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## **CONTENTS**

# SECTION 4 – <u>SERVICES DESCRIPTIONS AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS</u>

		Page	
4.1	General	3	
4.2	Service Configurations		
	4.2.1	Point-To-Point Service	
4.3	Service Descriptions and Technical Specifications		
	4.3.1	DS-3 Service4	
	4.3.2	DS-3 (X3), (X9), or (X12), (X24) Services5	
	4.3.3	OC-3, OC-12, OC-48, OC-192 Services5	
	4.3.4	Customer Provided Equipment5	
4.4	Rate Categories		
	4.4.1	Channel Terminations6	
	4.4.2	Channel Mileage6	
	4.4.3	Optional Features and Functions7	
	4.4.4	Extraordinary Charges7	
	4.4.5	Volume Discounts8	
	4.4.6	Term Discounts8	

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## **CONTENTS**

# SECTION 4 - SERVICES DESCRIPTIONS AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS (Cont'd)

			Page
4.5	Application of Rate Elements		8
	4.5.1	Point-To-Point Service	8
4.6	Regulations and Computations of Mileage		
	4.6.1	Multiple Time Periods	9
	4.6.2	Time Zone	9
	4.6.3	Inter-City Services	9
	4.6.4	Determination of Airline Mileage	9
4.7	Contract Rates – Special Pricing Arrangements - ICB		10
	4.7.1	Special Pricing Arrangements	10
	4.7.2	Other Rates or Charges	10
4.8	Back Billing		10
4.9	Taxes		11
	4.9.1	Sales, Use and Excise Taxes	11
4.10	Temporar	y Promotional Programs	11

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### SECTION 4 SERVICE DESCRIPTIONS AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS

#### 4.1 General

The various types of Company service offerings are described below. Company services are billed at predetermined monthly rates. Recurring charges are billed in advance of the month in which service is performed. In addition, the optional features and any extraordinary installation costs other than recurring and non-recurring charges may apply as described herein. Customers requesting these services may subscribe to services on a month-to-month basis, or for term discount plans of 1 to 5 years. Customers subscribing to a term discount plan may receive a discount on charges for these arrangements. Agreements for services in excess of 5 years will be negotiated on an individual case basis ("ICB"). All arrangements will be filed with the Commission prior to service.

### 4.2 <u>Service Configurations</u>

The type of service configuration over which Company's services is provided: point-to-point service.

### 4.2.1 Point-To-Point Service

Point-To-Point Service connects two Customer-designated premises, either on a directly connected basis, or through a hub where multiplexing functions are performed.

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Section No. 4

# SECTION 4 SERVICE DESCRIPTIONS AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS (Cont'd)

#### 4.3 Service Descriptions and Technical Specifications

The following service descriptions and technical specifications will apply to Company's services. When references to Bellcore Technical Publications on file with the Commission are made for performance criteria, the criteria will be considered objectives for Company's performance. In no case should the reference to these Bellcore standards be construed as creating any warranties on the part of Company. Technical publications are available for review by the Customer upon request.

#### 4.3.1 DS-3 Service

DS-3 Service, or Digital Signal Level 3 Service, is a channel for the transmission of 44.736 Mbps data. The actual bit rate and framing format is a function of the channel interface selected by the Customer. DS-3 Channels are provided between Customer designated locations and/or between Customer designated locations and the Company's hub. DS-3 service is provided with an electrical interface. As an option, this service may be provided to a Customer with an optical interface at the Customer's premises. Services with this option will terminate in Company's Optical Line Terminating Equipment (OLTE) located in Company's hub. The OLTE located at the Customer's premises is subject to the mutual agreement of the parties, and must be compatible with the OLTE located in Company's hub. The optical interface option is available only where facilities permit, and is offered on an Individual Case Basis (ICB)

Technical standards are defined in Bellcore Technical Reference TR-NPL-000054, TR-TSY-000342, TR-TSY-000194, and PUB 62508, PUB 62411, PUB 62411A.

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## SECTION 4 SERVICE DESCRIPTIONS AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS (Cont'd)

#### 4.3 Service Descriptions and Technical Specifications (Cont'd)

### 4.3.2 DS-3 (X3), (X9), or (X12), (X24) Services

DS-3 services may be ordered in multiples of 3 (X3), 9 (X9), 12 (X12) or 24 (X24). These services are offered in the same configuration as DS-3 service (i.e. either electrical or optical interface), and with the same technical specifications. These services will be provided initially on an ICB.

#### 4.3.3 OC-3, OC-12, OC-48, OC-192 Services

OC or Optical Carrier Services are services designed to work in a Synchronous Optical Network (SONET) using fiber optic high data transmission rates from 155.520 Mbps to 9.6 Gps.

### 4.3.4 <u>Customer Provided Equipment</u>

Customer provided terminating equipment such as CSUs, multiplexers, and other terminating equipment may, at the Customer's request, be provided by the Customer, at the Customer's expense. Company makes no guarantees or warranties as to the performance of Customer provided equipment

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# SECTION 4 SERVICE DESCRIPTIONS AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS (Cont'd)

#### 4.4 Rate Categories

There are six rate categories that may apply to Company's Services.

### 4.4.1 Channel Terminations

The Channel Termination Rate Category provides for the communications path between a Customer designated premises, and another Customer designated premises. Included as part of the Channel Termination is a standard channel interface arrangement which defines the technical characteristics associated with the type of facilities to which the Company's service is to be connected, and the type of signaling capability (if any). One channel Termination charge applies per Customer designated premises at which the service is terminated.

