

NATIONAL EXCHANGE CARRIER ASSOCIATION, INC.
REVISIONS TO TARIFF F.C.C. NO. 5
DIGITAL SUBSCRIBER LINE ACCESS SERVICE
TRANSMITTAL NO. 1480
DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

1. Introduction

This filing modifies Asymmetric/Symmetric Digital Subscriber Line (A/SDSL) Access Service provisions to allow for service speed upgrades with simultaneous changes to service options and service types. The new service upgrade provisions include a 90-day trial provision, which enables a customer who upgrades its existing A/SDSL Access Service to revert back to its original speed, service option and service type without penalty. These modifications will help member companies stimulate subscriber higher speed broadband demand by providing additional flexibility for subscribers, including the ability to trial higher speed options.

2. Proposed Tariff Modifications

The proposed tariff modifications to the A/SDSL provisions will allow for ADSL or SDSL service upgrades that include any increase in the customer's existing A/SDSL speed level to any currently available tariffed upstream and/or downstream speed level. A/SDSL service upgrades may also include a simultaneous change in service option (e.g., replacing ADSL Data-Only with ADSL Voice-Data, or vice versa), a simultaneous change in service type (i.e., replacing ADSL with SDSL, or vice versa) or a simultaneous change in service option and service type. The proposed modifications replace the more restrictive A/SDSL service conversion provisions with more flexible service upgrade provisions.

A/SDSL service upgrades will not incur a nonrecurring installation charge on the upgraded service. If at the time the customer requests a qualifying A/SDSL service upgrade, it had an unfulfilled 6-month commitment on its original A/SDSL service, there will be no early termination fee for the original A/SDSL service so long as the customer continues with the upgraded service to fulfill its original 6-month minimum commitment.

These modifications also include a 90-day trial provision during which an existing A/SDSL customer may request a service upgrade to an increased speed, and at any time within 90 days following the qualifying service upgrade, elect to revert back to its original speed and service option for any reason without charge. During the 90-day trial period, the customer will be charged the monthly rate applicable for the upgraded higher speed and service option.

3. Revenue, Cost, and Demand Support

NECA used a Rate Development Task Group survey¹ to ask companies to project DSL demand for each speed option using the proposed service upgrade provisions. For each speed option, the sample companies in the survey indicated how many DSL lines would remain at the higher speed options and how many DSL lines would revert back to the original lower speed options after the trial period. Based on the survey results, NECA anticipates demand stimulation due to the proposed provisions will develop over time. At this time, NECA expects *de minimis* revenue and cost impacts for the remainder of the current tariff test period resulting from the proposed new service upgrade provisions.

¹ 2016 NECA DSL Data Request. The Rate Development Task Group (RDTG) is a group of selected participants in the NECA Traffic Sensitive (TS) and Common Line (CL) Pools. Other companies may participate as associates to the RDTG on an ad hoc basis. NECA uses the RDTG to develop cost characteristics representative of pooling companies and to facilitate the rate development process and provide supporting information for NECA tariff filings.