

ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESS TARIFF

of

**INDEPENDENTS FIBER NETWORK, LLC**

Regulations and schedule of Intrastate charges governing the provision of dedicated telecommunication services for connections to communications facilities within the State of Michigan.

This tariff is on file with the Michigan Public Service Commission. Copies may be inspected during normal business hours at the Company's principal place of business at 13888 County Rd. 25A, Wapakoneta, Ohio 45895.

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Issued: April 18, 2013

Michigan P.A. 179 of 1991, as amended.

Effective: April 19, 2013

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## ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

**CHECK SHEET**

Pages of this tariff, as indicated below, are effective as of the date shown at the bottom of the respective pages. Original and revised pages, as named below, comprise all changes from the original tariff and are currently in effect as of the date on the bottom of this page.

Page	Revision		Page	Revision		Page	Revision	
Title	Original	*	26	Original	*	51	Original	*
1	Original	*	27	Original	*	52	Original	*
2	Original	*	28	Original	*	53	Original	*
3	Original	*	29	Original	*	54	Original	*
4	Original	*	30	Original	*	55	Original	*
5	Original	*	31	Original	*	56	Original	*
6	Original	*	32	Original	*	57	Original	*
7	Original	*	33	Original	*	58	Original	*
8	Original	*	34	Original	*	59	Original	*
9	Original	*	35	Original	*	60	Original	*
10	Original	*	36	Original	*	61	Original	*
11	Original	*	37	Original	*	62	Original	*
12	Original	*	38	Original	*	63	Original	*
13	Original	*	39	Original	*	64	Original	*
14	Original	*	40	Original	*			
15	Original	*	41	Original	*			
16	Original	*	42	Original	*			
17	Original	*	43	Original	*			
18	Original	*	44	Original	*			
19	Original	*	45	Original	*			
20	Original	*	46	Original	*			
21	Original	*	47	Original	*			
22	Original	*	48	Original	*			
23	Original	*	49	Original	*			
24	Original	*	50	Original	*			
25	Original	*						

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ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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Reserved for future use.

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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Title Sheet ..... Cover

Check Sheet ..... 1

Table of Contents ..... 3

Symbols ..... 4

Application of Tariff ..... 5

Section 1 - Definitions..... 6

Section 2 - Regulations ..... 11

Section 3 - Notices ..... 50

Section 4 - Dedicated Services Descriptions & Technical Standards..... 51

Section 5 - Dedicated Service Rates and Charges ..... 64

ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**EXPLANATION OF SYMBOLS, REFERENCE  
MARKS, AND ABBREVIATIONS OF TECHNICAL  
TERMS USED IN THIS TARIFF**

The following symbols shall be used in this tariff for the purpose indicated below:

- C - To signify changed regulation.
- D - To signify discontinued rate or regulation.
- I - To signify increased rate.
- N - To signify new rate or regulation.
- R - To signify reduced rate.

ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**APPLICATION OF TARIFF**

This tariff applies to intrastate dedicated telecommunications services supplied to Customer and only to the extent that facilities are available and services provided hereunder are used by a Customer for the purpose of originating or terminating intrastate communications.

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**SECTION 1 - DEFINITIONS**

Certain terms used generally throughout this tariff are described below.

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

Access Services - The Company's intrastate dedicated access services offered pursuant to this tariff.

Carrier or Common Carrier - See Interexchange Carrier.

Commission - Refers to the Michigan Public Service Commission.

Common Channel Signaling - The term "Common Channel Signaling" (CCS) denotes a high speed packet switched communications network which is separate (out of band) from the public packet switched and message networks. Its purpose is to carry addressed signaling messages for individual trunk circuits and/or database related services between Signaling Points in the CCS network.

Company or Independents Fiber Network, LLC- The issuer of this tariff.

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ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 1 - 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.

End User or User - Any person or entity that obtains the Company's services provided under this Tariff, regardless of whether such person or entity is so authorized by the Customer.

Exchange Telephone Company - Denotes any individual, partnership, association, joint-stock company, trust, or corporation engaged in providing switched communication within an exchange.

Interexchange Carrier (IXC) or Interexchange Common Carrier - The terms "Interexchange Carrier" (IXC) or "Interexchange Common Carrier" denotes any individual, partnership, association, joint-stock company, trust, governmental entity or corporation engaged for hire in communication between two or more exchanges.

Intrastate Access Service - Provides for a two-point communications path between a Customer's premises or a collocated interconnection location and an end user's premises for originating and terminating telecommunications services within the state.



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**ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF**

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**SECTION 1 - DEFINITIONS, (CONT'D.)**

LATA - A Local Access and Transport Area established pursuant to the Modification of Final Judgment entered by the United States District Court for the District of Columbia in Civil Action No. 82-0192; or any other geographic area designated as a LATA in the NATIONAL EXCHANGE CARRIER ASSOCIATION, Inc. Tariff F.C.C. No. 4.

Network - Refers to the Company's facilities, equipment, and services provided under this Tariff.

Recurring Charge - The monthly charges to the Customer for services, facilities and equipment which continue for the agreed upon duration of the service.

Service Commencement Date - The first 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 which case the Service Commencement Date is the date of the Customer's acceptance. The Company and the Customer may mutually agree on a substitute Service Commencement Date. If the Company does not have an executed Service Order from a Customer, the Service Commencement Date will be the first date on which the service or facility was used by a Customer.

Service Order - The written request for access services executed by the Customer and the Company in the format devised by the Company. The signing of a Service Order by the Customer and acceptance by the Company initiates the respective obligations of the parties as set forth therein and pursuant to this tariff, but the duration of the service is calculated from the Service Commencement Date. Should a Customer use the Company's access service without an executed Service Order, the Company will then request the Customer to submit a Service Order.

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**ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF**

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**SECTION 1 - DEFINITIONS, (CONT'D.)**

Service Switching Point (SSP) - A Service Switching Point denotes an end office or tandem which, in addition to having SS7 and SP capabilities, is also equipped to query centralized data bases.

Serving Wire Center - The term "Serving Wire Center" denotes the wire center from which the Customer designated premises would normally obtain dial tone.

Shared - A facility or equipment system or subsystem that can be used simultaneously by several Customers.

Signaling Point (SP) - The term "Signaling Point (SP)" denotes an SS7 network interface element capable of originating and terminating SS7 trunk signaling messages.

Signaling Point of Interface (SPOI) - The term "Signaling Point of Interface (SPOI)" denotes the Customer designated location where the SS7 signaling information is exchanged between the Telephone Company and the Customer.

Signaling System 7 (SS7) - The term "Signaling System 7 (SS7)" denotes the layered protocol used for standardized common channel signaling in the United States and Puerto Rico.

Signal Transfer Point (STP) - The term "Signal Transfer Point (STP)" denotes a packet switch which provides access to the Telephone Company's SS7 network and performs SS7 message signal routing and screening.

Signal Transfer Point (STP) Port - The term "Signal Transfer Point (STP) Port" denotes the point of termination and interconnection to the STP.

ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 1 - DEFINITIONS, (CONT'D.)**

Wire Center - A building in which one or more central offices, used for the provision of Exchange Services, are located.

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**SECTION 2 - REGULATIONS**

2.1 Undertaking of the Company

2.1.1 Scope

- A. The Company undertakes to furnish communications service pursuant to the terms of this tariff in connection with one-way and/or two-way information transmission between points within the State of Michigan.
- B. Customers and users may use services and facilities provided under this tariff to obtain access to services offered by other service providers. The Company is responsible under this tariff only for the services and facilities provided hereunder, and it assumes no responsibility for any service provided by any other entity that purchases access to the Company network in order to originate or terminate its own services, or to communicate with its own customers.
- C. The Company's obligation to furnish facilities and service is dependent upon its ability (a) to secure and retain, without unreasonable expense, suitable facilities and rights for the construction and maintenance of the necessary circuits and equipment; (b) to secure and retain, without unreasonable expense, suitable space for its plant and facilities in the building where service is or will be provided to the customer; or (c) to secure reimbursement of all costs where the owner or operator of a building demands relocation or rearrangement of plant and facilities used in providing service therein.

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ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 2 – REGULATIONS, (CONT’D.)**

2.1 Undertaking of the Company (Cont’d.)

2.1.2 Shortage of Equipment or Facilities

- A. The Company reserves the right to limit or to allocate the use of existing facilities, or of additional facilities offered by the Company, when necessary because of lack of facilities, or due to some other cause beyond the Company's control.
- B. The furnishing of service under this tariff is subject to the availability on a continuing basis of all the necessary facilities and is limited to the capacity of the Company's facilities as well as facilities the Company may obtain from other carriers to furnish service from time to time as required at the sole discretion of the Company.

2.1.3 Terms and Conditions

- A. Service is provided on the basis of a minimum period of at least one month, 24- hours per day. For the purpose of computing charges in this tariff, a month is considered to have 30 days.
- B. Customers may be required to enter into written service orders which shall contain or reference a specific description of the service ordered, the rates to be charged, the duration of the services, and the terms and conditions in this tariff. Customers will also be required to execute any other documents as may be reasonably requested by the Company.

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ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 2 – REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

2.1 Undertaking of the Company (Cont'd.)

2.1.3 Terms and Conditions (Cont'd.)

- C. At the expiration of the initial term specified in each Service Order, or in any extension thereof, service shall continue on a month-to-month basis at the then current rates unless terminated by either party upon 30 days' written notice. Any termination shall not relieve the Customer of its obligation to pay any charges incurred under the service order and this tariff prior to termination. The rights and obligations which by their nature extend beyond the termination of the term of the service order shall survive such termination.
- D. In any action between the parties to enforce any provision of this tariff, the prevailing party shall be entitled to recover its legal fees and court costs from the non-prevailing party in addition to other relief a court may award.
- E. Service may be terminated upon written notice to the Customer if:
  - 1. the Customer is using the service in violation of this tariff; or
  - 2. the Customer is using the service in violation of the law.
- F. This tariff shall be interpreted and governed by the laws of the State of Michigan regardless of its choice of laws provision.

ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 2 – REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

## 2.1 Undertaking of the Company (Cont'd.)

## 2.1.4 Liability of the Company

- A. The liability of the Company for damages arising out of the furnishing of its Services, including but not limited to mistakes, omissions, interruptions, delays, or errors, or other defects, representations, or use of these services or arising out of the failure to furnish the service, whether caused by acts or omission, shall be limited to the extension of allowances for interruption as set forth in 2.6. The extension of such allowances for interruption shall be the sole remedy of the Customer and the sole liability of the Company. The Company will not be liable for any direct, indirect, incidental, special, consequential, exemplary or punitive damages to Customer as a result of any Company service, equipment or facilities, or the acts or omissions or negligence of the Company's employees or agents.
- B. The Company shall not be liable for any delay or failure of performance or equipment due to causes beyond its control, including but not limited to: acts of God, fire, flood, explosion or other catastrophes; any law, order, regulation, direction, action, or request of the United States Government, or of any other government, including state and local governments having or claiming jurisdiction over the Company, or of any department, agency, commission, bureau, corporation, or other instrumentality of any one or more of these federal, state, or local governments, or of any civil or military authority; national emergencies; insurrections; riots; wars; unavailability of rights-of-way or materials; or strikes, lock-outs, work stoppages, or other labor difficulties.
- C. The Company shall not be liable for any act or omission of any entity furnishing to the Company or to the Company's Customers facilities or equipment used for or with the services the Company offers.

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ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 2 – REGULATIONS, (CONT’D.)**

2.1 Undertaking of the Company (Cont’d.)

2.1.4 Liability of the Company (Cont’d.)

- D. The Company shall not be liable for any damages or losses due to the fault or negligence of the Customer or due to the failure or malfunction of Customer- provided equipment or facilities.
- E. The Company does not guarantee nor make any warranty with respect to installations it provides for use in an explosive atmosphere. The Customer indemnities and holds the Company harmless from any and all loss, claims, demands, suits, or other action, or any liability whatsoever, including attorney’s fees whether suffered, made, instituted, or asserted by any other party or person(s), and for any loss, damage, or destruction of any property, whether owned by the Customer or others, caused or claimed to have been caused directly or indirectly by the installation, operation, failure to operate, maintenance, removal presence, condition, location, or use of any installation so provided. The Company reserves the right to require each Customer to sign an agreement acknowledging acceptance of the provisions of this section 2.1.4(E) as a condition precedent to such installations.
- F. The Company is not liable for any defacement of or damage to Customer premises resulting from the furnishing of services or equipment on such premises or the installation or removal thereof, unless such defacement or damage is caused by negligence or willful misconduct of the Company's agents or employees.



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ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 2 – REGULATIONS, (CONT’D.)**

2.1 Undertaking of the Company (Cont’d.)

2.1.4 Liability of the Company (Cont’d.)

G. The Company is not liable for any claims for loss or damages involving:

1. Breach in the privacy or security of communications transmitted over the Company’s facilities;
2. Injury to property or injury or death to persons, including claims for payments made under Workmen’s Compensation law or under any plan for employee disability or death benefits arising out of, or caused by, any act or omission of the Customer, or the construction, installation, maintenance, presence, use or removal of the Customer’s facilities or equipment connected or to be connected to the Company’s facilities;
3. Any representations made by Company employees that do not comport, or that are inconsistent, with the provisions of this tariff;
4. Any act or omission in connection with the provision of 911, E911 or similar services of an emergency or related service;
5. Any non-completion of calls due to network busy conditions.

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ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 2 – REGULATIONS, (CONT’D.)**

2.1 Undertaking of the Company (Cont’d.)

2.1.4 Liability of the Company (Cont’d.)

H. The Company shall be indemnified, defended and held harmless by the Customer against any claim, loss or damage arising from Customer's use of services, involving claims for libel, slander, invasion of privacy, or infringement of copyright arising from the Customer's own communications.

