

APPENDIX NIM (NETWORK INTERCONNECTION METHODS)

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APPENDIX NIM (NETWORK INTERCONNECTION METHODS)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Appendix sets forth terms and conditions for Interconnection provided by AT&T-13STATE and WSP.
- 1.2 Interconnection shall be provided at a level of quality equal to that which AT&T-13STATE provides to itself, a subsidiary, an Affiliate, or any other Telecommunications Carrier.
- 1.3 In the event the Parties deploy new switches after the Effective Date, the Parties will provide reasonable advance notice of such change and will work cooperatively to accomplish all necessary network changes.
- 1.4 WSP may designate the interface it wants to receive from the following: Trunk Side terminations at voice grade, DS0 or DS1 level.
- 1.5 WSP and AT&T-13STATE will interconnect directly in each LATA in which they exchange Section 251(b)(5) Calls and Switched Access Services traffic. Inter-tandem switching is not provided and Facility meet points must be within the AT&T-13STATE service area.
- 1.6 Facilities will be planned for in accordance with the trunk forecasts exchanged between the Parties as described in Appendix ITR

2. POINT OF INTERCONNECTION OPTIONS

- 2.1 WSP and AT&T-13STATE shall mutually agree on a POI for each Facility with Trunks utilized to carry traffic between their respective networks. A POI may be located at:
 - 2.1.1 the AT&T-13STATE Wire Center where the Facilities terminate for WSP to AT&T-13STATE Authorized Services traffic,
 - 2.1.2 WSP's office where the Facilities terminate for AT&T-13STATE to WSP Authorized Services traffic, or
 - 2.1.3 another, mutually agreeable location.
- 2.2 A POI shall not be located across a LATA boundary, nor more than a distance of 14 miles (or the State's defined local calling area, whichever is greater), from the AT&T13-State Central Office Switch where the Facility connection is established. WSP is responsible for the cost of Facilities beyond 14 miles.

3. TERMS AND COMPENSATION FOR USE OF FACILITIES

- 3.1 Each Party shall be responsible for providing its owned or leased transport Facilities to route calls to and from the POI. Each Party may construct its own Facilities, it may purchase or lease these Facilities from a Third Party, or it may purchase or lease these Facilities from the other Party, if available, pursuant to access services tariff or separate contract. Optional Payment Plans (OPP), and High Cap Term Payment Plans (HCTPP) are not available for transport facilities pursuant to this agreement.
- 3.2 The Parties will connect their networks (*i.e.*, to and from the AT&T13-STATE Central Office Switch where the Facility connection is established) using digital Facilities of at least DS-1 transmission rates ("DS-1 Facilities"), where available.
- 3.3 The following shall apply solely for Facilities connecting the Parties networks dedicated for transport of Authorized Services Interconnection traffic and for transport of Authorized Services Third Party Traffic. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as authorizing WSP to use such Facilities to deliver traffic that is destined for a facilities-based Competitive Local Exchange Carrier (CLEC), Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier (ILEC), Commercial Mobile Radio Service (CMRS) provider, or Out-of-Exchange Local Exchange Carrier (OELEC).

