

ACCESS SERVICE

Regulations, Rates and Charges
applying to the provision of Access Service
for connection to Interstate communications
facilities for Interstate Customers within
the operating territory of

Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. -- CLEC Division

in the State of Montana.

All material contained herein is new.

Access Services are provided by means of wire, fiber optics, radio,
or any other suitable technology or combination thereof.

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ACCESS SERVICE -- CARRIER TO CARRIER
CHECK SHEET

Title Page and Pages 1 to 154 inclusive of this tariff are effective as of the date shown. Original and revised pages as named below contain all changes from the original tariff that are in effect on the date hereof.

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EXPLANATION OF ABBREVIATIONS

ANI	Automatic Number Identification	
BHMC	Busy Hour Minutes of Capacity	
CABS	Carrier Access Billing	
CDP	Customer Designated Premises	
CI	Channel Interface	
CIR	Committed Information Rate	
CN	Charge Number	(N)
CO	Central Office	
CL	Common Line	
CPN	Calling Party Number	(N)
DA	Directory Assistance	
DDD	Direct Distance Dialing	
DS	Digital Standard	
EF	Entrance Facility	
EPVC	Extended Permanent Virtual Connection	
ESS	Electronic Switching System	
EU	End User	
EUP	End User Port	
FCC	Federal Communications Commission	
FG	Feature Group	
FRAC	Frame Relay Access Connection	

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EXPLANATION OF ABBREVIATIONS (Cont'd)

FRIC	Frame Relay Inter-network Connection	
IC	Interexchange Carrier	
ICP	Inter-Network Customer Port	
LATA	Local Access & Transport Area	
LA	Lifeline Assistance	
MPB	Meet Point Billing	
MTS	Message Toll Service	
NEC	New Exchange Carrier	
NRC	Nonrecurring Charge	
POT	Point of Termination	
PSTN	Public Switched Telephone Network	(N)
PVC	Permanent Virtual Connection	
RCC	Rural Health Care Corp.	
SLC	Schools & Libraries Corp.	
SPVC	Standard Permanent Virtual Connection	
TDM	Time Division Multiplexing	(N)
USF	Universal Service Fund	
USAC	Universal Service Administrative Co.	
VG	Voice Grade	
WATS	Wide Area Telephone Service	
WSO	WATS Service Office	

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2. GENERAL REGULATIONS (Cont'd)

2.2 Obligations of the Customer (Cont'd)

2.2.1 Claims

With respect to any Service or facility provided by the Company, Customer shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Company from and against all claims, actions, damages, liabilities, costs, and expenses for:

- (a) any loss, destruction, or damage to property of the Company or any third party, or the death or injury to persons, including, but not limited to, employees, or invitees of either party, to the extent caused by or resulting from the negligent or intentional act or omission of the Customer, its employees, agents, representatives, or invitees; or
- (b) any claim, loss, damage, expense, or liability for infringement of any copyright, patent, trade secret, or any proprietary or intellectual property right of any third party, arising from any act or omission by the Customer, including, without limitation, use of the Company's Service(s) and facilities in a manner not contemplated by the agreement between Customer and Company.

2.2.2 Call Signaling

(N)

Depending on the signaling system used by the Customer in its network, the Customer's facilities shall transmit the following call signaling information to the Company on traffic the Customer's end users originate which is handed off for termination on the Company's network.

(a) Signaling System 7 (SS7) Signaling

When the Customer uses SS7 signaling, it will transmit the Calling Party Number (CPN) or, if different from the CPN, the Charge Number (CN) information in the SS7 signaling stream.

(N)

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(M) Certain regulations previously found on this page can now be found on page 39.1

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2.	<u>GENERAL REGULATIONS (Cont'd)</u>	(N)
2.2	<u>Obligations of the Customer (Cont'd)</u>	
2.2.2	Call Signaling (Cont'd)	
(b)	Multi – Frequency (MF) Signaling	
	When the Customer uses MF signaling, it will transmit the number of the calling party or, if different from the number of the calling party, the Charge Number (CN) information in the MF Automatic Number Identification (ANI) field.	
(c)	Internet Protocol (IP) Signaling	
	When the Customer uses IP signaling, it will transmit the telephone number of the calling party or, if different from the telephone number, the billing number of the calling party.	(N)
2.3	<u>Customer Equipment and Channels</u>	(M)
2.3.1	General	
	A Customer may transmit or receive information or signals via the facilities of the Company. The Company's Services are designed primarily, but not exclusively, for the transmission of voice grade telephonic signals, except as otherwise stated in this tariff. The Company does not guarantee that its Service(s) will be suitable for purposes other than voice grade telephonic communication except as specifically stated in this tariff.	(M)

