

- 12.4.1 If the written notice given pursuant to Section 12.3 discloses that a CLEC dispute relates to billing, then the procedures set forth in this Section 12.4 shall be used and the dispute shall first be referred to the appropriate service center AT&T MIDWEST REGION 5-STATE Service Center; AT&T-7STATE Local Service Center (LSC); AT&T CONNECTICUT Local Exchange Carrier Center (LEC-C)] for resolution. In order to resolve a billing dispute, CLEC shall furnish AT&T-13STATE written notice of (i) the date of the bill in question, (ii) CBA/ESBA/ASBS or BAN number of the bill in question, (iii) telephone number, circuit ID number or trunk number in question, (iv) any USOC information relating to the item questioned, (v) amount billed and (vi) amount in question and (vii) the reason that CLEC disputes the billed amount. To be deemed a "dispute" under this Section 12.4, CLEC must provide evidence that it has either paid the disputed amount or established an interest bearing escrow account that complies with the requirements set forth in Section 10.6 of this Agreement and deposited all Unpaid Charges relating to Resale Services and Lawful Unbundled Network Elements into that escrow account. Failure to provide the information and evidence required by this Section 12.4.1 not later than twenty-nine (29) calendar days following the Bill Due Date shall constitute CLEC's irrevocable and full waiver of its right to dispute the subject charges.
- 12.4.2 The Parties shall attempt to resolve Disputed Amounts appearing on AT&T-13STATE's current billing statements thirty (30) to sixty (60) calendar days from the Bill Due Date (provided the CLEC furnishes all requisite information and evidence under Section 12.4.1 by the Bill Due Date). If not resolved within thirty (30) calendar days, upon request, AT&T-13STATE will notify CLEC of the status of the dispute and the expected resolution date.
- 12.4.3 The Parties shall attempt to resolve Disputed Amounts appearing on statements prior to the current billing statement within thirty (30) to ninety (90) calendar days, but resolution may take longer depending on the complexity of the dispute. If not resolved within thirty (30) calendar days from the date notice of the Disputed Amounts was received (provided that CLEC furnishes all requisite information and evidence under Section 12.4.1), AT&T-13STATE will notify CLEC of the status of the dispute and the expected resolution date.
- 12.4.4 Any notice of Disputed Amounts given by AT&T-13STATE to CLEC pursuant to Section 12.3 shall furnish CLEC written notice of: (i) the date of the bill in question, (ii) the account number or other identification of the bill in question, (iii) any telephone number, circuit ID number or trunk number in question, (iv) any USOC (or other descriptive information) questioned, (v) the amount billed, (vi) the amount in question, and (vii) the reason that AT&T-13STATE disputes the billed amount. The Parties shall attempt to resolve Disputed Amounts appearing on current billing statement(s) thirty (30) to sixty (60) calendar days from the Bill Due Date (provided AT&T-13STATE furnishes all requisite information by the Bill Due Date) and Disputed Amounts appearing on statements prior to the current billing statement within thirty (30) to ninety (90) calendar days, but resolution may take longer depending on the complexity of the dispute. If not resolved within thirty (30) calendar days, CLEC will notify AT&T-13STATE of the status of the dispute and the expected resolution date.
- 12.4.5 If the Non-Paying Party is not satisfied by the resolution of the billing dispute under this Section 12.4, the Non-Paying Party may notify the Billing Party in writing that it wishes to invoke the Informal Resolution of Disputes afforded pursuant to Section 12.5 of this Agreement.

12.5 Informal Resolution of Disputes

- 12.5.1 Upon receipt by one Party of notice of a dispute by the other Party pursuant to Section 12.3 or Section 12.4.5, each Party will appoint a knowledgeable, responsible representative to meet and negotiate in good faith to resolve any dispute arising under this Agreement. The location, form, frequency, duration, and conclusion of these discussions will be left to the discretion of the representatives. Upon agreement, the representatives may utilize other alternative Dispute Resolution procedures such as mediation to assist in the negotiations. Discussions and the correspondence among the representatives for purposes of settlement are exempt from

discovery and production and will not be admissible in the arbitration described below or in any lawsuit without the concurrence of both Parties. Documents identified in or provided with such communications that were not prepared for purposes of the negotiations are not so exempted, and, if otherwise admissible, may be admitted in evidence in the arbitration or lawsuit.

12.6 Formal Dispute Resolution

12.6.1 If the Parties are unable to resolve the dispute through the informal procedure described in Section 12.5, then either Party may invoke the formal Dispute Resolution procedures described in this Section 12.6. Unless agreed among all Parties, formal Dispute Resolution procedures, including arbitration or other procedures as appropriate, may be invoked not earlier than sixty (60) calendar days after receipt of the letter initiating Dispute Resolution under Section 12.3.

12.6.2 Claims Subject to Mandatory Arbitration. The following claims, if not settled through informal Dispute Resolution, will be subject to mandatory arbitration pursuant to Section 12.7 below:

12.6.2.1 Each unresolved billing dispute involving one percent (1%) or less of the amounts charged to the Disputing Party under this Agreement in the state in which the dispute arises during the twelve (12) months immediately preceding receipt of the letter initiating Dispute Resolution under Section 12.3. If the disputing Party has not been billed for a minimum of twelve (12) months immediately preceding receipt of the letter initiating Dispute Resolution under Section 12.3, the Parties will annualize the actual number of months billed.

12.6.3 Claims Subject to Elective Arbitration. Claims will be subject to elective arbitration pursuant to Section 12.7 if, and only if, the claim is not settled through informal Dispute Resolution and both Parties agree to arbitration. If both Parties do not agree to arbitration, then either Party may proceed with any remedy available to it pursuant to law, equity or agency mechanism.

12.6.4 Claims Not Subject to Arbitration. If the following claims are not resolved through informal Dispute Resolution, they will not be subject to arbitration and must be resolved through any remedy available to a Party pursuant to law, equity or agency mechanism.

12.6.4.1 Actions seeking a temporary restraining order or an injunction related to the purposes of this Agreement.

12.6.4.2 Actions to compel compliance with the Dispute Resolution process.

12.6.4.3 All claims arising under federal or state statute(s), including antitrust claims.

12.7 Arbitration

12.7.1 Disputes subject to mandatory or elective arbitration under the provisions of this Agreement will be submitted to a single arbitrator pursuant to the Commercial Arbitration Rules of the American Arbitration Association or pursuant to such other provider of arbitration services or rules as the Parties may agree. The arbitrator shall be knowledgeable of telecommunications issues. Each arbitration will be held in **Dallas, Texas (AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE); Chicago, Illinois (AT&T MIDWEST REGION 5-STATE), San Francisco, California (AT&T CALIFORNIA); Reno, Nevada (AT&T NEVADA); or New Haven, Connecticut (AT&T CONNECTICUT)**, as appropriate, unless the Parties agree otherwise. The arbitration hearing will be requested to commence within sixty (60) calendar days of the demand for arbitration. The arbitrator will control the scheduling so as to process the matter expeditiously. The Parties may submit written briefs upon a schedule determined by the arbitrator. The Parties will request that the arbitrator rule on the dispute by issuing a written opinion within thirty (30) calendar days after the close of hearings. The Federal Arbitration Act, 9 U.S.C. Secs. 1-16, not state law, shall govern the arbitrability of all disputes. Notwithstanding any rule of the AAA Commercial Arbitration Rules to the contrary, the Parties agree that the arbitrator will have no authority to award punitive damages, exemplary damages, Consequential Damages, multiple damages, or any other damages not measured by the prevailing Party's actual damages, and may not, in any

event, make any ruling, finding or award that does not conform to the terms and conditions of this Agreement. The times specified in this Section may be extended or shortened upon mutual agreement of the Parties or by the arbitrator upon a showing of good cause. Each Party will bear its own costs of these procedures, including attorneys' fees. The Parties will equally split the fees of the arbitration and the arbitrator. The arbitrator's award shall be final and binding and may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof. Judgment upon the award rendered by the arbitrator may be entered in any court having jurisdiction.

13. AUDITS – APPLICABLE IN AT&T-12STATE ONLY

13.1 Subject to the restrictions set forth in Section 22 "Confidentiality" and except as may be otherwise expressly provided in this Agreement, a Party (the "Auditing Party") may audit the other Party's (the "Audited Party") books, records, data and other documents, as provided herein, once annually, with the audit period commencing not earlier than the date on which services were first supplied under this Agreement ("service start date") for the purpose of evaluating (i) the accuracy of Audited Party's billing and invoicing of the services provided hereunder and (ii) verification of compliance with any provision of this Agreement that affects the accuracy of Auditing Party's billing and invoicing of the services provided to Audited Party hereunder. Notwithstanding the foregoing, an Auditing Party may audit the Audited Party's books, records and documents more than once annually if the previous audit found (i) previously uncorrected net variances or errors in invoices in Audited Party's favor with an aggregate value of at least five percent (5%) of the amounts payable by Auditing Party for audited services provided during the period covered by the audit or (ii) non-compliance by Audited Party with any provision of this Agreement affecting Auditing Party's billing and invoicing of the services provided to Audited Party with an aggregate value of at least five percent (5%) of the amounts payable by Audited Party for audited services provided during the period covered by the audit.

13.1.1 The scope of the audit shall be limited to the period which is the shorter of (i) the period subsequent to the last day of the period covered by the audit which was last performed (or if no audit has been performed, the service start date and (ii) the twelve (12) month period immediately preceding the date the Audited Party received notice of such requested audit, but in any event not prior to the service start date. Such audit shall begin no fewer than thirty (30) calendar days after Audited Party receives a written notice requesting an audit and shall be completed no later than thirty (30) calendar days after the start of such audit.

13.1.2 Such audit shall be conducted either by the Auditing Party's employee(s) or an independent auditor acceptable to both Parties; provided, however, if the Audited Party requests that an independent auditor be engaged and the Auditing Party agrees, the Audited Party shall pay one-quarter (1/4) of the independent auditor's fees and expenses. If an independent auditor is to be engaged, the Parties shall select an auditor by the thirtieth day following Audited Party's receipt of a written audit notice. Auditing Party shall cause the independent auditor to execute a nondisclosure agreement in a form agreed upon by the Parties.

