

**LOCAL INTERCONNECTION  
AGREEMENT**

**BETWEEN**

**U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.**

**AND**

**NORTHWEST TELEPHONE, INC.**

**FOR**

**WASHINGTON**

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Create summary bills  
Establish input and output requirements  
Create and distribute USW and Northwest contact lists  
Identify client hours and holidays

## **(A)2. DEFINITIONS**

- (A)2.1 "Access Service Request" or "ASR" means the industry standard forms and supporting documentation used for ordering Access Services and Local Interconnection Service.
- (A)2.2 "Access Services" refers to the Tariffed interstate and intrastate switched access and private line transport services offered for the origination and/or termination of interexchange traffic, including phone to phone voice interexchange traffic that is transmitted over a carriers' packet switched network using protocols such as TCP/IP (see each Party's appropriate state and interstate access Tariffs).
- (A)2.3 "Act" means the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 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 a Commission within its state of jurisdiction.
- (A)2.4 "Automatic Number Identification" or "ANI" means a Feature Group D signaling parameter which refers to the number transmitted through a network identifying the billing number of the calling party.
- (A)2.5 "Basic Exchange Features" are optional end user switched services that include, but are not necessarily limited to: Automatic Call Back; Call Trace; Caller ID and Related Blocking Features; Distinctive Ringing/Call Waiting; Selective Call Forward; and Selective Call Rejection.
- (A)2.6 "Basic Exchange Telecommunications Service" means a service offered to end users which provides the end user with a telephonic connection to, and a unique local telephone number address on, the public switched telecommunications network, and which enables such end user to generally place calls to, or receive calls from, other stations on the public switched telecommunications network. Basic residence and business line services are Basic Exchange Telecommunications Services. As used solely in the context of this statement and unless otherwise agreed, Basic Exchange Telecommunications Service includes access to ancillary services such as 911, directory assistance and operator services.
- (A)2.7 "Bona Fide Request" or "BFR" means a request for a new interconnection or unbundled element not already available in this Agreement for the provision of local telecommunications services.
- (A)2.8 Busy Line Verify/Busy Line Interrupt or "BLV/BLI Traffic" means an operator service call in which the caller inquires as to the busy status of or requests an

interruption of a call on another end user's Basic Exchange Telecommunications Service line.

- (A)2.9 "Calling Party Number" or "CPN" is a Common Channel Signaling ("CCS") parameter which refers to the number transmitted through a network identifying the calling party. Reference Technical Pub. 77342.
- (A)2.10 "Central Office Switch" means a switch used to provide Telecommunications Services, including, but not limited to:
  - (A)2.10.1 "End Office Switches" which are used to terminate end user station loops for the purpose of interconnecting to each other and to trunks for the exchange of Exchange Service (EAS/Local) and Exchange Access (IntraLATA and IntraLATA Toll); and
  - (A)2.10.2 "Tandem Office Switches" which are used to connect and switch trunk circuits between and among other Central Office Switches. Access tandems provide connections for the exchange of Exchange Access (IntraLATA Toll) and Jointly Provided Switched Access (InterLATA and IntraLATA presubscribed/dial around) traffic while local tandems provide connections for Exchange Service (EAS/Local) traffic.
- (A)2.11 "Collocation" is an arrangement where space is provided in a USW Central Office for the placement of Northwest's transmission equipment to be used for the purpose of Interconnection with USW Unbundled Network Elements or Local Interconnection Service. USW offers four Collocation arrangements: Virtual Collocation, Physical Collocation, Cageless Physical Collocation and Interconnection Distribution Frame (ICDF) Collocation.
- (A)2.12 "Commission" means the state regulatory agency with lawful jurisdiction over telecommunications.
- (A)2.13 "Common Channel Signaling" or "CCS" means a method of digitally transmitting call set-up and network control data over a special signaling network fully separate from the public voice switched network elements that carry the actual call.
- (A)2.14 "Co-Provider" means an entity authorized to provide Local Exchange Service that does not otherwise qualify as an incumbent Local Exchange Carrier ("LEC").
- (A)2.15 "Digital Signal Level 0" or "DS0" is the 64 Kbps worldwide standard speed for digitizing one voice conversation using pulse code modulation. There are 24 DS0 channels in a DS1.
- (A)2.16 "Digital Signal Level 1" or "DS1" means the 1.544 Mbps first-level signal in the time-division multiplex hierarchy. In the time-division multiplexing hierarchy of the telephone network, DS1 is the initial level of multiplexing.