1. The Company shall be indemnified, defended and held harmless by the Customer, end user or third party from and against any and all claims, loss, demands, suits, expense, or other action or any liability whatsoever, including attorney fees, whether suffered, made, instituted, or asserted by the Customer or by any other party, for any personal injury to or death of any person or persons, and for any loss, damage or destruction of any property, including environmental contamination, whether owned by the Customer or by any other party, caused or claimed to have been caused directly or indirectly by the installation, operation, failure to operate, maintenance, presence, condition, location, use or removal of any Company or Customer equipment or facilities or service provided by the Company.
2. The Company assumes no responsibility for the availability or performance of any cable or satellite systems or similar related facilities under the control of other entities, or for other facilities provided by other entities used for service to the Customer, even if the Company has acted as the Customer's agent in arranging for such facilities or services. Such facilities are provided subject to such degree of protection or non-preemptibility as may be provided by the other entities.

ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 2 – REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

2.1 Undertaking of the Company (Cont'd.)

2.1.4 Liability of the Company (Cont'd.)

H. (Cont'd.)

3. Any claim of whatever nature against the Company shall be deemed conclusively to have been waived unless presented in writing to the Company within thirty (30) days after the date of the occurrence that gave rise to the claim.

I. The liability of the Company for errors in billing that result in overpayment by the Customer shall be limited to credit equal to the dollar amount erroneously billed or, in the event that payment has been made and service has been discontinued, to a refund of the amount erroneously billed.

J. The entire liability for any claim, loss, damage or expense from any cause whatsoever shall in no event exceed sums actually paid the Company by the Customer for the specific services giving rise to the claim. No action or proceeding against the Company shall be commenced more than one year after the service is rendered.

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**ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF**

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**SECTION 2 – REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

## 2.1 Undertaking of the Company (Cont'd.)

## 2.1.4 Liability of the Company (Cont'd.)

K. THE COMPANY MAKES NO WARRANTIES OR REPRESENTATIONS, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED EITHER IN FACT OR BY OPERATION OF LAW, STATUTORY OR OTHERWISE, INCLUDING WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR USE, EXCEPT THOSE EXPRESSLY SET FORTH HEREIN.

## 2.1.5 Notification of Service-Affecting Activities

The Company will provide the Customer reasonable notification of service-affecting activities that may occur in normal operation of its business. Such activities may include, but are not limited to, equipment or facilities additions, removals or rearrangements and routine preventative maintenance. Generally, such activities are not specific to an individual Customer but affect many Customers' services. No specific advance notification period is applicable to all service activities. The Company will work cooperatively with the Customer to determine the reasonable notification requirements. With some emergency or unplanned service-affecting conditions, such as an outage resulting from cable damage, notification to the Customer may not be possible.

## 2.1.6 Provision of Equipment and Facilities

A. The Company shall use reasonable efforts to make available services to a Customer on or before a particular date, subject to the provisions of and compliance by the Customer with, the regulations contained in this tariff. The Company does not guarantee availability by any such date and shall not be liable for any delays in commencing service to any Customer.

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ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 2 – REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

2.1 Undertaking of the Company (Cont'd.)

2.1.6 Provision of Equipment and Facilities (Cont'd.)

- B. The Company shall use reasonable efforts to maintain only the facilities and equipment that it furnishes to the Customer. The Customer may not, nor may the Customer permit others to, rearrange, disconnect, remove, attempt to repair, or otherwise interfere with any of the facilities or equipment installed by the Company, except upon the written consent of the Company.
- C. The Company may substitute, change or rearrange any equipment or facility at any time and from time to time, but shall not thereby alter the technical parameters of the service provided the Customer.
- D. Equipment the Company provides or installs at the Customer Premises for use in connection with the services the Company offers shall not be used for any purpose other than that for which it was provided by the Company.
- E. The Customer shall be responsible for the payment of service charges as set forth herein for visits by the Company's agents or employees to the Premises of the Customer when the service difficulty or trouble report results from the use of equipment or facilities provided by any party other than the Company, including but not limited to the Customer.

ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 2 – REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

## 2.1 Undertaking of the Company (Cont'd.)

## 2.1.6 Provision of Equipment and Facilities (Cont'd.)

F. The Company shall not be responsible for the installation, operation, or maintenance of any Customer-provided communications equipment. Where such equipment is connected to the facilities furnished pursuant to this tariff, the responsibility of the Company shall be limited to the furnishing of facilities offered under this tariff and to the maintenance and operation of such facilities. Subject to this responsibility, the Company shall not be responsible for:

1. the transmission of signals by Customer-provided equipment or for the quality of, or defects in, such transmission;
2. the reception of signals by Customer-provided equipment; or
3. network control signaling where such signaling is performed by Customer-provided network control signaling equipment.

## 2.1.7 Non-Routine Installation

At the Customer's request, installation and/or maintenance may be performed outside the Company's regular business hours or in hazardous locations. In such cases, charges based on cost of the actual labor, material, or other costs incurred by or charged to the Company will apply. If installation is started during regular business hours but, at the Customer's request, extends beyond regular business hours into time periods including, but not limited to, weekends, holidays, and/or night hours, additional charges may apply.

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ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 2 – REGULATIONS, (CONT’D.)**

2.1 Undertaking of the Company (Cont’d.)

2.1.8 Special Construction

Subject to the agreement of the Company and to all of the regulations contained in this tariff, special construction of facilities may be undertaken on a reasonable efforts basis at the request of the Customer. Special construction is that construction undertaken:

- A. where facilities are not presently available, and there is no other requirement for the facilities so constructed;
- B. of a type other than that which the Company would normally utilize in the furnishing of its services;
- C. over a route other than that which the Company would normally utilize in the furnishing of its services;
- D. in a quantity greater than that which the Company would normally construct;
- E. on an expedited basis;
- F. on a temporary basis until permanent facilities are available;
- G. involving abnormal costs; or
- H. in advance of its normal construction.

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ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 2 – REGULATIONS, (CONT’D.)**

2.1 Undertaking of the Company (Cont’d.)

2.1.9 Ownership of Facilities

Title to all facilities provided in accordance with this tariff remains in the Company, its agents or contractors.

2.2 Prohibited Uses

2.2.1 The services the Company offers shall not be used for any unlawful purpose or for any use as to which the Customer has not obtained all required governmental approvals, authorizations, licenses, consents and permits.

2.2.2 The Company may require applicants for service who intend to use the Company's offerings for resale and/or for shared use to file a letter with the Company confirming that their use of the Company's offerings complies with relevant laws and Michigan Public Service Commission regulations, policies, orders, and decisions.

2.2.3 The Company may require a Customer to immediately shut down its transmission of signals if said transmission is causing interference to others.



ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 2 – REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

## 2.2 Prohibited Uses (Cont'd.)

2.2.4 A customer, joint user, or authorized user may not assign, or transfer in any manner, the service or any rights associated with the service without the written consent of the Company. The Company will permit a Customer to transfer its existing service to another entity if the existing Customer has paid all charges owed to the Company for regulated communications services. Such a transfer will be treated as a disconnection of existing service and installation of new service, and non-recurring installation charges as stated in this tariff will apply.

- A. The Customer shall provide the personnel, power and space required to operate all facilities and associated equipment installed on the premises of the Customer.
- B. The Customer shall be responsible for providing Company personnel access to premises of the Customer at any reasonable hour for the purpose of testing the facilities or equipment of the Company.

## 2.3 Obligations of the Customer

## 2.3.1 General

The Customer shall be responsible for:

- A. the payment of all applicable charges pursuant to this tariff;
- B. damage to or loss of the Company's facilities or equipment caused by the acts or omissions of the Customer; or the noncompliance by the Customer, with these regulations; or by fire or theft or other casualty on the Customer Premises, unless caused by the negligence or willful misconduct of the employees or agents of the Company;

ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 2 – REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

## 2.3 Obligations of the Customer (Cont'd.)

## 2.3.1 General (Cont'd.)

- C. providing at no charge, as specified from time to time by the Company, any needed personnel, equipment space and power to operate Company facilities and equipment installed on the premises of the Customer, and the level of heating and air conditioning necessary to maintain the proper operating environment on such premises;
- D. obtaining, maintaining, and otherwise having full responsibility for all rights-of-way and conduits necessary for installation of fiber optic cable and associated equipment used to provide Communication Services to the Customer from the cable building entrance or property line to the location of the equipment space described in 2.3.1(C). Any and all costs associated with obtaining and maintaining the rights-of-way described herein, including the costs of altering the structure to permit installation of the Company-provided facilities, shall be borne entirely by, or may be charged by the Company to, the Customer. The Company may require the Customer to demonstrate its compliance with this section prior to accepting an order for service;
- E. providing a safe place to work and complying with all laws and regulations regarding the working conditions on the premises at which Company employees and agents shall be installing or maintaining the Company's facilities and equipment. The Customer may be required to install and maintain Company facilities and equipment within a hazardous area if, in the Company's opinion, injury or damage to the Company's employees or property might result from installation or maintenance by the Company. The Customer shall be responsible for identifying, monitoring, removing and disposing of any hazardous material (e.g. friable asbestos) prior to any construction or installation work;

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ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 2 – REGULATIONS, (CONT’D.)**

2.3 Obligations of the Customer (Cont’d.)

2.3.1 General (Cont’d.)

- F. complying with all laws and regulations applicable to, and obtaining all consents, approvals, licenses and permits as may be required with respect to, the location of Company facilities and equipment in any Customer premises or the rights-of- way for which Customer is responsible under Section 2.3.1(D); and granting or obtaining permission for Company agents or employees to enter the premises of the Customer at any time for the purpose of installing, inspecting, maintaining, repairing, or upon termination of service as stated herein, removing the facilities or equipment of the Company;
- G. not creating, or allowing to be placed, any liens or other encumbrances on the Company's equipment or facilities; and
- H. making Company facilities and equipment available periodically for maintenance purposes at a time agreeable to both the Company and the Customer. No allowance will be made for the period during which service is interrupted for such purposes.

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ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 2 – REGULATIONS, (CONT’D.)**

2.3 Obligations of the Customer (Cont’d.)

2.3.2 Claims

With respect to any service or facility provided by the Company, Customers shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Company from and against all claims, actions, damages, liabilities, costs and expenses, including reasonable attorneys' fees for:

- A. any loss, destruction or damage to the property of the Company or any third party, or 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 services and facilities in a manner not contemplated by the agreement between the Customer and the Company.

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**ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF**

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**SECTION 2 – REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

## 2.4 Customer Equipment and Channels

## 2.4.1 General

A User may transmit or receive any form of information or signals that are compatible with the Company's equipment and facilities, but the Company does not guarantee that its services will be suitable for purposes except as specifically stated in this tariff.

## 2.4.2 Station Equipment

- A. Terminal equipment on the User's Premises and the electric power consumed by such equipment shall be provided by and maintained at the expense of the User. The User is responsible for the provision of wiring or cable to connect its terminal equipment to the Company Point of Connection.
- B. The Customer is responsible for ensuring that Customer-provided equipment connected to Company equipment and facilities is compatible with such equipment and facilities. The magnitude and character of the voltages and currents impressed on Company-provided equipment and wiring by the connection, operation, or maintenance of such equipment and wiring shall be such as not to cause damage to the Company-provided equipment and wiring or injury to the Company's employees or to other persons. Any additional protective equipment required to prevent such damage or injury shall be provided by the Company at the Customer's expense.

ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 2 – REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

2.4 Customer Equipment and Channels (Cont'd.)

2.4.3 Interconnection of Facilities

- A. Any special interface equipment necessary to achieve compatibility between the facilities and equipment of the Company used for furnishing Communication Services and the channels, facilities, or equipment of others shall be provided at the Customer's expense.
- B. Communication Services may be connected to the services or facilities of other communications carriers only when authorized by, and in accordance with, the terms and conditions of the tariffs of the other communications carriers that are applicable to such connections.
- C. Facilities furnished under this tariff may be connected to Customer-provided terminal equipment in accordance with the provisions of this tariff. All such terminal equipment shall be registered by the Federal Communications Commission pursuant to Part 68 of Title 47, Code of Federal Regulations; and all User-provided wiring shall be installed and maintained in compliance with those regulations.

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ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 2 – REGULATIONS, (CONT’D.)**

2.4 Customer Equipment and Channels (Cont’d.)

2.4.4 Inspections

- A. Upon suitable notification to the Customer, and at a reasonable time, the Company may make such tests and inspections as may be necessary to determine that the Customer is complying with the requirements set forth in Section 2.4.2(B) for the installation, operation, and maintenance of Customer-provided facilities, equipment, and wiring in the connection of Customer-provided facilities and equipment to Company-owned facilities and equipment.
  
- B. If the protective requirements for Customer-provided equipment are not being complied with, the Company may take such action as it deems necessary to protect its facilities, equipment, and personnel. The Company will notify the Customer promptly if there is any need for further corrective action. Within ten days of receiving this notice, the Customer must take this corrective action and notify the Company of the action taken. If the Customer fails to do this, the Company may take whatever additional action is deemed necessary, including the suspension of service, to protect its facilities, equipment and personnel from harm.

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**ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF**

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**SECTION 2 – REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

## 2.5 Payment Arrangements

## 2.5.1 Payment for Service

The Customer is responsible for payment of all charges for facilities and services furnished by the Company to the Customer and to all Users authorized by the Customer, regardless of whether those services are used by the Customer itself or are resold to or shared with other persons as set forth in this tariff or by mutual written agreement of the parties.

