision of E911 service.

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.

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.

ERROR - A discrepancy or unintentional deviation by the Company from what is correct or true. An "error", can also be an omission in records.

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.

EXCHANGE ACCESS LINE - A central office line furnished for direct or indirect access to the exchange system.

EXCHANGE SERVICE - The provision to the subscriber of access to the exchange system for the purpose of sending and receiving calls. This access is achieved through the provision of a central office line (exchange access line) between the central office and the subscriber's premises.

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.

FINAL ACCOUNT - A customer whose service has been disconnected who has outstanding charges still owed to the Company.

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SECTION 1 - GENERAL REGULATIONS (Cont'd)

1.2 DEFINITIONS (Cont'd)

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.

FLAT RATE SERVICE - The type of exchange service provided at a monthly rate with an unlimited number of calls within a specified primary calling area.

GROUND START - Describes the signaling method between the PBX/key system interface and the Company's switch. It is the signal requesting service.

HANDICAPPED PERSON - A person, who is legally blind, visually handicapped or physically handicapped, under the following definitions from the Federal Register (Vol. 35 #126 dated June 30, 1970).

Legally Blind - a person whose visual acuity is 20/200 or less in the better eye with correcting glasses, or whose widest diameter of visual field subtends an angular distance no greater than 20 degrees.

Visually Handicapped - a person whose visual disability, with correction and regardless of optical measurement with respect to legal blindness, are certified as unable to read normal printed material.

Physically Handicapped - a person who is certified by competent authority as unable to read or use ordinary printed materials as a result of physical limitation, or a person whose disabling condition causes difficulty with hand and finger coordination and use of a coin telephone.

The term "Handicapped Person", when used in connection with a person having a speech or hearing impairment, which requires that they communicate over telephone facilities other than, voice is defined below:

Hearing - a person with binaural hearing impairment of 60% or higher on the basis of the procedure developed by the American Academy of Otolaryngology (A.A.O.) as set forth in "Guide for Conservation of Hearing in Noise" 38-43, A.A.O., 1973; "guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment" 103-107, American Medical Association, 1971.

Speech - a person with 65% or higher of impairment on the basis of the procedure recommended by the American Medical Association's Committee on Rating of Mental and Physical Impairment to evaluate speech impairment as to three categories: audibility, intelligibility and functional efficiency, as set forth in "Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment" 109-III, American Medical Association, 1971.

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SECTION 1 - GENERAL REGULATIONS (Cont'd)

1.2 DEFINITIONS (Cont'd)

HOSPITAL - An establishment for treatment of human patients by members of the medical profession where lodging for the patients is maintained on the premises.

HOTEL - An establishment offering lodging with or without meals to the general public on a day-to-day basis.

INCOMING SERVICE GROUP - Two or more central office lines arranged so that a call to the First line is completed to a succeeding line in the group when the first line is in use.

INTERCONNECTION - The connection of network, equipment, or facilities of the Telephone Company with the network, equipment, facilities of another TC for the purpose of transmission and routing of telephone exchange service traffic and exchange access traffic.

INTERFACE - That point on the premises of the subscriber at which provision is made for connection of facilities provided by someone other than the Company to facilities provided by the Company.

INTEROFFICE MILEAGE - The segment of a line, which extends between the central offices serving the originating and terminating points.

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

INTERRUPTION - The inability to complete calls, either incoming or outgoing or both, due to Company facilities malfunction or human errors.

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.

JOINT USER - A person, firm, or corporation, which uses the telephone service of a subscriber as provided in Section 1 of the Tariff.

KILOBIT - One thousand bits.

LATA - Local Access and Transport Area. The area within which the Company provides local and long distance ("intraLATA") service. For call to numbers outside this area ("interLATA") service is provided by long distance companies.

LINK - The physical facility from the network interface on an end-user's or carrier's premises to the point of interconnection on the main distribution frame of the Company's central office.

SECTION 1 - GENERAL REGULATIONS (Cont'd)

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1.2 DEFINITIONS (Cont'd)

LEASED CHANNEL - A non-switched electrical path used for connection of equipment furnished by the subscriber to equipment furnished by the subscriber or the Company for a specific purpose.

LOCAL CALL - A call, which, if placed by a customer over the facilities of the Company, is not rated as a toll call.