13.1.3 Each audit shall be conducted on the premises of the Audited Party during normal business hours. Audited Party shall cooperate fully in any such audit and shall provide the auditor reasonable access to any and all appropriate Audited Party employees and any books, records and other documents reasonably necessary to assess (i) the accuracy of Audited Party's bills and (ii) Audited Party's compliance with the provisions of this Agreement that affect the accuracy of Auditing Party's billing and invoicing of the services provided to Audited Party hereunder. Audited Party may redact from the books, records and other documents provided to the auditor any Audited Party information that reveals the identity of End Users of Audited Party.

13.1.4 Each Party shall maintain reports, records and data relevant to the billing of any services that are the subject matter of this Agreement for a period of not less than twenty-four (24) months after creation thereof, unless a longer period is required by Applicable Law.

13.1.5 If any audit confirms any undercharge or overcharge, then Audited Party shall (i) promptly correct any billing error, including making refund of any overpayment by Auditing Party in the

form of a credit on the invoice for the first full billing cycle after the Parties have agreed upon the accuracy of the audit results and (ii) for any undercharge caused by the actions of the Audited Party, immediately compensate Auditing Party for such undercharge, and (iii) in each case, calculate and pay interest as provided in Section 10.1 (depending on the AT&T-owned ILEC(s) involved), for the number of calendar days from the date on which such undercharge or overcharge originated until the date on which such credit is issued or payment is made and available.

- 13.1.6 Except as may be otherwise provided in this Agreement, audits shall be performed at Auditing Party's expense, subject to reimbursement by Audited Party of one-quarter (1/4) of any independent auditor's fees and expenses in the event that an audit finds, and the Parties subsequently verify, a net adjustment in the charges paid or payable by Auditing Party hereunder by an amount that is, on an annualized basis, greater than five percent (5%) of the aggregate charges for the audited services during the period covered by the audit.
- 13.1.7 Any disputes concerning audit results shall be referred to the Parties' respective personnel responsible for informal resolution. If these individuals cannot resolve the dispute within thirty (30) calendar days of the referral, either Party may request in writing that an additional audit shall be conducted by an independent auditor acceptable to both Parties, subject to the requirements set out in Section 13.1. Any additional audit shall be at the requesting Party's expense.

13.2 Audits - AT&T CONNECTICUT only

- 13.2.1 Except as provided in Appendix Compensation, AT&T CONNECTICUT shall arrange for one (1) annual independent audit to be conducted by a "Big Six" independent public accounting firm or an accounting firm mutually agreed to by AT&T CONNECTICUT, CLEC and all other CLECs doing business with AT&T CONNECTICUT under the terms of an agreement adopted pursuant to Sections 251 and 252 of the Act for the purpose of evaluating the accuracy of AT&T CONNECTICUT's billing and invoicing.
- 13.2.2 AT&T CONNECTICUT will cooperate fully with the independent auditor in such audit and provide reasonable access to any and all appropriate AT&T CONNECTICUT employees, books, records and other documents reasonably necessary to perform the audit.
- 13.2.3 AT&T CONNECTICUT shall promptly correct any billing error that is revealed in the audit, including making refund of any overpayment to CLEC in the form of a credit on the invoice for the first full billing cycle after the audit report is issued; such refund shall include interest on the overpayment at the rate of eight percent (8%) per year. In the event that the audit reveals any underbilling and resulting underpayment to AT&T CONNECTICUT by CLEC, the underpayment shall be reflected in CLEC's invoice for the first full billing cycle after the audit report is issued. AT&T CONNECTICUT will not be entitled to recover interest on any underbilling to CLEC revealed by the audit for the time preceding the amount appearing on CLEC's bill from AT&T CONNECTICUT, however, AT&T CONNECTICUT shall be entitled to recover interest at the interest rate referenced in Section 10.1.5.1 on such underbilling and CLEC shall pay interest for the number of calendar days from the Bill Due Date of the bill on which such underbilling was rectified until the date on which payment is made and available to AT&T CONNECTICUT.

14. **DISCLAIMER OF REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES**

- 14.1 EXCEPT AS EXPRESSLY PROVIDED UNDER THIS AGREEMENT, NO PARTY MAKES OR RECEIVES ANY WARRANTY, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, WITH RESPECT TO THE INTERCONNECTION, RESALE SERVICES, LAWFUL UNBUNDLED NETWORK ELEMENTS, FUNCTIONS, FACILITIES, PRODUCTS AND SERVICES IT PROVIDES UNDER OR IS CONTEMPLATED TO PROVIDE UNDER THIS AGREEMENT AND EACH PARTY DISCLAIMS THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND/OR OF FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. ADDITIONALLY, NO PARTY TO THIS AGREEMENT ASSUMES RESPONSIBILITY WITH REGARD TO THE CORRECTNESS OF DATA OR INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY ANY OTHER

PARTY TO THIS AGREEMENT WHEN SUCH DATA OR INFORMATION IS ACCESSED AND USED BY A THIRD PARTY.

15. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

- 15.1 Except for indemnity obligations expressly set forth herein or as otherwise expressly provided in specific appendices, each Party's liability to the other Party for any Loss relating to or arising out of such Party's performance under this Agreement, including any negligent act or omission (whether willful or inadvertent), whether in contract, tort or otherwise, including alleged breaches of this Agreement and causes of action alleged to arise from allegations that breach of this Agreement also constitute a violation of a statute, including the Act, shall not exceed in total the amount AT&T-13STATE or CLEC has charged or would have charged to the other Party for the affected Interconnection, Resale Services, Lawful Unbundled Network Elements, Collocation, or functions, facilities, products and service(s) that were not performed or provided or were improperly performed or provided.
- 15.2 Except as otherwise expressly provided in specific appendices, in the case of any Loss alleged or claimed by a Third Party to have arisen out of the negligence or willful misconduct of any Party, each Party shall bear, and its obligation shall be limited to, that portion (as mutually agreed to by the Parties or as otherwise established) of the resulting expense caused by its own negligence or willful misconduct or that of its agents, servants, contractors, or others acting in aid or concert with it.
- 15.3 A Party may, in its sole discretion, provide in its tariffs and contracts with its End Users or Third Parties that relate to any Interconnection, Resale Services, Lawful Unbundled Network Elements, functions, facilities, products and services provided or contemplated under this Agreement that, to the maximum extent permitted by Applicable Law, such Party shall not be liable to such End User or Third Party for (i) any Loss relating to or arising out of this Agreement, whether in contract, tort or otherwise, that exceeds the amount such Party would have charged the End User or Third Party for the Interconnection, Resale Services, Lawful Unbundled Network Elements, functions, facilities, products and services that gave rise to such Loss and (ii) any Consequential Damages. If a Party elects not to place in its tariffs or contracts such limitation(s) of liability, and the other Party incurs a Loss as a result thereof, the first Party shall indemnify and reimburse the other Party for that portion of the Loss that would have been limited had the first Party included in its tariffs and contracts the limitation(s) of liability described in this Section.
- 15.4 Neither CLEC nor AT&T-13STATE shall be liable to the other Party for any Consequential Damages suffered by the other Party, regardless of the form of action, whether in contract, warranty, strict liability, tort or otherwise, including negligence of any kind, whether active or passive (and including alleged breaches of this Agreement and causes of action alleged to arise from allegations that breach of this Agreement constitutes a violation of the Act or other statute), and regardless of whether the Parties knew or had been advised of the possibility that such damages could result in connection with or arising from anything said, omitted, or done hereunder or related hereto, including willful acts or omissions; provided that the foregoing shall not limit a Party's obligation under Section 16 to indemnify, defend, and hold the other Party harmless against any amounts payable to a Third Party, including any Losses, and Consequential Damages of such Third Party; provided, however, that nothing in this Section 15.4 shall impose indemnity obligations on a Party for any Loss or Consequential Damages suffered by that Party's End User in connection with any affected Interconnection, Resale Services, Lawful Unbundled Network Elements, Collocation, functions, facilities, products and services. Except as provided in the prior sentence, each Party ("Indemnifying Party") hereby releases and holds harmless the other Party ("Indemnitee") (and Indemnitee's Affiliates, and its respective officers, directors, employees and agents) against any Loss or Claim made by the Indemnifying Party's End User.
- 15.5 AT&T-13STATE shall not be liable for damages to an End User's premises resulting from the furnishing of any Interconnection, Resale Services, Lawful Unbundled Network Elements, functions, facilities, products or services, including, if applicable, the installation and removal of equipment and associated wiring, and Collocation Equipment unless the damage is caused by AT&T-13STATE's gross negligence or willful misconduct. AT&T-13STATE does not guarantee or make any warranty with

respect to Interconnection, Resale Services, Lawful Unbundled Network Elements, Collocation, functions, facilities, products or services when used in an explosive atmosphere.

- 15.6 CLEC hereby releases AT&T-13STATE from any and all liability for damages due to errors or omissions in CLEC's End User listing information as provided by CLEC to AT&T-13STATE under this Agreement, including any errors or omissions occurring in CLEC's End User listing information as it appears in the White Pages directory, including, but not limited to, special, indirect, Consequential, punitive or incidental damages.
- 15.7 AT&T-13STATE shall not be liable to CLEC, its End User or any other Person for any Loss alleged to arise out of the provision of access to 911 service or any errors, interruptions, defects, failures or malfunctions of 911 service.
- 15.8 This Section 15 is not intended to exempt any Party from all liability under this Agreement, but only to set forth the scope of liability agreed to and the type of damages that are recoverable. Both Parties acknowledge that they negotiated regarding alternate limitation of liability provisions but that such provisions would have altered the cost, and thus the price, of providing the Interconnection, Resale Services, Lawful Unbundled Network Elements, functions, facilities, products and services available hereunder, and no different pricing reflecting different costs and different limits of liability was agreed to.

