

GLOSSARY OF TERMS
DOCKET UT-043013

TERM	DESCRIPTION
Access	A local carrier must allow customers access to their preferred long-distance carrier. Customers pay an access charge to their local carrier for access to their long distance carrier and long distance carriers pay access charges to the local carrier to connect to the local carrier's network. <i>(From Newton's Telecom Dictionary, pages 26-27.)</i>
Central Office	A building where the local loops are connected to switches to allow connection to other customers; also referred to as a wire center where there are several switches functioning as a switch exchange. <i>(From Newton's Telecom Dictionary, page 157.)</i>
Circuit	"The physical connection (or) path of channels, conductors and equipment between two given points through which an electric current may be established." <i>(Newton's Telecom Dictionary, page 167.)</i>
CLEC	Competitive local exchange company. Not an ILEC, and generally subject to very limited regulation.
Conversion	The process of changing an ILEC facility or service other than a UNE to an equivalent UNE or UNE combination, or the reverse.
Dark Fiber	Optical fiber through which no light is transmitted and which, therefore no signal is being carried. A dark fiber can be one of many fibers contained within a cable. <i>(From Newton's Telecom Dictionary, page 221.)</i>
Dedicated Transport	Facilities dedicated to a particular competitive carrier that the carrier uses for transmission between or among ILEC central offices and tandem switching offices, and to connect its local network to the ILEC's network. <i>(TRRO, ¶ 67)</i>
Demarcation Point	The point of where the telephone company's facilities and wiring meet an end-user's premises, e.g., where the line enters the house.) <i>(From Newton's Telecom Dictionary, page 234.)</i>
Distribution Frame	A metal frame used to connect cables or wires from subscribers to the correct parts of a central office or to connect to an interconnecting carrier. <i>(From Newton's Telecom Dictionary, at page 254.)</i>
DS0 / Voicegrade	The digital representation of the capacity of an analog voice channel, <i>i.e.</i> , the traditional copper pair loop, transmitting information at 64 kilobytes per second (kbps). <i>(TRO, n. 634)</i>
DS1	The initial level of multiplexing in the time division hierarchy of the telephone network; a 1.544 megabytes per second (Mbps) signal that provides the equivalent of 24 64 kbps DSO channels . The same as a T1 facility. <i>(TRO, n. 634)</i>

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DS3	A digital local loop having a total digital signal speed of 44.736 Mbps provided over various transmission media, including, but not limited to fiber optics, coaxial cable, or radio. DS3 loops can be channelized into 28 DS1 channels , or unchannelized to provide a continuous bit stream for data. (<i>TRO, n. 634</i>)
DSL/xDSL	Digital subscriber line – Broadband or data service provided over the high frequency portion of a loop, which allows a customer to access the internet or send and receive information or data. (xDSL is generic term for all kinds of DSL).
EEL	Enhanced extended link. A long loop consisting of a combination of an unbundled loop, unbundled dedicated transport and multiplexing, where required. The extended loop connects an ILEC wire center to a location where a CLEC has a switch or other network appearance.
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
FTTH	Fiber-to-the-home: A local loop that is entirely fiber optic cable that serves a residence or building. Also known as “home run fiber.”
FTTC	Fiber-to-the-curb: A local loop that is entirely fiber optic cable that connects just outside a residence or building.
Greenfield	A telephone network that is being designed and built from scratch with no need to accommodate legacy equipment or architecture. (<i>From Newton’s Telecom Dictionary, page 363.</i>)
High-Capacity	High-capacity refers to the ability of a network facility or element to handle more than one voice grade call at a single time, e.g., DS1, DS3, OCn capacity.
HFPL (High Frequency Portion of the Loop)	The frequency range of a loop above the voice band on a copper loop, providing broadband or data service, such as DSL service.
Hybrid Loop	A loop that contains both copper, <i>i.e.</i> , electrically conducting wire, and two or more types of fiber optic cable.
IDLC	A digital loop carrier system that extends central office services to a more remote location by connecting a SONET ring (optical fiber system) on the network side and telephony services on the subscriber side. (<i>From Newton’s Telecom Dictionary, pages 255, 410.</i>)
ILEC	Incumbent local exchange company; a company in operation at the time the Act was enacted in August 1996.
Inside Wire	The portion of the telephone wiring inside a end-user’s premises. Inside wiring begins at the telephone company’s demarcation point (e.g., where the line enters a house) and extends to individual phone extensions. (<i>From Newton’s Telecom Dictionary, page 409.</i>)
Interconnection	Connection between equipment of a telecommunications carrier with a local exchange carrier’s network under Section 251(c)(2).