- (A)2.17 "Digital Signal Level 3" or "DS3" means the 44.736 Mbps third-level signal in the time-division multiplex hierarchy. In the time-division multiplexing hierarchy of the telephone network, DS3 is defined as the third level of multiplexing.
- (A)2.18 "Exchange Message Record" or "EMR" is the standard used for exchange of telecommunications message information between telecommunications providers for billable, non-billable, sample, settlement and study data. EMR format is contained in BR-010-200-010 CRIS Exchange Message Record, a Bellcore document that defines industry standards for exchange message records.
- (A)2.19 "Extended Area Service (EAS)/Local Traffic" (Exchange Service) means traffic that is originated by an end user of one Party and terminates to an end user of the other Party as defined in accordance with USW's then current EAS/local serving areas, as determined by the Commission.
- (A)2.20 "Hub" denotes a USW-designated Wire Center, other than the USW Serving Wire Center of Northwest's POI, at which multiplexing is performed.
- (A)2.21 "Integrated Digital Loop Carrier" means a subscriber loop carrier system, which integrates with or within the switch at a DS1 level (twenty-four (24) Local Loop Transmission paths combined into a 1.544 Mbps digital signal).
- (A)2.22 "Interconnect & Resale Resource Guide" is a USW document that provides essential information needed to request services available under this Agreement. It is available on USW's Web site.
- (A)2.23 "Interconnection" is as described in the Act and refers to the connection between networks for the purpose of transmission and routing of telephone exchange service (EAS/Local), exchange access (IntraLATA Toll) and Jointly Provided Switched Access (InterLATA and IntraLATA presubscribed/dial around) traffic.
- (A)2.24 "Interexchange Carrier" or "IXC" means a carrier that provides interLATA or IntraLATA presubscribed/dial around switched access services.
- (A)2.25 "IntraLATA Toll" (Exchange Access) is defined in accordance with USW's current intraLATA toll serving areas, as determined by the Federal Communications Commission.
- (A)2.26 "Local Exchange Carrier" or "LEC" means any person that is engaged in the provision of telephone exchange service (EAS/Local) or exchange access (IntraLATA Toll). Such term does not include a person insofar as such person is engaged in the provision of a commercial mobile service under Section 332(c) of the Act, except to the extent that the FCC finds that such service should be included in the definition of such term.
- (A)2.27 "Local Loop Transmission" or "Loop" means the entire transmission path which extends from the network interface device or demarcation point at an



end user's premises to the Main Distribution Frame or other designated frame or panel in a Party's Wire Center which serves the end user.

- (A)2.28 "Local Service Request" or "LSR" means the industry standard forms and supporting documentation used for ordering local services.
- (A)2.29 "Main Distribution Frame" or "MDF" means a USW distribution frame used to interconnect cable pairs and line and trunk equipment terminals on a switching system.
- (A)2.30 "MECAB" refers to the Multiple Exchange Carrier Access Billing (MECAB) document prepared by the Billing Committee of the Ordering and Billing Forum (OBF), that functions under the auspices of the Carrier Liaison Committee of the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions. The MECAB document, published by Bellcore as Special Report SR-BDS-000983, contains the recommended guidelines for the billing of an Access Service.
- (A)2.31 "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 Ordering and Billing Forum (OBF), that functions under the auspices of the Carrier Liaison Committee of the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions. The MECOD document, published by Bellcore as Special Report SR STS-002643, establishes recommended guidelines for processing orders for Access Service. It is published by Bellcore as SRBDS 00983.
- (A)2.32 "Meet-Point Billing" or "MPB" refers to an arrangement whereby two LECs (including a LEC and Co-Provider) jointly provide Switched Access Service to an Interexchange Carrier, with each LEC (or Co-Provider) receiving an appropriate share of the revenues as defined by their effective access Tariffs.
- (A)2.33 "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.
- (A)2.34 "North American Numbering Plan" or "NANP" means the numbering plan used in the United States that also serves Canada, Bermuda, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Marianna Islands 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.
- (A)2.35 "NXX" means the fourth, fifth and sixth digits of a ten-digit telephone number.
- (A)2.36 "Party" means either USW or Northwest and "Parties" mean USW and Northwest.