16. INDEMNITY

- 16.1 Except as otherwise expressly provided herein or in specific appendices, each Party shall be responsible only for the Interconnection, Resale Services, Lawful Unbundled Network Elements, Collocation, functions, facilities, products and services which are provided by that Party, its authorized agents, subcontractors, or others retained by such Parties, and neither Party shall bear any responsibility for the Interconnection, Resale Services, Lawful Unbundled Network Elements, functions, facilities, products and services provided by the other Party, its agents, subcontractors, or others retained by such Parties.
- 16.2 Except as otherwise expressly provided herein or in specific appendices, and to the extent not prohibited by Applicable Law and not otherwise controlled by tariff, each Party (the "Indemnifying Party") shall release, defend and indemnify the other Party (the "Indemnified Party") and hold such Indemnified Party harmless against any Loss to a Third Party arising out of the negligence or willful misconduct ("Fault") of such Indemnifying Party, its agents, its End Users, contractors, or others retained by such Parties, in connection with the Indemnifying Party's provision of Interconnection, Resale Services, Lawful Unbundled Network Elements, Collocation, functions, facilities, products and services under this Agreement; provided, however, that (i) with respect to employees or agents of the Indemnifying Party, such Fault occurs while performing within the scope of their employment, (ii) with respect to subcontractors of the Indemnifying Party, such Fault occurs in the course of performing duties of the subcontractor under its subcontract with the Indemnifying Party, and (iii) with respect to the Fault of employees or agents of such subcontractor, such Fault occurs while performing within the scope of their employment by the subcontractor with respect to such duties of the subcontractor under the subcontract.
- 16.3 In the case of any Loss alleged or claimed by a End User of either Party, the Party whose End User alleged or claimed such Loss (the "Indemnifying Party") shall defend and indemnify the other Party (the "Indemnified Party") against any and all such Claims or Losses by its End User regardless of whether the underlying Interconnection, Resale Service, Lawful Unbundled Network Element, Collocation, function, facility, product or service giving rise to such Claim or Loss was provided or provisioned by the Indemnified Party, unless the Claim or Loss was caused by the gross negligence or willful misconduct of the Indemnified Party.
- 16.4 A Party (the "Indemnifying Party") shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the other Party ("Indemnified Party") against any Claim or Loss arising from the Indemnifying Party's use of Interconnection, Resale Services, Lawful Unbundled Network Elements, Collocation, functions, facilities, products and services provided under this Agreement involving:

- 16.4.1 Any Claim or Loss arising from such Indemnifying Party's use of Interconnection, Resale Services, Lawful Unbundled Network Elements, Collocation, functions, facilities, products and services offered under this Agreement, involving any Claim for libel, slander, invasion of privacy, or infringement of Intellectual Property rights arising from the Indemnifying Party's or its End User's use.
- 16.4.1.1 The foregoing includes any Claims or Losses arising from disclosure of any End User-specific information associated with either the originating or terminating numbers used to provision Interconnection, Resale Services, Lawful Unbundled Network Elements, Collocation, functions, facilities, products or services provided hereunder and all other Claims arising out of any act or omission of the End User in the course of using any Interconnection, Resale Services, Lawful Unbundled Network Elements, functions, facilities, products or services provided pursuant to this Agreement.
- 16.4.1.2 The foregoing includes any Losses arising from Claims for actual or alleged infringement of any Intellectual Property right of a Third Party to the extent that such Loss arises from an Indemnifying Party's or an Indemnifying Party's End User's use of Interconnection, Resale Services, Lawful Unbundled Network Elements, Collocation, functions, facilities, products or services provided under this Agreement; provided, however, that an Indemnifying Party's obligation to defend and indemnify the Indemnified Party shall not apply:
- 16.4.1.2.1 where an Indemnified Party or its End User modifies Interconnection, Resale Services, Lawful Unbundled Network Elements, Collocation, functions, facilities, products or services; provided under this Agreement; and
- 16.4.1.2.2 no infringement would have occurred without such modification.
- 16.4.2 Any and all penalties imposed on either Party because of the Indemnifying Party's failure to comply with the Communications Assistance to Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (CALEA); provided that the Indemnifying Party shall also, at its sole cost and expense, pay any amounts necessary to modify or replace any equipment, facilities or services provided to the Indemnified Party under this Agreement to ensure that such equipment, facilities and services fully comply with CALEA.
- 16.5 CLEC acknowledges that its right under this Agreement to Interconnect with **AT&T-13STATE**'s network and to unbundle and/or combine **AT&T-13STATE**'s Lawful Unbundled Network Elements (including combining with CLEC's Network Elements) may be subject to or limited by Intellectual Property rights (including without limitation, patent, copyright, trade secret, trade mark, service mark, trade name and trade dress rights) and contract rights of Third Parties.
- 16.5.1 The Parties acknowledge that on April 27, 2000, the FCC released its Memorandum Opinion and Order in CC Docket No. 96-98 (File No. CCBPol. 97-4), In the Matter of Petition of MCI for Declaratory *Ruling*. The Parties further acknowledge and agree that by executing this Agreement, neither Party waives any of its rights, remedies, or arguments with respect to such decision and any remand thereof, including its right to seek legal review or a stay pending appeal of such decision.
- 16.5.1.1 **AT&T-13STATE** agrees to use its best efforts to obtain for CLEC, under commercially reasonable terms, Intellectual Property rights to each Lawful UNE necessary for CLEC to use such Lawful UNE in the same manner as **AT&T-13STATE**.
- 16.5.1.2 **AT&T-13STATE** shall have no obligation to attempt to obtain for CLEC any Intellectual Property right(s) that would permit CLEC to use any Lawful UNE in a different manner than used by **AT&T-13STATE**.
- 16.5.1.3 To the extent not prohibited by a contract with the vendor of the network element sought by CLEC that contains Intellectual Property licenses, **AT&T-13STATE** shall reveal to CLEC the name of the vendor, the Intellectual Property rights licensed to

AT&T-13STATE under the vendor contract and the terms of the contract (excluding cost terms). AT&T-13STATE shall, at CLEC's request, contact the vendor to attempt to obtain permission to reveal additional contract details to CLEC.

16.5.1.4 All costs associated with the extension of Intellectual Property rights to CLEC pursuant to Section 18.1, including the cost of the license extension itself and the costs associated with the effort to obtain the license, shall be a part of the cost of providing the Lawful UNE to which the Intellectual Property rights relate and apportioned to all requesting carriers using that Lawful UNE including AT&T-13STATE.

16.5.2 AT&T-13STATE hereby conveys no licenses to use such Intellectual Property rights and makes no warranties, express or implied, concerning CLEC's (or any Third Parties') rights with respect to such Intellectual Property rights and contract rights, including whether such rights will be violated by such Interconnection or unbundling and/or combining of Lawful Unbundled Network Elements (including combining with CLEC's Network Elements) in AT&T-13STATE's network or CLEC's use of other functions, facilities, products or services furnished under this Agreement. Any licenses or warranties for Intellectual Property rights associated with Lawful UNEs are vendor licenses and warranties and are a part of the Intellectual Property rights AT&T-13STATE agrees in Section 16.5.1.1 to use its best efforts to obtain.

16.5.3 AT&T-13STATE does not and shall not indemnify, defend or hold CLEC harmless, nor be responsible for indemnifying or defending, or holding CLEC harmless, for any Claims or Losses for actual or alleged infringement of any Intellectual Property right or interference with or violation of any contract right that arises out of, is caused by, or relates to CLEC's Interconnection with AT&T-13STATE's network and unbundling and/or combining AT&T-13STATE's Lawful Unbundled Network Elements (including combining with CLEC's Network Elements) or CLEC's use of other functions, facilities, products or services furnished under this Agreement. Any indemnities for Intellectual Property rights associated with Lawful UNEs shall be vendor's indemnities and are a part of the Intellectual Property rights AT&T-13STATE agrees in Section 16.5.1.1 to use its best efforts to obtain.

16.6 CLEC shall reimburse AT&T-13STATE for damages to AT&T-13STATE's facilities utilized to provide Collocation, Interconnection or Lawful UNEs hereunder caused by the negligence or willful act of CLEC, its agents or subcontractors or CLEC's End User or resulting from CLEC's improper use of AT&T-13STATE's facilities, or due to malfunction of any facilities, functions, products, services or equipment provided by any person or entity other than AT&T-13STATE. Upon reimbursement for damages, AT&T-13STATE will cooperate with CLEC in prosecuting a claim against the person causing such damage. CLEC shall be subrogated to the right of recovery by AT&T-13STATE for the damages to the extent of such payment.

16.7 Notwithstanding any other provision in this Agreement, each Party agrees that should it cause any non-standard digital subscriber line ("xDSL") technologies (as that term is defined in the applicable Appendix DSL and/or the applicable commission-ordered tariff, as appropriate) to be deployed or used in connection with or on AT&T-13STATE facilities, that Party ("Indemnifying Party") will pay all costs associated with any damage, service interruption or other Telecommunications Service degradation, or damage to the other Party's ("Indemnitee's") facilities.

16.8 Indemnification Procedures

16.8.1 Whenever a claim shall arise for indemnification under this Section 16, the relevant Indemnified Party, as appropriate, shall promptly notify the Indemnifying Party and request in writing the Indemnifying Party to defend the same. Failure to so notify the Indemnifying Party shall not relieve the Indemnifying Party of any liability that the Indemnifying Party might have, except to the extent that such failure prejudices the Indemnifying Party's ability to defend such claim.

- 16.8.2 The Indemnifying Party shall have the right to defend against such liability or assertion, in which event the Indemnifying Party shall give written notice to the Indemnified Party of acceptance of the defense of such claim and the identity of counsel selected by the Indemnifying Party.
- 16.8.3 Until such time as Indemnifying Party provides written notice of acceptance of the defense of such claim, the Indemnified Party shall defend such claim, at the expense of the Indemnifying Party, subject to any right of the Indemnifying Party to seek reimbursement for the costs of such defense in the event that it is determined that Indemnifying Party had no obligation to indemnify the Indemnified Party for such claim.
- 16.8.4 Upon accepting the defense, the Indemnifying Party shall have exclusive right to control and conduct the defense and settlement of any such claims, subject to consultation with the Indemnified Party. So long as the Indemnifying Party is controlling and conducting the defense, the Indemnifying Party shall not be liable for any settlement by the Indemnified Party unless such Indemnifying Party has approved such settlement in advance and agrees to be bound by the agreement incorporating such settlement.
- 16.8.5 At any time, an Indemnified Party shall have the right to refuse a compromise or settlement, and, at such refusing Party's cost, to take over such defense; provided that, in such event the Indemnifying Party shall not be responsible for, nor shall it be obligated to indemnify the refusing Party against, any cost or liability in excess of such refused compromise or settlement.
- 16.8.6 With respect to any defense accepted by the Indemnifying Party, the Indemnified Party will be entitled to participate with the Indemnifying Party in such defense if the claim requests equitable relief or other relief that could affect the rights of the Indemnified Party, and shall also be entitled to employ separate counsel for such defense at such Indemnified Party's expense.
- 16.8.7 If the Indemnifying Party does not accept the defense of any indemnified claim as provided above, the Indemnified Party shall have the right to employ counsel for such defense at the expense of the Indemnifying Party.
- 16.8.8 In the event of a failure to assume the defense, the Indemnified Party may negotiate a settlement, which shall be presented to the Indemnifying Party. If the Indemnifying Party refuses to agree to the presented settlement, the Indemnifying Party may take over the defense. If the Indemnifying Party refuses to agree to the presented settlement and refuses to take over the defense, the Indemnifying Party shall be liable for any reasonable cash settlement not involving any admission of liability by the Indemnifying Party, though such settlement may have been made by the Indemnified Party without approval of the Indemnifying Party, it being the Parties' intent that no settlement involving a non-monetary concession by the Indemnifying Party, including an admission of liability by such Party, shall take effect without the written approval of the Indemnifying Party.
- 16.8.9 Each Party agrees to cooperate and to cause its employees and agents to cooperate with the other Party in the defense of any such claim and the relevant records of each Party shall be available to the other Party with respect to any such defense, subject to the restrictions and limitations set forth in Section 22.

17. PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- 17.1 Attachment Performance Measures provides monetary payments for failure to meet specified performance standards. The provisions of that Attachment constitute the sole obligation of AT&T-13STATE to pay damages or financial penalties for failure to meet specified performance standards identified in such Attachment and all other Attachments to this Agreement.

18. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

- 18.1 Any Intellectual Property originating from or developed by a Party shall remain in the exclusive ownership of that Party.

19. NOTICES

19.1 Subject to Section 19.2, notices given by one Party to the other Party under this Agreement shall be in writing (unless specifically provided otherwise herein), and unless otherwise expressly required by this Agreement to be delivered to another representative or point of contact, shall be

19.1.1 delivered personally;

19.1.2 delivered by express overnight delivery service;

19.1.3 mailed, via certified mail or first class U.S. Postal Service, with postage prepaid, and a return receipt requested; or

19.1.4 delivered by facsimile; provided that a paper copy is also sent by a method described in sections 19.1.1, 19.1.2, or 19.1.3.

19.1.5 Notices will be deemed given as of the earliest of:

19.1.5.1 the date of actual receipt,

19.1.5.2 the next Business Day when sent via express overnight delivery service,

19.1.5.3 five (5) calendar days after mailing in the case of first class or certified U.S. Postal Service, or

19.1.5.4 on the date set forth on the confirmation produced by the sending facsimile machine when delivered by facsimile prior to 5:00 p.m. in the recipient's time zone, but the next Business Day when delivered by facsimile at 5:00 p.m. or later in the recipient's time zone.

19.1.6 Notices will be addressed to the Parties as follows:

NOTICE CONTACT	CLEC CONTACT	AT&T-13STATE CONTACT
NAME/TITLE	David Robinson Manager-Public Policy	Contract Management ATTN: Notices Manager
STREET ADDRESS	8125 Highwoods Palm Way	311 S. Akard, 9 th Floor Four AT&T Plaza
CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE	Tampa, FL 33647	Dallas, TX 75202-5398
FACSIMILE NUMBER	(813) 637-5731	(214) 464-2006

19.1.7 Either Party may unilaterally change its designated contact, address, telephone number and/or facsimile number for the receipt of notices by giving written notice to the other Party in compliance with this Section. Any notice to change the designated contact, address, telephone and/or facsimile number for the receipt of notices shall be deemed effective ten (10) calendar days following receipt by the other Party.

19.2 **AT&T-13STATE** communicates official information to CLECs via its Accessible Letter notification process. This process covers a variety of subjects, including updates on products/services promotions; deployment of new products/services; modifications and price changes to existing products/services; cancellation or retirement of existing products/services; and operational issues. Changes to this process will be developed through the CLEC User Forum process and will be implemented only with the concurrence of the CLEC User Forum Global Issues group.

19.3 In the **AT&T-13STATE**'s Accessible Letter notification will be via electronic mail ("e-mail") distribution. Accessible Letter notification via e-mail will be deemed given as of the date set forth on the e-mail message.

19.4 In **AT&T-13STATE** CLEC may designate up to a maximum of ten (10) recipients for Accessible Letter notification via e-mail.

19.5 AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE only:

19.5.1 AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE shall provide a toll free facsimile number to CLEC for the submission of requests for Resale Services and Lawful Unbundled Network Elements under this Agreement; CLEC shall provide AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE with a toll free facsimile number for notices from AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE relating to requests for Resale Services and Lawful Unbundled Network Elements under this Agreement.

20. PUBLICITY AND USE OF TRADEMARKS OR SERVICE MARKS

20.1 Neither Party nor its subcontractors or agents shall use in any advertising or sales promotion, press releases, or other publicity matters any endorsements, direct or indirect quotes, or pictures that imply endorsement by the other Party or any of its employees without such first Party's prior written approval. The Parties will submit to each other for written approval, prior to publication, all publicity matters that mention or display one another's name and/or marks or contain language from which a connection to said name and/or marks may be inferred or implied; the Party to whom a request is directed shall respond promptly. Nothing herein, however, shall be construed as preventing either Party from publicly stating the fact that it has executed this Agreement with the other Party.

20.2 Nothing in this Agreement shall grant, suggest, or imply any authority for one Party to use the name, trademarks, service marks, logos, proprietary trade dress or trade names of the other Party in any advertising, press releases, publicity matters, marketing and/or promotional materials or for any other commercial purpose without prior written approval from such other Party.

21. NO LICENSE

21.1 Except at otherwise expressly provided in this Agreement, no license under patents, copyrights or any other Intellectual Property right (other than the limited license to use consistent with the terms, conditions and restrictions of this Agreement) is granted by either Party or shall be implied or arise by estoppel with respect to any transactions contemplated under this Agreement.

22. CONFIDENTIALITY

22.1 Each Party anticipates and recognizes that it will come into possession of technical or business information or data about the other Party and/or its customers (including without limitation its end user customers) as a result of this Agreement which will be considered confidential by such other Party. The Parties agree (1) to treat all such information and data as strictly confidential; and (2) to use such information only for purposes of performance under this Agreement. Each Party agrees not to disclose confidential information and/or data of or pertaining to the other Party or its customers (including without limitation its end user customers) to any third party without first securing the written consent of such Party. The foregoing shall not apply to information which is in the public domain. Nothing in this Agreement prevents either Party from disclosing operations results or other data that might reflect the results of this Agreement as a part of that Party's aggregate operating data as long as the disclosed data is at a level of aggregation sufficient to avoid disclosing with specificity information obtained in the operation of this Agreement.

22.2 If a court or governmental agency orders or a third-party requests a Party to disclose or to provide any data or information covered by this section, that Party will immediately inform the other Party of the order or request before such data or information is provided and will inform the other Party both by telephone and certified mail. Notification and consent requirements described above are not applicable in cases where a court order requires the production of billing and/or usage records of or pertaining to an individual customer (including without limitation an end user customer).

22.3 This section will not preclude the disclosure by a Party of information or data subject to this Section to consultants, agents, or attorneys representing that Party, or the Office of the Public Counsel for a State, or appropriate State Commissions or staffs, or FCC Staff, provided that such representatives are informed of the confidential nature of the information and/or data prior to disclosure and are bound by

confidentiality requirements that are at least as restrictive as applicable to the Parties to this Agreement.

- 22.4 The provisions of this section shall survive the expiration and/or termination of this Agreement, unless agreed to in writing by the Parties.

23. INTERVENING LAW

- 23.1 This Agreement is the result of negotiations between the Parties and may incorporate certain provisions that resulted from arbitration by the appropriate state Commission(s). In entering into this Agreement and any Amendments to such Agreement and carrying out the provisions herein, neither Party waives, but instead expressly reserves, all of its rights, remedies and arguments with respect to any orders, decisions, legislation or proceedings and any remands thereof and any other federal or state regulatory, legislative or judicial action(s) which the Parties have not yet fully incorporated into this Agreement or which may be the subject of further review. If any action by any state or federal regulatory or legislative body or court of competent jurisdiction invalidates, modifies, or stays the enforcement of laws or regulations that were the basis or rationale for any rate(s), term(s) and/or condition(s) ("Provisions") of the Agreement and/or otherwise affects the rights or obligations of either Party that are addressed by this Agreement, the affected Provision(s) shall be immediately invalidated, modified or stayed consistent with the action of the regulatory or legislative body or court of competent jurisdiction upon the written request of either Party ("Written Notice"). With respect to any Written Notices hereunder, the Parties shall have sixty (60) days from the Written Notice to attempt to reach agreement on appropriate conforming modifications to the Agreement. If the Parties are unable to agree upon the conforming modifications within sixty (60) days from the Written Notice, any disputes between the Parties concerning such actions shall be resolved pursuant to the dispute resolution process provided for in this Agreement.

24. GOVERNING LAW

- 24.1 Unless otherwise provided by Applicable Law, this Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the Act, the FCC Rules and Regulations interpreting the Act and other applicable federal law. To the extent that federal law would apply state law in interpreting this Agreement, the domestic laws of the state in which the Interconnection, Resale Services, Lawful Unbundled Network Elements, functions, facilities, products and services at issue are furnished or sought shall apply, without regard to that state's conflict of laws principles. The Parties submit to personal jurisdiction in Little Rock, Arkansas; San Francisco, California; New Haven, Connecticut; Chicago, Illinois; Indianapolis, Indiana; Topeka, Kansas; Detroit, Michigan; St. Louis, Missouri; Reno, Nevada; Columbus, Ohio; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Dallas, Texas and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and waive any and all objection to any such venue.

25. REGULATORY APPROVAL

- 25.1 The Parties understand and agree that this Agreement and any amendment or modification hereto will be filed with the Commission for approval in accordance with Section 252 of the Act and may thereafter be filed with the FCC. The Parties believe in good faith and agree that the services to be provided under this Agreement are in the public interest. Each Party covenants and agrees to fully support approval of this Agreement by the Commission or the FCC under Section 252 of the Act without modification.