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Interconnection Agreement	An agreement between an ILEC and requesting telecommunications carrier (which may be a CLEC) addressing terms, conditions and prices for interconnection, services or network elements pursuant to Section 251.
Line Sharing	Where an ILEC and CLEC share a loop to the same customer, such that the ILEC provides voice grade or narrowband service over the low frequency portion of the loop and a CLEC provides broadband or DSL service using the high frequency portion of the loop. The FCC determined in the TRO that ILECs were no longer obligated to provide access to the HFPL as a UNE, and requiring CLECs to transition to line splitting to provide DSL service.
Loop	The local loop - The copper wire, fiber, or cable serving a particular customer, generally running from a central office to a residence or building.
Network element	A facility or equipment used in providing telecommunications services.
Non-impaired/ Non-impairment	A term relating to whether a competing carrier has access to unbundled network elements. Under Section 251(d)(2), an ILEC must provide unbundled access to an element if failure to provide the element would impair the carrier's ability to provide service. Under the TRRO, the FCC determined that competing carriers are not impaired under Section 251(d)(2) without unbundled access to high-capacity elements at a wire center if the wire center meets certain criteria. If a wire center meets the criteria, it is designated non-impaired , meaning competitors are not allowed unbundled access to high-capacity loops and transport in the wire center.
OCn	OCn is an optical interface designed to work with a Synchronous Optical Network (SONET). OCn transmission facilities are deployed as SONET channels having a bandwidth of typically 155.52 Mbps (megabytes per second)(OC3) or higher. (<i>TRO, n. 631</i>).
Overbuild	Building more capacity into an existing telephone network, usually building more capacity than necessary. (<i>From Newton's Telecom Dictionary, page 584</i>)
Section 251(c)(3)	The section of the Act that requires ILECs to provide competing carriers with access to network elements on an unbundled or individual basis. The unbundled elements provided under this section are known as UNEs..
Section 252	The section of the Act that governs negotiation and arbitration of interconnection agreements, specifically the role of states in arbitrating agreements.
Special Access	Leased private dedicated circuits from an ILEC network to a long

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	distance carrier. (<i>See Newton's Telecom Dictionary, page 743</i>)
Subloop	The distribution portion of a loop, usually copper, that performs a transmission function and connects a customer's inside wire to the carrier's outside plant.
Telecom Act or "Act"	Telecommunications Act of 1996, 110 Stat. 56, Public Law 104-104; Feb. 8, 1996.
TRO	The FCC's Triennial Review Order. An August 2003 Order addressing UNEs and the impairment standard for UNEs, vacated in part and remanded in part by the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals in <i>USTA II v. FCC</i> .
TRRO	The FCC's Triennial Review Remand Order. A decision entered in response to D.C. Circuit's <i>USTA II</i> decision: Eliminates local switching as a UNE as of March 11, 2006, and limits unbundling of high-capacity transport and loops
Transport	Lines or connections used to transmit voice or data through a carrier's network. Transport media include copper wire, fiber optics, microwave, or satellite. (<i>From Newton's Telecom Dictionary, page 815.</i>) See dedicated transport.
UDLC	A digital loop carrier system whose T-1 lines are powered by a digital channel bank, known as a central office terminal. The central office terminal interfaces with the switch through analog lines. (<i>From Newton's Telecom Dictionary, page 840.</i>)
Unbundled	A network element that is provided by itself, not in connection with or "bundled" with another network element. A means for a carrier to request particular services from an ILEC to customize the service it provides, and to avoid an ILEC from offering certain services as a package that the carrier must take as an all or nothing option.
UNE	Unbundled network element. Generally a network element an ILEC must make available under Section 251(c)(3).
Wire center	The location where a telephone company terminates and switches local lines, or loops. A wire center may have one or more class 5 central offices or exchanges. (<i>From Newton's Telecom Dictionary, page 884.</i>)