LOCAL CALLING AREA - The area, consisting of one or more central office districts, within which a subscriber for exchange service may make telephone calls without a toll charge.

LOCAL SERVICE - Telephone exchange service within a local calling area.

LOOP START - Describes the signaling between the terminal equipment or PBX/key system interface and the Company's switch. It is the signal requesting service.

LOOPS - Segments of a line, which extend from the serving central office to the originating and to the terminating point.

MEGABIT - One million bits.

MESSAGE - A Message is a Call as defined above.

MESSAGE RATE SERVICE - A type of exchange service provided at a monthly rate with an additional charge for local calling based on the usage of the local network. One completed call is equal to one message.

MOVE - The disconnection of existing equipment at one location and reconnection of the same equipment at a new location in the same building or in a different building on the same premises.

MULTI-FREQUENCY ("MF") - An inter-machine pulse-type used for signaling between telephone company switches, or between telephone company switches and PBX/key systems.

MULTILINE HUNT - A method of call signaling by which a call placed to one number is subsequently routed to one or more alternative numbers when the called number is busy.

NETWORK CONTROL SIGNALING - The transmission of signals used in the telecommunications system which perform functions such as supervision (control, status and charging signals), address signaling (e.g. dialing), calling and called number identification, audible tone signals (call progress signals indicating re-order or busy conditions, alerting) to control the operation of switching machines in the telecommunications system.

NETWORK CONTROL SIGNALING UNIT - The terminal equipment furnished, installed and maintained by the Telephone Company for the provision of network control signaling

SECTION 1 - GENERAL REGULATIONS (Cont'd)

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1.2 DEFINITIONS (Cont'd)

NODE - The location to which digital channels are routed and where access is provided to such lines and associated equipment for testing.

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.

PBX - A private branch exchange.

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.

PORT - A connection to the switching network with one or more voice grade communications channels, each with a unique network address (telephone number) dedicated to the customer. A port connects a link to the public switched network.

PREMISES - The space occupied by a customer or authorized user in a building or buildings or contiguous property not separated by a public right of way.

PRIVATE BRANCH EXCHANGE SERVICE - Service providing facilities for connecting central office trunks and tie lines to PBX stations, and for interconnecting PBX station lines by means of a switchboard or dial apparatus.

PUBLIC ACCESS LINE SERVICE - Service providing facilities for a customer owned coin operated telephone ("COCOT").

PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT ("PSAP") - An answering location for E911 calls originating in a given area. A PSAP may be designated as primary or secondary, which refers to the order in which calls are directed for answering. Primary PSAPs respond first; secondary PSAPs receive calls on a transfer basis only and generally serve as a centralized answering location for a particular type of emergency call.

RATE CENTER - A geographic reference point with specific coordinates on a map used for determining mileage when calculating charges.

REFERRAL PERIOD - The time frame during which calls to a number which has been changed will be sent to a recording which will inform the caller of the new number.

RESALE OF SERVICE - The subscription to communications service and facilities by one entity and the reoffering of communications service to others (with or without `adding value') for profit.

SECTION 1 - GENERAL REGULATIONS (Cont'd)

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1.2 DEFINITIONS (Cont'd)

SAME PREMISES - All space in the same building in which one subscriber has the right of occupancy, and all space in different buildings on contiguous property when occupied solely by the same subscriber. Foyers, hallways and other space for the common use of all occupants of a building are considered the premises of the operator of the building.

SELECTIVE ROUTING ("SR") - A feature that routes an E911 call from a Central Office to the designated primary PSAP based upon the identified number of the calling party.

SERVING CENTRAL OFFICE - The central office from which local service is furnished.

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

SHARING - An arrangement in which several users collectively use communications service and facilities provided by a carrier, with each user paying a pro-rata share of the communication related costs.

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

STATION - Each telephone on a line and where no telephone associated with the line is provided on the same premises and in the same building, the first termination in station key equipment or a jack for use with a portable telephone.

SUSPENSION - Suspension of service for nonpayment is interruption of outgoing service only. Suspension of service at the subscriber's request is interruption of both incoming and outgoing service.

SYNCHRONOUS - Transmission in which there is a constant time interval between bits, characters or events.

T-1 SYSTEM - A type of digital carrier system transmitting voice or data at 1.544 Mbps. A T-1 carrier can handle up to 24 multiplexed 64 Kbps digital voice/data channels. A T-1 carrier system can use metallic cable, microwave radio or optical fiber as transmission media.