26. CHANGES IN END USER LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE PROVIDER SELECTION

- 26.1 Applies to AT&T-12STATE only
- 26.1.1 Each Party will abide by applicable federal and state laws and regulations in obtaining End User authorization prior to changing an End User's Local Exchange Carrier to itself and in assuming responsibility for any applicable charges as specified in the FCC's rules regarding Subscriber Carrier Selection Changes (47 CFR 64.1100 through 64.1170) and any applicable state

regulation. Each Party shall deliver to the other Party a representation of authorization that applies to all orders submitted by a Party under this Agreement requiring a LEC change. A Party's representation of authorization shall be delivered to the other Party prior to the first order submitted to the other Party. Each Party shall retain on file all applicable letters and other documentation of authorization relating to its End User's selection of such Party as its LEC, which documentation shall be available for inspection by the other Party at its request during normal business hours and at no charge.

26.1.2 Only an End User can initiate a challenge to a change in its LEC. If an End User notifies one Party that the End User requests local exchange service, and the other Party is such End User's LEC, then the Party receiving such request shall be free to immediately access such End User's CPNI subject to the requirements of the applicable Appendix OSS restricting access to CPNI in order to immediately provide service to such End User.

26.1.3 When an End User changes or withdraws authorization from its LEC, each Party shall release End User-specific facilities belonging to the ILEC in accordance with the End User's direction or that of the End User's authorized agent. Further, when an End User abandons its premise (that is, its place of business or domicile), AT&T-12STATE is free to reclaim the Lawful UNE facilities for use by another End User and is free to issue service orders required to reclaim such facilities.

26.1.4 Neither Party shall be obligated by this Agreement to investigate any allegations of unauthorized changes in local exchange service (slamming) at the request of the other Party; provided, however, that each Party shall cooperate with any investigation of a complaint alleging an unauthorized change in local exchange service at the request of the FCC or the applicable state Commission.

26.2 Applies to AT&T CONNECTICUT only

26.2.1 The Parties agree that CLEC will not submit a Local Exchange Carrier order for an End User to the Local Service Provider currently serving that End User without proper authorization from that End User, as required by the FCC in Subpart K, Part 64 rules and regulations and by the DPUC in its applicable rules and regulations. AT&T CONNECTICUT's wholesale tariff, further documents requirements for Local Exchange Carrier changes and required End User authorizations.

26.2.2 The Parties agree to the re-use of existing network facilities when an End User changes its provider of local exchange service and the network facilities are provided by the same network provider.

27. COMPLIANCE AND CERTIFICATION

27.1 Each Party shall comply at its own expense with all Applicable Laws that relate to that Party's obligations to the other Party under this Agreement. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as requiring or permitting either Party to contravene any mandatory requirement of Applicable Law.

27.2 Each Party warrants that it has obtained all necessary state certification required in each state covered by this Agreement prior to ordering any Interconnection, Resale Services, Lawful Unbundled Network Elements, functions, facilities, products and services from the other Party pursuant to this Agreement. Upon request, each Party shall provide proof of certification.

27.3 Each Party shall be responsible for obtaining and keeping in effect all approvals from, and rights granted by, Governmental Authorities, building and property owners, other carriers, and any other Third Parties that may be required in connection with the performance of its obligations under this Agreement.

27.4 Each Party represents and warrants that any equipment, facilities or services provided to the other Party under this Agreement comply with the CALEA.

28. LAW ENFORCEMENT

28.1 AT&T-12STATE and CLEC shall reasonably cooperate with the other Party in handling law enforcement requests as follows:

28.1.1 Intercept Devices:

28.1.1.1 Local and federal law enforcement agencies periodically request information or assistance from local telephone service providers. When either Party receives a request associated with an End User of the other Party, it shall refer such request to the Party that serves such End User, unless the request directs the receiving Party to attach a pen register, trap-and-trace or form of intercept on the Party's facilities, in which case that Party shall comply with any valid request.

28.1.2 Subpoenas:

28.1.2.1 If a Party receives a subpoena for information concerning an End User the Party knows to be an End User of the other Party, it shall refer the subpoena to the Requesting Party with an indication that the other Party is the responsible company, unless the subpoena requests records for a period of time during which the receiving Party was the End User's service provider, in which case that Party will respond to any valid request.

28.1.3 Emergencies:

28.1.3.1 If a Party receives a request from a law enforcement agency for a temporary number change, temporary disconnect, or one-way denial of outbound calls by the receiving Party's switch for an End User of the other Party, that Receiving Party will comply with a valid emergency request. However, neither Party shall be held liable for any claims or Losses arising from compliance with such requests on behalf of the other Party's End User and the Party serving such End User agrees to indemnify and hold the other Party harmless against any and all such claims or Losses.

28.2 AT&T CONNECTICUT and CLEC shall reasonably cooperate with the other Party in handling law enforcement requests as follows:

28.2.1 Each of the Parties agree to comply with the applicable state and federal law enforcement authorities, laws, and requirements, including but not limited to, the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA) and to report to applicable State and Federal law enforcement authorities as required by law, the Telecommunications Services and related information provided by each of the Parties in Connecticut.

29. RELATIONSHIP OF THE PARTIES/INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR

29.1 Each Party is an independent contractor, and has and hereby retains the right to exercise full control of and supervision over its own performance of its obligations under this Agreement and retains full control over the employment, direction, compensation and discharge of its employees assisting in the performance of such obligations. Each Party and each Party's contractor(s) shall be solely responsible for all matters relating to payment of such employees, including the withholding or payment of all applicable federal, state and local income taxes, social security taxes and other payroll taxes with respect to its employees, as well as any taxes, contributions or other obligations imposed by applicable state unemployment or workers' compensation acts and all other regulations governing such matters. Each Party has sole authority and responsibility to hire, fire and otherwise control its employees.

29.2 Nothing contained herein shall constitute the Parties as joint venturers, partners, employees or agents of one another, and neither Party shall have the right or power to bind or obligate the other. Nothing herein will be construed as making either Party responsible or liable for the obligations and undertakings of the other Party. Except for provisions herein expressly authorizing a Party to act for another, nothing in this Agreement shall constitute a Party as a legal representative or agent of the other Party, nor shall a Party have the right or authority to assume, create or incur any liability or any

obligation of any kind, express or implied, against or in the name or on behalf of the other Party unless otherwise expressly permitted by such other Party. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Agreement, no Party undertakes to perform any obligation of the other Party, whether regulatory or contractual, or to assume any responsibility for the management of the other Party's business.

30. NO THIRD PARTY BENEFICIARIES; DISCLAIMER OF AGENCY

30.1 This Agreement is for the sole benefit of the Parties and their permitted assigns, and nothing herein expressed or implied shall create or be construed to create any Third Party beneficiary rights hereunder. This Agreement shall not provide any Person not a party hereto with any remedy, claim, liability, reimbursement, cause of action, or other right in excess of those existing without reference hereto.

31. SUBCONTRACTING

31.1 If either Party retains or engages any subcontractor to perform any of that Party's obligations under this Agreement, each Party will remain fully responsible for the performance of this Agreement in accordance with its terms, including any obligations either Party performs through subcontractors.

31.2 Each Party will be solely responsible for payments due that Party's subcontractors.

31.3 No subcontractor will be deemed a Third Party beneficiary for any purposes under this Agreement.

31.4 No contract, subcontract or other agreement entered into by either Party with any Third Party in connection with the provision of Interconnection, Resale Services, Lawful Unbundled Network Elements, functions, facilities, products and services hereunder will provide for any indemnity, guarantee or assumption of liability by the other Party to this Agreement with respect to such arrangement, except as consented to in writing by the other Party.

31.5 Any subcontractor that gains access to Customer Proprietary Network Information ("CPNI") or Proprietary Information covered by this Agreement shall be required by the subcontracting Party to protect such CPNI or Proprietary Information to the same extent the subcontracting Party is required to protect such CPNI or Proprietary Information under the terms of this Agreement.

32. RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION

32.1 Each Party shall be solely responsible at its own expense for the proper handling, use, removal, excavation, storage, treatment, transport, disposal, or any other management by such Party or any person acting on its behalf of all Hazardous Substances and Environmental Hazards introduced to the affected work location and will perform such activities in accordance with Applicable Law.

32.2 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Agreement and to the fullest extent permitted by Applicable Law, AT&T-13STATE shall, at CLEC's request, indemnify, defend, and hold harmless CLEC, each of its officers, directors and employees from and against any losses, damages, costs, fines, penalties and expenses (including reasonable attorneys and consultant's fees) of every kind and nature to the extent they are incurred by any of those parties in connection with a claim, demand, suit, or proceeding for damages, penalties, contribution, injunction, or any other kind of relief that is based upon, arises out of, is caused by, or results from: (i) the removal or disposal from the work location of a Hazardous Substance by AT&T-13STATE or any person acting on behalf of AT&T-13STATE, or the subsequent storage, processing, or other handling of such Hazardous Substances after they have been removed from the work location, (ii) the Release of a Hazardous Substance, regardless of its source, by AT&T-13STATE or any person acting on behalf of AT&T-13STATE, or (iii) the presence at the work location of an Environmental Hazard for which AT&T-13STATE is responsible under Applicable Law or a Hazardous Substance introduced into the work location by AT&T-13STATE or any person acting on behalf of AT&T-13STATE.

32.3 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Agreement and to the fullest extent permitted by Applicable Law, CLEC shall, at AT&T-13STATE's request, indemnify, defend, and hold harmless

AT&T-13STATE, each of its officers, directors and employees from and against any losses, damages, costs, fines, penalties and expenses (including reasonable attorney's and consultant's fees) of every kind and nature to the extent they are incurred by any of those parties in connection with a claim, demand, suit, or proceeding for damages, penalties, contribution, injunction, or any other kind of relief that is based upon, arises out of, is caused by, or results from: (i) the removal or disposal of a Hazardous Substance from the work location by CLEC or any person acting on behalf of CLEC, or the subsequent storage, processing, or other handling of such Hazardous Substances after they have been removed from the work location, (ii) the Release of a Hazardous Substance, regardless of its source, by CLEC or any person acting on behalf of CLEC, or (iii) the presence at the work location of an Environmental Hazard for which CLEC is responsible under Applicable Law or a Hazardous Substance introduced into the work location by CLEC or any person acting on behalf of CLEC.