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ACCESS SERVICE -- CARRIER TO CARRIER

2.6 Definitions

Access: The ability to enter or exit a local exchange network in order to complete an interstate communication. A connection between a Customer Premises and the Customer Designated Premises of an interexchange carrier for the transmission of communication information.

Access Charge: Charges assessed to the Customer through which the provider of the switch or facilities is compensated for use of the network components.

Access Service Request (ASR): The order placed with a Local Access Provider (Company) for Access.

Advance Payment: Part or all of a payment required before the start of service.

Automatic Number Identification (ANI): The term "Automatic Number Identification" denotes the Multi-Frequency (MF) signaling parameter that identified the billing number of the calling party

(N)

Calling Party Number (CPN): The term "Calling Party Number" denotes the SS7 signaling parameter that identifies the subscriber line number or directory number of the calling party.

(N)

Carrier Common Line Charge: A charge to recover the non-traffic sensitive portion of the local loop, drop and associated equipment between the end office switch and the end user customer.

Charge Number (CN): The term "Charge Number" denotes the SS7 signaling parameter that identifies the billing telephone number of the calling party.

(N)

(N)

Committed Information Rate (CIR):

Company: Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. --, the issuer of this tariff, a competitive local exchange carrier.

Conditioning: Action taken or equipment provided to ensure appropriate transmission characteristics for specific circuits.

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ACCESS SERVICE -- CARRIER TO CARRIER

2.6 Definitions (Cont'd)

Customer: The person, firm or corporation which orders service and is responsible for the payment of charges and compliance with the Company's regulations.

Customer Designated Premises (CDP): Premises designed by the customer for the provision of access service.

Customer Node: The equipment located at a customer designated premises that terminates a high speed optical channel and converts the signal from an optical to an electrical format.

Customer Serving Wire Center: The end office or wire center from which a customer normally receives a dial tone. The point for a circuit's first point of trunking or switching.

Dedicated Facility: A facility, circuit or equipment system or subsystem set aside for the sole use of a specific customer.

Dial Tone Office: The local switching center where dial tone is provided for service.

Duplex Service: Service which provides for simultaneous transmission in both directions.

End User: Users of local telecommunications carrier's services who are not carriers.

End User Common Line Charge: A recurring flat monthly charge per line to residential and business end users. This charge covers a portion of the local loop costs.

Equal Access: The service which provides trunk connection to switched network services that is equal in type, quality and price to the same service provided to AT&T.

Exchange: The geographic area established by the Company and approved by the regulatory commission for the provision of local telecommunications services.

Fiber Optic Line: A thin filament of glass with a protective outer coating through which a light beam carrying communications signals may be transmitted by means of multiple internal reflections to a receiver which translates the message.

Frame: A group of data bits in a specific format, which enables network equipment to recognize the meaning and purpose of the specific bits for Packet Data Network purposes.

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2.6 Definitions (Cont'd)

Interexchange Carrier: A carrier engaged in the provision of intrastate, interstate or international telecommunications services.

Internet Protocol (IP) Signaling: The term "Internet Protocol (IP) Signaling" denotes a packet data-oriented protocol used for communicating call signaling information. (N)
(N)

Kbps: Kilobits, denotes one thousand bits per second.

Local Access and Transport Area: Geographic areas established for defining the territory within which a Bell Operating Company may offer its exchange telecommunications and exchange access services. Other communications entities may be associated with a BOC LATA or Independent Exchange Carriers' Market Service Area.

Mbps: Megabits, denotes millions of bits per second.

Market Service Area: The geographic area established by an Independent Exchange Carrier not associated with a Bell Operating Company LATA within which they may offer exchange or exchange access telecommunications service.

Meet Point: A point designated by two Exchange Carriers for billing purposes.

Mixed Use: The use of Switched Access and Special Access services over the same wideband and high capacity facilities through a common interface.