TANDEM - The customer designated location, in the same LATA as the Telephone Company STP, where SS7 signaling information is exchanged between the Telephone Company and the telecommunications carrier. Tandems switches are Class 4 switches, which provide interconnection between other switches in the network.

TELEPHONE GRADE LINES - Lines furnished for voice transmission or for certain signaling purposes.

TERMINATION OF SERVICE - Discontinuance of both incoming and outgoing service.

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SECTION 1 - GENERAL REGULATIONS (Cont'd)

1.2 DEFINITIONS (Cont'd)

TIE LINE - A dedicated line connecting two switchboards or dial systems.

TOLL CALL - Any call extending beyond the local exchange of the originating caller, which is rated on a toll schedule by the Company.

TONE DIAL SIGNALING ("TD") - An electronic signal emitted by the circuitry of Touch-Tone-type push-button dials to represent a dialed digit.

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.

TWO WAY - A service attribute that includes DOD for outbound calls and can also be used to carry inbound calls to a central point for processing.

USER - A customer, joint user, or any other person authorized by a customer to use service provided under this Tariff.

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

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SECTION 1 - GENERAL REGULATIONS (Cont'd)

1.3 ABBREVIATIONS

OTPL	Zero Level Transmission Point
ac	Alternating Current
AC	Access Concentrator
AML	Actual Measured Loss
ANI	Automatic Number Identification
ANSI	American National Standards Institute
AP	Program Audio
AT&T-C	AT&T Communication
BAN	Billing Account Number
BD	Business Day
BHMC	Busy Hour Minutes of Capacity
CAROT	Centralized Automatic Reporting on Trunks
CCITT	International Telephone and Telegraph Consultative Committee
CCSA	Common Channel Signaling Access
CFA	Connecting Facility Assignment
CI	Changes Interface
CIC	Carrier Identification Code
CIP	Carrier Identification Parameter
CO	Central Office
COCTX	Central Office Centrex
CPE	Customer Premises Equipment
CTX	Centrex
DA	Directory Assistance
dB	Decibel
dBrnC	Decibel Reference Noise C- Message Weighting
dBrnC0	Decibel Reference Noise C- Message Weighted 0
dBv	Decibel Relative to 1 Volt (reference)
dBvl	Decibel Relative to 1 Volt (reference)
dc	Direct Current
DCE	Data-Circuit Terminating Equipment
DTE	Department of Telecommunications and Energy
DTN	Data Terminal Number
EDD	Envelope Delay Distortion
ELEPL	Equal Level Echo Path Loss

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SECTION 1 - GENERAL REGULATIONS (Cont'd)

1.3 ABBREVIATIONS (Cont'd)

EML	Expected Measured Loss
EPL	Echo Path Loss
ERL	Echo Return Loss
ESS	Electronic Switching System
ESSX	Electronic Switching System Exchange
F	Frequency
FID	Field Identifier
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
FX	Foreign Exchange
HC	High Capacity
Hz	Hertz
IC or IXC	Interexchange Carrier
ICB	Individual Case Basis
ICL	Inserted Connection Loss
ILEC	Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier
Kbps	Kilobits per Second
KHz	Kilohertz
LAPD	Link Access Procedure-d
LATA	Local Access and Transport Area
Ma	Milliamperes
Mbps	Megabits
MHz	Megahertz
MMUC	Minimum Monthly Usage Charge
MRC	Monthly Recurring Charges
MTS	Message Telecommunications Service(s)
NANP	North American Numbering Plan
NB	Narrowband
NPA	Numbering Plan Area
NRC	Nonrecurring Charge
NRS	Network Reconfiguration Charge
NTS	Non Traffic Sensitive
NXX	Three Digit Central Office Code
ONP	Other Network Providers

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SECTION 1 - GENERAL REGULATIONS (Cont'd)

1.3 ABBREVIATIONS (Cont'd)

PBX	Private Branch Exchange
PCM	Pulse Code Modulation
PIU	Percentage(s) of Interstate Usage
PLR	Private Line Ring down
POT	Point of Termination
POTS	Plain Old Telephone Service
rms	Root Mean Square
RSM	Remote Switching Modules
RSS	Remote Switching Systems
SAC	Service Access Code
SMS	Service Management System
SPOI	Signaling Point of Interconnection
SRL	Singing Return Loss
SS7	Signaling System 7
SSN	Switched Services Network
SWC	Serving Wire Center
TCIC	Trunk Circuit Identification Code
TES	Telephone Exchange Service(s)
TLP	Transmission Level Point
TSPS	Traffic Service Position System
TV	Television
USOC	Uniform Service Order Code
VG	Voice Grade
V&H	Vertical & Horizontal
WA	Wideband Analog
WAL	WATS Access Line
WATS	Wide Are Telecommunications Service(s)
WD	Wideband Digital

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SECTION 1 - GENERAL REGULATIONS (Cont'd)

1.4 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.