- (A)2.37 "Point of Interface", "Point of Interconnection", or "POI" is a point of demarcation where the exchange of traffic between two LECs (including a LEC and a Co-Provider) takes place.
- (A)2.38 "Port" means an access point on a central office switch but does not include switch features.
- (A)2.39 "Rate Center" means the specific geographic point and its corresponding geographic area, (associated with one or more specific NPA-NXX codes and various Wire Centers), being used for billing and measuring Basic Exchange Telecommunications Service. For example, a Rate Center will normally include several Wire Centers within its geographic area, with each Wire Center having one or more NPA-NXXs.
- (A)2.40 "Rate Center Area" is the geographic area within which basic exchange services are provided for NPA-NXX designations associated with a particular Rate Center.
- (A)2.41 "Reseller" is a category of local exchange service provider that obtains dial tone and associated Telecommunications Services from another provider through the purchase of finished services for resale to its end users.
- (A)2.42 "Service Control Point" or "SCP" means a signaling end point that acts as a database to provide information to another signaling end point (i.e., Service Switching Point or another SCP) for processing or routing certain types of network calls. A query/response mechanism is typically used in communicating with a SCP.
- (A)2.43 "Signaling Transfer Point" or "STP" means a signaling point that performs message routing functions and provides information for the routing of messages between signaling end points. A STP transmits, receives and processes Common Channel Signaling ("CCS") messages.
- (A)2.44 "Switched Access Service" means the offering of transmission and switching services to Interexchange Carriers for the purpose of the origination or termination of telephone toll service. Switched Access Services include: Feature Group A, Feature Group B, Feature Group D, 8XX access, and 900 access and their successors or similar Switched Access services. Switched Access traffic, as specifically defined in USW's state and interstate Switched Access Tariffs, is traffic that originates at one of the Party's end users and terminates at an IXC point of presence, or originates at an IXC point of presence and terminates at one of the Party's end users, whether or not the traffic transits the other Party's network.
- (A)2.45 "Tariff" as used throughout this Agreement refers to USW interstate Tariffs and state Tariffs, price lists, price schedules and catalogs.
- (A)2.46 "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 Federal Communications Commission shall determine whether the provision of fixed and mobile satellite service shall be treated as common carriage.

- (A)2.47 "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.
- (A)2.48 "Wire Center" denotes a building or space within a building, that serves as an aggregation point on a given carrier's network, where transmission facilities are connected or switched. Wire Center can also denote a building where one or more Central Offices, used for the provision of Basic Exchange Telecommunications Services and Access Services, are located. However, for purposes of Collocation service, Wire Center shall mean those points eligible for such connections as specified in the FCC Docket No. 91-141, and rules adopted pursuant thereto.
- (A)2.49 Terms not otherwise defined here, but defined in the Act shall have the meaning defined there. Where a term is defined in the regulations implementing the Act but not in this Agreement, the Parties do not necessarily intend to adopt the definition as set forth in said regulations.

### **(A)3. TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

#### **(A)3.1 General Provisions**

- (A)3.1.1 Each Party shall use its best efforts to comply with the Implementation Schedule provisions that will be mutually agreed upon by the Parties.
- (A)3.1.2 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.
- (A)3.1.3 Neither Party shall use any service related to or use any of the services provided in this Agreement in any manner that interferes with other persons in the use of their service, prevents other persons from using their service, or otherwise impairs the quality of service to other carriers or to either Party's end users, 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.
- (A)3.1.4 Each Party is solely responsible for the services it provides to its end users and to other Telecommunications Carriers.

## PART C - RECIPROCAL TRAFFIC EXCHANGE

### (C)1. Interconnection Facility Options

(C)1.1 This Section describes the Interconnection of USW's network and Northwest's own network for the purpose of exchanging Exchange Service (EAS/Local), Exchange Access (IntraLATA Toll) and Jointly Provided Switched Access (InterLATA and IntraLATA presubscribed/dial around) traffic. USW will provide Interconnection at the trunk side of an end office switch and on the trunk connection points of a local or access tandem switch. "Interconnection" is as described in the Act and refers to the connection between networks for the purpose of transmission and routing of telephone Exchange Service (EAS/Local), Exchange Access IntraLATA Toll) and Jointly Provided Switched Access (InterLATA and IntraLATA presubscribed/dial around) traffic. Interconnection is provided for the purpose of connecting end office switches to end office switches or end office switches to local tandem switches for the exchange of Exchange Service (EAS/Local) traffic; or end office switches to access tandem switches for the exchange of Exchange Access (IntraLATA Toll) or Jointly Provided Switched Access (InterLATA and IntraLATA presubscribed/dial around) traffic. Local tandem to local tandem switch connections will be provided where technically feasible. Local tandem to access tandem and access tandem to access tandem switch connections are not provided.