Multi-Frequency (MF) Signaling: The term "Multi-Frequency (MF) Signaling" denotes an in-band signaling method in which call signaling information is transmitted between network switches using the same voiceband channel used for voice. (N)
|
(N)

Multiplexing: The process of combining multiple parallel circuits into a single communications channel.

Network: The Company's fiber optics based facilities and/or purchased facilities as part of an interconnection agreement.

Nonrecurring Charge: A one-time charge, generally applied to activities associated with the establishment of service, construction, rearrangements, and/or optional features and functions.

Optical Carrier Channel: The high speed optical communications path for transporting information utilizing a Synchronous Optical Channel platform.

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2.6 Definitions (Cont'd)

RMS Jitter: Short-term variations of the significant instants of a digital signal, peak to peak, from their ideal positions in time.

Service Order: A written request for Access Services initiated by the Customer to the Company in the format devised by the Company. It is sometimes referred to as an Access Service request (ASR). The signing of a Service Order by the Customer and acceptance by the Company initiates the respective obligations of the parties set forth herein pursuant to this tariff, but the duration of service is calculated from the Service Commencement Date.

Service Commencement Date: The first day following the date on which the Company notifies the Customer that the requested service or facility is available for use, unless extended by the Customer's refusal to accept service which does not conform to standards set forth in the Service Order or this tariff. In the latter case, the Service Commencement Date is the date of the Customer's acceptance. The parties may mutually agree on a substitute Service Commencement Date.

Special Access Service: Generally dedicated (private line) facilities between two or more Customer Designated Premises.

Standard Permanent Virtual Connection (SPVC): The connection of ports within the same frame relay network or switch. A software connection sometimes referred to as Permanent Virtual Connection (PVC).

Switched Access Service: Access to the Company's local switch network by an interexchange carrier for the purposes of originating and/or terminating jurisdictional communications.

Toll VoIP-PSTN Traffic: The term "Toll Vo-IP-PSTN Traffic" denotes a customer's interexchange voice traffic exchanged with the Telephone Company in Time Division Multiplexing format over PSTN facilities, which originates and/or terminates in Internet Protocol (IP) format. "Toll VoIP-PSTN Traffic" originates and/or terminates in IP format when it originates from and/or terminates to an end user customer of a service that requires IP-compatible customer premises equipment.

(N)
|
(N)

Transport Interconnection Charge: A per-access minute charge applicable to transport per FCC CC Docket No. 91-213, Report and Order, March 5, 1998.

Wire Center: A building in which the Company's switching center is located for the purpose of providing service.

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5. SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE – Feature Group D Switched Service (Cont'd)

5.3 Feature Group D – Common Channel Signaling Network Connection
(SS-7) Cont'd)

5.3.1 General (Cont'd)

5.3.1.1 Rate Categories

Flat rate access charges apply to CCSNC service as follows:

Signaling Mileage Facility (SMF) – a charge per mile for the airline distance between the serving wire center and the Company wire center, if applicable,

Signaling Mileage Termination (SMT) – a charge per termination at each end of the SMF (if the SMF mileage is zero, SMF charges do not apply.

Signaling Entrance Facility (SEF) – a charge per facility for the connection between the end office and the point of interface.

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(M) Certain regulations previously found on this page can now be found on page 81.1.

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5. SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE – Feature Group D Switched Service (Cont'd)

5.4 Toll VoIP-PSTN Traffic

(N)(T)

5.4.1 General

The following provision applies to the treatment of Toll VoIP-PSTN Traffic pursuant to the Federal Communications Commission's Part 51 Interconnection Rules and in compliance with the Federal Communications Commission's Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 01-92; GN Docket No. 09-51; WC Docket Nos. 03-109, 05-337, 07-135 and 10-90; and WT Docket No. 10-208, adopted October 27, 2011 and released November 18, 2011 (FCC 11-161). In the absence of an interconnection agreement between the Company and the customer specifying the treatment of Toll VoIP-PSTN Traffic, the Company will bill the customer the applicable switched access rates and charges specified in Section 10.3, following, on all jurisdictionally interstate voice traffic identified as Toll VoIP-PSTN Traffic.

(N)

5.5 (Reserved For Future Use)

(M)

5.6 Switched Access Service Specifications – Company Requirements

The provision of Switched Access Service has certain obligations of the Company in addition to those listed in Section 2 preceding. They are as follows:

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