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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.
- e. Under Meet Point Billing, service is provided over the existing facilities of the ILEC and thus, service does not need to be ordered.

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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 affect 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.

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SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (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.

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SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (Cont'd)

2.3 FLEXIBLE PRICING

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SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (Cont'd)

2.4 PAYMENT FOR SERVICE RENDERED

2.4.1 General

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.

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.

2.4.2 Return Check Charge

The Company reserves the right to assess a charge of \$10.00 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 under Section 2.9.1 below.

2.4.3 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).

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SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (Cont'd)

2.5 DEPOSITS

2.5.1 General

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.

The fact that a security deposit has been made in no way relieves the Customer from the prompt payment of bills upon presentation.

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.

2.5.2 Termination of Service

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.

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SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (Cont'd)

2.6 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.

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SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (Cont'd)

2.7 INSPECTION, TESTING AND ADJUSTMENT

2.7.1 General

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.

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.

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.

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SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (Cont'd)

2.8 SUSPENSION OR TERMINATION OF SERVICE

2.8.1 Terminating Access

Sterling Telecom, Inc. cannot independently suspend terminating service; therefore, all calls shall be terminated and bills shall be rendered for service.

2.8.2 Originating Access

Sterling Telecom, Inc. can suspend any further PIC to interexchange carrier request. However, it cannot change existing PIC without the consent of the end-user customer. Therefore, Sterling Telecom, Inc. shall work with interexchange carriers who choose to discontinue the purchase of presubscribed originating access services.

Sterling Telecom, Inc. shall not have the ability to block casual dialed (10xxx) access calls because it shares the dialing patterns of the ILEC switches.

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SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS, (Cont'd)

2.9 OBLIGATIONS OF THE CUSTOMER

2.9.1 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.

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2.9 OBLIGATIONS OF THE CUSTOMER (Cont'd)

2.9.2 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 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.

2.10 AUTOMATIC NUMBER IDENTIFICATION

Sterling Telecom, Inc. is providing access services via meet point billing arrangements with an ILEC. The rules and regulations pertaining to Automatic Number Identification will be governed by the ILEC's access tariff.

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.

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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.

3.2 RATE CATEGORIES

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

- Local Switching
- Local Transport
- Common Line (see Section 6 of this tariff)

Sterling Telecom, Inc. will be responsible for Local Switching and Common Line and will render bills accordingly.

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SECTION 3 - SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE (Cont'd)

3.2 Rate Category (Cont'd)

3.2.1 Local Switching

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

- a. Common Switching, which provides the local end office switching functions and optional features.
- b. 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.
- c. Intercept, which provides for the termination of a call at a Telephone Company intercept operator or recording.
- d. Line Termination, which provides for the termination for end users lines (common lines and WALs) terminating in the end office.
- e. 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.
- f. Under meet point billing arrangements, Sterling Telecom, Inc. shall provide common switching.

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.

Under meet point billing arrangements, Local Transport is provided by the ILEC.

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SECTION 3 - SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE, (Cont'd)

3.3 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.
- c. 900 Access Service Reports- 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 as defined in Section 3.3.1 may be implemented at the Company option to ensure acceptable service levels

3.3.2 On and Off-Hook Supervision

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

3.3.3 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.

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SECTION 3 - SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE, (Cont'd)

3.4 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.

3.4.1 Minimum Periods

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

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SECTION 3 - SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE, (CONT'D)

3.5 RATE REGULATIONS, (Cont'd)

See Section 6: Rates and Charges

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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

See Section 6: Rates and Charges

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SECTION 5 - BILLING AND COLLECTION

5.1 GENERAL

The Company will provide the following services:
Billing Name and Address (BNA)

5.2 BILLING NAME AND ADDRESS SERVICE

Billing Name and Address (BNA) service is the provision of the complete billing name, street address, city or town, state and zip code for a telephone number assigned by the company.

