ATTACHMENT 8

LOCAL NUMBER PORTABILITY

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1. GTE Provision of Local Number Portability

GTE shall provide, to the extent technically feasible, number portability in accordance with requirements of the Act and the INP will be provided by GTE to AT&T, immediately upon the Effective Date of this Agreement. INP will be provided with minimum impairment of functionality, quality, reliability and convenience to subscribers of AT&T services. GTE will provide PNP as soon as it is technically feasible, in conformance with FCC rules and the Act.

1. Interim Number Portability (INP)

INP shall be provided by Remote Call Forwarding, Route Indexing, Local Exchange Routing Guide (LERG) reassignment or Direct Inward Dialing. AT&T shall specify on a per telephone number basis which method is to be employed and GTE shall provide such method to the extent technically feasible.

a) Remote Call Forwarding

Remote Call Forwarding (RCF) is an existing switch-based GTE service that may be used to provide subscribers with limited service- provider LNP by redirecting calls within the telephone network. When RCF is used to provide LNP, calls to the ported number will first route to the GTE switch to which the ported number was previously assigned. The GTE switch will then forward the call to a number with an NXX associated with the AT&T operated switch to which the number is ported. AT&T shall not be required to order any additional paths to handle multiple simultaneous calls to the same ported telephone number.

a) Route Indexing

Route Indexing (RI) may take two forms: Route Index-Portability Hub (RI-PH) or Directory Number-Route Index (DN-RI).

i) RI-PH will route a dialed call to the GTE switch associated with the NXX of the dialed number. The GTE switch shall then insert a prefix onto the dialed number which identifies how the call is to be routed to AT&T as the local service provider. The prefixed dialed number is transmitted to the GTE tandem switch to which AT&T is connected. The prefix is removed by the operation of the tandem switch and the dialed number is routed to AT&T's switch so the routing of the call can be completed by AT&T.

ii) DN-RI is a form of RI-PH that requires direct trunking between the GTE switch to which the ported number was originally assigned and the AT&T switch to which the number has been ported. The GTE switch shall send the originally dialed number to the AT&T switch without a prefix.

iii) GTE shall provide RI-PH or DN-RI on an individual telephone number basis, as AT&T designates. Where technically feasible, AT&T may designate both methods so that calls to ported numbers are first directed to the AT&T switch

over direct trunks but may overflow to tandem trunks if all trunks in the direct group are occupied.

iv) For both RI-PH and DN-RI the trunks used may, at AT&T's option, be the same as those used for exchange of other local traffic with GTE. At AT&T's option, the trunks shall employ SS7 or in band signaling and may be one way or two way.

a) **LERG Reassignment**

Portability for an entire NXX or thousands block (NXX-X) of numbers shall be provided by utilizing reassignment of the block to AT&T through the Local Exchange Routing Guide (LERG). Updates to translations in the GTE switching office from which the telephone number is ported will be made by GTE prior to the date on which LERG changes become effective, in order to redirect calls to the AT&T switch via route indexing.

a) **Direct Inward Dialing**

Direct Inward Dialing ("DID") is an INP method that makes use of direct inward dialing trunks. Each DID trunk group used for INP is dedicated to carrying FLEX-DID INP traffic between GTE's end office and the AT&T switch. Traffic on these trunks cannot overflow to other trunks, so the number of trunks shall be conservatively engineered by GTE. Also, inter-switch signaling is usually limited to multi-frequency (MF). This precludes passing CLID to the AT&T switch.

a) **Other Interim Portability Provisions**

i) GTE shall exchange with AT&T, SS7 TCAP messages as required for the implementation of Custom Local Area Signaling Services (CLASS) or other features available in the GTE network.

ii) GTE shall disclose to AT&T any technical or capacity limitations that would prevent use of a requested interim LNP implementation in a particular switching office. GTE and AT&T shall cooperate in the process of porting numbers to minimize customer out-of-service time, including updating switch translations where necessary within five (5) minutes after notification that physical cut-over has been completed (or initiated), as AT&T may designate.

iii) AT&T shall have the right to use the existing GTE 911 infrastructure for all 911 capabilities. With respect to 911 service associated with ported numbers under INP, GTE agrees that all ported directory numbers (DN) will remain in the Public Service Answering Points (PSAP) routing databases. When RCF is used, both the ported numbers and shadow numbers for AT&T ported subscribers shall be stored in PSAP databases. AT&T shall have the right to verify the accuracy of the information in the *PSAP databases.*

iv) CLASS and other features must not be inhibited due to Interim Number Portability.

