

**AGREEMENT
FOR LOCAL WIRELINE NETWORK INTERCONNECTION
AND
SERVICE RESALE
Between
AT&T Communications of the Pacific Northwest, Inc.
and
U S WEST Communications, Inc.**

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This Interconnection Agreement (this "Agreement"), effective **July 25, 1997**¹ (the "Effective Date"), is entered into by and between AT&T Communications of the Pacific Northwest, Inc., a Washington corporation, and U S WEST Communications, Inc., a Colorado corporation, to establish the rates, terms and conditions for local interconnection, local resale, and the purchase of unbundled network elements (individually referred to as the "service" or collectively as the "services").

RECITALS

WHEREAS, pursuant to this Agreement, AT&T and U S WEST will extend certain arrangements to one another within each LATA in which they both operate within Washington. This Agreement is a combination of agreed terms and terms imposed by arbitration under Section 252 of the Communications Act of 1934, as modified by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, the rules and regulations of the Federal Communications Commission (the "FCC"), and the orders, rules and regulations of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (the "Commission"); and as such does not necessarily represent the position of either Party on any given issue; and

WHEREAS, the Parties wish to interconnect their local exchange networks in a technically and economically efficient manner for the transmission and termination of calls, so that subscribers of each can seamlessly receive calls that originate on the other's network and place calls that terminate on the other's network, and for AT&T's use in the provision of exchange access ("Local Interconnection"); and

WHEREAS, AT&T wishes to purchase Telecommunications Services for resale to others, and U S WEST is willing to provide such services; and

¹ Per Approval at page 14, paragraph 2.

WHEREAS, AT&T wishes to purchase on an unbundled basis Network Elements, Ancillary Services and Functions and additional features separately or in any Combination, and to use such services for itself or for the provision of its Telecommunications Services to others, and U S WEST is willing to provide such services;

Now, therefore, in consideration of the terms and conditions contained herein, AT&T and U S WEST hereby mutually agree as follows:

SCOPE OF AGREEMENT

- A. This Agreement specifies the rights and obligations of each Party with respect to the purchase and sale of Local Interconnection, Local Resale and Network Elements in the LATAs in Washington where U S WEST operates.
- B. In the performance of their obligations under this Agreement, the Parties shall act in good faith and consistently with the intent of the Act. Where notice, approval or similar action by a Party is permitted or required by any provision of this Agreement (including, without limitation, the obligation of the Parties to further negotiate the resolution of new or open issues under this Agreement) such action shall not be unreasonably delayed, withheld or conditioned.
- C. U S WEST will provide AT&T with at least the level of service quality or performance of obligations under this Agreement as U S WEST provides itself or any other Person with respect to all Telecommunications Services, Local Interconnection, Services for Resale, and Network Elements as applicable and shall provide such level of service quality or performance of service obligations in accordance with the specific requirements agreed to in Attachment 5.
- D. U S WEST shall provide to AT&T Services for Resale that are equal in quality, subject to the same conditions (including the conditions in U S WEST's effective tariffs which are not otherwise inconsistent with the terms and conditions contained herein), within the same provisioning time intervals that U S WEST provides these services to itself, its Affiliates and others, including end users, and in accordance with any applicable Commission service quality standards, including standards the Commission may impose pursuant to Section 252(e)(3) of the Act.
- E. Each Network Element provided by U S WEST to AT&T shall be at least equal in the quality of design, performance, features, functions, capabilities and other characteristics, including, but not limited to, levels and types of redundant equipment and facilities for power, diversity and security, that U S WEST provides to itself, U S WEST's own subscribers, to a U S WEST Affiliate or to any other entity.
- F. The Parties agree to work jointly and cooperatively in testing and implementing processes for pre-ordering, ordering, maintenance, provisioning and billing and in reasonably resolving issues which result from such implementation on a timely basis.
- G. If a Party makes a change in its network which it believes will materially affect the interoperability of its network with that of the other Party, the Party making the change shall provide advance notice of such change to the other Party in accordance with applicable FCC or Commission regulations.
- H. In accordance with Section 251(c)(5) of the Act and the rules and regulations established by the FCC and the Commission, the Parties shall provide reasonable notice of changes in the information necessary for the transmission and routing of services using that local exchange carrier's facilities or network, as well as of any other changes that would affect the interoperability of those facilities and networks.
- I. Except as otherwise provided for in Section 8 of Attachment 2, U S WEST shall not discontinue or refuse to provide any service required hereunder without AT&T's prior written agreement in accordance with Section 17 of this Part A of this Agreement, nor shall U S WEST reconfigure, reengineer or otherwise redeploy its network in a manner which would materially impair AT&T's ability to offer Telecommunications Services in the manner contemplated by this Agreement, the Act or the FCC's rules

and regulations. U S WEST agrees that all obligations undertaken pursuant to this Agreement, including, without limitation, performance standards, intervals, and technical requirements are material obligations hereof and that time is of the essence.

DEFINITIONS

Certain terms used in this Agreement shall have the meanings set forth herein or as otherwise elsewhere defined throughout this Agreement. Other terms used but not defined herein will have the meanings ascribed to them in the Act and the FCC's rules and regulations.

"911 Service" means a universal telephone number which gives the public direct access to the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP). Basic 911 service collects 911 calls from one or more local exchange switches that serve a geographic area. The calls are then sent to the correct authority designated to receive such calls.

"911 Site Administrator" is a person assigned by AT&T to establish and maintain 911 service location information for its subscribers.

"Access Services" refers to interstate and intrastate switched access and private line transport services.

"Act" means the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. Section 151 et seq.), as amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, and as from time to time interpreted in the duly authorized rules and regulations of the FCC or by the Commission.

"ADSL" or "Asymmetrical Digital Subscriber Line" means a transmission technology which transmits an asymmetrical digital signal using one of several transmission methods (for example, carrier-less AM/PM discrete multi-tone, or discrete wavelet multi-tone).

"Affiliate" is an entity, as defined in the Act, that directly or indirectly owns or controls, is owned or controlled by, or is under common ownership or control with, another entity. For the purposes of this Agreement, "own" or "control" means to own an equity interest (or equivalent) of at least ten percent (10%), or the right to control the business decisions, management and policy of another entity performing any of the obligations set forth in this Agreement.

"AIN" (Advanced Intelligent Network) is a network functionality that permits specific conditions to be programmed into a switch which, when met, directs the switch to suspend call processing and to receive special instructions for further call handling instructions in order to enable carriers to offer advanced features and services.

"AIN Services" means architecture and configuration of the AIN Triggers within the SCP as developed and/or offered by U S WEST to its customers.

"ALI" (Automatic Location Identification) is a database developed for E911 systems that provides for a visual display of the caller's telephone number and address, and the names of the emergency response agencies responsible for that address. The ALI also shows an Interim Number Portability (INP) number, if applicable.

"ALI/DMS" (Automatic Location Identification/Data Management System) means the emergency service (E911/911) database containing subscriber location information (including name, address, telephone number, and sometimes special information from the local service provider) used to determine to which Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) to route the call.

"AMA" means the Automated Message Accounting structure that initially records telecommunication message information. AMA format is contained in the Automated Message Accounting document, published by Bellcore as GR-1100-CORE, which defines the industry standard for message recording.

"Ancillary Services" or "Ancillary Functions" means, collectively, the following: (1) Collocation as described in Section 40 of this Part A of this Agreement; (2) access to poles, ducts, conduits and rights of way as

described in Section 47 of this Part A of this Agreement; (3) unused transmission media as described in Section 51 of this Part A of this Agreement; (4) Directory Listings as described in Section 44 of this Part A of this Agreement; (5) E911 as described in Section 50.1 of this Part A of this Agreement; (6) Directory Assistance Service as described in Section 50.2 of this Part A of this Agreement; (7) Operator Services as described in Section 50.3 of this Part A of this Agreement; (8) Directory Assistance and Listings services requests as described in Section 50.4 of this Part A of this Agreement; and (9) directory assistance data as described in Section 50.5 of this Part A of this Agreement.

"ANI" (Automatic Number Identification) is a feature that identifies and displays the number of a telephone that originates a call.

"ARS" (Automatic Route Selection) is a service feature that provides for automatic selection of the least expensive or most appropriate transmission facility for each call based on criteria programmed into the system.

"ASR" (Access Service Request) means the industry standard forms and supporting documentation used for ordering Access Services. The ASR may be used to order trunking and facilities between AT&T and U S WEST for Local Interconnection.

"AT&T" means AT&T Communications of the Pacific Northwest, Inc. and any Affiliates, subsidiary companies or other entities performing any of the obligations of AT&T set forth in this Agreement.

"BLV/BLI" (Busy Line Verify/Busy Line Interrupt) means an operator call in which the end user inquires as to the busy status of, or requests an interruption of, a telephone call.

"Business Day" means any day Monday through Friday except for mutually agreed to holidays.

"CABS" means the Carrier Access Billing System which is defined in a document prepared by the Billing Committee of the OBF. The Carrier Access Billing System document is published by Bellcore in Volumes 1, 1A, 2, 3, 3A, 4 and 5 as Special Reports SR-OPT-001868, SR-OPT-001869, SR-OPT-001871, SR-OPT-001872, SR-OPT-001873, SR-OPT-001874, and SR-OPT-001875, respectively, and contains the recommended guidelines for the billing of access and other connectivity services.

"Calling Party Number" or "CPN" is a CCS parameter which refers to the number transmitted through a network identifying the calling party.

"CCS" (Common Channel Signaling) means a method of digitally transmitting call set-up and network control data over a digital signaling network fully separate from the public switched telephone network that carries the actual call.

"Central Office Switch" means a switch used to provide Telecommunications Services, including, but not limited to:

- (a) "End Office Switches" which are used to terminate Customer station loops for the purpose of interconnecting to each other and to trunks;
- (b) "Tandem Office Switches" which are used to connect and switch trunk circuits between and among other Central Office Switches. Access tandems provide connections for exchange access and toll traffic while local tandems provide connections for local/EAS traffic; or
- (c) Combination End Office/Tandem Office Switches.

"Centrex", including Centrex Plus, means a Telecommunications Service that uses central office switching equipment for call routing to handle direct dialing of calls and to provide numerous private branch exchange-like features.

"Charge Number" is a CCS parameter which refers to the number transmitted through the network identifying the billing number of the calling party.

"CLASS" (Bellcore Service Mark) is a set of call-management service features that utilize the capability to forward a calling party's number between end offices as part of call setup. Features include Automatic Callback, Automatic Recall, Caller ID, Call Trace, and Distinctive Ringing.

"Combinations" means provision by U S WEST of two or more connected Network Elements ordered by AT&T to provide its Telecommunication Services in a geographic area or to a specific subscriber and that are placed on the same or related order by AT&T, subject to restrictions, if any, imposed by the Commission.

"Commission" means the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission.

"Competitive Local Exchange Carrier" or "CLEC" means an entity authorized to provide Local Exchange Service that does not otherwise qualify as an incumbent LEC.

"Conduit" means a tube or protected pathway that may be used to house communication or electrical cables. Conduit may be underground or above ground (for example, inside buildings) and may contain one or more innerducts.

"Confidential Information" has the meaning set forth in Section 28 of Part A of this Agreement.

"Contract Year" means a twelve (12) month period during the term of this Agreement commencing on the Effective Date and each anniversary thereof.

"Control Office" is an exchange carrier center or office designated as its company's single point of contact for the provisioning and maintenance of its portion of local interconnection arrangements.

"Custom Calling Features" is a set of call-management service features available to residential and business subscribers including call-waiting, call-forwarding and three-party calling.

"Customer" means a third-party (residence or business) that subscribes to Telecommunications Services provided by either of the Parties.

"DBMS" (Database Management System) is a computer system used to store, sort, manipulate and update the data required to provide, for example, selective routing and ALI.

"Databases" are the Network Elements that provide the functionality for storage of, access to, and manipulation of information required to offer a particular service and/or capability. Databases include, but are not limited to: Number Portability, LIDB, Toll Free Number Database, Automatic Location Identification/Data Management System, and AIN.

"Digital Signal Level" means one of several transmission rates in the time division multiplexing hierarchy, including, but not limited to:

"Digital Signal Level 0" or "DS-0" means the 56 or 64 Kbps zero-level signal in the time-division multiplex hierarchy.

"Digital Signal Level 1" or "DS-1" means the 1.544 Mbps first-level signal in the time-division multiplex hierarchy. In the time-division multiplexing hierarchy of the telephone network, DS-1 is the initial level of multiplexing.

"Digital Signal Level 3" or "DS-3" means the 44.736 Mbps third-level in the time-division multiplex hierarchy. In the time-division multiplexing hierarchy of the telephone network, DS-3 is defined as the third level of multiplexing.