## A. Taxes

The Customer is responsible for payment of any sales, use, gross receipts, excise, access or other local, state and federal taxes, charges or surcharges (however designated) (excluding taxes on Company's net income) imposed on or based upon the provision, sale or use of Network Services.

## 2.5.2 Billing, Collection of Charges and Billing Disputes

- A. All charges (both Recurring Charges and Non-Recurring Charges) are due and payable from the Customer as set forth in Section 2.5.2 (B). The Company shall present invoices for Recurring Charges monthly to the Customer, in advance of the month in which the service is provided. When billing is based upon customer usage, usage charges will be billed monthly for the preceding billing period.
- B. All charges are due and payable by the next bill date (i.e., same date in the following month as the bill date) and are payable in immediately available funds.



ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 2 – REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

## 2.5 Payment Arrangements (Cont'd.)

## 2.5.2 Billing, Collection of Charges and Billing Disputes (Cont'd.)

- C. When service does not begin on the first day of the month, or end on the last day of the month, the charge for the fraction of the month in which service was furnished will be calculated on a pro rata basis. For this purpose, every month is considered to have 30 days.
- D. Billing of the Customer by the Company will begin on the Service Commencement Date, which is the first day following the date on which the Company notifies the Customer that the service or facility is available for use, except that the Service Commencement Date may be postponed by mutual agreement of the parties, or if the service or facility does not conform to standards set forth in this tariff or the Service Order. Billing accrues through and includes the day that the service, circuit, arrangement or component is discontinued.
- E. If any portion of the payment is not received by the Company by the due date, is received by the Company after the due date, or if any portion of the payment is received by the Company in funds that are not immediately available upon presentment, then a late payment charge shall be due from the Customer to the Company. The late payment charge shall be the portion of the payment not received by the date due, multiplied by a late factor. The late factor shall be the lesser of the following:
- 1) a rate of 1.5 percent per month accrued on a daily basis, from the date such amount was due; or
  - 2) the highest interest rate which may be applied under state law for commercial transactions.

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ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 2 – REGULATIONS, (CONT’D.)**

2.5 Payment Arrangements (Cont’d.)

2.5.2 Billing, Collection of Charges and Billing Disputes (Cont’d.)

- F. The Customer will be assessed a charge of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for each check submitted by the Customer to the Company which a financial institution refuses to honor.
- G. All bills are presumed accurate, and shall be binding on the Customer unless notice of the disputed charge(s) is received by the Company within 90 days (commencing 5 days after such bills have been mailed or otherwise rendered per the Company’s normal course of business). For the purposes of this section, “notice” is defined as written notice to the Company as set forth in Section 10.1, containing sufficient documentation to investigate the dispute, including the account number under which the bill has been rendered, the specific invoice disputed, the date of the bill, the specific items on the bill being disputed, and the justification for the dispute.

In order to withhold payment for disputed amounts, the Customer must 1) pay all undisputed amounts by the due date and 2) provide written documentation of the dispute as described in this Section 2.5.2 by the due date for the billing period in question.

- H. If service is disconnected by the Company in accordance with section 2.5.5 following and later restored, restoration of service will be subject to all applicable installation charges. If service is suspended by the Company and later restored, service will be subject to all applicable restoration or installation charges.

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ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 2 – REGULATIONS, (CONT’D.)**

2.5 Payment Arrangements (Cont’d.)

2.5.2 Billing, Collection of Charges and Billing Disputes (Cont’d.)

- I. Reserved for future use.
- J. The undisputed portions of the bill must be paid by the payment due date to avoid assessment of a late payment charge on the undisputed amount under Section 2.5.2 (E), preceding.
- K. In the event that a billing dispute is resolved by the Company in favor of the Customer, any disputed amount withheld pending resolution of the billing dispute shall not be subject to the late payment charge.
- L. In the event that a billing dispute is resolved in favor of the Company, the withheld disputed amount and the late payment charge(s), as set forth in Section 2.5.2 (E), are due and shall be payable in immediately available funds by the next bill due date.

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**ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF**

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**SECTION 2 – REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

## 2.5 Payment Arrangements (Cont'd.)

## 2.5.3 Advance Payments

To safeguard its interests, the Company may require a Customer to make an advance payment before services and facilities are furnished. The advance payment will not exceed an amount equal to the non-recurring charge(s) and one month's charges for the service or facility. In addition, where special construction is involved, the advance payment may also include an amount equal to the estimated non-recurring charges for the special construction and recurring charges (if any) for a period to be set between the Company and the Customer. The advance payment will be credited to the Customer's initial bill. An advance payment may be required in addition to a deposit.

## 2.5.4 Deposits

- A. To safeguard its interests, the Company may require the Customer to make a deposit to be held as a guarantee for the payment of charges. A deposit does not relieve the Customer of the responsibility for the prompt payment of bills on presentation. The deposit will not exceed an amount equal to:
1. three months' charges for a service or facility which has a minimum payment period of one month: or
  2. the charges that would apply for the minimum payment period for a service or facility which has a minimum payment period of more than one month; except that the deposit may include an additional amount in the event that a termination charge is applicable.

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ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 2 – REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

2.5 Payment Arrangements (Cont'd.)

2.5.4 Deposits (Cont'd.)

- B. A deposit may be required in addition to an advance payment.
- C. When a service or facility is discontinued, the amount of a deposit, if any, will be applied to the Customer's account and any credit balance remaining will be refunded. Before the service or facility is discontinued, the Company may, at its option, return the deposit or credit it to the Customer's account.
- D. Deposits held will accrue interest at a rate paid on the United States savings bonds, series EE. Interest will not accrue on any deposit after the date on which reasonable effort has been made to return it to the Customer.

2.5.5 Discontinuance of Service

- A. Upon nonpayment of any amounts owing to the Company, the Company may discontinue service upon notice to the Customer.

ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 2 – REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

## 2.5 Payment Arrangements (Cont'd.)

## 2.5.6 Cancellation of Application for Service

- A. Applications for service cannot be canceled without the Company's agreement. Where the Company permits a Customer to cancel an application for service prior to the start of service or prior to any special construction, no charges will be imposed except for those specified below.
- B. Where, prior to cancellation by the Customer, the Company incurs any expenses in installing the service or in preparing to install the service that it otherwise would not have incurred, a charge equal to the costs incurred by the Company, less net salvage, shall apply, but in no case shall this charge exceed the sum of the charge for the minimum period of services ordered, including installation charges, and all charges others levy against the Company that would have been chargeable to the Customer had service commenced (all discounted to present value at six percent).
- C. Where the Company incurs any expense in connection with special construction, or where special arrangements of facilities or equipment have begun, before the Company receives a cancellation notice, a charge equal to the costs incurred by the Company, less net salvage, applies. In such cases, the charge will be based on such elements as the cost of the equipment, facilities, and material, the cost of installation, engineering, labor, and supervision, general and administrative expense, other disbursements, depreciation, maintenance, taxes, provision for return on investment, and any other costs associated with the special construction or arrangements.
- D. The special charges described in 2.5.6(A) through 2.5.6(C) will be calculated and applied on a case-by-case basis.

ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 2 – REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

2.5 Payment Arrangements (Cont'd.)

2.5.7 Changes in Service Requested

If the Customer makes or requests material changes in circuit engineering, equipment specifications, service parameters, premises locations, or otherwise materially modifies any provision of the application for service, the Customer's installation fee shall be adjusted accordingly.

2.5.8 Taxes

If a municipality or political subdivision collects or receives any payment or payments or any telephone service without charge or at reduced rates from the Company for or by reason of the use of the streets, alleys or public places of a municipality or political subdivision or for or by reason of the operation of the Company's business or any portion or phase thereof in the municipality or political subdivision or by reason of an agreement between the municipality or political subdivision and the Company, whether such payments or such service be called a license, occupational, privilege, franchise or inspection tax or fee or otherwise, or whether in a lump sum, or at a flat rate, based on receipts or based on poles, wires, conduits or other facilities or otherwise, the aggregate amount of such payments and such service will be billed, insofar as practical, pro rata to the exchange customers within such municipality or political subdivision, provided, however, the foregoing shall not apply to any such payment or payments or to any such telephone service without charge or at reduced rates during the term of any agreements or arrangement now in effect.

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ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 2 – REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

2.6 Allowances for Interruptions in Service

2.6.1 General

- A. A credit allowance will be given when service is interrupted, except as specified in Section 2.6.2 following. A service is interrupted when it becomes inoperative to the Customer, e.g., the Customer is unable to transmit or receive, because of a failure of a component furnished by the Company under this tariff.
- B. An interruption period begins when the Customer reports a service, facility or circuit to be inoperative and, if necessary, releases it for testing and repair. An interruption period ends when the service, facility or circuit is operative.
- C. If the Customer reports a service, facility or circuit to be interrupted but declines to release it for testing and repair, the service, facility or circuit is considered to be impaired but not interrupted. No credit allowances will be made for a service, facility or circuit considered by the Company to be impaired.



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ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 2 – REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

2.6 Allowances for Interruptions in Service

2.6.2 Limitations of Allowances

No credit allowance will be made for any interruption in service:

- A. Due to the negligence of or noncompliance with the provisions of this Tariff by any person or entity other than the Company, including but not limited to the Customer, authorized user, joint user or other common carriers connected to the service of the Company;
- B. Due to the failure of power, equipment, systems, connections or services not provided by the Company;
- C. Due to circumstances or causes beyond the control of the Company;
- D. During any period in which the Company is not given full and free access to its facilities and equipment for the purposes of investigating and correcting interruptions;
- E. During any period in which the Customer continues to use the service on an impaired basis;

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ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 2 – REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

2.6 Allowances for Interruptions in Service (Cont'd.)

2.6.2 Limitations of Allowances (Cont'd.)

- F. During any period when the Customer has released service to the Company for maintenance purposes or for implementation of a Customer order for a change in service arrangements;
- G. That occurs or continues due to the Customer's failure to authorize replacement of any element of special construction; and
- H. That was not reported to the Company within thirty (30) days of the date that service was affected.

2.6.3 Use of Another Means of Communications

If the Customer elects to use another means of communications during the period of interruption, the Customer must pay the charges for the alternative service used.

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ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 2 – REGULATIONS, (CONT’D.)**

2.6 Allowances for Interruptions in Service (Cont’d.)

2.6.4 Application of Credits for Interruptions in Service

- A. Credits for interruptions in service that is provided and billed on a flat rate basis for a minimum period of at least one month, beginning on the date that billing becomes effective, shall in no event exceed an amount equivalent to the proportionate charge to the Customer for the period of service during which the event that gave rise to the claim for a credit occurred. A credit allowance is applied on a pro rate basis against the rates specified hereunder and is dependent upon the length of the interruption. Only those facilities on the interrupted portion of the circuit will receive a credit.
- B. For calculating credit allowances, every month is considered to have thirty (30) days.
- C. A credit allowance will be given for interruptions in service of 15 minutes or more. Two or more interruptions of 15 minutes or more during any one 24-hour period shall be considered as one interruption.

## ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

**SECTION 2 – REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

## 2.6 Allowances for Interruptions in Service (Cont'd.)

## 2.6.4 Application of Credits for Interruptions in Service (Cont'd.)

## D. Interruptions of 24 Hours or Less

## Interruption Period

Length of Interruption	To Be Credited
Less than 15 minutes	None
15 minutes up to but not including 3 hours	1/10 Day
3 hours up to but not including 6 hours	1/5 Day
6 hours up to but not including 9 hours	2/5 Day
9 hours up to but not including 12 hours	3/5 Day
12 hours up to but not including 15 hours	4/5 Day
15 hours up to but not including 24 hours	One Day

E. Continuous Interruption Over 24 Hours and Less Than 72 Hours. Interruptions over 24 hours and less than 72 hours will be credited 1/5 day for each three-hour period or fraction thereof that occurs following the expiration of the initial 24- hour period. No more than one full day's credit will be allowed for any period of 24 hours.

F. Interruptions Over 72 Hours. Interruptions over 72 hours will be credited 2 days for each full 24-hour period that occurs following the expiration of the initial 72- hour period. No more than 30 days credit will be allowed for any one-month period.

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ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 2 – REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

2.6 Allowances for Interruptions in Service (Cont'd.)

2.6.5 Cancellation For Service Interruption

Cancellation or termination for service interruption is permitted only if any circuit experiences a single continuous outage of 8 hours or more or cumulative service credits equaling 16 hours in a continuous 12-month period. The right to cancel service under this provision applies only to the single circuit which has been subject to the outage or cumulative service credits.

ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 2 – REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

2.7 Cancellation of Service

2.7.1 If a Customer cancels a Service Order or terminates services before the completion of the term for any reason whatsoever other than a service interruption (as defined in Section 2.6.1 above), the Customer agrees to pay to the Company termination liability charges, as defined below. These charges shall become due and owing as of the effective date of the cancellation or termination and be payable within the period, set forth in Section 2.5.2.

The Customer's termination liability for cancellation of service shall be equal to:

- A. all unpaid Non-Recurring charges reasonably expended by the Company to establish service to the Customer; plus
- B. any disconnection, early cancellation or termination charges reasonably incurred and paid to third parties by the Company on behalf of the Customer; plus
- C. all Recurring Charges specified in the applicable Service Order Tariff for the balance of the then current term discounted at the prime rate announced in the Wall Street Journal on the third business day following the date of cancellation; minus
- D. a reasonable allowance for costs, fees, and expenses incurred by the Company as a direct result of the Customer's cancellation.

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ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 2 – REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

2.8 Transfers and Assignments

2.8.1 Neither the Company nor the Customer may assign or transfer its rights or duties in connection with the services and facilities provided by the Company without the written consent of the other party, except that the Company may assign its rights and duties:

- A. to any subsidiary, parent company or affiliate of the Company; or
- B. pursuant to any sale or transfer of substantially all the assets of the Company; or
- C. pursuant to any financing, merger or reorganization of the Company.

