

**NEVADA BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY  
DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION  
TRANSMITTAL NO. 84  
DECEMBER 13, 2004**

**Introduction**

Nevada Bell Telephone Company (NBTC) hereby proposes changes to Section 2 of NBTC Tariff F.C.C. No. 1 to revise its general regulations governing the payment of deposits and other payments. Consistent with the guidance provided from the Commission's December 23, 2002, Policy Statement<sup>1</sup>, NBTC proposes to define the "proven history of late payment" trigger for requiring a deposit and to reduce the notice period for refusal or discontinuance of service, under certain conditions, from 30 days to 15 days. In addition to the changes mentioned above related directly to the Commission's Policy Statement, NBTC proposes to make additional changes to its general regulations governing the payment of deposits and other payments, as described in more detail below.

**Description and Justification**

Consistent with the Commission's December 23, 2002, Policy Statement, NBTC proposes to:

- Define the "proven history of late payment" trigger for requiring a deposit to include a failure to pay the undisputed amount of a monthly bill by the billed due date in any two of the most recent twelve months, provided that both the past due period and the amount of the delinquent payment are more than de minimus.

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<sup>1</sup> Policy Statement, WC Docket No. 02-202, Verizon Petition for Emergency Declaratory and other Relief, adopted December 20, 2002.

- Reduce the notice period for refusal or discontinuance of service for a non-paying customer from 30 days to 15 days when the customer receives the bill in an expeditious time period.

In addition to the changes above related directly to the Commission's Policy Statement, NBTC proposes to make additional changes to its general regulations governing the payment of deposits. These changes standardize SBC's existing separate deposit provisions for each company/state as described in more detail below.

- Define "established credit" to mean that the customer can demonstrate that within the past 12 months the customer has paid all undisputed billed amounts within required bill payment dates to the Telephone Company or another telecommunications carrier or an electric utility.
- Introduce regulations that will make NBTC consistent with SBC's other telephone companies. When access service is provided by more than one telephone company, the companies involved in providing the joint service may individually or collectively deny service to a customer for nonpayment.
- Introduce regulations that will make NBTC consistent with SBC's other telephone companies. For noncomplying customers, NBTC may refuse to accept and process end user requests choosing that noncomplying customer as the Primary Interexchange Carrier (PIC). Also for noncomplying customers, the Telephone Company may refuse to route any switched access traffic that uses the noncomplying customer's CIC code.
- Allow customers to provide a letter of credit or a third party guarantee agreement as a deposit when needed.

Specifically, the standardization mentioned above will allow NBTC the ability to seek a two month deposit for services rendered to customers who have either a late payment history or do not have established credit, as defined above. The deposit can be provided as either a cash deposit or a letter of credit or a third party guaranty agreement.

The tariff revisions also reduce the notice periods when a deposit or other payment will be required based on a history of late payments. Specifically, NBTC will provide customers a 21 day written notice that a deposit (which includes a letter of credit or guaranty agreement) is required. If the deposit is not paid within 21 days, NBTC may issue a written notice that, if payment is not received within 10 days, NBTC may discontinue service, refuse additional orders for service, refuse PIC changes, refuse to switch traffic, and/or refuse to complete pending orders on the 11th day following the written notice.

### **Summary**

The following tariff provisions clarify and standardize safeguards against non-paying or non-complying customers.