"Directory Assistance Database" refers to any set of subscriber records used by U S WEST in its provision of live or automated operator-assisted directory assistance including, but not limited to, 411, 555-1212, NPA-555-1212.

"Directory Assistance Service" provides Listings to callers. Directory Assistance Service may include the option to complete the call at the caller's direction.

"Directory Listings" or "Listings" refers to subscriber information, including, but not limited to, name, address and phone numbers, in Directory Assistance Services or directory products.

"Discloser" means that Party to this Agreement which has disclosed Confidential Information to the other Party.

"E911" (Enhanced 911 Service) means a telephone communication service which will automatically route a call dialed "911" to a designated Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) attendant and will provide to the attendant the calling party's telephone number and, when possible, the address from which the call is being placed, and the emergency response agencies responsible for the location from which the call was dialed.

"E911 Message Trunk" is a dedicated line, trunk or channel between two central offices or switching devices which provides a voice and signaling path for E911 calls.

"EAS" (Extended Area Service) is intraLATA traffic treated as "local" traffic between exchanges (rather than as "toll" traffic) as established by the Commission and as reflected in the effective U S WEST tariffs.

"Effective Date" is the date, indicated in the Preamble, on which this Agreement shall become effective.

"Emergency Response Agency" is a governmental entity authorized to respond to requests from the public to meet emergencies.

"EMR" means the Exchange Message Record System used among LECs for exchanging telecommunications message information for billable, non-billable, sample, settlement and study data. EMR format is contained in BR-010-200-010 CRIS Exchange Message Record, published by Bellcore, which defines the industry standard for exchange message records.

"ESN" (Emergency Service Number) is a number assigned to the ALI and selective routing databases for all subscriber telephone numbers. The ESN designates a unique combination of fire, police and emergency medical service response agencies that serve the address location of each in-service telephone number.

"FCC" means the Federal Communications Commission.

"FCC Interconnection Order" is the Federal Communications Commission's First Report and Order in FCC Docket No. 96-98 released August 8, 1996, as effective.

"Fiber-Meet" means an Interconnection architecture method whereby the Parties physically interconnect their networks via an optical fiber interface (as opposed to an electrical interface) at a mutually agreed upon location.

"Gateway" (ALI Gateway) is a telephone company computer facility that interfaces with AT&T's 911 administrative site to receive ALI data from AT&T. Access to the Gateway will be via a dial-up modem using a common protocol.

"HDSL" (High-Bit Rate Digital Subscriber Line) means a two-wire or four-wire transmission technology which typically transmits a DS1-level signal (or, higher level signals with certain technologies), using, for example, 2 Binary / 1 Quaternary ("2B1Q").

"IDLC" (Integrated Digital Loop Carrier) means a digital subscriber loop carrier system which interfaces with the switch digitally at a DS1 (1.544Mbps) or higher level.

"ILEC" means an incumbent local exchange carrier.

"Information Service Traffic" means traffic which originates on a local access line and which is addressed to an information service provider.

"INP" (Interim Number Portability) is a service arrangement whereby subscribers who change local service providers may retain existing telephone numbers with minimal impairment of quality, reliability, or convenience when remaining at their current location or changing their location within the geographic area served by the initial carrier's serving central office.

"Interconnection" is as described in the Act and refers to the connection of separate pieces of equipment, facilities, or platforms between or within networks for the purpose of transmission and routing of telephone exchange service traffic and exchange access traffic.

"ISDN" (Integrated Services Digital Network) means a switched network service that provides end-to-end digital connectivity for the simultaneous transmission of voice and data. Basic Rate Interface-ISDN (BRI-ISDN) provides for a digital transmission of two 64 Kbps bearer channels and one 16 Kbps data channel (2B+D). Primary Rate Interface-ISDN (PRI-ISDN) provides for a digital transmission of twenty-three (23) 64 Kbps bearer channels and one 64 Kbps data channel (23B+D).

"IXC" (Interexchange Carrier) means a provider of interexchange Telecommunications Services.

"LATA" means Local Access Transport Area.

"LEC" means local exchange carrier.

"LIDB" (Line Information Data Base(s)) is an SCP database that provides for such functions as calling card validation for telephone line number cards issued by LECs and other entities and validation for collect and billed-to-third-party services.

"Local Interconnection" shall have the meaning set forth in the Recitals to this Agreement.

"Local Resale", "Services for Resale" or "Resale Services" means, collectively, Telecommunications Services and service functions provided by U S WEST to AT&T pursuant to Attachment 2 of this Agreement.

"Local Traffic" is intraLATA traffic within an exchange that is treated as toll free traffic as established by the Commission and as reflected in the effective tariffs of U S WEST.

"Loop" is a transmission facility between a distribution frame, or its equivalent, in a U S WEST central office or wire center, and the Network Interface Device (as defined herein) or network interface at a subscriber's premises, to which AT&T is granted exclusive use. This includes, but is not limited to, two-wire and four-wire analog voice-grade loops, and two-wire and four-wire loops that are conditioned to transmit the digital signals needed to provide ISDN, ADSL, HDSL, and DS-1 level signals. A Loop may be composed of the following components:

- Loop Concentrator / Multiplexer
- Loop Feeder
- Network Interface Device (NID)
- Distribution

"Main Distribution Frame" or "MDF" means the distribution frame of the Party providing the Loop used to interconnect cable pairs and line and trunk equipment terminals on a switching system or transmission facility.

"MECAB" refers to the Multiple Exchange Carrier Access Billing (MECAB) document prepared by the Billing Committee of the OBF, which functions under the auspices of the Carrier Liaison Committee (CLC) of the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS). The MECAB document, published by Bellcore as Special Report SR-BDS-000983, contains the recommended guidelines for the billing of an Access Service provided by two or more LECs (including a LEC and a CLEC), or by one LEC in two or more states within a single LATA.

"MECOD" refers to the Multiple Exchange Carriers Ordering and Design (MECOD) Guidelines for Access Services - Industry Support Interface, a document developed by the Ordering/Provisioning Committee under the auspices of the OBF, which functions under the auspices of the Carrier Liaison Committee (CLC) of the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS). The MECOD document, published by Bellcore as Special Report SR STS-002643, establishes recommended guidelines for processing orders for Access Service which is to be provided by two or more LECs (including a LEC and a CLEC). It is published by Bellcore as SRBDS 00983.

"Meet-Point Billing" or "MPB" refers to an arrangement whereby two LECs (including a LEC and AT&T) jointly provide Switched Access Service to an Interexchange Carrier, with each LEC (or AT&T) receiving an appropriate share of the access element revenues.

"Mid-Span Meet" is a Point of Interconnection between two networks, designated by two Telecommunications Carriers, at which one carrier's responsibility for service begins and the other carrier's responsibility ends.

"MSAG" (Master Street Address Guide) is a database defining the geographic area of an E911 service. It includes an alphabetical list of the street names, high-low house number ranges, community names, and emergency service numbers provided by the counties or their agents to U S WEST.

"NANP" (North American Numbering Plan) means the numbering plan used in the United States that also serves Canada, Bermuda, Puerto Rico and certain Caribbean Islands. The NANP format is a 10-digit number that consists of a 3-digit NPA code (commonly referred to as the area code), followed by a 3-digit NXX code and 4-digit line number.

"NENA" (National Emergency Number Association) is an association with a mission to foster the technological advancement, availability and implementation of 911 nationwide.

"Network Element" means a facility or equipment used in the provision of a Telecommunications Service including all features, functions and capabilities embedded in such facility or equipment.²

"NP" (Number Portability) means the use of the Location Routing Number (LRN) database solution to provide fully transparent NP for all subscribers and all providers without limitation.

"NPA" (Numbering Plan Area) (sometimes referred to as an area code) is the three digit indicator which is designated by the first three digits of each 10-digit telephone number within the NANP. Each NPA contains 792 possible NXX Codes. There are two general categories of NPA, "Geographic NPAs" and "Non-Geographic NPAs." A "Geographic NPA" is associated with a defined geographic area, and all telephone numbers bearing such NPA are associated with services provided within that geographic area. A "Non-Geographic NPA," also known as a "Service Access Code (SAC Code)" is typically associated with a specialized Telecommunications Service which may be provided across multiple geographic NPA areas; 500, 800, 900, 700, and 888 are examples of Non-Geographic NPAs.

"NXX" means the fourth, fifth and sixth digits of a ten-digit telephone number within the NANP.

"OBF" means the Ordering and Billing Forum, which functions under the auspices of the Carrier Liaison Committee (CLC) of the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS).

² Per Order at page 10, Issue 18.

"Operator Services" includes, but is not limited to, (1) operator handling for call completion (e.g., collect calls); (2) operator or automated assistance for billing after the subscriber has dialed the called number (e.g., credit card calls); and (3) special services (e.g., BLV/BLI, emergency agency call).

"Operator Systems" is the Network Element that provides operator and automated call handling with billing, special services, subscriber telephone listings, and optional call completion services.

"P.01 Transmission Grade of Service" (GOS) means a trunk facility provisioning standard with the statistical probability of no more than one call in 100 blocked on initial attempt during the average busy hour.

"PLU" (Percent Local Usage) is a calculation which represents the ratio of the local minutes to the sum of local and intraLATA toll minutes between exchange carriers sent over Local Interconnection trunks. Directory assistance, BLV/BLI, 900, 976, transiting calls from other exchange carriers and switched access calls are not included in the calculation of PLU.

"Party" means either U S WEST or AT&T and "Parties" means U S WEST and AT&T.

"Person" means, collectively, an Affiliate, subsidiary, Customer, end user and subscriber of U S WEST.

"POI" (Point of Interconnection) means the physical point that establishes the technical interface, the test point, where applicable, and the operational responsibility hand-off between AT&T and U S WEST for the local interconnection of their networks for the mutual exchange of traffic.

"Point of Interface" is the physical point where AT&T hands off transmission media to the U S WEST provided entrance facility associated with a collocation arrangement for the purpose of connecting the entrance facility to some point located within U S WEST's premises.

"Pole Attachment" means the connection of a facility to a utility pole. Some examples of facilities are mechanical hardware, grounding and transmission cable, and equipment boxes.

"POP" means an IXC's point of presence.

"Port" means a termination on a Central Office Switch that permits Customers to send or receive Telecommunications Services over the public switched network, including switch features or switching functionality.³

"Premium Listing", such as additional, foreign, cross reference, informational, non-listed, privacy, etc., are as described in the U S WEST general exchange listing tariff.

"Primary Listing" (for example, main list, additional main, joint user, client main list or answering service list) shall mean the one appearance of an end user telephone subscriber's main telephone number and other content such as name and address, which each AT&T residence or business subscriber is entitled to receive in the white pages directory published by U S WEST Dex at no charge from U S WEST Communications. Where U S WEST business end users are entitled to receive a courtesy Listing in the yellow pages section of any directory published on U S WEST's behalf, AT&T's business customers will receive the same entitlement.

"Proprietary Information" shall have the same meaning as Confidential Information.

"PSAP" (Public Safety Answering Point) is the public safety communications center where 911 calls placed by the public for a specific geographic area will be answered.

³ Per Order at page 10, Issue 18.

"Rate Center" means the geographic point and corresponding geographic area which are associated with one or more particular NPA-NXX codes which have been assigned to U S WEST or AT&T for its provision of basic exchange Telecommunications Services. The "Rate Center Point" is the finite geographic point identified by a specific V&H coordinate, which is used to measure distance-sensitive end user traffic to/from the particular NPA-NXX designations associated with the specific Rate Center. The "Rate Center Area" is the exclusive geographic area identified as the area within which U S WEST or AT&T will provide basic exchange Telecommunications Services bearing the particular NPA-NXX designations associated with the specific Rate Center. The Rate Center Point must be located within the Rate Center Area.

"Rating Point" means the point at which transport mileage is calculated for the termination of calls. Each Party shall establish its own Rating Point(s) for its own services.

"Real Time" means the actual time in which an event takes place, with the reporting on or the recording of the event simultaneous with its occurrence.

"Recipient" means that Party to this Agreement (1) to which Confidential Information has been disclosed by the other Party, or (2) who has obtained Confidential Information in the course of providing services under this Agreement.

"Reseller" is a category of Telecommunications Services providers who obtain Telecommunications Services from another provider through the purchase of wholesale priced services for resale to their end user subscribers.

"Routing Point" means a location which U S WEST or AT&T has designated on its own network as the homing (routing) point for traffic inbound to basic exchange Telecommunications Services provided by U S WEST or AT&T which bear a certain NPA-NXX designation. The Routing Point is employed to calculate mileage measurements for the distance-sensitive transport element charges of Switched Access Services. Pursuant to Bellcore Practice BR 795-100-100, the Routing Point may be an "End Office" location, or a "LEC Consortium Point of Interconnection." Pursuant to that same Bellcore Practice, examples of the latter shall be designated by a common language location identifier (CLLI) code with (x)KD in positions 9, 10, 11, where (x) may be any alphanumeric A-Z or 0-9. The Routing Point need not be the same as the Rate Center Point, nor must it be located within the Rate Center Area, but must be in the same LATA as the NPA-NXX.

