

Section 5  
Terms and Conditions**Section 5.0 - TERMS AND CONDITIONS****5.1 General Provisions**

5.1.1 Each Party shall use its best efforts to comply with the Implementation Schedule provisions that will be mutually agreed upon by the Parties.

5.1.2 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.

5.1.3 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. 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.

5.1.4 Each Party is solely responsible for the services it provides to its end users and to other Telecommunications Carriers.

5.1.5 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.

5.1.6 Nothing in this Agreement shall prevent either Party from seeking to recover the costs and expenses, if any, it may incur in (a) complying with and implementing its obligations under this Agreement, the Act, and the rules, regulations and orders of the FCC and the Commission, and (b) the development, modification, technical installation and maintenance of any systems or other infrastructure which it requires to comply with and to continue complying with its responsibilities and obligations under this Agreement.

**5.2 Term of Agreement**

5.2.1 This Agreement shall become effective upon Commission approval, pursuant to Sections 251 and 252 of the Act. The date on which CLEC submits a written request, pursuant to Section 3.1 of this Agreement, to obtain services pursuant to this Agreement shall hereafter be referred to as the "Effective Date" of this Agreement between CLEC and US WEST. This Agreement shall be binding upon the Parties upon the Effective Date and for a term of two years and shall terminate on 8/26/07.

5.2.2 Upon expiration of the term of this Agreement, this Agreement shall continue in force and effect until terminated by either Party on one hundred sixty (160) days written notice to the other party. The date of this notice will be the starting point for the one hundred sixty (160) day negotiation window under Section 252 of the Act. If the parties reach agreement, this Agreement will terminate on the date specified in the notice or on the date the agreement is

Section 5  
Terms and Conditions

approved by the Commission, whichever is later. If the Parties arbitrate, this Agreement will terminate when the new agreement is approved by the Commission.

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

### 5.3 Proof of Authorization

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

5.3.1.1 The end user's written Letter of Authorization.

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

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

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

### 5.4 Payment

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

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

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

5.4.4 Should CLEC or U S WEST dispute, in good faith, any portion of the monthly billing under this Agreement, the parties will notify each other in writing within thirty (30) calendar days of the receipt of such billing, identifying the amount, reason and rationale of such dispute.

Section 5  
Terms and Conditions

CLEC and U S WEST shall pay all amounts due. Both CLEC and U S WEST agree to expedite the investigation of any disputed amounts in an effort to resolve and settle the dispute prior to initiating any other rights or remedies. If the resolved amount does not appear as a credit on the next invoice after resolution of the dispute, the resolved amount plus interest from the date of payment will be applied. The amount of interest will be calculated using the late payment factor that would have applied to such amount had it not been paid on time. Similarly, in the event a party withholds payment for a disputed charge, and upon resolution of the matter it is determined that such payments should have been made, the billing party is entitled to collect interest on the withheld amount, subject to the above provisions.

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

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

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

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

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

## 5.5 Taxes

5.5.1 Each Party purchasing services hereunder shall pay or otherwise be responsible for all federal, state, or local sales, use, excise, gross receipts, transaction or similar taxes, fees or surcharges levied against or upon such purchasing Party (or the providing Party when such providing Party is permitted to pass along to the purchasing Party such taxes, fees or surcharges), except for any tax on either Party's corporate existence, status or income. Whenever possible, these amounts shall be billed as a separate item on the invoice. To the extent a sale is claimed to be for resale tax exemption, the purchasing Party shall furnish the providing Party a proper resale tax exemption certificate as authorized or required by statute or

Section 5  
Terms and Conditions

## 5.17 Survival

5.17.1 Any liabilities or obligations of a Party for acts or omissions prior to the completion of the two year term, and any obligation of a Party under the provisions regarding indemnification, Confidential or Proprietary Information, limitations 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 hereof.

## 5.18 Dispute Resolution

5.18.1 If any claim, controversy or dispute between the Parties, their agents, employees, officers, directors or affiliated agents should arise, and the Parties do not resolve it in the ordinary course of their dealings (the "Dispute"), then it shall be resolved in accordance with the dispute resolution process set forth in this Section, provided, that nothing in this Section shall be interpreted to preclude either Party from using available procedures for relief before the Commission. Each notice of default, unless cured within the applicable cure period, shall be resolved in accordance herewith.

5.18.2 At the written request of either Party, and prior to any other formal dispute resolution proceedings, each Party shall designate a vice-presidential level employee to review, meet, and negotiate, in good faith, to resolve the Dispute. The Parties intend that these negotiations be conducted by non-lawyer, business representatives, and the locations, format, frequency, duration, and conclusions of these discussions shall be at the discretion of the representatives. By mutual agreement, the representatives may use other procedures, such as mediation, to assist in these negotiations. The discussions and correspondence among the representatives for the purposes of these negotiations shall be treated as Confidential Information developed for purposes of settlement, and shall be exempt from discovery and production, and shall not be admissible in any subsequent arbitration or other proceedings without the concurrence of both of the Parties.

5.18.3 If the vice-presidential level representatives have not reached a resolution of the Dispute within thirty (30) calendar days after the matter is referred to them, then either Party may demand that the Dispute be settled by arbitration. Such an arbitration proceeding shall be conducted by a panel of three arbitrators, knowledgeable about the telecommunications industry. The arbitration proceedings shall be conducted under the then-current rules of the American Arbitration Association ("AAA"). The Federal Arbitration Act, 9 U.S.C. Sections 1-16, not state law, shall govern the arbitrability of the Dispute. 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. Each Party shall bear its own costs and attorneys' fees, and shall share equally in the fees and expenses of the arbitrator. The arbitration proceedings shall occur in the Olympia, Washington metropolitan area or in another mutually agreeable location. It is acknowledged that the Parties, by mutual, written agreement, may change any of these arbitration practices for a particular, some, or all Dispute(s).

5.18.4 Should it become necessary to resort to court proceedings to enforce a Party's compliance with the dispute resolution process set forth herein, and the court directs or otherwise requires compliance herewith, then all of the costs and expenses, including its

Section 5  
Terms and Conditions

reasonable attorney fees, incurred by the Party requesting such enforcement shall be reimbursed by the non-complying Party to the requesting Party.

5.18.5 No Dispute, regardless of the form of action, arising out of this Agreement, may be brought by either Party more than two (2) years after the cause of action accrues.

**5.19 Controlling Law**

5.19.1 This Agreement is offered by U S WEST and accepted by CLEC in accordance with the terms of the Act and the state law of Washington. It shall be interpreted solely in accordance with the terms of the Act and the state law of Washington.

**5.20 Responsibility for Environmental Contamination**

5.20.1 Neither Party shall be liable to the other for any costs whatsoever resulting from the presence or release of any environmental hazard that either Party did not introduce to the affected work location. Both Parties shall defend and hold harmless the other, its officers, directors and employees from and against any losses, damages, claims, demands, suits, liabilities, fines, penalties and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees) that arise out of or result from (i) any environmental hazard that the indemnifying Party, its contractors or agents introduce to the work locations or (ii) the presence or release of any environmental hazard for which the indemnifying Party is responsible under applicable law.

**5.21 Notices**

5.21.1 Any notices required by or concerning this Agreement shall be in writing and sent to U S WEST at the addresses shown below:

U S WEST  
Director Interconnection Compliance  
1801 California, Room 2410  
Denver, CO 80202

With copy to:  
Attention:  
Corporate Counsel, Interconnection  
1801 California Street, 49<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Denver, CO 80202

and to CLEC at the address shown below:  
Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

**5.22 Responsibility of Each Party**

5.22.1 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

Section 5  
Terms and Conditions

### 5.13 Default

5.13.1 If either Party defaults in the payment of any amount due hereunder, or if either Party violates any other material provision of this Agreement, and such default or violation shall continue for thirty (30) calendar days after written notice thereof, the other Party may seek relief in accordance with the Dispute Resolution provision of this Agreement. The failure of either Party to enforce any of the provisions of this Agreement or the waiver thereof in any instance shall not be construed as a general waiver or relinquishment on its part of any such provision, but the same shall, nevertheless, be and remain in full force and effect.

### 5.14 Disclaimer of Agency

5.14.1 Except for provisions herein expressly authorizing a Party to act for another, 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, no Party undertakes 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.

### 5.15 Severability

5.15.1 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 as set forth herein. 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.

### 5.16 Nondisclosure

5.16.1 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, (i) furnished by one Party to the other Party dealing with end user specific, facility specific, or usage specific information, other than end user information communicated for the purpose of providing directory assistance or publication of directory database, or (ii) in written, graphic, electromagnetic, or other tangible form and marked at the time of delivery as "Confidential" or "Proprietary", or (iii) communicated and declared to the receiving Party at the time of delivery, or by written notice given to the receiving Party within ten (10) calendar 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.