- 32.4 For the purposes of this agreement, "Hazardous Substances" means (i) any material or substance that is defined or classified as a hazardous substance, hazardous waste, hazardous material, hazardous chemical, pollutant, or contaminant under any federal, state, or local environmental statute, rule, regulation, ordinance or other Applicable Law dealing with the protection of human health or the environment, (ii) petroleum, oil, gasoline, natural gas, fuel oil, motor oil, waste oil, diesel fuel, jet fuel, and other petroleum hydrocarbons, or (iii) asbestos and asbestos containing material in any form, and (iv) any soil, groundwater, air, or other media contaminated with any of the materials or substances described above.
- 32.5 For the purposes of this agreement, "Environmental Hazard" means (i) the presence of petroleum vapors or other gases in hazardous concentrations in a manhole or other confined space, or conditions reasonably likely to give rise to such concentrations, (ii) asbestos containing materials, or (iii) any potential hazard that would not be obvious to an individual entering the work location or detectable using work practices standard in the industry.
- 32.6 For the purposes of this agreement, "Release" means any spilling, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, emptying, discharging, injecting, escaping, leaching, dumping, disposal, or other movement into (i) the work location, or (ii) other environmental media, including but not limited to, the air, ground or surface water, or soil.

33. FORCE MAJEURE

- 33.1 No Party shall be responsible for delays or failures in performance of any part of this Agreement (other than an obligation to make money payments) resulting from acts or occurrences beyond the reasonable control of such Party, including acts of nature, acts of civil or military authority, any law, order, regulation, ordinance of any Governmental Authority, embargoes, epidemics, terrorist acts, riots, insurrections, fires, explosions, earthquakes, nuclear accidents, hurricanes, floods, work stoppages, equipment failures, cable cuts, power blackouts, volcanic action, other major environmental disturbances, unusually severe weather conditions, inability to secure products or services of other persons or transportation facilities or acts or omissions of transportation carriers (individually or collectively, a "Force Majeure Event") or any Delaying Event caused by the other Party or any other circumstances beyond the Party's reasonable control. If a Force Majeure Event shall occur, the Party affected shall give prompt notice to the other Party of such Force Majeure Event specifying the nature, date of inception and expected duration of such Force Majeure Event, whereupon such obligation or performance shall be suspended to the extent such Party is affected by such Force Majeure Event during the continuance thereof or be excused from such performance depending on the nature, severity and duration of such Force Majeure Event (and the other Party shall likewise be excused from performance of its obligations to the extent such Party's obligations relate to the performance so interfered with). The affected Party shall use its reasonable efforts to avoid or remove the cause of nonperformance and the Parties shall give like notice and proceed to perform with dispatch once the causes are removed or cease.

34. TAXES

- 34.1 Each Party purchasing Interconnection, Resale Services, Lawful Unbundled Network Elements, functions, facilities, products and services under this Agreement shall pay or otherwise be responsible for all federal, state, or local sales, use, excise, gross receipts, municipal fees, transfer, transaction or similar taxes, fees, or surcharges (hereinafter "Tax") imposed on, or with respect to, the Interconnection, Resale Services, Lawful Unbundled Network Elements, functions, facilities, products and services under this Agreement provided by or to such Party, except for (a) any Tax on either party's corporate existence, status, or income or (b) any corporate franchise Taxes. Whenever possible, Taxes shall be billed as a separate item on the invoice.
- 34.2 CLEC acknowledges and agrees that it is required to comply with Chapter 283 of the Texas Local Government Code, as it may be amended from time to time, and the reporting and compensation requirements of Subchapter R of the P.U.C. Substantive Rules – Chapter 26, Applicable to Telecommunications Service Providers, as they may be amended from time to time. With respect to municipal fees charged pursuant to Chapter 283, Tex. Loc. Gov't Code, CLEC agrees that it will directly report its access lines to the Texas Public Utility Commission, will remit the related payments to municipalities, and will otherwise comply with Chapter 283 and applicable P.U.C rules, as they may be amended from time to time.
- 34.3 With respect to any purchase of Interconnection, Resale Services, Lawful Unbundled Network Elements, functions, facilities, products and services under this Agreement if any Tax is required or permitted by Applicable Law to be collected from the purchasing Party by the providing Party, then: (i) the providing Party shall bill the purchasing Party for such Tax; (ii) the purchasing Party shall remit such Tax to the providing Party; and (iii) the providing Party shall remit such collected Tax to the applicable taxing authority. Failure to include Taxes on an invoice or to state a Tax separately shall not impair the obligation of the purchasing Party to pay any Tax. Nothing shall prevent the providing Party from paying any Tax to the appropriate taxing authority prior to the time: (i) it bills the purchasing Party for such Tax, or (ii) it collects the Tax from the purchasing Party. Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement to the contrary, the purchasing Party shall be liable for and the providing Party may collect Taxes which were assessed by or paid to an appropriate taxing authority within the statute of limitations period but not included on an invoice within four (4) years after the Tax otherwise was owed or due.
- 34.4 With respect to any purchase hereunder of Interconnection, Resale Services, Lawful Unbundled Network Elements, functions, facilities, products and services under this Agreement that are resold to a third party, if any Tax is imposed by Applicable Law on the End User in connection with any such purchase, then: (i) the purchasing Party shall be required to impose and/or collect such Tax from the End User; and (ii) the purchasing Party shall remit such Tax to the applicable taxing authority. The purchasing Party agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the providing Party for any costs incurred by the providing Party as a result of actions taken by the applicable taxing authority to collect the Tax from the providing Party due to the failure of the purchasing Party to pay or collect and remit such tax to such authority.
- 34.5 If the providing Party fails to bill or to collect any Tax as required herein, then, as between the providing Party and the purchasing Party: (i) the purchasing Party shall remain liable for such uncollected Tax; and (ii) the providing Party shall be liable for any penalty and interest assessed with respect to such uncollected Tax by such authority. However, if the purchasing Party fails to pay any Taxes properly billed, then, as between the providing Party and the purchasing Party, the purchasing Party will be solely responsible for payment of the Taxes, penalty and interest.
- 34.6 If the purchasing Party fails to impose and/or collect any Tax from End Users as required herein, then, as between the providing Party and the purchasing Party, the purchasing Party shall remain liable for such uncollected Tax and any interest and penalty assessed thereon with respect to the uncollected Tax by the applicable taxing authority. With respect to any Tax that the purchasing Party has agreed to pay or impose on and/or collect from End Users, the purchasing Party agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the providing Party for any costs incurred by the providing Party as a result of actions taken

by the applicable taxing authority to collect the Tax from the providing Party due to the failure of the purchasing Party to pay or collect and remit such Tax to such authority.

- 34.7 If either Party is audited by a taxing authority or other Governmental Authority, the other Party agrees to reasonably cooperate with the Party being audited in order to respond to any audit inquiries in a proper and timely manner so that the audit and/or any resulting controversy may be resolved expeditiously.
- 34.8 To the extent a sale is claimed to be for resale and thus subject to tax exemption, the purchasing Party shall furnish the providing Party a proper resale tax exemption certificate as authorized or required by statute or regulation of the jurisdiction providing said resale tax exemption. Failure to timely provide said resale tax exemption certificate will result in no exemption being available to the purchasing Party for any period prior to the date that the purchasing Party presents a valid certificate. If Applicable Law excludes or exempts a purchase of Interconnection, Resale Services, Lawful Unbundled Network Elements, functions, facilities, products and services under this Agreement from a Tax, but does not also provide an exemption procedure, then the providing Party will not collect such Tax if the purchasing Party (a) furnishes the providing Party with a letter signed by an officer of the purchasing Party claiming an exemption and identifying the Applicable Law that both allows such exemption and does not require an exemption certificate; and (b) supplies the providing Party with an indemnification agreement, reasonably acceptable to the providing Party, which holds the providing Party harmless from any tax, interest, penalties, loss, cost or expense with respect to forbearing to collect such Tax.
- 34.9 With respect to any Tax or Tax controversy covered by this Section 34, the purchasing Party is entitled to contest with the imposing jurisdiction, pursuant to Applicable Law and at its own expense, any Tax that it is ultimately obligated to pay or collect. The purchasing Party will ensure that no lien is attached to any asset of the providing Party as a result of any contest. The purchasing Party shall be entitled to the benefit of any refund or recovery of amounts that it had previously paid resulting from such a contest. Amounts previously paid by the providing Party shall be refunded to the providing Party. The providing Party will cooperate in any such contest.
- 34.10 All notices, affidavits, exemption certificates or other communications required or permitted to be given by either Party to the other under this Section 34 shall be sent in accordance with Section 19 hereof.

35. NON-WAIVER

- 35.1 Except as otherwise specified in this Agreement, no waiver of any provision of this Agreement and no consent to any default under this Agreement shall be effective unless the same is in writing and properly executed by or on behalf of the Party against whom such waiver or consent is claimed. Waiver by either Party of any default by the other Party shall not be deemed a waiver of any other default. Failure of either Party to insist on performance of any term or condition of this Agreement or to exercise any right or privilege hereunder shall not be construed as a continuing or future waiver of such term, condition, right or privilege. No course of dealing or failure of any Party to strictly enforce any term, right, or condition of this Agreement in any instance shall be construed as a general waiver or relinquishment of such term, right or condition.

36. NETWORK MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT

- 36.1 The Parties will work cooperatively to implement this Agreement. The Parties will exchange appropriate information (for example, maintenance contact numbers, network information, information required to comply with law enforcement and other security agencies of the Government, escalation processes, etc.) to achieve this desired result.
- 36.2 Each Party will administer its network to ensure acceptable service levels to all users of its network services. Service levels are generally considered acceptable only when End Users are able to establish connections with little or no delay encountered in the network. Each Party will provide a 24-hour contact number for Network Traffic Management issues to the other's surveillance management center.

- 36.3 Each Party maintains the right to implement protective network traffic management controls, such as "cancel to", "call gapping" or 7-digit and 10-digit code gaps, to selectively cancel the completion of traffic over its network, including traffic destined for the other Party's network, when required to protect the public-switched network from congestion as a result of occurrences such as facility failures, switch congestion or failure or focused overload. Each Party shall immediately notify the other Party of any protective control action planned or executed.
- 36.4 Where the capability exists, originating or terminating traffic reroutes may be implemented by either Party to temporarily relieve network congestion due to facility failures or abnormal calling patterns. Reroutes shall not be used to circumvent normal trunk servicing. Expansive controls shall be used only when mutually agreed to by the Parties.
- 36.5 The Parties shall cooperate and share pre-planning information regarding cross-network call-ins expected to generate large or focused temporary increases in call volumes to prevent or mitigate the impact of these events on the public-switched network, including any disruption or loss of service to the other Party's End Users. Facsimile (FAX) numbers must be exchanged by the Parties to facilitate event notifications for planned mass calling events.
- 36.6 Neither Party shall use any Interconnection, Resale Service, Lawful Unbundled Network Element, function, facility, product or service provided under this Agreement or any other service related thereto or used in combination therewith in any manner that interferes with or impairs service over any facilities of AT&T-13STATE, its affiliated companies or other connecting telecommunications carriers, prevents any carrier from using its Telecommunications Service, impairs the quality or the privacy of Telecommunications Service to other carriers or to either Party's End Users, causes hazards to either Party's personnel or the public, damage to either Party's or any connecting carrier's facilities or equipment, including any malfunction of ordering or billing systems or equipment. Upon such occurrence either Party may discontinue or refuse service, but only for so long as the other Party is violating this provision. Upon any such violation, either Party shall provide the other Party notice of the violation at the earliest practicable time.