"ROW" (Right of Way) means the right to use the land or other property owned, leased, or controlled by another party to place poles, conduits, cables, other structures and equipment, or to provide passage to access such structures and equipment. A ROW may run under, on, or above public or private property (including air space above public or private property) and may include the right to use discrete space in buildings, building complexes or other locations.

"SAG" (Street Address Guide) is a database containing an alphabetical list of street names, high-low house number ranges, descriptive addresses, community names, tax codes, subscriber names, telephone numbers, NXXs, central office names, CLLI and other information maintained by U S WEST.

"SCP" (Service Control Point) is a specific type of Database Network Element functionality deployed in a Signaling System 7 (SS7) network that executes service application logic in response to SS7 queries sent to it by a switching system also connected to the SS7 network. SCPs also provide operational interfaces to allow for provisioning, administration and maintenance of subscriber data and service application data (e.g., a toll free database stores subscriber record data that provides information necessary to route toll free calls).

"SECAB" means the Small Exchange Carrier Access Billing document prepared by the Billing Committee of the OBF. The Small Exchange Carrier Access Billing document, published by Bellcore as Special Report SR OPT-001856, contains the recommended guidelines for the billing of access and other connectivity services.

"Selective Routing" is a service which automatically routes an E911 call to the PSAP that has jurisdictional responsibility for the service address of the telephone from which 911 is dialed, irrespective of telephone company exchange or wire center boundaries.

"STPs" (Signaling Transfer Points) provide functionality that enable the exchange of SS7 messages among and between switching elements, database elements and Signaling Transfer Points.

"Switch" -- See Central Office Switch.

"Switched Access", "Switched Access Service", "Switched Exchange Access Service" or "Switched Access Traffic" are as defined in the Parties' applicable tariffs.

"Tandem Office Switches" are Class 4 switches which are used to connect and switch trunk circuits between and among End Office Switches and other tandems.

"Tariff Services" as used throughout this Agreement refers to the applicable Party's interstate tariffs and state tariffs, price lists, price schedules and catalogs.

"Technically Feasible" refers solely to technical or operational concerns, rather than economic, space, or site considerations, in accordance with the rules and regulations of the FCC and the Commission.

"Telecommunications" means the transmission, between or among points specified by the user, of information of the user's choosing, without change in the form or content of the information as sent and received.

"Telecommunications Carrier" means any provider of Telecommunications Services, except that such term does not include aggregators of Telecommunications Services (as defined in Section 226 of the Act). A Telecommunications Carrier shall be treated as a common carrier under the Act only to the extent that it is engaged in providing Telecommunications Services, except that the Commission shall determine whether the provision of fixed and mobile satellite service shall be treated as common carriage.

"Telecommunications Services" means the offering of Telecommunications for a fee directly to the public, or to such classes of users as to be effectively available directly to the public, regardless of the facilities used.

"Toll Traffic" is traffic that originates in one Rate Center and terminates in another Rate Center with the exception of traffic that is rated as EAS.

"Transit Service" provides the ability for a Telecommunications Carrier to use its connection to a local or access tandem for delivery of calls that originate with a Telecommunications Carrier and terminate to a company other than the tandem company, such as another CLEC, an existing LEC, or a wireless carrier. In these cases, neither the originating nor terminating end user is a customer of the tandem Telecommunications Carrier. The tandem Telecommunications Carrier will accept traffic originated by a Party and will terminate it at a Point of Interconnection with another local, intraLATA or interLATA network Telecommunications Carrier. This service is provided through local and access tandem switches.

"Transit Traffic" is any traffic, other than Switched Access Traffic, that originates from one Telecommunications Carrier's network, transits another Telecommunications Carrier's network, and terminates to yet another Telecommunications Carrier's network.

"TRCO" means Trouble Reporting Control Office.

"U S WEST" means U S WEST Communications, Inc. and any Affiliates, subsidiary companies or other entities performing any of the obligations of U S WEST set forth in this Agreement.

"Voluntary Federal Subscriber Financial Assistance Programs" are Telecommunications Services provided to low-income subscribers, pursuant to requirements established by the appropriate federal or state regulatory body.

"Wire Center" denotes, for the purposes of collocation, a building or space within a building, that serves as an aggregation point on a given carrier's network, where transmission facilities and circuits are connected or switched. Wire Center can also denote a building where one or more central offices, used for the provision of Telecommunications Services and Access Services, are located. Wire Center shall mean those points eligible for such connections as specified in FCC Docket No. 91-141, and rules adopted pursuant thereto.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. General Provisions

- 1.1 Each Party is individually responsible to provide facilities within its network which are necessary for routing, transporting, measuring, and billing traffic from the other Party's network and for delivering such traffic to the other Party's network in the standard format compatible with AT&T's network and to terminate the traffic it receives in that standard format or the proper address on its network. The Parties are each solely responsible for participation in and compliance with national network plans, including the National Network Security Plan and the Emergency Preparedness Plan.
- 1.2 Neither Party shall impair the quality of service to other carriers or to either Party's Customers, and each Party may discontinue or refuse service if the other Party violates this provision. Upon such violation, either Party shall provide the other Party notice of such violation, at the earliest practicable time.
- 1.3 Each Party is solely responsible for the services it provides to its Customers and to other Telecommunications Carriers.
 - 1.3.1 The Parties recognize that equipment vendors may manufacture telecommunications equipment that does not fully incorporate and may deviate from industry standards referenced in this Agreement. Due to the manner in which individual equipment manufacturers have chosen to implement industry standards into the design of their products, along with differing vintages of individual facility components and the presence of embedded technologies pre-dating current technical standards, some of the individual facility components deployed within U S WEST's network, including, without limitation, Network Elements and associated business processes and the standards associated with the equipment providing such Network Elements (collectively, "Network Components"), may not adhere to all the specifications set forth and described in the Bellcore, ANSI, ITU and other technical and performance standards outlined in this Agreement. Within forty-five (45) days after the Effective Date of this Agreement, the Parties will develop processes by which U S WEST will inform AT&T of deviations or planned deviations, and the implementation date of such planned deviations, from standards referenced in this Agreement for Network Components that may be ordered by AT&T. In addition, the Parties agree that those deviations from such standards documented by U S WEST to AT&T shall, to the extent permitted by FCC and Commission rules and regulations, supersede sections of this Agreement referencing technical standards otherwise applicable for the affected Network Elements.
 - 1.3.2 U S WEST agrees that in no event shall it intentionally allow any Network Component provided by U S WEST to AT&T under this Agreement to perform below the standards or deviations therefrom reflected in Section 1.3.1, except where requested by AT&T. U S WEST shall minimize any degradation to its equipment relative to currently applicable service, where reasonable in view of industry adopted performance standards and technological developments. Written notice (the "Change Notice") of any planned changes in standards for any

Network Component which could impact that Network Component will be provided at least ninety (90) days (or at the make/buy point) prior to the planned implementation. If AT&T notifies U S WEST of how the proposed change may adversely impact AT&T or its Customers within fourteen (14) calendar days after receipt of U S WEST's Change Notice, U S WEST and AT&T will schedule joint discussions to address and attempt to resolve the matter, including without limitation consideration of proposed alternatives. In addition, if U S WEST learns that any Network Component purchased by AT&T under this Agreement has been permitted (even if not intentionally) to fall materially below the level or specification in effect as of the Effective Date of this Agreement, U S WEST shall inform AT&T immediately.

- 1.3.3 The Parties recognize that providing a number of the services specified in this Agreement depends upon the "technical feasibility" of providing that service, as that term is defined under the Act and/or by FCC or Commission rules and decisions. If the Parties cannot agree on whether providing a service is technically feasible, the matter, including cost and expenses (if any), shall be resolved through good faith negotiation or the dispute resolution process outlined in this Agreement.

2. Most Favored Nation Terms and Treatment

- 2.1 Until such time as there is a final court determination interpreting Section 252(i) of the Act, U S WEST shall make available to AT&T the terms and conditions of any other agreement for Interconnection, unbundled Network Elements and resale services approved by the Commission under Section 252 of the Act, in that agreement's entirety. After there is a final court determination interpreting Section 252(i) of the Act, the Parties agree to revise this Section 2.1 to reflect such interpretation.

3. Payment

- 3.1 In consideration of the services provided by U S WEST under this Agreement, AT&T shall pay the charges set forth in Attachment 1 to this Agreement. The billing procedures for charges incurred by AT&T hereunder are set forth in Attachment 5 to this Agreement.
- 3.2 Amounts payable under this Agreement, unless reasonably disputed, are due and payable within thirty (30) 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.
- 3.3 A late payment charge of 1.5% applies to all billed balances, not reasonably disputed, which are not paid within the applicable time period set forth in Section 3.2 above. To the extent AT&T pays the billed balance on time, but the amount of the billed balance is reasonably disputed by AT&T, and, it is later determined that a refund is due AT&T, interest shall be payable on the refunded amount in the amount of 1.5% per month. To the extent AT&T pays the billed balance on time, but the amount of the billed balance is reasonably disputed by AT&T, and, it is later determined that no refund is due AT&T, no interest shall be payable on the disputed amount.
- 3.4 Late payment charges shall not be used as a "credit" to a deposit, if any, without the express approval of U S WEST.
- 3.5 Unless specified otherwise in this Agreement, U S WEST shall bill all amounts due from AT&T for each resold service in accordance with the terms and conditions as specified in the U S WEST tariff.

4. Taxes

- 4.1 Any federal, state or local excise, sales, or use taxes (excluding any taxes levied on income) resulting from the performance of this Agreement shall be borne by the Party upon which the obligation for payment is imposed under applicable law, even if the obligation to collect and remit such taxes is placed upon the other Party. Any such taxes shall be shown as separate items on applicable billing documents between the Parties. The Party so obligated to pay any such taxes may contest the same in good faith, at its own expense, and shall be entitled to the benefit of any refund or recovery, provided that such Party shall not permit any lien to exist on any asset of the other Party by reason of the contest. The Party obligated to collect and remit taxes shall cooperate fully in any such contest by the other Party by providing records, testimony and such additional information or assistance as may reasonably be necessary to pursue the contest. 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. Failure to timely provide said resale tax exemption certificate will result in no exemption being available to the purchasing Party during the applicable reporting period.

5. Intellectual Property

- 5.1 Obligations of Party Requesting Access. As a condition to the access or use of patents, copyright, trade secrets, and other intellectual property (including software) owned or controlled by a third party to the extent necessary to implement this Agreement or specifically required by the then applicable federal and state rules and regulations relating to interconnection and access to telecommunications facilities and services ("Third Party Intellectual Property"), the Party providing access may require the other, upon written notice from time to time, to obtain a license or permission for such access or use of Third Party Intellectual Property, make all payment, if any, in connection with obtaining such license, and provide evidence of such license.
- 5.2 Obligations of Party Providing Access. The Party providing access shall provide a list of all known and necessary Third Party Intellectual Property applicable to the other Party, and take all necessary and appropriate steps to facilitate the negotiation of any mandatory licenses. The treatment of third party licenses shall be in accordance with FCC rules and regulations and/or judicial determinations.
- 5.3 Any intellectual property jointly developed in the course of performing this Agreement shall belong to both Parties who shall have the right to grant non-exclusive licenses to third parties except as otherwise designated in writing by one Party to another. Any intellectual property which originates from or is developed by a Party shall remain in the exclusive ownership of that Party. Except for a limited license to use patents or copyrights to the extent necessary for the Parties to use any facilities or equipment (including software) or to receive any service solely as provided under this Agreement, no license in patent, copyright, trademark or trade secret, or other proprietary or intellectual property presently or hereafter owned, controlled or licensable by a Party, is granted to the other Party or shall be implied or arise by estoppel.

