

5.2.2.1 Prior to the conclusion of the two year term specified in Section 5.2.1 above, CLEC may obtain interconnection services under the terms and conditions of a then-existing Agreement to become effective at the conclusion of the two-year term.

5.3 Proof of Authorization

5.3.1 Where so indicated in specific sections of this Agreement each Party shall be responsible for obtaining and having in its possession Proof of Authorization ("POA"). POA shall consist of documentation of the end user's selection of its local service provider. Such selection may be obtained in the following ways:

5.3.1.1 The end user's written Letter of Authorization.

5.3.1.2 The end user's electronic authorization by use of an 8XX number.

5.3.1.3 The end user's oral authorization verified by an independent third party (with third party verification as POA).

5.3.2 The Parties shall make POAs available to each other upon request, in accordance with applicable laws and rules. A charge of \$100.00 will be assessed if the POA cannot be provided supporting the change in service provider. If there is a conflict between the end user designation and the other Party's written evidence of its authority, the Parties shall honor the designation of the end user and change the end user back to the previous service provider.

5.4 Payment

5.4.1 Amounts payable under this Agreement are due and payable within thirty (30) calendar days after the date of U S WEST's invoice, or within twenty (20) days after receipt of the invoice, whichever is later. If the payment due date is not a Business Day, the payment shall be made the next Business Day.

5.4.2 U S WEST may discontinue processing orders for the failure by CLEC to make full payment for the services provided under this Agreement within thirty (30) days of the due date on CLEC's bill.

5.4.3 U S WEST may disconnect for the failure by CLEC to make full payment for the services provided under this Agreement within sixty (60) days of the due date on CLEC's bill. CLEC will pay the Tariff charge required to reconnect each resold end user line disconnected pursuant to this paragraph. U S WEST agrees, however, that the application of this provision will be suspended for the initial three (3) billing cycles of this Agreement and will not apply to amounts billed during those three (3) cycles.

5.4.4 Should CLEC or U S WEST dispute, in good faith, any portion of the monthly billing under this Agreement, the parties will notify each other in writing within thirty (30) calendar days of the receipt of such billing, identifying the amount, reason and rationale of such dispute. CLEC and U S WEST shall pay all amounts due. Both CLEC and U S WEST agree to expedite the investigation of any disputed amounts in an effort to resolve and settle the dispute prior to initiating any other rights or remedies. If the resolved amount does not appear as a credit on the next invoice after resolution of the dispute, the resolved amount plus interest from the date of payment will be applied. The amount of interest will be calculated using the late payment

factor that would have applied to such amount had it not been paid on time. Similarly, in the event a party withholds payment for a disputed charge, and upon resolution of the matter it is determined that such payments should have been made, the billing party is entitled to collect interest on the withheld amount, subject to the above provisions.

5.4.5 U S WEST will determine CLEC's credit status based on previous payment history with U S WEST or credit reports such as Dun and Bradstreet. If CLEC has not established satisfactory credit with U S WEST or if CLEC is repeatedly delinquent in making its payments, U S WEST may require a deposit to be held as security for the payment of charges. "Repeatedly delinquent" means any payment received thirty (30) calendar days or more after the due date, three (3) or more times during a twelve (12) month period. The deposit may not exceed the estimated total monthly charges for a two (2) month period. The deposit may be a surety bond, a letter of credit with terms and conditions acceptable to U S WEST, or some other form of mutually acceptable security such as a cash deposit. Required deposits are due and payable within ten (10) calendar days after demand.

5.4.6 Interest will be paid on cash deposits at the rate applying to deposits under applicable Commission rules, regulations, or Tariffs. Cash deposits and accrued interest will be credited to CLEC's account or refunded, as appropriate, upon the earlier of the two year term or the establishment of satisfactory credit with U S WEST, which will generally be one full year of timely payments in full by CLEC. The fact that a deposit has been made does not relieve CLEC from any requirements of this Agreement.

5.4.7 U S WEST may review CLEC's credit standing and modify the amount of deposit required.

5.4.8 The late payment charge for amounts that are billed under this Agreement shall be in accordance with Commission requirements.

5.4.9 CLEC agrees to inform end-user in writing of pending disconnection by CLEC to allow end user to make other arrangements for telecommunications services.

5.5 Taxes

5.5.1 Each Party purchasing services hereunder shall pay or otherwise be responsible for all federal, state, or local sales, use, excise, gross receipts, transaction or similar taxes, fees or surcharges levied against or upon such purchasing Party (or the providing Party when such providing Party is permitted to pass along to the purchasing Party such taxes, fees or surcharges), except for any tax on either Party's corporate existence, status or income. Whenever possible, these amounts shall be billed as a separate item on the invoice. To the extent a sale is claimed to be for resale tax exemption, the purchasing Party shall furnish the providing Party a proper resale tax exemption certificate as authorized or required by statute or regulation by the jurisdiction providing said resale tax exemption. Until such time as a resale tax exemption certificate is provided, no exemptions will be applied.

5.6 Insurance

5.6.1 CLEC shall at all times during the term of this Agreement, at its own cost and expense, carry and maintain the insurance coverage listed below with insurers having a "Best's" rating of B+XIII.