BNA service is provided for the sole purpose of permitting the customer to bill its telephonic communications services to its end users and may not be resold or used for any other purpose, including marketing activity such as market surveys or direct marketing by mail or by telephone.

The customer may not use BNA information to bill for merchandise, gift certificates, catalogs, or other services or products.

BNA services is provided on both a manual and a mechanized basis. On a manual basis, the information will be provided by voice telecommunications or by mail, as appropriate. On a mechanized basis, the information will be entered on magnetic tape containing recorded customer messages.

BNA information is furnished for sent-paid, collect, bill to third number, 700 and 900 service messages and messages charged to a calling card that is resident in the company's database. In addition, BNA information for messages originated from data terminal numbers (DTNs) of data communications services is furnished on a manual basis only.

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SECTION 5 - BILLING AND COLLECTION (Cont'd)

5.2 BILLING NAME AND ADDRESS SERVICE (Cont'd)

5.2.1 Undertaking of the Company

a A request for information on over 100 and up to 500 telephone numbers should be mailed to the company. The company will provide the response by first class U.S. Mail within ten (10) business days.

b Upon receipt of a magnetic tape of recorded customer messages, the company will, at the request of the customer, provide BNA service on a mechanized basis. The tape of messages may be provided by the customer or, where the customer subscribes to recording service as set forth in 8.2 preceding, may be the output from that service. The company will enter the BNA information on the recorded message tape and send the tape to the customer by first class U.S. Mail. Other methods of delivering the data may be negotiated, and charges based on cost will apply.

The company will provide a response to customer-provided tapes by mail within six (6) business days of receipt. The company will process and mail tapes which are the output of recording service every fifth business day.

c. The company will specify the format in which requests and tapes are to be submitted.

d. The BNA information will be provided for the calling number furnished to the extent a billing name and address exists in the company customer records information system, including non-published and non-listed numbers. If the billing name and address information for a specific calling number is confidential due to legal, national security, end user or regulatory imposed requirements, the company will provide an indicator on the confidential records.

e. The company will provide the most current BNA information resident in its database. Due to normal end user account activity, there may be instances where the BNA information provided is not the BNA that was applicable at the time the message was originated.

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SECTION 5 - BILLING AND COLLECTION (Cont'd)

5.2 BILLING NAME AND ADDRESS SERVICE (Cont'd)

5.2.2 Obligations of the Customer

a. With each order for BNA service, the customer shall identify the authorized individual and address to receive the BNA information.

b. A customer which orders BNA service on a mechanized basis and which intends to submit tapes of record messages for processing must provide the company with an acceptable test tape or transmission which includes all call types for which BNA information may be requested.

c. The customer shall institute adequate internal procedures to insure that BNA information, including that related to non-published and non-listed telephone numbers, is used only for the purpose set forth in this tariff and that BNA information is available only to those customer personnel or agents with a need to know the information. The customer must handle all billing name and address information designated as confidential by the company in accordance with the company's procedures concerning confidential information. The company will provide to the customer a statement of its procedures concerning confidential information.

d. The customer shall not publicize or represent to others that the company jointly participates with the customer in the development of the customer's end user records, accounts, databases or market data, records, files and databases or other systems it assembles through the use of BNA service.

e. When the customer orders BNA service for both interstate and intrastate messages, the projected percentage of interstate use must be provided in a whole number to the company. The company will designate the number obtained by subtracting the projected interstate percentage from 100 (100-projected interstate percentage = intrastate percentage) as the projected intrastate percentage. This whole number percentage will be used by the company to apportion the rates and nonrecurring charges between interstate and intrastate in those circumstances where the recorded message detail is not sufficient to permit the company to determine the appropriate jurisdiction. This percentage will remain in effect until a revised report is received as set forth below.