6. Severability

- 6.1 In the event that any one or more of the provisions contained herein shall for any reason be held to be unenforceable or invalid in any respect under law or regulation, the Parties will negotiate in good faith for replacement language. If any part of this Agreement is held to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, such invalidity or unenforceability will affect only the portion of this Agreement which is invalid or unenforceable. In all other respects this

Agreement will stand as if such invalid or unenforceable provision had not been a part hereof, and the remainder of this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

7. Responsibility for Environmental Contamination

- 7.1 AT&T shall in no event be liable to U S WEST for any costs whatsoever resulting from the presence or release of any environmental hazard AT&T did not introduce to the affected work location. U S WEST shall, at AT&T's request, indemnify, defend, and hold harmless AT&T, and each of its officers, directors and employees from and against any losses, damages, claims, demands, suits, liabilities, fines, penalties and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees) arising out of or resulting from (a) any environmental hazard U S WEST, its contractors or agents introduce to the work location, or (b) the presence or release of any environmental hazard for which U S WEST is responsible under applicable law.
- 7.2 U S WEST shall in no event be liable to AT&T for any costs whatsoever resulting from the presence or release of any environmental hazard U S WEST did not introduce to the affected work location. AT&T shall, at U S WEST's request, indemnify, defend, and hold harmless U S WEST, and each of its officers, directors and employees from and against any losses, damages, claims, demands, suits, liabilities, fines, penalties and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees) arising out of or resulting from (a) any environmental hazard AT&T, its contractors or agents introduce to the work location, or (b) the presence or release of any environmental hazard for which AT&T is responsible under applicable law.
- 7.3 In the event any suspect materials within U S WEST-owned, operated or leased facilities are identified to be asbestos-containing, AT&T will ensure that, to the extent any activities which it undertakes in the facility disturb such suspect materials, such AT&T activities will be in accordance with applicable local, state and federal environmental and health and safety statutes and regulations. Except for abatement activities undertaken by AT&T or equipment placement activities that result in the generation of asbestos containing material, AT&T shall not have any responsibility for managing, nor be the owner of, not have any liability for, or in connection with, any asbestos containing material. U S WEST agrees to immediately notify AT&T if U S WEST undertakes any asbestos control or asbestos abatement activities that potentially could affect AT&T equipment or operations, including, but not limited to, contamination of equipment.
- 7.4 Each Party will be solely responsible, at its own expense, for proper handling, storing, transport and disposal of all (a) substances or materials that it or its contractors or agents bring to, create or assume control over at work locations, or (b) waste resulting therefrom or otherwise generated in connection with its or its contractors' or agents' activities at the work locations.

8. Branding

- 8.1 **Where operator, call completion, or director assistance service is part of the service or service package U S WEST offers for resale, they should be provided upon request in an unbranded status at no additional cost, unless U S WEST proves to the Commission that it lacks the capability to comply with the unbranding request. If U S WEST meets its burden of proof, U S WEST is relieved of its duty to comply with the request for unbranding.⁴**

⁴ Per Recommendations at pages 5-6, Issues 29-32.

- 8.2 When AT&T requests branding as its own service or unbranding of a service other than operator, call completion, or directory assistance service, AT&T shall pay for the cost of that branding or unbranding, unless U S WEST proves to the Commission that it lacks the capability to comply with the unbranding request. If U S WEST meets its burden of proof, U S WEST is relieved of its duty to comply with the request for branding or unbranding.⁵
- 8.3 For those services during the provision of which U S WEST interacts with AT&T Customers, and which services are the subject matter of this Agreement, U S WEST shall, at AT&T's sole discretion, brand any and all such services at all points of subscriber contact exclusively as AT&T service, or otherwise as AT&T may specify, or such service shall be provided with no brand as AT&T shall determine, except as provided below with respect to uniforms and vehicles. U S WEST may not unreasonably interfere with branding by AT&T.⁶
- 8.4 Branding includes front-end branding, back-end branding, and unbranding to be determined by AT&T. AT&T shall have the option of providing its own branding materials.⁷
- 8.5 AT&T shall provide the exclusive interface to AT&T subscribers except as AT&T shall otherwise specify. U S WEST shall inform AT&T Customers that resold repair and maintenance service is being provided on behalf of AT&T.⁸
- 8.6 Except as otherwise specifically provided herein, all forms, business cards or other business materials furnished by U S WEST to AT&T subscribers shall be provided by AT&T unless otherwise agreed by AT&T in its sole discretion, in which case, any such subscriber materials shall be subject to AT&T's prior review and approval.⁹
- 8.7 U S WEST is not required to remove the U S WEST brand from services offered by U S WEST to its Customers except as otherwise required by this Agreement.¹⁰
- 8.8 U S WEST will not be required to rebrand uniforms and vehicles.¹¹
- 8.9 U S WEST shall inform AT&T customers that resold repair and maintenance is being provided on behalf of AT&T. AT&T shall prepare the printed material that provides information about AT&T's service that U S WEST employees leave with AT&T customers in association with repair and maintenance calls.¹²

⁵ Per Recommendations at page 6, Issues 29-32.

⁶ Per Recommendations at page 6, Issues 29-32.

⁷ Per Recommendations at page 6, Issues 29-32.

⁸ Per Recommendations at page 6, Issues 29-32.

⁹ Per Recommendations at page 6, Issues 29-32.

¹⁰ Per Recommendations at page 6, Issues 29-32.

¹¹ Per Order at page 21, Issue 30.

¹² Per Order at page 21, Issue 30.

- 8.10 U S WEST shall provide, for AT&T's review, the methods and procedures, training and approaches to be used by U S WEST to assure that U S WEST meets AT&T's branding requirements.
- 8.11 This Section 8 shall confer on U S WEST no rights to the service marks, trademarks and trade names owned by or used in connection with services by AT&T or its Affiliates, except as expressly permitted by AT&T.
- 8.12 At the request of AT&T and where technically feasible, U S WEST will rebrand operator services and directory assistance and announcements in AT&T's name.¹³**
- 8.13 Until such time as the Commission determines final pricing pursuant to its cost docket, AT&T shall pay the actual costs, if any, of branding or unbranding in accordance with the Act or Commission orders.¹⁴**

9. Independent Contractor Status

- 9.1 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.
- 9.2 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 all employees assisting in the performance of such obligations. Each Party will be solely responsible for all matters relating to payment of such employees, including compliance with social security taxes, withholding taxes, and other payroll taxes with respect to their respective 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.
- 9.3 Subject to the limitations on liability and except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, each Party shall be responsible for (a) its own acts and performance of all obligations imposed by applicable law in connection with its activities, legal status and property, real or personal, and (b) the acts of its own Affiliates, employees, agents and contractors during the performance of that Party's obligations hereunder. Except for provisions herein expressly authorizing one Party to act for the other, 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, neither Party shall undertake 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.

10. Referenced Documents

¹³ Per Order at page 21, Issue 30.

¹⁴ Per Recommendations at page 7, Issues 29-32.

- 10.1 All references to Sections, Exhibits, and Schedules shall be deemed to be references to Sections of, and Exhibits and Schedules to, this Agreement unless the context shall otherwise require. Whenever any provision of this Agreement refers to a technical reference, technical publication, AT&T practice, U S WEST practice, any publication of telecommunications industry administrative or technical standards, or any other document specifically incorporated into this Agreement, it will be deemed to be a reference to the most recent version or edition (including any amendments, supplements, addenda, or successors) or such document that is in effect, and will include the most recent version or edition (including any amendments, supplements, addenda, or successors) of each document incorporated by reference in such a technical reference, technical publication, AT&T practice, U S WEST practice, or publication of industry standards, unless AT&T elects otherwise.

11. Publicity and Advertising

- 11.1 Neither Party shall publish or use any advertising, sales promotions or other publicity materials that use the other Party's logo, trademarks or service marks without the prior written approval of the other Party.

12. Executed in Counterparts

- 12.1 This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but such counterparts shall together constitute one and the same instrument.

13. Headings Not Controlling

- 13.1 The headings and numbering of Sections, Parts, Appendices and Attachments in this Agreement are for convenience only and shall not be construed to define or limit any of the terms herein or affect the meaning or interpretation of this Agreement.

14. Joint Work Product

- 14.1 This Agreement is the joint work product of the Parties and has been negotiated by the Parties and their respective counsel and shall be fairly interpreted in accordance with its terms and, in the event of any ambiguities, no inferences shall be drawn against either Party.

15. Survival

- 15.1 Any liabilities or obligations of a Party for acts or omissions prior to the cancellation or termination of this Agreement; any obligation of a Party under the provisions regarding indemnification, confidential information, limitation of liability, and any other provisions of this Agreement which, by their terms, are contemplated to survive, or to be performed after, termination of this Agreement, shall survive cancellation or termination thereof.

16. Effective Date

- 16.1 This Agreement shall become effective pursuant to Sections 251 and 252 of the Act, on **July 25, 1997.**¹⁵

¹⁵ Per Approval at page 14, paragraph 2.

17. Amendment of Agreement

- 17.1 Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, no amendment or 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 signed by an officer of the Party against whom such amendment, waiver or consent is claimed. If either Party desires an amendment to this Agreement during the term of this Agreement, it shall provide written notice thereof to the other Party describing the nature of the requested amendment. If the Parties are unable to agree on the terms of the amendment within thirty (30) days after the initial request therefor, the Party requesting the amendment may invoke the dispute resolution process under Section 27 of this Part A of this Agreement to determine the terms of any amendment to this Agreement. All amendments to this Agreement will be submitted to the Commission.

18. Indemnification

- 18.1 Notwithstanding any limitations in remedies contained in this Agreement, each Party (the "Indemnifying Party") will indemnify and hold harmless the other Party ("Indemnified Party") from and against any loss, cost, claim, liability, damage and expense, including reasonable attorney's fees, to third parties, relating to or arising out of the libel, slander, invasion of privacy, misappropriation of a name or likeness, actual or alleged infringement or other violation or breach of any patent, copyright, trademark, service mark, trade name, trade dress, trade secret or any other intellectual property presently existing or later created, negligence or willful misconduct by the Indemnifying Party, its employees, agents, or contractors in the performance of this Agreement or the failure of the Indemnifying Party to perform its obligations under this Agreement. In addition, the Indemnifying Party will, to the extent of its obligations to indemnify hereunder, defend any action or suit brought by a third party against the Indemnified Party.
- 18.2 The Indemnified Party will notify the Indemnifying Party promptly in writing of any written claim, lawsuit, or demand by third parties for which the Indemnified Party alleges that the Indemnifying Party is responsible under this Section 18 and tender the defense of such claim, lawsuit or demand to the Indemnifying Party. 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.
- 18.3 The Indemnified Party also will cooperate in every reasonable manner with the defense or settlement of such claim, demand, or lawsuit. The Indemnifying Party shall keep the Indemnified Party reasonably and timely apprised of the status of the claim, demand or lawsuit. The Indemnified Party shall have the right to retain its own counsel, including in-house counsel, at its expense, and participate in but not direct the defense; provided, however, that if there are reasonable defenses in addition to those asserted by the Indemnifying Party, the Indemnified Party and its counsel may raise and direct such defenses, which shall be at the expense of the Indemnifying Party.
- 18.4 The Indemnifying Party will not be liable under this Section 18 for settlements or compromises by the Indemnified Party of any claim, demand or lawsuit unless the Indemnifying Party has approved the settlement or compromise in advance or unless the defense of the claim, demand or lawsuit has been tendered to the Indemnifying Party in writing and the Indemnifying Party has failed to timely undertake the defense. In no event shall the Indemnifying Party settle or consent to any judgment pertaining to any such action without the prior written consent of the Indemnified Party.

19. Limitation of Liability¹⁶

- 19.1 Except as otherwise provided in the indemnity section, no Party shall be liable to the other Party for any loss, defect or equipment failure caused by the conduct of the other Party, the other Party's agents, servants, contractors or others acting in aid or concert with the other Party.
- 19.2 Except for indemnity obligations, each Party's liability to the other Party for any loss relating to or arising out of any negligent act or omission in its performance of this Agreement, whether in contract or in tort, shall be limited to the total amount that is or would have been charged to the other Party by such negligent or breaching Party for the service(s) or function(s) not performed or improperly performed.
- 19.3 In no event shall either Party have any liability whatsoever to the other Party for any indirect, special, consequential, incidental or punitive damages, including but not limited to loss of anticipated profits or revenue or other economic loss in connection with or arising from anything said, omitted or done hereunder (collectively, "Consequential Damages"), even if the other Party has been advised of the possibility of such damages; provided, that the foregoing shall not limit a Party's obligation to indemnify, defend and hold the other Party harmless against any amounts payable to a third party, including any losses, costs, fines, penalties, criminal or civil judgments or settlements, expenses (including attorneys' fees) and Consequential Damages of such third party. Nothing contained in this Section 19 shall limit either Party's liability to the other for (i) willful or intentional misconduct (including gross negligence); (ii) bodily injury, death or damage to tangible real or tangible personal property proximately caused by such party's negligent act or omission or that of their respective agents, subcontractors or employees nor shall anything contained in this section limit the Parties' indemnification obligations, as specified above.

20. Term of Agreement

- 20.1 This Agreement shall be effective for a period of three (3) years, and thereafter shall continue in force and effect unless and until a new agreement, addressing all of the terms of this Agreement, becomes effective between the Parties. The Parties shall commence negotiations on a new agreement no later than one (1) year prior to the expiration of the term of this Agreement. Either Party may request resolution of open issues in accordance with the provisions of Section 27 of this Part A of this Agreement, Dispute Resolution, beginning nine (9) months prior to the expiration of this Agreement. Any disputes regarding the terms and conditions of the new interconnection agreement shall be resolved in accordance with Section 27 of this Agreement and the resulting agreement shall be submitted to the Commission. This Agreement shall remain in effect until a new interconnection agreement approved by the Commission has become effective.