- 3.3.1 Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, AT&T-13STATE shall not have dedicated transport obligations over, nor shall it have any obligation to share the cost of, Facilities between the Parties' networks that either cross a LATA boundary, or exceed a distance of 14 miles (or the State's defined local calling area, whichever is greater) from the AT&T-13STATE Central Office Switch where the Facility connection is established.
- 3.3.2 When a Party uses DS-1 Facilities provided by the other Party (either through self provisioning, or through the purchase of Facilities from the other Party or from Third Parties) to deliver traffic from its network that are (a) dedicated to the transmission of Authorized Services traffic between the Parties' networks, and (b) are shared by the Parties, such Party will reimburse the other Party for a proportionate share of the cost of Facilities. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if WSP obtains such Facilities from a Third Party, nothing herein shall obligate AT&T-13STATE to reimburse WSP for those Facilities.
- 3.3.2.1 AT&T-13STATE's use of such Facilities is reflected in the Shared Facility Factor listed in Appendix Pricing (Wireless) and is equal to the amount of Section 251(b)(5) Calls traffic originated on AT&T-13STATE's network in the State compared to the amount of all traffic exchanged between the Parties in the State.
- 3.3.2.2 The Party, who is delivering Interconnection traffic originating on its network through Facilities and/or Trunks provided by the other Party, shall pay to the other Party providing such Facilities and/or Trunks its share of the cost of such Facilities and/or Trunks utilizing the Shared Facility Factor set forth in Appendix – Pricing (Wireless), which represents AT&T 13-STATE's share of the cost; provided, however, that either Party may submit to the other Party a traffic study, a reasonable estimate of its traffic with supporting justification for such estimate, and/or other network information in complete and appropriate form (determined in good faith)("Shared Facility Information") that the Parties will use to negotiate in good faith a different WSP-specific Shared Facility Factor. The Shared Facility Information must be WSP-specific and relate to WSP's network in the State; it shall not be based on industry average data or the data of other Telecommunications Carriers. Once a new Shared Facility Factor has been negotiated, the Parties agree to file an Amendment with the Commission to reflect such factor within thirty (30) Days. Upon filing of the Amendment, if the Shared Facility Information is provided within ninety (90) Days after the date this Agreement was executed by duly authorized representatives of both Parties, then the WSP-specific Shared Facility Factor derived using such Shared Facility Information shall be effective as of the Effective Date of this Agreement; otherwise, upon filing of the Amendment, the WSP-specific Shared Facility Factor will be effective as of the date the Shared Facility Information was provided in complete and appropriate form (determined in good faith) to the other Party. Any WSP-specific Shared Facility Factor that becomes effective during the Initial Term of the Agreement will remain in effect during the Initial Term of the Agreement. After the expiration of the Initial Term hereof, such WSP-specific Shared Facility Factor established during the Initial Term shall remain in effect thereafter unless either Party provides new Shared Facility Information to the other Party. In such case, the Parties shall use that new WSP-specific Shared Facility Information to renegotiate in good faith a new revised WSP-specific Shared Facility Factor. Renegotiation of the WSP-specific Shared Facility Factor shall occur no more frequently than once every twenty-four months.
- 3.3.3 Each Party reserves the right to refuse or discontinue the use of a shared Facilities arrangement provided by the other Party, the Facilities provided directly by the other Party or via a Third Party. This provision does not negate any obligations either Party may have regarding such Facilities, such as but not limited to, term and notice provisions.
- 3.3.4 Should the Parties desire to share the cost of Facilities larger than DS-1, they will separately negotiate terms for such sharing.

- 3.3.5 When a Party uses its own Facilities (either through self-provisioning, or through the purchase of Facilities from the other Party or from Third Parties) to deliver one-way traffic from its network to the POI, such Party shall provide such Facilities at its sole cost and expense.

4. **ANCILLARY SERVICES TRAFFIC**

- 4.1 When delivering Ancillary Services traffic to AT&T-13STATE, WSP shall provide Facilities and connections in each LATA dedicated solely for Ancillary Services traffic. Ancillary Service traffic requires a dedicated DS-1 Facility. The connection used must be an Ancillary Services Connection.
- 4.2 For the provision of 911 and/or E911 Services, WSP may provide its own Facilities or purchase Facilities from a Third Party to connect its network with AT&T-13STATE's 911 Tandem. Alternatively, WSP may purchase appropriate Facilities from AT&T-13STATE's applicable Access Services Tariff.
- 4.2.1 This Section 4.2.1 applies only in states where Type 2C interfaces are generally available from AT&T-13STATE. As a further alternative in such states, WSP may purchase Facilities employing a Type 2C interface from AT&T-13STATE at rates found in the special access service section of AT&T-13STATE's Intrastate Access Services Tariff.