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**ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF**

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**SECTION 2 – REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

## 2.9 Notices and Communications

- 2.9.1 The Customer shall designate on the Service Order an address to which the Company shall mail or deliver all notices and other communications, except that the Customer may also designate a separate address to which the Company's bills for service shall be mailed.
- 2.9.2 The Company shall designate on the Service Order an address, which is currently Independents Fiber Network, LLC, 13888 County Rd. 25A, P.O. Box 2038, Wapakoneta, Ohio 45895, to which the Customer shall mail or deliver all notices and other communications, except that Company may designate a separate address on each bill for service to which the Customer shall mail payment on that bill. Customers may also reach Company through its toll-free telephone number 800-634-4032.
- 2.9.3 All notices or other communications required to be given pursuant to this tariff will be in writing. Notices and other communications of either party, and all bills mailed by the Company, shall be presumed to have been delivered to the other party on the third business day following placement of the notice, communication or bill with the U.S. Mail or a private delivery service, prepaid and properly addressed, or when actually received or refused by the addressee, whichever occurs first.
- 2.9.4 The Company or the Customer shall advise the other party of any changes to the addresses designated for notices, other communications or billing, by following the procedures for giving notice set forth herein.



ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 2 – REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

## 2.10 Customer Liability for Unauthorized Use of the Network

## 2.10.1 Unauthorized Use of the Network

- A. Unauthorized use of the Network occurs when: (1) a person or entity that does not have actual, apparent, or implied authority to use the Network, obtains the Company's services provided under this Tariff; or (2) a person or entity that otherwise has actual, apparent, or implied authority to use the Network, makes fraudulent use of the Network to obtain the Company's services provided under this Tariff, or uses specific services that are not authorized.
- B. The following activities constitute fraudulent use:
1. Using the Network to transmit a message, locate a person, or otherwise give or obtain information, without payment for the service;
  2. Using or attempting to use the Network with the intent to avoid payment, either in whole or part, of any of the Company's tariffed charges by either rearranging, tampering with, or making connections not authorized by this Tariff to any service components used to furnish the Company's services or using fraudulent means or devices, tricks, schemes, false or invalid numbers, false credit devices or electronic devices;
  3. Using fraudulent means or devices, tricks, schemes, false or invalid numbers, false credit devices or electronic devices to defraud or mislead callers.
- C. Customers are advised that use of telecommunications equipment and services, including that provided under this Tariff, carries a risk of various forms of telecommunications fraud (including, but not limited to, toll and PBX fraud perpetrated by Users who gain access to a Customer's facilities, account numbers, security or authorization codes, etc.). Customers should take all necessary steps to restrict access to their facilities, including the equipment and services provided hereunder, and to detect and prevent unauthorized use of the equipment and services provided by the Company under this Tariff.

ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 2 – REGULATIONS, (CONT'D.)**

2.10 Customer Liability for Unauthorized Use of the Network (Cont'd.)

2.10.2 Liability for Unauthorized Use

- A. Except as provided for elsewhere in this Tariff, the Customer is responsible for payment of all charges for services provided under this Tariff furnished to the Customer or User. This responsibility is not changed due to any use, misuse, or abuse of the Customer's service or Customer-provided equipment by Users or other third parties, the Customer's employees, or the public.
- B. The Customer is liable for all costs incurred as a result of unauthorized use of the Network, including service charges and any direct, indirect, special, incidental, reliance, consequential, exemplary or punitive charges.
- C. The Customer is responsible for payment of any charges related to the suspension and/or termination of service, and any charges for reconnection of service, incurred as a result of unauthorized use of the Network.

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ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 3 - NOTICES**

3.1 Notices

Notices provided to the Company by the Customer shall be in writing and shall be (a) delivered personally, (b) delivered by nationally recognized express delivery service, (c) mailed, certified mail or first class U.S. mail postage prepaid, return receipt requested, or (d) delivered by facsimile; provided that a confirmation copy is sent by the method described in (a), (b), or (c) of this Section 10.1, to the following addresses of the Company:

To:

Independents Fiber Network, LLC  
Attn: Managing Member  
13888 County Rd. 25A  
P.O. Box 2038  
Wapakoneta, OH 45895  
Facsimile: 419-739-3154

And to such other address as the Company shall designate by proper notice.

ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 4 - DEDICATED SERVICES 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 multiple years. Customers subscribing to a term discount plan may receive a discount on charges for these arrangements. Agreements for services over multiple years will be negotiated on an ICB.

## 4.2 Service Configurations

There are two types of service configurations over which Company's services are provided: point- to-point service and multipoint 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.

## 4.2.2 Multipoint Service

Multipoint Services connect three or more Customer designated premises through a Company hub. There is no limitation on the number of locations connected via multipoint service. However, when more than three points are provided in tandem, the quality of service may be degraded. Multipoint service may be provided where technically possible. If Company determines that the requested characteristics for a multipoint service are not compatible, the Customer will be advised and given the opportunity to change the order within 60 days.

ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 4 - DEDICATED SERVICES 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 Telcordia Technologies, Inc. Technical Publications on file with the F.C.C. are made for performance criteria, the criteria will be considered objectives for Company's performance. In no case should the reference to these Telcordia 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 Voice Grade Service (DS-0)

A Voice Grade Facility is a channel which provides voice frequency transmission capability in the normal frequency range of 300 to 3000 HZ and may be terminated as analog two-wire or four-wire, or where facilities permit, as a four-wire in a digital format when used in conjunction with another Voice Grade Facility termination at the other end. Voice Grade Facilities are provided between Customer designated locations or between a Customer designated location and a Carrier's hub.

Transmission specifications are defined in Telcordia Technical Reference TR-TSY- 000335, issue 2 and PUB 41004, Table 4, and those publications referenced therein for Voice Grade frequency (300-3000hertz Voice Grade Transmission).

ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 4 - DEDICATED SERVICES DESCRIPTIONS  
AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS, (CONT'D.)**

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

## 4.3.2 Digital Data Service (DDS)

A Digital Data Channel is a channel for duplex four-wire transmission of synchronous serial data at rates of 2.4, 4.8, 9.6, 19.2, 56, or 64 Kbps. The actual bit rate is a function of the channel interface selected by the Customer. The channel provides synchronous service with timing provided by Carrier, through Carrier facilities to the Customer in the received bit stream. Digital Data channels are provided only between Customer designated locations and/or between Customer designated locations and a Carrier's hub.

## 4.3.3 DS-1 Service

DS-1 Service, or Digital Signal Level 1 Service, is a channel for the transmission of 1.5644 Mbps data. The actual bit rate and framing format is a function of the channel interface selected by the Customer. DS-1 Channels are provided between Customer designated locations and between Customer designated locations and a Carrier's hub.