1. **Permanent Number Portability (PNP)**

a) The requirements for PNP shall include the following:

i) A subscriber must be able to change local service providers and retain the same telephone number(s) and have availability of all vertical and advanced local service features.

ii) The LNP network architecture shall not subject alternate local exchange carriers to any degradation of service compared to GTE in any relevant measure, including transmission quality, switching and transport costs, increased call set-up time and post-dial delay, and AT&T shall not be required to rely on the GTE network for calls completing to its ported customers.

iii) When an NXX is defined as portable, it shall also be defined as portable in all LRN-capable offices which have direct trunks to the given switch.

iv) Upon introduction of LRN in a market area, the tandem switches (local and access) shall be among the first converted, with no unreasonable delay. All portable NXXs shall be recognized in these tandems as portable, with queries launched from these switches.

v) When a subscriber ports to another service provider and has previously secured a reservation of line numbers from the donor provider for possible activation at some future point, these reserved but inactive numbers shall "port" along with the active numbers being ported by the subscriber in order to ensure that the end user subscriber will be permitted to expand its service using the same number range it could use if it remained with the donor provider.

vi) During the process of porting a subscriber, the donor service provider shall implement the unconditional trigger feature. When the donor provider receives the porting request, the unconditional trigger shall be applied to the Subscriber's line at least 24 hours prior to the order due date in order to overcome donor network time delays in the disconnection of the subscriber. Alternatively, when an activation notice is sent to an NPAC to trigger a broadcast to service provider databases, the donor switch shall have its translations changed to disconnect the subscriber's line within fifteen (15) minutes of the donor network Local SMS's having received the broadcast.

b) **Joint Cooperation**

Both AT&T and GTE shall:

Support all emergency and operator services.

Use scarce numbering resources efficiently and administer such resources in a competitively neutral manner.

Jointly cooperate with each other to ensure that both carriers shall be able to rate and bill all types of calls.

Jointly cooperate with each other to apply PNP consistently on a nationwide basis, and in accordance with all Federal Communication Commission directives.

a) Location Routing Number (LRN)

GTE and AT&T shall work to implement the LRN-PNP solution.

i) A ten-digit code, consistent with the North American Numbering Plan, called the location routing number (LRN) shall be used as a network address for each switch that terminates subscriber lines, i.e. an end office. LRN shall support existing six-digit routing and may be implemented without changes to existing switch routing algorithms. In existing end offices, the LRN shall be selected from one of its existing NPA-NXXs. New end offices shall be assigned LRNs through normal administrative processes.

ii) LRN employs an “N-1” Query Strategy for interLATA or intraLATA toll calls, by which the originating carrier will pass the call to the appropriate toll carrier who will perform a query to an external routing database and efficiently route the call to the appropriate terminating local carrier either directly or through an access tandem office. For a local call to a ported number, the originating carrier is the “N-1” carrier. It will perform an external database query and pass the call to the appropriate terminating carrier. The “N-1 ” methodology will be used to extend portability on a phased, region-by-region basis and it does not place GTE or other carriers needlessly in the call path.

iii) GTE will furnish AT&T with the first six digits of the originating LRN when it supplies AT&T with the Jurisdiction Information Parameter for the Initial Address Message.

iv) GTE agrees to begin the introduction of LRN to end user subscribers who may begin changing local service providers and retaining their existing telephone number no later than October 1, 1997.

v) The generic requirements for LRN are specified in the following publications: Generic Switching and Signaling Requirements for Number Portability, Issue 1.00, February 12, 1996 [Editor - Lucent Technologies, Inc.]; Generic Requirements for SCP Application and GTT Function for Number Portability, Issue 0.31, Final Draft, March 24, 1996 [Editor - Ameritech Inc.]; and Generic

Operator Services Switching Requirements for Number Portability, Issue 1.00, Final Draft, April 12, 1996 [Editor - Nortel].

a) **Additional PNP Requirements**

i) For local calls to a portable NXX, GTE shall query an external database as soon as the call reaches the first LNP-capable switch in the call path. An LNP capable originating switch shall query on a local call to a portable NXX as soon as it determines that it (the originating switch) does not serve the dialed number.

ii) GTE shall be the default carrier for database queries where a participating carrier is unable to perform its own query due to abnormal conditions.

iii) GTE will provide AT&T INP and PNP for subscribers moving to a different location, or staying at the same location, within the same rate center area.

b) **SMS Administration**

GTE will work cooperatively with other local service providers to establish the LNP Service Management System (SMS). The SMS shall be administered by a neutral third party, to provide for the efficient porting of numbers between carriers. GTE and AT&T shall cooperate to facilitate the expeditious deployment of LRN-based LNP through the process prescribed by the FCC, including, but not limited to, participation in the selection of a neutral third party and development of SMS, as well as SMS testing for effective procedures, electronic system interfaces, and overall readiness for use consistent with that specified for Provisioning in this Agreement.