21. Governing Law

¹⁶ Per Recommendations at page 8, Issue 40. Modified per Approval at page 13, paragraph C.

- 21.1 This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the Act and FCC or Commission rules and regulations, except insofar as state law may control any aspect of this Agreement, in which case the domestic laws of the State of Washington, without regard to its conflicts of laws principles, shall govern.

22. Cancellation Charges

- 22.1 Except as provided pursuant to a Bona Fide Request, or as otherwise provided in any applicable tariff or contract referenced herein, no cancellation charges shall apply.

23. Regulatory Approvals

- 23.1 This Agreement, and any amendment or modification hereof, will be submitted to the Commission for approval in accordance with Section 252 of the Act. In the event any governmental authority or agency rejects any provision hereof, the Parties shall negotiate promptly and in good faith such revisions as may reasonably be required to achieve approval.
- 23.2 U S WEST shall provide AT&T a summary describing the proposed change(s) to each Telecommunications Service which is available pursuant to this Agreement. U S WEST shall also provide AT&T a summary describing the proposed change(s) of each intrastate and interstate tariff which provides for an Interconnection, unbundled Network Element or Ancillary Service that is available pursuant to this Agreement. Such summaries shall be available through an Internet Web page to be posted on the same day the proposed change is filed with the Commission or the FCC or at least thirty (30) days in advance of its effective date, whichever is earlier.
- 23.3 In the event any governmental authority or agency orders U S WEST to provide any service covered by this Agreement in accordance with any terms or conditions that individually differ from one or more corresponding terms or conditions of this Agreement, AT&T may elect to amend this Agreement to reflect any such differing terms or conditions contained in such decision or order, with effect from the date AT&T makes such election. The other services covered by this Agreement and not covered by such decision or order shall remain unaffected and shall remain in full force and effect.
- 23.4 The Parties intend that any additional services requested by either Party relating to the subject matter of this Agreement will be incorporated into this Agreement by amendment.

24. Compliance

- 24.1 Each Party shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules and regulations applicable to its performance under this Agreement.
- 24.2 Each Party represents and warrants that any equipment, facilities or services provided to the other Party under this Agreement comply with the Communications Law Enforcement Act of 1994 ("CALEA"). Each Party (the "Indemnifying Party") shall indemnify and hold the other Party (the "Indemnified Party") harmless from any and all penalties imposed upon the Indemnified Party for such noncompliance and shall, at the Indemnifying Party's sole cost and expense, 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.
- 24.3 All terms, conditions and operations under this Agreement shall be performed in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations and judicial or regulatory decisions of all duly constituted

governmental authorities with appropriate jurisdiction, and this Agreement shall be implemented consistent with the FCC Interconnection Order and any applicable Commission orders. Each Party shall be responsible for obtaining and keeping in effect all FCC, Commission, franchise authority and other regulatory approvals that may be required in connection with the performance of its obligations under this Agreement. In the event the Act or FCC or Commission rules and regulations applicable to this Agreement are held invalid, this Agreement shall survive, and the Parties shall promptly renegotiate any provisions of this Agreement which, in the absence of such invalidated Act, rule or regulation, are insufficiently clear to be effectuated, violate, or are either required or not required by the new rule or regulation. During these negotiations, each Party will continue to provide the same services and elements to each other as are provided for under this Agreement. Provided, however, that either Party shall give ten (10) Business Days' notice if it intends to cease any development of any new element or service that is not at that time being provided pursuant to this Agreement. In the event the Parties cannot agree on an amendment within thirty (30) days from the date any such rules, regulations or orders become effective, then the Parties shall resolve their dispute, including liability for non-compliance with the new clause or the cost, if any, of performing activities no longer required by the rule or regulation during the renegotiation of the new clause under the applicable procedures set forth in Section 27 herein.

25. Force Majeure

- 25.1 Neither Party shall be liable for any delay or failure in performance of any part of this Agreement from any cause beyond its control and without its fault or negligence including, without limitation, acts of nature, acts of civil or military authority, embargoes, epidemics, terrorist acts, riots, insurrections, fires, explosions, earthquakes, nuclear accidents, floods, work stoppages, equipment failure, 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. No delay or other failure to perform shall be excused pursuant to this Section 25 unless such delay or failure and the consequences thereof are beyond the control and without the fault or negligence of the Party claiming excusable delay or other failure to perform. In the event of any such excused delay in the performance of a Party's obligation(s) under this Agreement, the due date for the performance of the original obligation(s) shall be extended by a term equal to the time lost by reason of the delay. In the event of such delay, the delaying Party shall perform its obligations at a performance level no less than that which it uses for its own operations. In the event of a labor dispute or strike, the Parties agree to provide service to each other at a level equivalent to the level they provide themselves. In the event of a labor dispute or strike or work stoppage that continues for a period in excess of forty-eight (48) hours, AT&T may obtain replacement services for those services affected by such labor dispute or strike or work stoppage, in which event any liability of AT&T for the affected services shall be suspended for the period of the work stoppage or labor dispute or strike. In the event of such performance delay or failure by U S WEST, U S WEST agrees to resume performance in a nondiscriminatory manner and not favor its own provision of Telecommunications Services above that of AT&T.

26. Escalation Procedures

- 26.1 AT&T and U S WEST agree to exchange escalation lists which reflect contact personnel including vice president-level officers. These lists shall include name, department, title, phone number, and fax number for each person. AT&T and U S WEST agree to exchange up-to-date lists as reasonably necessary.

27. Dispute Resolution

- 27.1 If any claim, controversy or dispute between the Parties, their agents, employees, officers, directors or affiliated agents ("Dispute") cannot be settled through negotiation, it may be resolved by arbitration conducted by a single arbitrator engaged in the practice of law, under the then current rules of the American Arbitration Association ("AAA"). The Federal Arbitration Act, 9 U.S.C. Secs. 1-16, not state law, shall govern the arbitrability of all Disputes. The arbitrator shall not have authority to award punitive damages. All expedited procedures prescribed by the AAA rules shall apply. The arbitrator's award shall be final and binding and may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof and shall be noticed to the Commission. The arbitrator shall determine which Party or Parties will bear the costs of arbitration, including apportionment, if appropriate. The arbitration shall occur in Seattle, Washington, unless otherwise agreed to by the Parties, and the governing law shall be in accordance with Section 21.1 above.
- 27.2 In the event AT&T and U S WEST are unable to agree on certain issues during the term of this Agreement, the Parties may identify such issues for arbitration before the Commission. Only those points identified by the Parties for arbitration will be submitted.
- 27.3 If a Dispute is submitted to arbitration pursuant to Section 27.1 above, the procedures described in this Section 27.3 shall apply, notwithstanding the then current rules of the AAA. Discovery shall be controlled by the arbitrator and shall be permitted to the extent set forth below. Each Party may submit in writing to a Party, and that Party shall so respond, to an agreed amount of the following: interrogatories, demands to produce documents, and requests for admission. Not less than ten (10) days prior to the arbitration hearing, the Parties shall exchange witness and exhibit lists. Deposition discovery shall be controlled by the arbitrator. Additional discovery may be permitted upon mutual agreement of the Parties or the determination of the arbitrator. The arbitration hearing shall be commenced within thirty (30) days after a demand for arbitration by either Party and shall be held in Seattle, Washington, unless otherwise agreed to by the Parties. The arbitrator shall control the scheduling so as to process the matter expeditiously. The Parties may submit written briefs. The arbitrator shall rule on the dispute by issuing a written opinion within seven (7) days after the close of the hearings. The times specified in this section may be extended upon mutual agreement of the Parties or by the arbitrator upon a showing of good cause. The decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding upon the Parties and judgment upon the award rendered by the arbitrators may be entered in a court having jurisdiction. The decision shall also be submitted to the Commission.

28. Nondisclosure

- 28.1 All information, including, but not limited to, specifications, microfilm, photocopies, magnetic disks, magnetic tapes, drawings, sketches, models, samples, tools, technical information, data, employee records, maps, financial reports, and market data (a) furnished by one Party to the other Party dealing with Customer specific, facility specific, or usage specific information, other than Customer information communicated for the purpose of publication of directory database inclusion, or (b) in written, graphic, electromagnetic, or other tangible form and marked at the time of delivery as "Confidential" or "Proprietary", or (c) declared orally or in writing to the Recipient at the time of delivery, or by written notice given to the Recipient within ten (10) days after delivery, to be "Confidential" or "Proprietary" (collectively referred to as "Proprietary Information"), shall remain the property of the Discloser. A Party who receives Proprietary Information via an oral communication may request written confirmation that the material is Proprietary Information. A Party who delivers Proprietary Information via an oral communication may request written confirmation that the Party receiving the information understands that the material is Proprietary Information.

- 28.2 Upon request by the Discloser, the Recipient shall return all tangible copies of Proprietary Information, whether written, graphic or otherwise, except that the Recipient's legal counsel may retain one (1) copy for archival purposes.
- 28.3 Each Party shall keep all of the other Party's Proprietary Information confidential and shall use the other Party's Proprietary Information only in connection with this Agreement. Neither Party shall use the other Party's Proprietary Information for any other purpose except upon such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon between the Parties in writing.
- 28.4 Unless otherwise agreed, the obligations of confidentiality and non-use set forth in this Agreement do not apply to Proprietary Information that:
- 28.4.1 was, at the time of receipt, already known to the Recipient free of any obligation to keep it confidential evidenced by written records prepared prior to delivery by the Discloser;
 - 28.4.2 is or becomes publicly known through no wrongful act of the Recipient;
 - 28.4.3 is rightfully received from a third person having no direct or indirect secrecy or confidentiality obligation to the Discloser with respect to such information;
 - 28.4.4 is independently developed by an employee, agent, or contractor of the Recipient which individual is not involved in any manner with the provision of services pursuant to this Agreement and does not have any direct or indirect access to the Proprietary Information;
 - 28.4.5 is approved for release by written authorization of the Discloser; or
 - 28.4.6 is required by law, a court, or governmental agency, provided that the Discloser has been notified of the requirement promptly after the Recipient becomes aware of the requirement, subject to the right of the Discloser to seek a protective order as provided in Section 28.5 below.
- 28.5 For a period of ten (10) years from receipt of Proprietary Information, the Recipient shall (a) use it only for the purpose of performing under this Agreement, (b) hold it in confidence and disclose it only to employees, authorized contractors and authorized agents who have a need to know it in order to perform under this Agreement, and (c) safeguard it from unauthorized use or disclosure using no less than the degree of care with which the Recipient safeguards its own Proprietary Information. Any authorized contractor or agent to whom Proprietary Information is provided must have executed a written agreement comparable in scope to the terms of this Section. Notwithstanding the foregoing, each Party shall provide advance notice of three (3) Business Days to the other before providing Proprietary Information to a governmental authority and the Parties shall cooperate with each other in attempting to obtain a suitable protective order. The Recipient agrees to comply with any protective order that covers the Proprietary Information to be disclosed.
- 28.6 Each Party agrees that the Discloser would be irreparably injured by a breach of this Section 28 by the Recipient or its representatives and that the Discloser shall be entitled to seek equitable relief, including injunctive relief and specific performance, in the event of any breach of this Section 28. Such remedies shall not be exclusive but shall be in addition to all other remedies available at law or in equity.
- 28.7 Customer Proprietary Network Information ("CPNI") related to either Party's subscribers obtained by virtue of Local Interconnection or any other service provided under this Agreement shall be the Discloser's Proprietary Information and may not be used by the Recipient for any purpose except**

performance of its obligations under this Agreement, and in connection with such performance, shall be disclosed only to employees, authorized contractors and authorized agents with a need to know, unless the subscriber expressly directs the Discloser to disclose such information to the Recipient pursuant to the requirements of Section 222(c)(2) of the Act. If the Recipient seeks and obtains written approval to use or disclose such CPNI from the Discloser, such approval shall be obtained only in compliance with Section 222(c)(2) and, in the event such authorization is obtained, the Recipient may use or disclose only such information as the Discloser provides pursuant to such authorization and may not use information that the Recipient has otherwise obtained, directly or indirectly, in connection with its performance under this Agreement.¹⁷

- 28.8 Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Section 28, nothing herein shall be construed as limiting the rights of either Party with respect to its subscriber information under any applicable law, including, without limitation, Section 222 of the Act.
- 28.9 Effective Date Of This Section. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, the Proprietary Information provisions of this Agreement shall apply to all Proprietary Information furnished by either Party with a claim of confidentiality or proprietary nature at any time.