37. SIGNALING

- 37.1 AT&T-13STATE will provide SS7 signaling pursuant to applicable access tariff.

38. CUSTOMER INQUIRIES

- 38.1 Except as otherwise required by Section 26.1, each Party will refer all questions regarding the other Party's services or products directly to the other Party at a telephone number specified by that Party.
- 38.2 Except as otherwise required by Section 26.1, each Party will ensure that all of its representatives who receive inquiries regarding the other Party's services:
- 38.2.1 Provide the number described in Section 42 to callers who inquire about the other Party's services or products; and
- 38.2.2 Do not in any way disparage or discriminate against the other Party or its products or services.
- 38.3 Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, CLEC shall be the primary point of contact for CLEC's End Users with respect to the services CLEC provides such End Users.
- 38.4 CLEC acknowledges that AT&T-13STATE may, upon End User request, provide services directly to such End User similar to those offered to CLEC under this Agreement.

39. EXPENSES

- 39.1 Except as expressly set forth in this Agreement, each Party will be solely responsible for its own expenses involved in all activities related to the matters covered by this Agreement.
- 39.2 AT&T-12STATE and CLEC shall each be responsible for one-half (1/2) of expenses payable to a Third Party for Commission fees or other charges (including regulatory fees, reproduction and delivery

expense and any costs of notice or publication, but not including attorney's fees) associated with the filing of this Agreement or any amendment to this Agreement. Prior to the filing of this Agreement in the State of Nevada, CLEC will submit a check in the amount of \$200.00, payable to **Public Utilities Commission of Nevada**, to cover its portion of the expenses incurred with filing this Agreement. Prior to the filing of each and every Amendment filed in connection with this Agreement in the State of Nevada, CLEC will submit a check in the amount of \$200.00, payable to **Public Utilities Commission of Nevada**, to cover its portion of the expenses incurred with filing of each amendment filed in connection with this Agreement. Upon receipt of CLEC's check, the Agreement will be processed for filing with the Commission.

40. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- 40.1 The Parties represent that no employee or agent of either Party has been or will be employed, retained, paid a fee, or otherwise received or will receive any personal compensation or consideration from the other Party, or any of the other Party's employees or agents in connection with the negotiation of this Agreement or any associated documents.

41. SURVIVAL

- 41.1 The Parties' obligations under this Agreement which by their nature are intended to continue beyond the termination or expiration of this Agreement shall survive the termination or expiration of this Agreement. Without limiting the general applicability of the foregoing, the following terms and conditions of the General Terms and Conditions are specifically agreed by the Parties to continue beyond the termination or expiration of this Agreement: Section 7.5; Section 7.6, Section 9.3; Section 10.1; Section 10.4; Section 10.5; Section 10.6; Section 10.7; Section 10.8; Section 12, Section 13; Section 15; Section 16; Section 17; Section 18.1; Section 20; Section 21; Section 22; Section 24; Section 27.4; Section 28.1.3; Section 34; Section 35 and Section 43.

42. SCOPE OF AGREEMENT

- 42.1 This Agreement is intended to describe and enable specific Interconnection and compensation arrangements between the Parties. This Agreement is the arrangement under which the Parties may purchase from each other the products and services described in Section 251 of the Act and obtain approval of such arrangement under Section 252 of the Act. Except as agreed upon in writing, neither Party shall be required to provide the other Party a function, facility, product, service or arrangement described in the Act that is not expressly provided herein.
- 42.2 Except as specifically contained herein or provided by the FCC or any Commission within its lawful jurisdiction, nothing in this Agreement shall be deemed to affect any access charge arrangement.

43. AMENDMENTS AND MODIFICATIONS

- 43.1 Except as otherwise provided for in this Agreement, no provision of this Agreement shall be deemed amended or modified by either Party unless such an amendment or modification is in writing, dated, and signed by an authorized representative of both Parties. The rates, terms and conditions contained in the amendment shall become effective upon approval of such amendment by the appropriate Commissions; and such amendment will not require refunds, true-up or retroactive crediting or debiting prior to the approval of the Amendment. AT&T-12STATE and CLEC shall each be responsible for its share of the publication expense (i.e. filing fees, delivery and reproduction expense, and newspaper notification fees), to the extent publication is required for filing of an amendment by a specific state.
- 43.2 Neither Party shall be bound by any preprinted terms additional to or different from those in this Agreement that may appear subsequently in the other Party's form documents, purchase orders, quotations, acknowledgments, invoices or other communications.

44. APPENDICES INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

44.1 ACCESS TO RIGHTS-OF-WAY -- SECTION 251(b)(4)

44.1.1 AT&T-13STATE shall provide to CLEC access to Poles, Conduits and Rights of Ways pursuant to the applicable Appendix ROW, which is/are attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

44.2 COLLOCATION -- SECTION 251(c)(6)

44.2.1 Collocation will be provided pursuant to the applicable Appendix Collocation, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

44.3 DIALING PARITY -- SECTION 251(b)(3)

44.3.1 The Parties shall provide Local Dialing Parity to each other as required under Section 251(b)(3) of the Act.

44.3.2 AT&T-12STATE shall provide IntraLATA Dialing Parity in accordance with Section 271(e)(2) of the Act.

44.4 INTERCONNECTION PURSUANT TO SECTION 251(c)(2)(A),(B),(C); 47 CFR § 51.305(a)(1)

44.4.1 AT&T-13STATE shall provide to CLEC Interconnection of the Parties' facilities and equipment for the transmission and routing of Telephone Exchange Service traffic and Exchange Access traffic pursuant to the applicable Appendix ITR, which is/are attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference. Methods for Interconnection and Physical Architecture shall be as defined in the applicable Appendix NIM, which is/are attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

44.5 NUMBER PORTABILITY -- SECTIONS 251(b)(2)

44.5.1 The Parties shall provide to each other Permanent Number Portability (PNP) on a reciprocal basis as outlined in the applicable Appendix Number Portability, which is/are attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

44.6 OTHER SERVICES

44.6.1 911 and E911 Services

44.6.1.1 AT&T-13STATE will make nondiscriminatory access to 911 and E911 services available under the terms and conditions of the applicable Appendix 911, which is/are attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

44.6.1.2 The Parties agree that for "data only" providers the following rules concerning 911 requirements apply:

44.6.1.2.1 The Parties agree that CLEC will have to establish 911 trunking or interconnection to AT&T MIDWEST REGION 5-STATE's 911 Selective Routers, and therefore AT&T-13STATE shall not provide 911 services for those information service applications in which CLEC does not offer its end users the ability to place outgoing voice calls provided that; and

44.6.1.2.2 CLEC understands and agrees that, should it decide to provide voice service, it is required to meet all applicable Commission 911 service requirements; and

44.6.1.2.3 CLEC agrees to begin implementing access to 911 sufficiently in advance of the planned implementation of voice service to meet its 911 requirements. CLEC understands that the steps it must take to fulfill its 911 obligation include, but are not limited to, obtaining NXX(s) from NECA for the exchange area(s) CLEC plans to serve, submission of the appropriate form(s) to AT&T-13STATE, and, following AT&T-13STATE's processing of

such form(s), obtaining approval from the appropriate PSAP(s) for the CLEC's 911 service architecture. CLEC further understands that PSAP approval may include testing 911 trunks with appropriate PSAP(s). CLEC understands that, based on **AT&T-13STATE**'s prior experience with CLEC implementation of 911, these steps require a minimum of sixty (60) days.

44.6.1.2.4 CLEC agrees to indemnify and hold **AT&T-13STATE** harmless from the consequences of CLEC's decision to not interconnect with **AT&T-13STATE**'s 911 Selective Routers. The provisions of General Terms and Conditions Section 16 shall apply to such indemnification.

44.6.2 Directory Assistance (DA)

44.6.2.1 **AT&T-13STATE** will provide nondiscriminatory access to Directory Assistance services under the terms and conditions identified in the applicable Appendix DA, which **is/are** attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

44.6.3 Hosting

44.6.3.1 At CLEC's request, **AT&T-10STATE** shall perform hosting responsibilities for the provision of billable message data and/or access usage data received from CLEC for distribution to the appropriate billing and/or processing location or for delivery to CLEC of such data via **AT&T-10STATE**'s internal network or the nationwide CMDS network pursuant to the applicable Appendix HOST, which **is/are** attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

44.6.4 Operator Services (OS)

44.6.4.1 **AT&T-13STATE** shall provide nondiscriminatory access to Operator Services under the terms and conditions identified in the applicable Appendix OS, which **is/are** attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

44.6.5 Publishing and Directory

43.6.5.1 **AT&T-13STATE** will make nondiscriminatory access to Publishing and Directory service available under the terms and conditions of the applicable Appendix White Pages, which **is/are** attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

44.6.6 Resale--Sections 251(b)(1)

43.6.6.1 **AT&T-13STATE** shall provide to CLEC Telecommunications Services for resale at wholesale rates pursuant to the applicable Appendix Resale, which **is/are** attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

44.6.7 Transmission and Routing of Switched Access Traffic Pursuant to 251(c)(2)

44.6.7.1 **AT&T-13STATE** shall provide to CLEC certain trunk groups (Meet Point Trunks) under certain parameters pursuant to the applicable Appendix ITR, which **is/are** attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

44.6.8 Transmission and Routing of Telephone Exchange Service Traffic Pursuant to Section 251(c)(2)(D); 252(d)(1) and (2); 47 CFR § 51.305(a)(5).