1. **Requirements for INP and PNP**

a) **White and Yellow Page Listings**

GTE shall provide and maintain for AT&T one (1) white page and one (1) yellow page (if applicable) listing for each AT&T subscriber that has ported its number from GTE, consistent with that specified for Provisioning in this Agreement. The listing and handling of listed and nonlisted telephone numbers will be at least at parity with that provided by GTE to its own subscribers.

a) **Cut-Over Process**

GTE shall cooperate in the process of porting numbers from one carrier to another so as to limit service outage for the ported subscriber. This shall include, but not be limited to, updating its network element translations within five (5) minutes following notification by the industry SMS, or ported-to local service provider, and deploying such temporary translations as may be required to minimize service outage, e.g., unconditional triggers. Also, AT&T shall have the right to determine who initiates the order for interim LNP in specific cut-over situations.

a) **Testing**

GTE and AT&T shall cooperate in conducting AT&T's testing to ensure interconnectivity between systems. GTE shall inform AT&T of any system updates that may affect the AT&T network and GTE shall, at AT&T's request, perform tests to validate the operation of the network. Additional testing requirements may apply as specified by this Agreement.

a) **Non-Geographical Numbers**

GTE shall not be required to provide number portability for non-geographic services (e.g., 500 and 900 NPAs, and 976 NXX number services) under this Agreement.

a) **Engineering and Maintenance**

GTE and AT&T will cooperate to ensure that performance of trunking and signaling capacity is engineered and managed at levels which are at least at parity with that provided by GTE to its subscribers and to ensure effective maintenance testing through activities such as routine testing practices, network trouble isolation processes and review of operational elements for translations, routing and network fault isolation. Additional specific engineering and maintenance requirements shall apply as specified in this Agreement.

a) **Recording and Billing**

GTE shall provide AT&T with accurate billing and Customer Account Record Exchange data for AT&T subscribers whose numbers have been ported.

i) Calls originated from RCF ported numbers in GTE end-offices and sent to the AT&T interLATA toll network must signal the shadow number in the Calling Party Number (CgPN) parameter and ported number in the Charge Number (CN) parameter in the SS7 Initial Address Message.

ii) GTE shall supply AT&T with individual call records, with full call detail, that provide billing information associated with the RCF second call leg.

iii) GTE must pay charges to AT&T for GTE originated calls that terminate to ported numbers at the AT&T end-office. These charges are equivalent to the AT&T customers changing rather than porting their telephone number.

iv) GTE shall pay to the local service provider of the ported-to number all terminating access charges for calls transported from the interexchange carrier to the ported switch.

a) **Operator Services and Directory Assistance**

With respect to operator services and directory assistance associated with LNP for AT&T subscribers, GTE shall provide the following:

i) While INP is deployed and prior to conversion to PNP:

a) If requested by AT&T, GTE shall provide Emergency Interrupt (EI) trunks to the AT&T End Office for BLV/BLI call requests for lines that terminate at the AT&T End Office.

b) When a BLV/BLI request for a ported number is directed to a GTE operator and the query is not successful (i.e., the request yields an abnormal result), the operator shall confirm whether the number has been ported and shall direct the request to the appropriate operator.

c) GTE shall remove from its Line Information Data Base (LIDB) all existing GTE issued Telephone Line Number (TLN)-based card numbers when a customer ports their number to AT&T.

d) GTE shall allow AT&T to order provisioning of TLN calling cards and Billed Number Screening (BNS), in its LIDB, for ported numbers, as specified by AT&T. GTE shall continue to allow AT&T access to its LIDB. Other LIDB provisions are specified in this Agreement.

e) Where GTE has control of directory listings for NXX codes containing ported numbers, GTE shall maintain entries for ported numbers as specified by AT&T.

ii) When PNP is in place:

a) The Provisions in 4.7.1.1-4.7.1.5 preceding, shall apply when PNP is in place.

b) If Integrated Services Digital Network User Part (ISUP) signaling is used, GTE shall provide the Jurisdiction Information Parameter in the SS7 Initial Address Message. (See Generic Switching and Signaling Requirements for Number Portability, Issue 1.0, February 12, 1996 [Editor - Lucent Technologies, Inc.])

c) GTE shall provide a 10-digit Global Title Translation (GTT) Node for routing queries for TCAP-based operator services (e.g., LIDB).

d) GTE's OSS shall meet all requirements specified in "Generic Operator Services Switching Requirements for Number Portability," Issue 1.00, Final Draft, April 12, 1996 [Editor: Nortel]