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

## 4.3.4 Type I Channels

Type I digital channels are provided where both endpoints of a channel are served by the Company's network.

ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 4 - DEDICATED SERVICES DESCRIPTIONS  
AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS, (CONT'D.)**

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

## 4.3.5 Type II Channels

Type II digital channels are provided where at least one endpoint of a channel is served by the network of an entity with whom the company's network is interconnected; such channels are provided via a combination of the Company's facilities and the facilities of the interconnected entity. Rates for the portions of the service provided over the company's facilities are based on the rates for the corresponding Type I Channel rates. Rates for the portion of the service provided over the facilities of the interconnected entity are based on the rates charged the Company by the interconnected entity. The Company may apply a service charge or mark-up to the rates charged the Company by the interconnected entity.

## 4.3.6 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 a Carrier'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 Carrier's Optical Line Terminating Equipment (OLTE) located in Carrier'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 Carrier'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 Telcordia Technical Reference TR-NPL-000054, TR-TSY-000342, TR-TSY-000194, and PUB 62508, PUB 62411, PUB 62411A.

ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 4 - DEDICATED SERVICES DESCRIPTIONS  
AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS, (CONT'D.)**

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

4.3.7 DS-3 Packaging

DS-3 services may be ordered in multiples as specified in the Dedicated Services Rates and Charges Section. 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.

4.3.8 Fractional DS-1 Service

Fractional DS-1 service consists of 2 to 24 DS-0 or DDS channels between two Customer designated locations, utilizing DS-1 level facilities, and multiplexing arrangements.



ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 4 - DEDICATED SERVICES DESCRIPTIONS  
AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS, (CONT'D.)**

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

4.3.9 Multiplexing Services

Multiplexing is provided in the following configurations:

M13 Multiplexing (ICB)

An arrangement that converts a 44.736 Mbps channel into 28 DS-1 channels using digital time division multiplexing.

DS-1 to DS-0 Multiplexing

An arrangement that converts a 1.544 Mbps channel into 24 channels for use with Voice Grade Facilities or DDS.

4.3.10 Customer Provided Equipment

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.

ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 4 - DEDICATED SERVICES DESCRIPTIONS  
AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS, (CONT'D.)**

## 4.4 Rate Categories

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

## 4.4.1 Channel Terminations (CT) / Local Distribution Channel (LDC)

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 Termination (CMT) - Fixed

This rate element applies per termination whenever there is mileage associated with the channel; a channel has mileage associated with it when the endpoints are located in geographic areas normally served out of separate Telephone Company end offices. Different charges may apply depending on whether the connection is a Type I (on-Net) or Type II (off-net) connection.

## 4.4.3 Channel Mileage (CM) - Per Mile

This rate element applies whenever there is mileage associated with the channel. The unit rate is multiplied by the number of miles (Interoffice Mileage) between the two Telephone end offices which normally serve the geographic areas in which the endpoints of the channel are located. Interoffice Mileage is determined according to the V&H coordinates method set forth in Section 4.6.2. Fractions of a mile are rounded up to the next whole mile before rates are applied. Different charges may apply depending on whether the connection is a Type I (on-Net) or Type II (off-net) connection.

ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 4 - DEDICATED SERVICES DESCRIPTIONS  
AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS, (CONT'D.)**

## 4.4 Rate Categories (Cont'd.)

## 4.4.4 Optional Features and Functions

The Optional Features and Functions Rate Category provides for optional services which may be added to a Carrier'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.

## 4.4.5 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 Carrier 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.

ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 4 - DEDICATED SERVICES DESCRIPTIONS  
AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS, (CONT'D.)**

## 4.4 Rate Categories

## 4.4.6 Volume Discounts

Customers may be eligible for volume discounts for executing agreements for services that exceed specified dollar volumes of purchased services, as specified in specific customer agreements.

## 4.4.7 Term Discounts

Customers may be eligible for term discounts for executing agreements for services for multiple years, as specified in specific customer agreements.

## 4.5 Application of Rate Elements

The rate elements described in this tariff will be applied as follows:

## 4.5.1 Point-To-Point Services

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

## 4.5.2 Multipoint Services

- Channel Terminations (one per designated Customer location)
- Channel Mileage (when applicable)
- Optional Features and Functions (when applicable)
- Extraordinary Charges (when applicable)
- Volume Discounts (when applicable)
- Term Discounts (when applicable)

ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 4 - DEDICATED SERVICES DESCRIPTIONS  
AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS, (CONT'D.)**

4.6 Regulations and Computations of Mileage

4.6.1 All inter-city services are rated according to the mileage between the Company's Point of Presence in each city.

4.6.2 Airline mileage, used in connection with determining rates for intercity portions of services and facilities, is obtained by using the "V" and "H" coordinates assigned to each point as set forth in below. To determine the airline distance between any two locations, proceed as follows:

- A. Utilize the "V" and "H" coordinates for each Customer designated location.
- B. Obtain the difference between the "V" coordinates of each of the locations. Obtain the difference between the "H" coordinates.
- C. Square each difference obtained in step (B) above.
- D. Add the square of the "V" difference and the "H" difference obtained in step (C) above.

ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 4 - DEDICATED SERVICES DESCRIPTIONS  
AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS, (CONT'D.)**

## 4.6 Regulations and Computations of Mileage (Cont'd.)

## 4.6.2 (Cont'd.)

- E. Divide the sum of the squares by 10.
- F. Obtain the square root of the number result obtained above. Round to the next higher whole number if any fraction is obtained. This is the airline mileage.
- G. Formula:

$$\sqrt{\frac{|V_1 - V_2|^2 + |H_1 - H_2|^2}{10}}$$

ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 4 - DEDICATED SERVICES DESCRIPTIONS  
AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS, (CONT'D.)**

- 4.7 Contract Rates - Special Pricing Arrangements-ICB
- 4.7.1 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 Individual Case Basis (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.
- 4.7.2 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.
- 4.7.3 The Company may provide any of the services offered under this tariff, or combinations of services, on a contractual basis to Customers who commit to use specific minimum volumes of service, to use the service for a specific term, or both. The terms and conditions of each contract offering are subject to the agreement of both the Customer and the Company. Such contract offerings will be made available to similarly situated Customers in substantially similar circumstances. Rates in other sections of this tariff do not apply to Customers who agree to contract arrangements, with respect to services within the scope of the contract. The Company will make individual contracts available to the Commission upon request.

ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 4 - DEDICATED SERVICES DESCRIPTIONS  
AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS, (CONT'D.)**

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.

4.9 Taxes

5.9.1 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.



ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF

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**SECTION 5 - DEDICATED SERVICES RATES AND CHARGES**

5.1 Rates

5.1.1 General Regulations

- A. Except as specifically indicated, the rates set forth in this section are for dedicated access services where the originating and terminating points are on Company's existing network. In all other situations, special construction charges may apply in order to connect locations to Company's network.
- B. Dedicated access services are available on an individual case basis (ICB).