29. Notices

- 29.1 Except as otherwise provided herein, all notices or other communication hereunder shall be deemed to have been duly given when made in writing and delivered in person or deposited in the United States mail, certified mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested, or delivered by prepaid overnight express mail, and addressed as follows:

To AT&T: Vice President, Local Services
AT&T, Corp.
1875 Lawrence Street
Denver, Colorado 80202

Copy to: General Counsel
AT&T, Corp.
1875 Lawrence Street
Denver, Colorado 80202

To U S WEST: Executive Director Interconnect Services
1801 California, 23rd Floor
Denver, Colorado 80202

- 29.2 If personal delivery is selected to give notice, a receipt of such delivery shall be obtained. The address to which notices or communications may be given to either Party may be changed by written notice given by such Party to the other pursuant to this Section 29.

30. Assignment

- 30.1 Neither Party may assign, transfer (whether by operation of law or otherwise) or delegate this Agreement (or any rights or obligations hereunder) to a third party without the prior

¹⁷ Per Order at pages 23-24, Issue 41.

written consent of the other Party, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld, provided that each Party may assign this Agreement to an Affiliate or an entity under its common control or an entity acquiring all or substantially all of its assets or equity by providing prior written notice to the other Party of such assignment or transfer. Any attempted assignment or transfer that is not permitted under the provisions of this Section 30 is void ab initio. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, this Agreement shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of the Parties' respective successors and assigns. No assignment or delegation hereof shall relieve the assignor of its obligations under this Agreement.

- 30.2 If any obligation of U S WEST under this Agreement is performed by a subcontractor or Affiliate, U S WEST shall remain fully responsible for the performance of this Agreement in accordance with its terms and U S WEST shall be solely responsible for payments due to its subcontractors.
- 30.3 If any obligation of AT&T under this Agreement is performed by a subcontractor or Affiliate, AT&T shall remain fully responsible for the performance of this Agreement in accordance with its terms, and AT&T shall be solely responsible for payments due to its subcontractors.

31. Warranties

- 31.1 U S WEST shall conduct all activities and interfaces which are provided for under this Agreement with AT&T Customers in a carrier-neutral, nondiscriminatory manner.
- 31.2 U S WEST warrants that it has provided, and during the term of this Agreement it will continue to provide, to AT&T true and complete copies of all material agreements in effect between U S WEST and any third party (including Affiliates) providing any services to AT&T on behalf of or under contract to U S WEST in connection with U S WEST's performance of this Agreement, or from whom U S WEST has obtained licenses or other rights used by U S WEST to perform its obligations under this Agreement, provided, however, that U S WEST may provide such agreements under appropriate protective order.

32. Default

- 32.1 In the event of a breach of any material provision of this Agreement by either Party, the non-breaching Party shall give the breaching Party and the Commission written notice thereof, and:
- 32.1.1 if such material breach is for non-payment of amounts due hereunder pursuant to this Agreement, the breaching Party shall cure such breach within thirty (30) calendar days of receiving such notice. The non-breaching Party shall be entitled to pursue all available legal and equitable remedies for such breach. Amounts disputed in good faith and withheld or set off shall not be deemed "amounts due hereunder" for the purpose of this provision.
- 32.1.2 if such material breach is for any failure to perform in accordance with this Agreement, which, in the sole judgment of the non-breaching Party, adversely affects the non-breaching Party's subscribers, the non-breaching Party shall give notice of the breach and the breaching Party shall cure such breach to the non-breaching Party's reasonable satisfaction within ten (10) Business Days or within a period of time equivalent to the applicable interval required by this Agreement, whichever is shorter. If the breaching Party does not cure such breach within the applicable time period, the non-breaching Party may, at its sole option, terminate this Agreement, or any parts hereof. The non-breaching Party shall be entitled to pursue all available legal and equitable remedies for such breach. Notice under this

Subsection 32.1.2 may be given electronically or by facsimile, provided that a hard copy or original of such notice is sent by overnight delivery service.

32.1.3 if such material breach is for any other failure to perform in accordance with this Agreement, the breaching Party shall cure such breach to the non-breaching Party's reasonable satisfaction within forty-five (45) calendar days, and, if it does not, the non-breaching Party may, at its sole option, terminate this Agreement, or any parts hereof. The non-breaching Party shall be entitled to pursue all available legal and equitable remedies for such breach.

32.2 AT&T may terminate this Agreement in whole at any time only for cause upon sixty (60) calendar days' prior written notice. AT&T's sole liability shall be payment of amounts due for services provided or obligations assumed up to the date of termination.

32.3 In the event of any termination under this Section 32, U S WEST and AT&T agree to cooperate to provide for an uninterrupted transition of services to AT&T or another vendor designated by AT&T to the extent that U S WEST has the ability to provide such cooperation.

32.4 Notwithstanding any termination hereof, the Parties shall continue to comply with their obligations under the Act.

33. Remedies

33.1 In the event U S WEST fails to switch a subscriber to AT&T service as provided in this Agreement, U S WEST shall reimburse AT&T in an amount equal to all fees paid by such subscriber to U S WEST for such failed-to-be-transferred services from the time of such failure to switch to the time at which the subscriber switch is accomplished. This remedy shall be in addition to all other remedies available to AT&T under this Agreement or otherwise available.

33.2 All rights of termination, cancellation or other remedies prescribed in this Agreement, or otherwise available, are cumulative and are not intended to be exclusive of other remedies to which the injured Party may be entitled at law or equity in case of any breach or threatened breach by the other Party of any provision of this Agreement. Use of one or more remedies shall not bar use of any other remedy for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this Agreement.

34. Waivers

34.1 No waiver of any provisions of this Agreement and no consent to any default under this Agreement shall be effective unless the same shall be in writing and properly executed by or on behalf of the Party against whom such waiver or consent is claimed.

34.2 No course of dealing or failure of either 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.

34.3 Waiver by either Party of any default or breach by the other Party shall not be deemed a waiver of any other default or breach.

34.4 By entering into this Agreement, neither Party waives any right granted to it pursuant to the Act.

35. No Third Party Beneficiaries

- 35.1 The provisions of this Agreement are for the benefit of the Parties hereto and not for any other Person; provided, however, that this shall not be construed to prevent AT&T from providing its Telecommunications Services to other carriers. This Agreement shall not provide any Person not a Party hereto with any remedy, claim, liability, reimbursement, claim of action, or other right in excess of those existing without reference hereto.

36. Physical Security

- 36.1 U S WEST shall exercise the same degree of care to prevent harm or damage to AT&T or its employees, agents or subscribers, or property as U S WEST provides itself. AT&T shall exercise the same degree of care to ensure the security of its equipment physically collocated within U S WEST's space as AT&T provides such security to itself.
- 36.1.1 U S WEST will restrict access to approved personnel to U S WEST's buildings. AT&T is responsible for the action of its employees and other authorized non-AT&T personnel; U S WEST is responsible for the action of its employees and other authorized non-U S WEST personnel.
- 36.1.2 U S WEST will furnish to AT&T the current name(s) and telephone number(s) of those central office supervisor(s) where a physical collocation arrangement exists. The central office supervisor(s) will be the only U S WEST employee(s) with access to AT&T collocation space.
- 36.1.3 U S WEST will comply at all times with U S WEST security and safety procedures at the individual central office locations where AT&T has physical collocation arrangements. The Parties will cooperate to analyze security procedures of each company to evaluate ways in which security procedures of U S WEST may be enhanced.
- 36.1.4 U S WEST will allow AT&T to inspect or observe its physical spaces which house or contain AT&T equipment or equipment enclosures at any time upon completion of the physical collocation quotation. Upon completion of the build out of the physical space, U S WEST will furnish AT&T with all keys, entry codes, lock combinations, or other materials or information which may be needed to gain entry via direct access to AT&T's physical space.
- 36.1.5 U S WEST agrees to logically partition any U S WEST owned access device systems, whether biometric or card reader, or types which are encoded identically or mechanical coded locks on external and or internal doors to spaces which house AT&T equipment.
- 36.1.6 U S WEST agrees to limit the keys used in its keying systems for spaces which contain AT&T equipment to the U S WEST supervisor for the specific facility to emergency access only. AT&T shall further have the right to change locks where deemed necessary for the protection and security of its physical spaces and will provide the U S WEST supervisor with the current key.
- 36.1.8 U S WEST shall control unauthorized access from passenger and freight elevators, elevator lobbies and spaces which contain or house AT&T equipment or equipment space in the same manner as U S WEST provides such control for itself.
- 36.1.9 U S WEST will provide notification to designated AT&T personnel to indicate an actual or attempted security breach of AT&T physical space in the same time frame as U S WEST provides such notification to itself.

37. Network Security

- 37.1 U S WEST shall provide an appropriate and sufficient back-up and recovery plan to be used in the event of a system failure or emergency.
- 37.2 U S WEST shall install controls to (a) disconnect a user for a pre-determined period of inactivity on authorized ports; (b) protect subscriber proprietary information; and (c) ensure both ongoing operational and update integrity.
- 37.3 Each Party shall be responsible for the security arrangements on its side of the network to the Point of Interconnection. The Parties shall jointly cooperate to analyze network security procedures and cooperate to ensure the systems, access and devices are appropriately secured and compatible.

38. Revenue Protection

- 38.1 U S WEST shall make available to AT&T all present and future fraud prevention or revenue protection features that U S WEST provides to itself or others. These features include, but are not limited to, operator screening codes, call blocking of domestic, international blocking for business and residence, 900, NPA-976, and specific line numbers. U S WEST shall additionally provide partitioned access to fraud prevention, detection and control functionality within pertinent Operations Support Systems ("OSS") which include, but are not limited to, Line Information Data Base Fraud monitoring systems.
- 38.2 Uncollectible or unbillable revenues resulting from, but not confined to, provisioning, maintenance, or signal network routing errors shall be the responsibility of the Party causing such error.
- 38.3 Uncollectible or unbillable revenues resulting from the accidental or malicious alteration of software underlying Network Elements or their subtending operational support systems by unauthorized third parties shall be the responsibility of the Party having administrative control of access to said Network Element or operational support system software.
- 38.4 Each Party shall be responsible for any uncollectible or unbillable revenues resulting from the unauthorized use of facilities under its control or services it provides, including clip-on fraud.
- 38.5 The Parties shall work cooperatively to minimize fraud associated with third-number billed calls, calling card calls, and any other services related to this Agreement.

39. Law Enforcement Interface

- 39.1 U S WEST shall provide all necessary assistance to facilitate the execution of wiretap or dialed number recorder orders from law enforcement authorities.

40. Collocation

40.1 General Description

- 40.1.1 Collocation is the right of AT&T to obtain dedicated space in U S WEST Local Serving Office (LSO) or other U S WEST locations, including, but not limited to, U S WEST serving wire center and tandem offices, as well as all buildings or similar structures owned or**

Activity and its compliance with the Performance Criteria. U S WEST shall provide to AT&T such records in a self-reporting format. The Parties agree that such records shall be deemed Proprietary Information.

53. Entire Agreement

- 53.1 This Agreement shall include the Attachments, Appendices and other documents referenced herein all of which are hereby incorporated by reference, and constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties and supersedes all prior oral or written agreements, representations, statements, negotiations, understandings, proposals and undertakings with respect to the subject matter hereof.
- 53.2 If a provision contained in any U S WEST tariff conflicts with any provision of this Agreement, the provision of this Agreement shall control, unless otherwise ordered by the FCC or the Commission.

54. Reservation of Rights

- 54.1 The Parties acknowledge that the terms of this Agreement were established pursuant to an order of the Commission. Any or all of the terms of this Agreement may be altered or abrogated by a successful challenge to this Agreement (or the order approving this Agreement) as permitted by applicable law. By signing this Agreement, neither Party waives its right to pursue such a challenge.
- 54.2 The Parties enter into this Agreement without prejudice to any position they may have taken previously, or may take in the future in any legislative, regulatory, or other public forum addressing any matters, including matters related to the types of arrangements prescribed by this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed by their respective duly authorized representatives.

AT&T Communications of the Pacific Northwest, Inc.

U S WEST Communications, Inc.

Signature

*Signature

Name Printed/Typed

Name Printed/Typed

Title

Title

Date

Date

*Signed as ordered by the arbitrator/commission in Docket No. UT-960309. Signature does not indicate agreement with all aspects of the

arbitrator's decision, nor does it waive any of U S WEST's right to seek judicial review of all or part of the agreement, or to reform the agreement to conform with the Opinion of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, or any other decision or opinion following successful judicial review.