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SECTION 5 - BILLING AND COLLECTION (Cont'd)

5.2 BILLING NAME AND ADDRESS SERVICE (Cont'd)

5.2.2 Obligations of the Customer (Cont'd)

e. (Cont'd)

Effective on the first of January, April, July, and October of each year the customer may update the jurisdictional report. The customer shall forward to the company, to be received no later than 20 calendar days after the first of each such month, a revised report showing the interstate percentage of use for the past three months ending the last day of December, March, June, and September, respectively. Except where jurisdiction can be determined from the recorded message detail, the revised report will serve as the basis for the next three months billing and will be effective on the bill date in the following month (i.e. February, May, August, and November). No prorating or backbilling will be done based on the report. If the customer does not supply the report, the company will assume the percentages to be the same as those provided in the last quarterly report. For those cases in which a quarterly report has never been received from the customer, the company will assume the percentages to be the same as those provided in the order for service.

f. The company shall use reasonable efforts to provide accurate and complete lists. The company makes no warranties, expressed or implied, as to the accuracy or completeness of these lists.

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SECTION 5 - BILLING AND COLLECTION (Cont'd)

5.2 BILLING NAME AND ADDRESS SERVICE (Cont'd)

5.2.3 Rate Regulations

a. Service Establishment Charges apply for the initial establishment of BNA service on a manual basis, for the initial establishment of BNA service on a mechanized basis and for establishment of a master BNA list for a customer.

b. A charge applies for each request for BNA information for a telephone number or DTN number on a manual basis. A charge applies for each message processed to supply BNA information on a mechanized basis.

The company will keep a count of the requests and of the messages processed. The company will bill the customer in accordance with these counts whether or not the company was able to provide BNA information for all request and messages.

c. Where the recorded message detail is sufficient to determine a message is an intrastate message, the rates set forth in the rate schedule following will apply to each such message.

Usage for which the recorded message detail is insufficient to determine jurisdiction will be prorated by the company between interstate and intrastate.

The percentages provided in the reports as set forth in 8.4.2(E) preceding will serve as the basis for prorating the charges. The intrastate charges are determined as follows: For usage sensitive (i.e., requests or messages processed) chargeable rate elements, multiply the intrastate percent times actual use times the stated tariff rate.

d. When a customer cancels an order for BNA service after the order date, the service establishment charge applies.

e. Rates:

See Section 6: Rates and Charges

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SECTION 6- RATES AND CHARGES

6.1 CARRIER COMMON LINE ACCESS SERVICE

Service Category	Rate Element	Rate
Premium- InterLATA	Day- Per Access Minute	.016760
	Evening- Per Access Minute	.010056
	Night- Per Access Minute	.005866
Premium- IntraLATA	Day- Per Access Minute	.015624
	Evening- Per Access Minute	.009374
	Night- Per Access Minute	.005468
Non-Premium- InterLATA	Day- Per Access Minute	.0142
	Evening- Per Access Minute	.0085
	Night- Per Access Minute	.0050
Non-Premium- InterLATA	Day- Per Access Minute	.0078
	Evening- Per Access Minute	.0047
	Night- Per Access Minute	.0028

6.2 LOCAL SWITCHING

Service Category	Rate Element	Rate
Usage	Day- Per Access Minute	.0085
	Evening- Per Access Minute	.0051
	Night- Per Access Minute	.0030

6.3 800 DATA BASE ACCESS SERVICE

Service Category	Rate Element	Rate
Customer Identification Charges	Per Query	.0042
	800 to POTS # Translation- Per Query	.0016

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SECTION 9- RATES AND CHARGES (Cont'd)

6.4 INTRALATA PRESUBSCRIPTION

Service category	Rate Element	Rate
ILP PIC Charge	Intrastate IntraLATA- NRC- Per Telephone Exchange Service Line or Trunk	5.00

6.5 PIC VERIFICATION SERVICE

Service category	Rate Element	Rate
PIC Verification	Verbal Request- NRC- Per Telephone Number- Per Intrastate IntraLATA PIC Verification	1.35
	Verbal Request- NRC- Per Telephone Number- Per Intrastate InterLATA PIC Verification	1.35
	Request via Electronic Interface- NRC- Per Telephone Number- Per Intrastate IntraLATA PIC Verification	.60
	Request via Electronic Interface- NRC- Per Telephone Number- Per Intrastate InterLATA PIC Verification	.60

6.6 INTRASTATE EQUAL ACCESS COST RECOVERY

Service category	Rate Element	Rate
Intrastate Equal Access Cost Recovery	Monthly- Per Presubscribed Telephone Exchange Service Line or Trunk	0.00

6.7 BILLING NAMES AND ADDRESS SERVICE

Service category	Rate Element	Rate
Billing name and Address Service	Query Charge- Per Telephone Number	.48