44.6.8.1 The applicable Appendix Compensation, which **is/are** attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, prescribe traffic routing parameters for Local Interconnection Trunk Group(s) the Parties shall establish over the Interconnections specified in the applicable Appendix ITR, which **is/are** attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

44.6.9 Lawful Unbundled Network Elements -- Sections 251(c)(3)

44.6.9.1 Pursuant to the applicable Appendix Lawful UNEs, which **is/are** attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, **AT&T-13STATE** will provide CLEC access to Lawful

UNEs for the provision of Telecommunications Service as required by Sections 251 and 252 of the Act and in the Appendices hereto. CLEC agrees to provide access to its Network Elements to AT&T-13STATE under the same terms, conditions and prices contained herein and in the applicable Appendices hereto.

45. AUTHORITY

- 45.1 Each of the AT&T-owned ILEC(s) for which this Agreement is executed represents and warrants that it is a corporation or limited partnership duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of its state of incorporation or formation. Each of the AT&T-owned ILEC(s) for which this Agreement is executed represents and warrants that AT&T Operations, Inc. has full power and authority to execute and deliver this Agreement as agent for that AT&T-owned ILEC. Each of the AT&T-owned ILEC(s) for which this Agreement is executed represents and warrants that it has full power and authority to perform its obligations hereunder.
- 45.2 CLEC represents and warrants that it is a corporation duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the State of Delaware and has full power and authority to execute and deliver this Agreement and to perform its obligations hereunder. CLEC represents and warrants that it has been or will be certified as a LEC by the Commission(s) prior to submitting any orders hereunder and is or will be authorized to provide the Telecommunications Services contemplated hereunder in the territory contemplated hereunder prior to submission of orders for such Service.
- 45.3 Each Person whose signature appears below represents and warrants that he or she has authority to bind the Party on whose behalf he or she has executed this Agreement.

46. COUNTERPARTS

- 46.1 This Agreement may be executed in counterparts. Each counterpart shall be considered an original and such counterparts shall together constitute one and the same instrument.

47. ENTIRE AGREEMENT

47.1 AT&T-12STATE

- 47.1.1 The terms contained in this Agreement and any Appendices, Attachments, Exhibits, Schedules, and Addenda constitute the entire agreement between the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof, superseding all prior understandings, proposals and other communications, oral or written between the Parties during the negotiations of this Agreement and through the execution and/or Effective Date of this Agreement. This Agreement shall not operate as or constitute a novation of any agreement or contract between the Parties that predates the execution and/or Effective Date of this Agreement.

47.2 AT&T CONNECTICUT

- 47.2.1 The rates, terms and conditions contained in this Agreement and any Appendices, Attachments, Exhibits, Schedules, Addenda, Commission approved tariffs and other documents or instruments referred to herein and incorporated into this Agreement by reference constitute the entire agreement between the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof, superseding all prior understandings, proposals and other communications, oral or written between the Parties pre-dating the execution of this Agreement; provided, however, that none of the rates, terms or conditions of this Agreement shall be construed to apply in any manner to any period prior to the termination and/or expiration date of any agreement that this Agreement replaces. This Agreement shall not operate as or constitute a novation of any agreement or contract between the Parties that predates the execution and/or Effective Date of this Agreement.

Signatures

THIS AGREEMENT CONTAINS A BINDING ARBITRATION PROVISION WHICH MAY BE ENFORCED BY THE PARTIES.

Syniverse Technologies, Inc.

Illinois Bell Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T Illinois, Indiana Bell Telephone Company Incorporated d/b/a AT&T Indiana, Michigan Bell Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T Michigan, Nevada Bell Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T Nevada, The Ohio Bell Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T Ohio, Pacific Bell Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T California, The Southern New England Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T Connecticut, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T Arkansas, AT&T Kansas, AT&T Missouri, AT&T Oklahoma and/or AT&T Texas, Wisconsin Bell, Inc. d/b/a AT&T Wisconsin by AT&T Operations, Inc., its authorized agent

Signature: _____

Signature: _____

Name: _____
(Print or Type)

Name: _____
(Print or Type)

Title: _____
(Print or Type)

Title: Director – Contract Management

Date: _____

Date: _____

	Resale OCN	UNE OCN	Switch Based OCN
ARKANSAS	_____	_____	_____
CALIFORNIA	_____	_____	_____
CONNECTICUT	_____	_____	_____
ILLINOIS	_____	_____	_____
INDIANA	_____	_____	_____
KANSAS	_____	_____	_____
MICHIGAN	_____	_____	_____
MISSOURI	_____	_____	_____
NEVADA	_____	_____	_____
OHIO	_____	_____	_____
OKLAHOMA	_____	_____	_____
TEXAS	_____	_____	_____
WISCONSIN	_____	_____	_____

ACNA _____

APPENDIX COORDINATED HOT CUT (CHC)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION..... 1

CHC SERVICE DESCRIPTION2

CHC PRICING3

APPENDIX COORDINATED HOT CUT (CHC)

1. INTRODUCTION

This Appendix sets forth terms and conditions for Coordinated Hot Cut (CHC) provided by the applicable AT&T Inc. (AT&T) owned Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier (ILEC) and CLEC.

- 1.1 **AT&T Inc. (AT&T)** means the holding company which directly or indirectly owns the following ILECs: Illinois Bell Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T Illinois, Indiana Bell Telephone Company Incorporated d/b/a AT&T Indiana, Michigan Bell Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T Michigan, Nevada Bell Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T Nevada, The Ohio Bell Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T Ohio, Pacific Bell Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T California, The Southern New England Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T Connecticut, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T Arkansas, AT&T Kansas, AT&T Missouri, AT&T Oklahoma and/or AT&T Texas and/or Wisconsin Bell, Inc. d/b/a AT&T Wisconsin.
- 1.2 **AT&T-13STATE** - As used herein, **AT&T-13STATE** means **AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE**, **AT&T MIDWEST REGION 5-STATE**, **AT&T-2STATE** and **AT&T CONNECTICUT** the applicable AT&T-owned ILEC(s) doing business in Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, and Wisconsin.
- 1.3 **AT&T CALIFORNIA** - As used herein, **AT&T CALIFORNIA** means Pacific Bell Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T California, the applicable AT&T-owned ILEC doing business in California.
- 1.4 **AT&T CONNECTICUT** - As used herein, **AT&T CONNECTICUT** means The Southern New England Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T Connecticut, the applicable above listed ILEC doing business in Connecticut.
- 1.5 **AT&T MIDWEST REGION 5-STATE** - As used herein, **AT&T MIDWEST REGION 5-STATE** means Illinois Bell Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T Illinois, Indiana Bell Telephone Company Incorporated d/b/a AT&T Indiana, Michigan Bell Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T Michigan, The Ohio Bell Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T Ohio, and/or Wisconsin Bell, Inc. d/b/a AT&T Wisconsin, the applicable AT&T-owned ILEC(s) doing business in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin.
- 1.6 **AT&T NEVADA** - As used herein, **AT&T NEVADA** means Nevada Bell Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T Nevada, the applicable AT&T-owned ILEC doing business in Nevada.
- 1.7 **AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE** - As used herein, **AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE** means Southwestern Bell Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T Arkansas, AT&T Kansas, AT&T Missouri, AT&T Oklahoma and/or AT&T Texas the applicable above listed ILEC(s) doing business in Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas.
- 1.8 **"Conversion of Service"** is defined as the matching of the disconnect of one telecommunications product or service with the installation of another telecommunications product or service.
- 1.9 **"Designated Installation"** is defined as an installation of service occurring at a specific time of day as specified by CLEC.

2. CHC SERVICE DESCRIPTION

- 2.1 Coordinated Hot Cut (CHC) Service is an optional manual service offering that permits CLEC to request a designated installation and/or conversion of service during, or after, normal business hours.
- 2.2 CLEC will initiate the beginning of a CHC by contacting the appropriate coordination center. This special request enables CLEC to schedule and coordinate particular provisioning requirements with the **AT&T-13STATE**.
- 2.3 **AT&T-13STATE** may limit the number of service orders that can be coordinated based on workload and resources available. AT&T shall approve CHC requests on a non-discriminatory basis, by requesting carrier, and on a first come, first served basis.

- 2.4 The AT&T-13STATE reserves the right to suspend the availability of CHC Service during unanticipated heavy workload/activity periods. Heavy workload includes any unanticipated volume of work that impacts the AT&T-13STATE's ability to provide its baseline service. Where time permits, the AT&T-13STATE will make every effort to notify CLEC when such unanticipated activities occur.

3. CHC PRICING

- 3.1 CHC is a time sensitive labor operation. Total charges are determined by a number of factors including the volume of lines, day of the week, and the time of day requested for the cut over.
- 3.2 When CLEC orders CHC service, AT&T-13STATE shall charge and CLEC agrees to pay for CHC service at the "additional labor" or "Time and Material" rates set forth in the following applicable Tariffs or Appendix Pricing, Schedule of Prices:
- 3.2.1 AT&T MIDWEST REGION 5-STATE - FCC No. 2 Access Services Tariff, Section 13.2.6 (c)¹
- 3.2.2 AT&T NEVADA - PUCN, Section C13A, 13.2.6(c)
- 3.2.3 AT&T CALIFORNIA - Access Tariff 175-T, Section 13.2.6(c)
- 3.2.4 AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE - Appendix Pricing, Schedule of Prices, "Time and Materials Charges"
- 3.2.5 AT&T CONNECTICUT - Connecticut Access Service Tariff, Section 18.1(3)
- 3.3 In the event the AT&T-13STATE fails to meet a CHC Service commitment for reasons within the control of AT&T-13STATE, AT&T will not charge CLEC a CHC Service charge. However, in the event AT&T misses a CHC Service commitment due to CLEC, its agent or end user reasons, the Coordinated Hot Cut (CHC) Service charge will still apply. For example, if CLEC requests any change to an order with CHC Service including, but not limited to, AT&T-13STATE's inability to gain access to CLEC's end user's premises, or CLEC/end user is not ready to proceed with the order, the CHC charge will apply and AT&T-13STATE is no longer obligated to ensure a CHC is on that order.

¹ AT&T-13STATE will not charge the additional labor rate in a particular state in the AT&T MIDWEST 5-STATE region until the effective non-recurring dockets: IL - 98-0396, IN - Cause 40611-S1, MI - U-11831, OH - 96-922-TP-UNC, and WI - 6720-TI-120, are superseded by that state's commission order approving new non-recurring Lawful UNE rates.

APPENDIX COORDINATED HOT CUT (CHC)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	1
CHC SERVICE DESCRIPTION	2
CHC PRICING	3