Part A

54. Reservation of Rights

- 54.1 The Parties acknowledge that the terms of this Agreement were established pursuant to an order of the Commission. Any or all of the terms of this Agreement may be altered or abrogated by a successful challenge to this Agreement (or the order approving this Agreement) as permitted by applicable law. By signing this Agreement, neither Party waives its right to pursue such a challenge.
- 54.2 The Parties enter into this Agreement without prejudice to any position they may have taken previously, or may take in the future in any legislative, regulatory, or other public forum addressing any matters, including matters related to the types of arrangements prescribed by this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed by their respective duly authorized representatives.

AT&T Communications of the Pacific
Northwest, Inc.

Mary Beth Vitale
Signature

Mary Beth Vitale
Name Printed/Typed

AT&T President - Western States
Title

7/24/97
Date

U S WEST Communications, Inc.

Kathy Fleming
Signature

Kathy Fleming
Name Printed/Typed

Executive Director - Interconnect
Title

7/24/97
Date

*Signed as ordered by the arbitrator/commission in Docket No. UT-880309. Signature does not indicate agreement with all aspects of the arbitrator's decision, nor does it waive any of U S WEST's right to seek judicial review of all or part of the agreement, or to reform the agreement as the result of successful judicial review.

INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT BETWEEN
TCG SEATTLE
AND
U S WEST
COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

DECEMBER 16, 1996

RECEIVED
DEC 15 1996
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PROPERTY

December 16, 1996

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INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT

THIS INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT, made as of this 16th day of December, 1996, is between TCG Seattle, a New York limited partnership ("TCG") and U S WEST Communications, Inc. ("USWC"), a Colorado corporation.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, a major purpose of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("TA 1996") is to permit and encourage the vigorous competition that provides widespread consumer choice and less government regulation in all segments of the telecommunications industry; and

WHEREAS, this Agreement is intended to promote independent, facilities-based local exchange competition by encouraging the rapid and efficient interconnection of competing local exchange service networks; and

WHEREAS, the Parties seek to accomplish interconnection in a technically and economically efficient manner in accordance with all requirements of TA 1996 including the entire "Competitive Checklist" as set forth in TA 1996, Section 271(c)(2)(B); and

WHEREAS, the public will benefit if the local exchange networks of the Parties are interconnected so that customers of each carrier can seamlessly exchange telecommunications traffic; and

WHEREAS, Section 252 of TA 1996 mandates good faith negotiations between incumbent Local Exchange Carriers and any telecommunications carrier requesting interconnection without regard to the standards set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of Section 251 of TA 1996; and

WHEREAS, USWC and TCG utilized this negotiation process; and

WHEREAS, TCG notified USWC of its request for negotiations with USWC pursuant to Section 252 of TA 1996 on February 8, 1996; and

WHEREAS the Parties were unable to negotiate an interconnection agreement; and

WHEREAS TCG petitioned the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission to arbitrate an interconnection agreement between the Parties pursuant to Section 252 of TA 1996; and

WHEREAS the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission through the assigned Arbitrator issued its Report and Order in Docket No. UT-960326 on November 8, 1996, issued directing the Parties to prepare an interconnection agreement incorporating in its terms the issues resolved by arbitration;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual provisions contained herein and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, and in accordance with the decision of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, TCG and USWC hereby covenant and agree as set forth in this Agreement.

DEFINITIONS

1. "Automatic Number Identification" or "ANI" is a Feature Group D signaling parameter which refers to the number transmitted through the network identifying the billing number of the calling party.
2. "Basic Loops" are 2-wire analog voice grade Loops that support analog transmission of 300-3000 Hz with loss no greater than 8.5db, dial repeat loop start, loop reverse battery, or ground start seizure and disconnect in one direction (toward the End Office Switch), and repeat ringing in the other direction (toward the end user). This Loop is commonly used for local dial tone service for residence and business customers.
3. "Busy Line Verification" or "BLV" refers to a service in which an end user requests an operator to confirm the busy status of a line.
4. "Busy Line Verification and Interrupt" or "BLVI" refers to a service in which an end user requests an operator to confirm the busy status of a line and requests an interruption of the call.
5. "Calling Party Number" or "CPN" is a CCS parameter which refers to the number transmitted through the network identifying the calling party.
6. "Central Office Switch" or "Central Office" means a switching entity within the public switched telecommunications network, including but not limited to:

"End Office Switches" which are switches from which end user Exchange Services are directly connected and offered.

- D. There shall be no more than one Audit requested by each Party under this Agreement in any 12-month period.
- E. The requesting Party may review the non-requesting Party's records, books and documents, as may reasonably contain information relevant to the operation of this Agreement.
- F. The location of the Audit shall be the location where the requested records, books and documents are retained in the normal course of business.
- G. All transactions under this Agreement which are over 24 months old will be considered accepted and no longer subject to Audit.
- H. Each Party shall bear its own expenses occasioned by the Audit, provided that the expense of any special data collection shall be born by the requesting Party.
- I. The Party requesting the Audit may request that an Audit be conducted by a mutually agreed-to independent auditor. Under this circumstance, the costs of the independent auditor shall be paid for by the Party requesting the Audit.
- J. In the event that the non-requesting Party requests that the Audit be performed by an independent auditor, the Parties shall mutually agree to the selection of the independent auditor. Under this circumstance, the costs of the independent auditor shall be shared equally by the Parties.
- K. The Parties agree that if an Audit discloses error(s), the Party responsible for the error(s) shall, in a timely manner, undertake corrective action for such error(s).
- L. All information received or reviewed by the requesting Party or the independent auditor in connection with the Audit is to be considered Proprietary Information as defined by this Agreement. The non-requesting Party reserves the right to require any non-employee who is involved directly or indirectly in any Audit or the resolution of its findings as described above to execute a nondisclosure agreement satisfactory to the non-requesting Party.

XIV. AUDIOTEXT AND MASS ANNOUNCEMENT SERVICES

The Parties agree that access to the audiotext, mass announcement and information services of each Party should be made available to the other Party upon execution of an agreement defining terms for billing and compensation of such calls. Services included in this category include 976 calls, whether flat rated or usage sensitive, intra-LATA 900 services and other intra-LATA 976-like services. Such calls will be routed over the Local Interconnection Trunks.

TCG and USWC will work together in good faith to negotiate and execute the agreement for billing and compensation for these services within 90 days of the execution of this Agreement. The Parties agree that their separate agreement on audiotext and mass announcement services will include details concerning the creation, exchange and rating of records, all of which will occur without any explicit charge between the Parties, as well as a process for the handling of uncollectibles so that the originating Party does not have any responsibility for uncollectibles.

Until such time that such an agreement is executed, TCG may choose to block such calls, or TCG will agree to back-bill and compensate retroactively for such calls once the subsequent agreement is executed retroactive to the effective date of this Agreement.

A. Usage Sensitive Compensation.

All audiotext and mass announcement calls shall be considered toll calls for purposes of reciprocal compensation between the Parties. Compensation will be paid based on the compensation for toll calls referenced in this Agreement with respect to reciprocal compensation between the Parties, except that such compensation shall be paid by the Party terminating the call, rather than the Party originating the call.

B. Billing and Collection Compensation.

Billing and collection compensation will be dealt with in the agreement referenced in this section.

XV. DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND BINDING ARBITRATION

The Parties agree that in the event of a default or violation hereunder, or for any dispute arising under this Agreement or related agreements the Parties may have in connection with this Agreement, the Parties shall first confer to discuss the dispute and seek resolution prior to initiating any dispute resolution action, or before authorizing any public statement about or authorizing disclosure of the nature of the dispute to any third party. Such conference shall occur at least at the Vice President level for each Party. In the case of USWC, its Vice President for InterConnect, or equivalent officer, shall participate in the meet and confer meeting, and TCG Regional Vice President, Western Region, or equivalent officer, shall participate. In the event the Parties cannot resolve the dispute, they will employ the following procedure:

- A. Any controversy or claims arising out of or relating to Agreement or any breach hereof, shall be settled by arbitration in accord with the Commercial Arbitration Rules of the American Arbitration Association ("AAA"). Such arbitration shall be held in the State where the dispute arises or any other location to which the Parties agree. Written notice of intent to arbitrate shall be served on the opposing Party at least twenty (20) business days prior to the filing of such notice at the appropriate AAA regional office.
- B. The Parties agree to request an expedited hearing before the AAA and, if the AAA can arrange such, the hearing shall commence within sixty (60) days of the filing of the arbitration claim. If the AAA is not able to arrange for the hearing to be held within sixty (60) days of such filing, then the hearing shall commence on the AAA's first available date thereafter, but within ninety (90) days of the original filing of the arbitration claim.
- C. Each party shall bear its own costs and attorneys' fees except in the case where one Party has refused to arbitrate and is later required to do so. In that case, the party which had refused to arbitrate shall bear the entire cost of arbitration.
- D. The judgment upon the award rendered may be entered in the highest Court of the forum capable of rendering such judgment, either State or Federal, having jurisdiction and shall be deemed final and binding on both of the Parties.

XVI. FORCE MAJEURE

Neither Party shall be responsible for delays or failures in performance resulting from acts or occurrences beyond the reasonable control of such Party, regardless of whether such delays or failures in performance were foreseen or foreseeable as of the date of this Agreement, including, without limitation: fire, explosion, acts of God, war, revolution, civil commotion, or acts of public enemies; any law, order, regulation, or ordinance of any government or legal body; strikes; or delays caused by the other Party or any other circumstances beyond the Party's reasonable control. In such event, the Party affected shall, upon giving prompt notice to the other Party, be excused from such performance on a day-to-day basis to the extent of such interference (and the other Party shall likewise be excused from performance of its obligations on a day-for-day basis to the extent such Party's obligations relate to the performance so interfered with). The affected Party shall act in good faith to avoid or remove the cause of non-performance and both Parties shall proceed to perform with dispatch once the causes are removed or cease.

XVII. COMMISSION DECISION

This Agreement shall at all times be subject to such review by the Commission or FCC as permitted by TA 1996. If any such review renders the Agreement inoperable or creates any ambiguity or requirement for further amendment to the Agreement, the Parties will negotiate in good faith to agree upon any necessary amendments to the Agreement.

XVIII. TERM OF AGREEMENT

This Agreement shall be effective for a period of two and one-half (2 1/2) years, and thereafter the Agreement shall continue in force and effect unless and until a new agreement, addressing all of the terms of this Agreement, becomes effective between the Parties. The Parties agree to commence negotiations on a new agreement no less than six (6) months before the end of two and one-half (2 1/2) years after this Agreement becomes effective.

XIX. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Agreement shall become effective upon approval by the Commission.

XX. AMENDMENT OF AGREEMENT

TCG and USWC may mutually agree to amend this Agreement in writing. Since it is possible that amendments to this Agreement may be needed to fully satisfy the purposes and objectives of this Agreement, the Parties agree to work cooperatively, promptly and in good faith to negotiate and implement any such additions, changes and corrections to this Agreement.

XXI. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

Except as otherwise provided herein, neither Party shall be liable to the other in connection with the provision or use of services offered under this Agreement for indirect, incidental, consequential, special damages, including (without limitation) damages for lost profits, regardless of the form of action, whether in contract, indemnity, warranty, strict liability, or tort.

XXII. INDEMNITY

Each Party shall indemnify and hold the other harmless from any liabilities, claims or demands (including the costs, expenses and reasonable attorney's fees on account thereof) that may be made by third parties for:

- a) personal injuries, including death, or
- b) damage to tangible property

resulting from the sole negligence and/or sole wilful misconduct of that Party, its employees or agents in the performance of this Agreement. Each Party shall defend the other at the other's request against any such liability, claim or demand. Each Party shall notify the other promptly of written claims or demands against such Party of which the other Party is solely responsible hereunder.

XXIII. ASSIGNMENT

Each party may assign this Agreement to a corporate affiliate or an entity under its common control or an entity acquiring all or substantially all of its assets or equity by providing prior written notice to the other Party of such assignment or transfer. Neither Party, however, may assign or transfer

(whether by operation of law or otherwise) this Agreement (or any rights or obligations hereunder) to any other third party without the prior written consent of the other Party. Consent to such assignment may not be unreasonably withheld. Any attempted assignment that is not permitted is void ab initio. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, this Assignment shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of the Parties' respective successors and assigns.

XXIV. CONTROLLING LAW

This Agreement was negotiated by the Parties in accordance with the terms of TA.1996 and the laws of each of the states where service is provided hereunder. It shall be interpreted solely in accordance with the terms of TA 1996 and the applicable state law in the state where the service is provided.

XXV. DEFAULT

If either Party believes the other is in breach of the Agreement or otherwise in violation of law, it shall first give sixty (60) days' notice of such breach or violation and an opportunity for the allegedly defaulting Party to cure. Thereafter, the Parties shall employ the Dispute Resolution and Arbitration procedures set forth in this Agreement.