#### 4.4.2 Channel Mileage

The Channel Mileage Rate Category provides for the transmission facilities between two or more Customer designated premises. The Channel Mileage Rate Category is not applied to services that are less than one V&H computed mile (as described in Section 6 of this Tariff), unless specified. Channel Mileage Rates are comprised of a Fixed Mileage Rate, applied to the first mile, and a Per Mile Rate Element, applied for each mile.

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### SECTION 4 SERVICE DESCRIPTIONS AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS (Cont'd)

### 4.4 Rate Categories (Cont'd)

### 4.4.3 Optional Features and Functions

The Optional Features and Functions Rate Category provides for optional services which may be added to a Company's service to improve its quality or characteristics to meet specific communications requirements. These services are not necessarily identifiable with specific equipment, but rather represent the end result in terms of performance characteristics which may be obtained. These characteristics may be derived using various combinations of equipment.

### 4.4.4 Extraordinary Charges

From time to time, customers may request special services not addressed specifically by rate elements in this Tariff, or services to locations that may cause Company to incur extraordinary expenses not contemplated in the provision of standard service offerings. These costs include, but are not limited to:

- Additional construction costs
- Building space rental or rights-of-way costs
- Additional equipment
- Special facilities routing

In these cases, the Customer will be billed additional charges computed on an ICB. Special services not addressed in this Tariff shall be approved by the Commission prior to the provision of such service.

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### SECTION 4 SERVICE DESCRIPTIONS AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS (Cont'd)

#### 4.4 Rate Categories (Cont'd)

### 4.4.5 Volume Discounts

Discounts for specified dollar volumes of traffic to a specific location or aggregate dollar volumes may apply, as specified in this Tariff, to customers that subscribe to substantial volumes of Company's services.

## 4.4.6 Term Discounts

Customers will be eligible for discounts for executing agreements for services for a term of years, as specified in this Tariff.

## 4.5 Application of Rate Elements

The rate elements described in Section 4.4 of this Tariff will be applied as follows:

#### 4.5.1 Point-To-Point Services

- Channel Terminations (2 applicable)
- Channel Mileage (when applicable)
- Optional Features and Functions (when applicable)
- Extraordinary Charges (when applicable)
- Volume Discounts (when applicable)
- Term Discounts (when applicable)

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# SECTION 4 SERVICE DESCRIPTIONS AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS (Cont'd)

- 4.6 Regulations and Computations of Mileage
  - 4.6.1 <u>Multiple Time Periods</u>: Calls originating in one time period and terminating in another will be billed in proportion to the rates in effect during different segments of the call.
  - 4.6.2 Time Zone: All times refer to local time.
  - 4.6.3 <u>Inter-City Services</u>: All <u>inter-city</u> services are rated according to the mileage between the Company's Point of Presence in each city.
  - 4.6.4 <u>Determination of Airline Mileage</u>: Airline mileage, used in connection with determining rates for <u>inter-city</u> portions of services and facilities, is obtained by using the AV@ and AH@ coordinates assigned to each point as set forth below. This procedure is referenced in the AT&T Tariff FCC No. 10. To determine the airline distance between any two locations, proceed as follows:
    - A) Utilize the AV@ and AH@ coordinates for each Customer designated location.
    - B) Obtain the difference between the AV@ coordinates of each of the locations. Obtain the difference between the AH@ coordinates.
    - C) Square each difference obtained in step B) above.
    - D) Add the square of the AV@ difference and the AH@ difference obtained in step C) above.
    - E) Divide the sum of the square by 10. Round to the next higher whole number if any fraction is obtained.

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#### 4.7 Contract Rates - Special Pricing Arrangements-ICB

- 4.7.1 Special Pricing Arrangements: In lieu of the rates otherwise set forth in this Tariff, rates and charges, including minimum usage, installation, special construction and recurring charges for Company's services may be established at negotiated rates on an ICB, taking into account the nature of the facilities and services, the costs of construction and operation, the volume of traffic, the length of service commitment by the Customer, and use of facilities by other customers. Such arrangements shall be considered Special Pricing Arrangements, the terms of which will be set forth in individual Customer contracts. However, unless otherwise specified, the terms, conditions, obligation and regulation set forth in this Tariff shall be incorporated into, and become a part of, said contract, and shall be binding on Company and Customer. Specialized rates or charges will be made available to similarly situated customers on a non-discriminatory basis. All special Pricing Arrangements, including ICB, shall be filed with the Commission.
- 4.7.2 Other Rates or Charges: In addition to any rate or charge established by the Company, the Customer will also be responsible for any recurring or non-recurring charges imposed by local exchange telephone companies incurred by or on behalf of the Customer in establishing and maintaining service. Such charges may be billed by the Company or directly by the local exchange company, at the Company's option.

#### 4.8 Back Billing

Company shall be entitled to revise bills previously rendered to adjust for previously rendered unbilled service, or adjust upward a bill previously rendered, assuming that the Customer was aware of the unbilled services during the period the services were unbilled, for a period of six years after the service was rendered.

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### SECTION 4 SERVICE DESCRIPTIONS AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS (Cont'd)

#### 4.9 Taxes

### 4.9.1 Sales, Use and Excise Taxes

In addition to all recurring, non-recurring, usage or special charges, Customer shall also be responsible for and shall pay all applicable federal, state and local sales, use and excise taxes.

### 4.10 Temporary Promotional Programs

The Company may establish temporary promotional programs, wherein it may waive or reduce recurring or non-recurring charges, to introduce a present or potential Customer to a service not previously received by the Customer. The terms of promotional programs will be filed with the Commission subject to the requirements of applicable law, except if the promotion is to reduce rates.

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