### (C)1.2 Methods of Interconnection

The Parties will negotiate the facilities arrangement between their networks. Northwest shall establish a Point of Interconnection in each USW local calling area where it does business. The following alternatives are negotiable: (1) a DS1 or DS3 entrance facility; (2) Collocation; (3) negotiated Mid-Span Meet facilities; or (4) Hub location.

#### (C)1.2.1 Entrance Facility

Interconnection may be accomplished through the provision of a DS1 or DS3 entrance facility, where facilities exist. An entrance facility extends from the USW Serving Wire Center to Northwest's switch location. Entrance facilities may not extend beyond the area served by the USW Serving Wire Center. The rates for entrance facilities are provided in Part H. USW's Private Line Transport service is available as an alternative to entrance facilities, when Northwest uses such Private Line Transport service for multiple services. The Entrance Facility cannot be used to pick up/connect to Unbundled Network Elements (UNEs).

(C)1.2.2 Collocation

Interconnection may be accomplished through the Collocation arrangements offered by USW. The terms and conditions under which Collocation will be available are described in the Collocation Section of this Agreement. The rates for the Expanded Interconnection Channel Termination (EICT) are provided in Part H of this Agreement.

(C)1.2.3 Mid-Span Meet POI

A Mid-Span Meet POI is a negotiated Point of Interface, between the USW Wire Center and Northwest's switch location. The Mid-Span Meet POI may not extend beyond the area served by the USW Wire Center. The actual physical Point of Interface and facilities used will be subject to negotiations between the Parties. Each Party will be responsible for its portion of the build to the Mid-Span Meet POI. The Mid-Span Meet POI cannot be used to pick up/connect to UNEs.

(C)1.2.4 Hub Location

When Northwest locates its switch outside the local calling area, the Hub Location Point of Interface is available to establish Northwest's Point of Interface within the local calling area under the following provisions.

The Hub Location Point of Interface, limited to use with Local Interconnection Service for Exchange Service (EAS/Local) traffic, may be established at a USW Central Office at which multiplexing is performed.

The physical arrangement of a POI at a Hub location consists of:

A DS1 or DS3 Private Line Transport Service facility from Northwest's POI (in another USW local calling area) to the USW Hub location, leased from USW, and;

A Private Line Transport Service multiplexer at the Hub location, leased from USW. Where a multiplexer is not required, a digital cross connect bay at the hub location can be designated as the POI.

Hub location traffic from Northwest will be transported in the EAS/Local Calling Area where the hub location is located only. USW will not be required to pass EAS/Local traffic of the hub location calling area to Northwest at any other location other than the leased DS3 multiplexer or digital cross connect bay as applicable.

Rates, terms and conditions for ordering and billing Private Line Transport Services are found in the state and interstate Private Line catalogs and Tariffs.

The Hub Location POI cannot be used to pick up/connect to UNEs.

## **(C)2. Reciprocal Traffic Exchange**

### **(C)2.1 Description**

(C)2.1.1 Reciprocal traffic exchange addresses the exchange of traffic between Northwest's network and USW's network. If such traffic is Exchange Service (EAS/Local), the provisions of this Agreement shall apply. Where either Party acts as an Exchange Access (IntraLATA Toll) provider, each Party shall bill the other symmetrical rates using USW's Tariffed Switched Access rates as a surrogate. Where either Party interconnects and delivers traffic to the other from third parties, each Party shall bill such third parties the appropriate charges pursuant to its respective Tariffs or contractual offerings for such third party terminations. Absent a separately negotiated agreement to the contrary, the Parties will directly exchange traffic between their respective networks without the use of third party transit providers.

(C)2.1.2 The traffic types to be exchanged under this Agreement include:

(C)2.1.2.1 Exchange Service (EAS/Local) traffic as defined in this Agreement.

(C)2.1.2.2 Exchange Access (IntraLATA Toll) traffic as defined in this Agreement.

(C)2.1.2.3 Jointly Provided Switched Access (InterLATA and IntraLATA presubscribed/dial around) traffic as defined in Access Tariffs and referenced in this Section.

(C)2.1.2.4 Transit traffic is any traffic that originates from one Telecommunications Carrier's network, transits another Telecommunications Carrier's network, and terminates to yet another Telecommunications Carrier's network. For the purposes of this Agreement, transit traffic does not include traffic carried by Interexchange Carriers. That traffic is defined as Jointly Provided Switched Access.

Transit service is provided by USW, as a local and access tandem provider, to Northwest to enable the