XXVI. NONDISCLOSURE

- A. All information, including but not limited to specifications, microfilm, photocopies, magnetic disks, magnetic tapes, drawings, sketches, models, samples, tools, technical information, data, employee records, maps, financial reports, and market data, (i) furnished by one Party to the other Party dealing with customer specific, facility specific, or usage specific information, other than customer information communicated for the purpose of publication of directory database inclusion, or (ii) in written, graphic, electromagnetic, or other tangible form and marked at the time of delivery as "Confidential" or "Proprietary", or (iii) communicated orally and declared to the receiving Party at the time of delivery, or by written notice given to the receiving Party within ten (10) days after delivery, to be "Confidential" or "Proprietary" (collectively referred to as "Proprietary Information"), shall remain the property of the disclosing Party. A Party who receives Proprietary Information via

an oral communication may request written confirmation that the material is Proprietary Information. A Party who delivers Proprietary Information via an oral communication may request written confirmation that the Party receiving the information understands that the material is Proprietary Information.

- B. Upon request by the disclosing Party, the receiving Party shall return all tangible copies of Proprietary Information, whether written, graphic or otherwise, except that the receiving Party may retain one copy for archival purposes.
- C. Each Party shall keep all of the other Party's Proprietary Information confidential and shall use the other Party's Proprietary Information only in connection with this Agreement. Neither Party shall use the other Party's Proprietary Information for any other purpose except upon such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon between the Parties in writing.
- D. Unless otherwise agreed, the obligations of confidentiality and non-use set forth in this Agreement do not apply to such Proprietary Information as:
 - 1. was at the time of receipt already known to the receiving Party free of any obligation to keep it confidential evidenced by written records prepared prior to delivery by the disclosing Party; or
 - 2. is or becomes publicly known through no wrongful act of the receiving Party; or
 - 3. is rightfully received from a third person having no direct or indirect secrecy or confidentiality obligation to the disclosing Party with respect to such information; or
 - 4. is independently developed by an employee, agent, or contractor of the receiving Party which individual is not involved in any manner with the provision of services pursuant to the Agreement and does not have any direct or indirect access to the Proprietary Information; or
 - 5. is disclosed to a third person by the disclosing Party without similar restrictions on such third person's rights; or

6. is approved for release by written authorization of the disclosing Party; or
 7. is required to be made public by the receiving Party pursuant to applicable law or regulation provided that the receiving Party shall give sufficient notice of the requirement to the disclosing Party to enable the disclosing Party to seek protective orders.
- E. Effective Date Of This Section. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, the Proprietary Information provisions of this Agreement shall apply to all information furnished by either Party to the other in furtherance of the purpose of this Agreement, even if furnished before the date of this Agreement.

XXVII. EXECUTION IN DUPLICATE

This Agreement may be executed in duplicate copies, and, upon said execution, shall be treated as an executed document.

XXVIII. MOST FAVORABLE TERMS AND TREATMENT

The Parties agree that the provisions of Section 252(i) of TA 1996 shall apply, including state and federal interpretive regulations in effect from time to time.

XXIX. NOTICES

Any notices required by or concerning this Agreement shall be sent to the Parties at the addresses shown below:

USWC
Director Interconnection Services
1600 7th Ave, Room 3002
Seattle, WA 98191

TCG
Jim Washington
Vice President, Carrier Relations
Princeton Technology Center
429 Ridge Road
Dayton, NJ 08810

Michael Morris
Vice President, Regulatory and External Affairs
201 North Civic Drive, Suite 210
Walnut Creek, California 94596

Each Party shall inform the other of any changes in the above addresses.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed by their respective duly authorized representatives.

U S WEST Communications

Jim Washington
Regional Vice President
Western Region
TCG
On behalf of
TCG Seattle

**Performance Assurance Plan Amendment Number 9
to the Interconnection Agreement between
Qwest Corporation and
TCG-Seattle
for the State of Washington**

This is an Amendment ("Amendment") for Performance Assurance Plan (PAP) to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation ("Qwest"), a Colorado corporation, and TCG-Seattle ("CLEC"). CLEC and Qwest shall be known jointly as the "Parties".

RECITALS

WHEREAS, CLEC and Qwest entered into an Interconnection Agreement ("Agreement" or "Interconnection Agreement") for service in the state of Washington ("the State") which was approved by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission ("Commission"); and

WHEREAS, the Parties wish to amend the Agreement further under the terms and conditions contained herein.

AGREEMENT

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual terms, covenants and conditions contained in this Amendment and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the Parties agree as follows:

AMENDMENTS TERMS

Service Performance

The Performance Assurance Plan ("PAP") as approved by the Commission and the Performance Indicator Definitions ("PIDs") included as Exhibit B to the Commission approved Statement of Generally Acceptable Terms and Conditions ("SGAT") are hereby incorporated into this Amendment as Attachments 1 and 2, respectively. Modifications to PIDs that apply to the PAP shall be made in accordance with section 16.0 of the PAP. Changes made pursuant to section 16.0 shall apply to and modify this Agreement, subject to and in accordance with terms therein and any applicable subsequent judicial review.

Consistent with section 13.0 of the PAP, CLEC elects the PAP as a part of its Interconnection Agreement with Qwest. Therefore, all references in the Agreement to performance standards and measurements and accompanying payment mechanisms (including, but not limited to, Direct Measures of Quality (DMOQ) and Supplier Performance Quality Management System) for the same performance issues addressed by the PAP are superseded by this Amendment.

Force Majeure and Dispute Resolution

Pursuant to sections 13.3 and 18.0 of the PAP, sections 5.7 (Force Majeure) and 5.18 (Dispute Resolution), of the SGAT respectively, attached hereto as Attachments 3 and 4 to this Amendment, are hereby incorporated into the Amendment for the sole purpose of implementing the PAP.

Implementation Date

If the FCC has granted Section 271 authorization for the State, the PAP will be implemented on the date the Amendment is executed by both parties. If the FCC has not granted Section 271 authorization for the State as of the date the Amendment is executed by both parties, the PAP will be implemented on the date the FCC grants Section 271 approval for the State. In the initial month of implementation, payments to CLEC under the PAP will be pro-rated to reflect the applicable percentage of the monthly payment.

CLEC Information

CLEC agrees that for amounts owed under the PAP that are not credited to CLEC's bill as allowed by the PAP, payments shall be made by the use of electronic fund transfers, or check, if the option of electronic fund transfer is not available. CLEC agrees that monthly performance reports shall be delivered via a password-protected website. In order to implement these provisions, CLEC shall provide specific information in response to the Performance Assurance Plan Amendment Questionnaire. To accommodate this need, CLEC shall generate an updated Performance Assurance Plan Amendment Questionnaire within 30 days.

Further Amendments

Except as modified herein, the provisions of the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect. The provisions of this Amendment, including the provisions of this sentence, may not be amended, modified or supplemented, and waivers or consents to departures from the provisions of this Amendment may not be given without the written consent thereto by both Parties' authorized representative. No waiver by any Party of any default, misrepresentation, or breach of warranty or covenant hereunder, whether intentional or not, will be deemed to extend to any prior or subsequent default, misrepresentation, or breach of warranty or covenant hereunder or affect in any way any rights arising by virtue of any prior or subsequent such occurrence.

Entire Agreement

This Amendment (including the documents referred to herein) constitutes the full and entire understanding and agreement between the Parties with regard to the subjects of this Amendment and supersedes any prior understandings, agreements, or representations by or between the Parties, written or oral, to the extent they relate in any way to the subjects of this Amendment.

The Parties intending to be legally bound have executed this Amendment as of the dates set forth below, in multiple counterparts, each of which is deemed an original, but all of which shall constitute one and the same instrument.

TCG-Seattle

M. Hydock
Signature

M. HYDOCK
Name Printed/Typed

DIST MGR - ICA
Title

7/10/03
Date

Qwest Corporation

L. T. Christensen
Signature

L. T. Christensen
Name Printed/Typed

Director - Business Policy
Title

7/14/03
Date

INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

TCG OREGON

AND

U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

APRIL 8, 1997

The following ICONS can be used to NAVIGATE throughout the document

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XIII. LOCAL INTERCONNECTION DATA EXCHANGE FOR BILLING

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XXVIII. NONDISCLOSURE

XXIX. EXECUTION IN DUPLICATE

XXX. NOTICES

THIS INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT, made as of this __ day of April, 1997, is between TCG Oregon, a New York limited partnership ("TCG") and U S WEST Communications, Inc. ("USWC"), a Colorado corporation.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, a major purpose of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("TA 1996") is to permit and encourage the vigorous competition that provides widespread consumer choice and less government regulation in all segments of the telecommunications industry; and WHEREAS, this Agreement is intended to promote independent, facilities-based local exchange competition by encouraging the rapid and efficient interconnection of competing local exchange service networks; and WHEREAS, the Parties seek to accomplish interconnection in a technically and economically efficient manner in accordance with all requirements of TA 1996 including the entire "Competitive Checklist" as set forth in TA 1996, Section 271(c)(2)(B); and WHEREAS, the public will benefit if the local exchange networks of the Parties are interconnected so that customers of each carrier can seamlessly exchange telecommunications traffic; and WHEREAS, Section 252 of TA 1996 mandates good faith negotiations between incumbent Local Exchange Carriers and any telecommunications carrier requesting interconnection without regard to the standards set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of Section 251 of TA 1996; and WHEREAS, USWC and TCG wish to utilize this negotiation process; and, WHEREAS, TCG notified USWC of its request for negotiations with USWC pursuant to Section 252 of TA 1996 on February 8, 1996; and WHEREAS the Parties were unable to negotiate an interconnection agreement; and WHEREAS TCG petitioned the Public Utility Commission of Oregon to arbitrate an interconnection agreement between the Parties pursuant to Section 252 of TA 1996; and WHEREAS the Oregon Public Utility Commission issued Order No. 96-325 on December 9, 1996 directing the Parties to prepare an interconnection agreement incorporating in its terms the issues resolved by arbitration; NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual provisions contained herein and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, TCG and USWC hereby covenant and agree as set forth in this Agreement.

DEFINITIONS

1. "Assured Loops"

are 2-wire analog voice grade Loops that support analog transmission of 300-3000 Hz with loss no greater than 5.5db, dial repeat loop start, loop reverse battery, or ground start seizure and disconnect in one direction (toward the End Office Switch), and repeat ringing in the other direction (toward the end user). This Loop is commonly used for local dial tone service for business customers only.

2. "Automatic Number Identification" or "ANI"

is a Feature Group D signaling parameter which refers to the number transmitted through the network identifying the billing number of the calling party.

3. "Basic Loops"

are 2-wire analog voice grade Loops that support analog transmission of 300-3000 Hz with loss no greater than 8db, dial repeat loop start, loop reverse battery, or ground start seizure and disconnect in one direction (toward the End Office Switch), and repeat ringing in the other direction (toward the end user). This Loop is commonly used for local dial tone service for residence and business customers.

TCG and USWC will work together in good faith to negotiate and execute the agreement for billing and compensation for these services within 90 days of the execution of this Agreement. The Parties agree that their separate agreement on audiotext and mass announcement services will include details concerning the creation, exchange and rating of records, all of which will occur without any explicit charge between the Parties, as well as a process for the handling of uncollectibles so that the originating Party does not have any responsibility for uncollectibles.

Until such time that such an agreement is executed, TCG may choose to block such calls, or TCG will agree to back-bill and compensate retroactively for such calls once the subsequent agreement is executed retroactive to the effective date of this Agreement.

A. Usage Sensitive Compensation.

All audiotext and mass announcement calls shall be considered toll calls for purposes of reciprocal compensation between the Parties. Compensation will be paid based on the compensation for toll calls referenced in this Agreement with respect to reciprocal compensation between the Parties, except that such compensation shall be paid by the Party terminating the call, rather than the Party originating the call.

B. Billing and Collection Compensation.

Billing and collection compensation will be dealt with in the agreement referenced in this section.



XVI. MOST FAVORABLE TERMS AND TREATMENT

The Parties agree that the provisions of Section 252(i) of the Act shall apply, including state and federal interpretive regulations in effect from time to time.

XVII. DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND BINDING ARBITRATION

The Parties agree that in the event of a default or violation hereunder, or for any dispute arising under this Agreement or related agreements the Parties may have in connection with this Agreement, the Parties shall first confer to discuss the dispute and seek resolution prior to initiating any dispute resolution action, or before authorizing any public statement about or authorizing disclosure of the nature of the dispute to any third party. Such conference shall occur at least at the Vice President level for each Party. In the case of USWC, its Vice President for InterConnect, or equivalent officer, shall participate in the meet and confer meeting, and TCG Regional Vice President, Western Region, or equivalent officer, shall participate. In the event the Parties cannot resolve the dispute, they will employ the following procedure: