

6/12/98

TO-97-63

INTERCONNECTION, RESALE
AND UNBUNDLING

AGREEMENT

between

GTE MIDWEST INCORPORATED

and

AT&T COMMUNICATIONS OF THE SOUTHWEST, INC.

FILED²

FEB 9 2000

Missouri Public
Service Commission

TO-2000-487

The filing of this arbitrated Agreement with the Missouri Public Service Commission in accordance with the Arbitration Order issued December 10, 1996, the Final Arbitration Order issued July 31, 1997 and the Order Granting Reconsideration in Part of Final Arbitration Order and Otherwise Denying Motions for Clarification, Rehearing and/or Reconsideration dated October 17, 1997 (collectively the "Decisions"), with respect to AT&T Communications of the Southwest, Inc.'s Petition for Arbitration pursuant to Section 252(b) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 to establish an interconnection agreement between AT&T Communications of the Southwest, Inc. and GTE Midwest Incorporated, Case No. TO-97-63, does not in any way constitute a waiver by either AT&T Communications of the Southwest, Inc., or GTE Midwest Incorporated of any right which any such Party may have to appeal to a competent court of law, or to petition the Missouri Public Service Commission for reconsideration of, any determination contained in the Decisions, or any provision included in this Agreement pursuant to the Decisions.

In this document the Parties attempt to comply with the Decisions which direct the Parties to reduce to contractual language the substantive provisions and directives of the Decisions. Nothing contained herein shall be construed or is intended to be a concession or admission by either Party that any such provision of the Decisions or the language herein complies with the duties imposed by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, the decisions of the FCC and the Missouri Public Service Commission, or other law, and each Party thus expressly reserves its full right to assert and pursue claims that the Decisions do not comport with applicable law.

EXPLANATION OF CONTRACT MARKINGS:

PLAIN TEXT AGREED LANGUAGE, UNLESS OTHERWISE
INDICATED ON THE DOCUMENT

BOLD TEXT AT&T PROPOSED LANGUAGE (RELATED
TO THE "COMBINATION ISSUE") TO WHICH
GTE HAS NOT AGREED

DOUBLE UNDERLINED
TEXT GTE PROPOSED LANGUAGE (RELATED TO
THE "COMBINATION ISSUE") TO WHICH
AT&T HAS NOT AGREED

"Combination Issue"
Markings:

SECTION CONTAINS DISPUTED LANGUAGE RELATED TO THE "COMBINATION ISSUE"

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PREFACE

AGREEMENT

This Agreement is entered into as of the ____ day of _____, 1998, by and between AT&T Communications of the Southwest, Inc., a Delaware Corporation having an office at 5501 LBJ Freeway, Dallas, Texas 75240, in its capacity as a certified provider of local dial-tone service ("AT&T"), and GTE Midwest Incorporated, a Delaware corporation, having an office for purposes of this Agreement at 600 Hidden Ridge Drive, Irving, Texas 75038 (GTE), in its capacity as an incumbent local exchange carrier. This Agreement covers services only in the state of Missouri (the "State").

RECITALS

WHEREAS, The Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the "Act") was signed into law on February 8, 1996; and

WHEREAS, the Act places certain duties and obligations upon, and grants certain rights to, Telecommunications Carriers, with respect to the interconnection of their networks, resale of their telecommunications services, access to their poles, ducts, conduits and rights of way and, in certain cases, the offering of certain unbundled network elements and physical collocation of equipment in Local Exchange Carrier premises, and

WHEREAS, GTE is an Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier; and

WHEREAS, AT&T is a Telecommunications Carrier and has requested that GTE negotiate an agreement with AT&T for the provision of Network Elements, Local Services for resale, collocation and access to poles, ducts, conduits and rights of way and the reciprocal provision of interconnection services pursuant to the Act and in conformance with GTE's and AT&T's duties under the Act; and

WHEREAS, interconnection between competing Local Exchange Carriers (LECs) is necessary and desirable for the mutual exchange and termination of traffic originating on each LEC's network and the Parties desire to exchange such traffic and related signaling in a technically and economically efficient manner at defined and mutually agreed upon points of interconnection.

SCOPE, INTENT AND DEFINITIONS

This Agreement governs the purchase by AT&T of certain telecommunications services provided by GTE in its service areas for resale by AT&T, the purchase by AT&T of certain unbundled network elements from GTE, the terms and conditions of the collocation of certain equipment of AT&T in the premises of GTE, the provision by GTE of access to its poles, conduits and rights of way and the reciprocal interconnection of each Party's local facilities for the exchange of traffic.

The Parties agree that their entry into this Agreement is without prejudice to any positions they may have taken previously, or may take in the future, in any legislative, regulatory, judicial or other public forum addressing any matters, including matters related to the same types of arrangements covered in this Agreement.

For purposes of this Agreement, certain terms have been defined in Attachment 11 and elsewhere in this Agreement to encompass meanings that may differ from the normal connotation of the defined word. A defined word intended to convey its special meaning is capitalized when used. Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, any term defined or used in the singular shall include the plural. The words "shall" and "will" are used interchangeably throughout this Agreement and the use of either connotes a mandatory requirement. The use of one or the other shall not mean a different degree of right or obligation for either Party. Other terms that are capitalized, and not defined in this Agreement, shall have the meaning given them in the Act. For convenience of reference only, Attachment 10 provides a list of acronyms used throughout this Agreement.

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Provision of Local Service, Unbundled Network Elements and Interconnection

This Agreement, which consists of these General Terms and Conditions and Attachments 1-15 and their accompanying Appendices, sets forth the terms, conditions and prices under which GTE agrees to provide (a) telecommunications services for resale (hereinafter referred to as "Local Services") and (b) certain unbundled Network Elements, Ancillary Functions and additional features to AT&T or combinations of such Network Elements ("**Combinations**"), for purposes of offering telecommunications services of any kind, including, but not limited to, local exchange services, intrastate toll services, and intrastate and interstate exchange access services and (c) access to GTE's poles, conduits and rights of way. This Agreement also sets forth the terms and conditions for the interconnection of AT&T's local network to GTE's local network ("Interconnection Services") and the reciprocal compensation to be paid by each Party to the other for the transport and termination of Local Traffic of the other Party. The Network Elements, **Combinations** or Local Services provided pursuant to this Agreement may be connected to other Network Elements, **Combinations** or Local Services provided by GTE or to any Network Elements, **Combinations** or Local Services provided by AT&T itself or by any other vendor. Subject to the requirements of this Agreement, AT&T may, at any time add or delete the Local Services, or Network Elements or **Combinations** purchased hereunder. In no event shall any provision of this Agreement obligate GTE to provide AT&T with interconnection that is superior in quality to that provided by GTE to itself, its affiliates, or other third parties to which GTE provides interconnection or that GTE is not otherwise required to provide under Applicable Law. Additionally, the network elements to which this Agreement requires GTE to provide access shall be only such network elements as to which provision of access by GTE is required under Applicable Law and no provision of this Agreement shall require or be interpreted to require GTE to provide access to network elements to which GTE is not required to provide access under Applicable Law.

[Combinations]

1.1 Disputes Regarding Combination Issue:

There is a dispute between the Parties with regard to the provision by GTE to AT&T of combinations, or bundles, of network elements that is now pending before the United States Supreme Court and several state commissions

("Combination Issue").

Neither Party desires to delay either approval or implementation of the terms of this Agreement other than those related to the Combination Issue, in the normal course under the Act, or to relinquish its rights as they pertain to the Combination Issue; and neither party does relinquish its rights by virtue of these provisions. The Parties therefore agree that the provisions of this Agreement related to the Combination Issue upon which the Parties disagree are identified as disputed and are intended to be left unresolved until after the United States Supreme Court rules as referenced below in this section. The Parties intend that when this Agreement is submitted to the Commission for review in the normal course under § 252 (e)(6) of the Act with language related to the Combination Issue unresolved, that such disputed language shall remain disputed and shall not be resolved by the Commission, and that if the Commission approves the Agreement the disputed language related to the Combination Issue is to be left unresolved and shall not be applied or used by the Parties.

The Parties will jointly submit the Agreement for review under the Act notwithstanding the absence of provisions resolving the Combination Issue, and the Parties will request that the Commission in reviewing the Agreement do so without reviewing or addressing the language related to the Combination Issue. Neither Party shall claim that the Agreement so submitted may not be approved by the Commission under Section 252, or be reviewed in federal district court pursuant to Section 252 (e)(6), based on the absence of provisions resolving the Combination Issue, or the possibility that the Agreement may subsequently be amended by the addition of such provisions.

If, during its review of the Agreement submitted in accordance with the foregoing, the Commission, notwithstanding the Parties' requests that the Commission not resolve the provisions related to the Combination Issue, resolves all or any part of such provisions, the Agreement shall be revised to reflect such resolution, and the revised agreement shall be submitted to the Commission for review pursuant to Section 252. The Commission's approval or rejection of the revised agreement shall then be subject to review pursuant to Section 252 (e)(6). Notwithstanding such Commission action, the language related to the Combination Issue shall not be applied or used until after the U.S. Supreme Court rules in the appeal from the 8th Circuit's decision on the Combination Issue.

If the United States Supreme Court rules on the 8th Circuit's decision with respect to the Combination Issue, and unless the Parties agree otherwise at that time, the Agreement shall be amended to reflect the Supreme Court's decision, and the amended agreement shall be submitted to the Commission

for review pursuant to Section 252. The Commission's approval or rejection of the amended agreement may then be subject to review.

2. **Term of Agreement**

This Agreement shall become effective in accordance with Section 23.8 (the "Effective Date"), and shall remain effective for a period of three (3) years. This Agreement shall continue in effect for consecutive one (1) year terms thereafter unless either Party gives the other Party at least ninety (90) calendar days written notice of termination, which termination shall be effective at the end of the initial term.

3. **Termination of Agreement; Transitional Support**

3.1 Subject to any applicable restrictions and requirements contained elsewhere in this Agreement, AT&T may elect at any time to terminate this entire Agreement at AT&T's sole discretion, upon ninety (90) days prior written notice to GTE. Unless otherwise provided in this Agreement, in such case, AT&T's liability shall be limited to payment of the amounts due for Local Services, Network Elements, **Combinations** and Interconnection Services provided up to and including the date of termination. The Parties recognize that provision of uninterrupted service to customers is vital and services must be continued without interruption. Upon the termination or expiration of this Agreement, AT&T may itself provide or retain another vendor to provide comparable Local Services or, Network Elements, or **Combinations**. GTE agrees to cooperate in an orderly and efficient transition to AT&T or another vendor such that the level and quality of the Local Services and, Network Elements **and** **Combinations** are not degraded and to exercise reasonable efforts to assist in an orderly and efficient transition.

[Combinations]

3.2 AT&T may terminate any Local Service(s) or, Network Element(s) or **Combination(s)** provided under this Agreement upon thirty (30) days written notice to GTE, unless a different notice period or different conditions are specified for termination of such Local Service(s) or, Network Element(s) or **Combination(s)** in this Agreement, in which event such specific period and conditions shall apply.

[Combinations]

3.3 GTE will not discontinue any Unbundled Network Element or Ancillary Function **or** **Combination** thereof during the term of this Agreement without AT&T's written consent which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld,

except (1) to the extent required by network changes or upgrades, in which event GTE will comply with the network disclosure requirements stated in the Act and the FCC's effective implementing regulations; or (2) if required by a final order of the Court, the FCC or the Commission as a result of remand or appeal of the FCC's order In the Matter of Implementation of Local Competition Provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Docket 96-98. In the event such a final order allows but does not require discontinuance, GTE shall make a proposal for AT&T's approval, and if the Parties are unable to agree, either Party may submit the matter to the Dispute resolution procedures described in Attachment 1. GTE will not discontinue any Local Service or Combination of Local Services without providing 45 days advance written notice to AT&T, provided however, that if such services are discontinued with less than 45 days notice to the regulatory authority, GTE will notify AT&T at the same time it determines to discontinue the service. If GTE grandfathers a Local Service or combination of Local Services, GTE shall grandfather the service for all AT&T resale customers who subscribe to the service as of the date of discontinuance.

[Combinations]

- 3.4 Either Party may terminate this Agreement at any time by giving written notice in writing to the other Party in the event the other Party files a petition for bankruptcy, is declared bankrupt, is insolvent, makes an assignment for the benefit of creditors, or goes into liquidation or receivership. In addition, either Party may terminate this Agreement in the event of a Party's refusal or failure to pay all or any portion of any amount required to be paid to the other Party as and when due; provided however that the Party allegedly due payment (1) notifies the other Party of the amounts due, (2) utilizes the ADR process set forth in Attachment 1, (3) obtains a favorable final ruling in that process and (4) does not receive payment within thirty (30) calendar days of the final ruling. There shall be no other reason for the unilateral termination of this Agreement.

4. **Good Faith Performance**

In the performance of their obligations under this Agreement, the Parties shall act in accordance with the good faith requirements of the Act. In situations in which notice, consent, 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.

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5. **Section 252 (i) Election**

GTE shall allow AT&T to elect terms other than those set forth in this Agreement to the extent required by Section 252 of the Act, final regulations thereunder and relevant court decisions.

6. **Responsibility of Each Party**

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 all other regulations governing such matters. Subject to the limitations on liability contained in this Agreement and except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, each Party shall be responsible for (i) 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, (ii) the acts of its own affiliates, employees, agents and contractors during the performance of that Party's obligations hereunder.

7. **Governmental Compliance**

Except with respect to laws relating to the environment and laws relating to Intellectual Property Rights compliance with which is covered by Section 10.4, AT&T and GTE each shall comply with all Applicable Law that relates to i) its obligations under or activities in connection with this Agreement; or ii) its activities undertaken at, in connection with or relating to Work Locations. AT&T and GTE each agree to indemnify, defend (at the other Party's request) and save harmless the other, 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) that arise out of or result from its failure to so comply. Each Party will be solely responsible for obtaining from governmental authorities, building owners, other carriers, and any other persons or entities, all rights and privileges which are necessary for such Party to perform its obligations under this Agreement.

8. **Responsibility For Environmental Contamination**

- 8.1 Notwithstanding Section 10, GTE and AT&T shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the other party from and against any claims (including, without limitation, third party claims for personal injury or real or personal property

damage), judgments, damages (including direct and indirect damage, and punitive damages), penalties, fines, forfeitures, cost, liabilities, interest and losses or in connection with the violation or alleged violation of any applicable requirement of the presence or alleged presence of contamination arising out of the indemnifying party's acts or omissions concerning its operations at the Work Location.

- 8.2 GTE and AT&T agree to comply with applicable federal, state and local environmental and safety laws and regulations including U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations issued under the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act and the Toxic Substances Control Act and OSHA regulations issued under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 applicable to their performance under this Agreement. Each Party has the responsibility to notify the other if compliance inspections result in or citations are issued that impact any aspect of performance under this Agreement such as occurring on a LEC affected Work Location or involving CLEC potential employee exposure.
- 8.3 GTE and AT&T shall provide prompt reasonable notice to the other of known and discovered physical hazards or hazardous chemicals at any portion of an affected Work Location used by the other including, Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) for materials existing or brought on site to the Work Location by such party.
- 8.4 AT&T and GTE will make available to each other their respective internal environmental control or safety procedures for review in planning work at a GTE Work Location. These practices/procedures will represent the regular work practices required to be followed by the employees and contractors for safety and environmental protection. AT&T will follow its practices unless for a specific Work Location or emergency procedure, GTE's practice provides a greater degree of safety or environmental control.
- 8.5 Any materials brought to or stored, used or remaining at a Work Location by AT&T are the property of AT&T. AT&T must demonstrate adequate emergency response capabilities for its materials used or remaining at the GTE Work Location.
- 8.6 AT&T agrees to promptly notify GTE of any third-party contamination it discovers at a GTE affected Work Location. Notification obligations to regulatory authorities shall be the responsibility of GTE to evaluate and act upon, unless AT&T is required by applicable law to directly report.

- 8.7 AT&T agrees to obtain and use its own environmental permits, if necessary for its performance under this Agreement. If GTE's permit or EPA identification number must be used, AT&T must comply with applicable GTE environmental procedures, including environmental "best management practices (BMP)" and/or selection of disposition vendors and disposal sites to the extent provided by GTE. In the event that AT&T must use GTE's vendors for waste disposal, GTE assumes all liability for such materials, and GTE agrees to indemnify AT&T for any and all claims that may arise from such waste disposal.
- 8.8 AT&T visitors must comply with GTE security, fire safety, safety, environmental and building practices/codes including equivalent employee training when working in GTE Work Locations, to the extent provided by GTE. GTE will, to the extent possible, supply such practices/codes to AT&T prior to AT&T's first entry into the Work Location.
- 8.9 GTE and AT&T shall coordinate plans or information required to be submitted to government agencies, such as emergency response plans and community reporting if applicable to their performance under this Agreement. If fees are associated with any required filing, GTE and AT&T will develop a cost sharing procedure. GTE and AT&T will determine for each Work Location which party has the lead responsibility for such filings and coordination.
- 8.10 Activities impacting safety or the environment of a Right of Way must be harmonized with the specific agreement and the relationship between GTE and the private land owner. This may include limitations on equipment access due to environmental conditions (e.g., wetland area with equipment restrictions).
- 8.11 For the purposes of this Section 8 only, the following terms have the meanings set forth in this subsection 8.11:
- hazardous chemical: Means any chemical which is a health hazard or physical hazard as defined in the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health (OSHA) hazard communication standard (29 CFR 1910.1200).
- third party contamination: Environmental pollution that is not generated by the LEC or CLEC but results from off-site activities impacting an affected Work Location.
- 8.12 **Spill and Release Notifications**
- GTE and AT&T shall promptly notify the other of any spill or release of a Regulated Material at the Work Location. GTE's obligation under this Section

is limited to those spills or releases likely to impact the portion of the Work Location used by AT&T, or any portion of the Work Location where AT&T personnel are reasonably expected to be present. AT&T shall be responsible for reporting any spill or release of a Regulated Material occurring as part of or in connection with its operations that must be reported to any regulatory authority. AT&T will consult with GTE prior to making such report, unless the time required for prior consultation would preclude AT&T from complying with the applicable reporting requirement.

8.13 Management of Manhole or Vault Water

When conducting operations in any GTE manhole or vault area, AT&T shall follow the AT&T or GTE practice/procedure that provides the greatest degree of environmental control in evaluating and managing any water present in the manhole or vault area. AT&T shall be responsible for obtaining any permit or other regulatory approval necessary for any of its operations involving the evaluation, collection, discharge, storage, disposal, or other management of water present in a GTE manhole or vault area. GTE shall not be responsible for any costs incurred by AT&T in meeting its obligations under this Section unless GTE placed or otherwise caused materials or substances to be present in the manhole or vault area.

9. Regulatory Matters

9.1 GTE shall be responsible for obtaining and keeping in effect all FCC, state regulatory commission, franchise authority and other regulatory approvals that may be required in connection with the performance of its obligations under this Agreement. AT&T shall be responsible for obtaining and keeping in effect all FCC, state regulatory commission, franchise authority and other regulatory approvals that may be required in connection with its offering of services to AT&T Customers contemplated by this Agreement. AT&T shall reasonably cooperate with GTE in obtaining and maintaining any required approvals for which GTE is responsible, and GTE shall reasonably cooperate with AT&T in obtaining and maintaining any required approvals for which AT&T is responsible.

9.2 Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to deny either Party the right to file tariffs from time to time in the normal course of business. Nonetheless, each Party shall be exempt from any tariff change filed by the other Party during the term of this Agreement if such change conflicts with a price or other term of this Agreement, except to the extent that this Agreement makes the tariff item being changed determinative of such price or such other term, in which case the changed tariff shall apply prospectively.

9.3 If any effective legislative, regulatory, judicial or other legal actions, including a change in Applicable Law, materially affects any material terms of this Agreement, or the ability of AT&T or GTE to perform any material terms of this Agreement, such change in law shall apply immediately and the terms and conditions of this Agreement shall be applied and interpreted such that the obligations and requirements applicable to each party under this Agreement shall be consistent with such change in law. AT&T or GTE may, on thirty (30) days written notice (delivered not later than 90 days following the date on which such action has become effective) request that such term(s) be renegotiated, and the Parties agree to so negotiate in good faith such mutually acceptable new term(s). Notwithstanding the above, if the Parties do not agree on the appropriate application of any change in law to this Agreement, either Party may pursue any remedy available to it under Applicable Law.

9.4 [Intentionally deleted.]

10. **Liability and Indemnity**

10.1 **Liabilities of AT&T** - AT&T's liability to GTE during any Contract Year resulting from any and all causes under this Agreement, other than as specified in Sections 7, 8, 10.3 and 10.4 below, shall not exceed an amount equal to the amount due and owing by AT&T to GTE under this Agreement during the Contract Year in which such cause accrues or arises.

10.2 **Liabilities of GTE** - GTE's liability to AT&T during any Contract Year resulting from any and all causes under this Agreement, other than as specified in Sections 7, 8, 10.3 and 10.4 below, shall not exceed an amount equal to any amounts due and owing by AT&T to GTE under this Agreement during the Contract Year in which such cause accrues or arises.

10.3 **No Consequential Damages** - NEITHER AT&T NOR GTE SHALL BE LIABLE TO THE OTHER PARTY FOR ANY INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, CONSEQUENTIAL, RELIANCE, OR SPECIAL DAMAGES SUFFERED BY SUCH OTHER PARTY (INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION DAMAGES FOR HARM TO BUSINESS, LOST REVENUES, LOST SAVINGS, OR LOST PROFITS SUFFERED BY SUCH OTHER PARTIES), REGARDLESS OF THE FORM OF ACTION, WHETHER IN CONTRACT, WARRANTY, STRICT LIABILITY, OR TORT, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION NEGLIGENCE OF ANY KIND WHETHER ACTIVE OR PASSIVE, AND REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE PARTIES KNEW OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT SUCH DAMAGES COULD RESULT. EACH PARTY HEREBY RELEASES THE OTHER PARTY AND SUCH OTHER PARTY'S SUBSIDIARIES AND AFFILIATES, AND THEIR RESPECTIVE OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, EMPLOYEES AND AGENTS FROM ANY SUCH CLAIM.

10.4 Obligation to Indemnify

Each Party shall, and hereby agrees to, defend at the other's request, indemnify and hold harmless the other Party and each of its officers, directors, employees and agents (each, an "Indemnitee") against and in respect of any loss, debt, liability, damage, obligation, claim, demand, judgment or settlement of any nature or kind, known or unknown, liquidated or unliquidated, including without limitation all reasonable costs and expenses incurred (legal, accounting or otherwise) (collectively, "Damages") arising out of, resulting from or based upon any pending or threatened claim, action, proceeding or suit by any third party (a "Claim"): (i) based upon injuries or damage to any person or property or the environment arising out of or in connection with this Agreement, that are the result of such Indemnifying Party's actions, breach of Applicable Law, or breach of representations, warranties or covenants made in this Agreement, or the actions, breach of Applicable Law or of this Agreement by its officers, directors, employees, agents and subcontractors, or (ii) for actual or alleged infringement of any patent, copyright, trademark, service mark, trade name, trade dress, trade secret or any other intellectual property right now known or later developed (referred to as "Intellectual Property Rights") to the extent that such claim or action arises from the Indemnifying Party's or the Indemnifying Party's Customer's use of the Network Elements, Ancillary Functions, **Combinations**, Local Services or other services provided under this Agreement.

[Combinations]

- 10.5 Obligation to Defend; Notice; Co-operation** - Whenever a Claim shall arise for indemnification under this Agreement, the relevant Indemnitee, as appropriate, shall promptly notify the Indemnifying Party and request the Indemnifying Party to defend the same. 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. The Indemnifying Party shall have the right to defend against such liability or assertion in which event the Indemnifying Party shall give written notice to the Indemnitee of acceptance of the defense of such Claim and the identity of counsel selected by the Indemnifying Party. Except as set forth below, such notice to the relevant Indemnitee shall give the Indemnifying Party full authority to defend, adjust, compromise or settle such Claim with respect to which such notice shall have been given, except to the extent that any compromise or settlement shall prejudice the Intellectual Property Rights of the relevant Indemnitees. The Indemnifying Party shall consult with the relevant Indemnitee prior to any compromise or settlement that would affect the Intellectual Property Rights of any Indemnitee, and the relevant Indemnitee shall have the right to refuse such compromise or settlement and,

at the refusing Party's or refusing Parties' cost, to take over such defense, provided that in such event the Indemnifying Party shall not be responsible for, nor shall it be obligated to indemnify the relevant Indemnitee against, any cost or liability in excess of such refused compromise or settlement. With respect to any defense accepted by the Indemnifying Party, the relevant Indemnitee shall be entitled to participate with the Indemnifying Party in such defense to the extent the Claim requests equitable relief and also shall be entitled to employ separate counsel for such defense at such Indemnitee's expense. In the event the Indemnifying Party does not accept the defense of any indemnified Claim as provided above, the relevant Indemnitee shall have the right to employ counsel for such defense at the expense of the Indemnifying Party. Each Party agrees to cooperate and to cause its employees and agents to cooperate with the other Party in the defense of any such Claim and the relevant records of each Party shall be available to the other Party with respect to any such defense.

11. Service Parity and Standards

- 11.1 Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement to the contrary, GTE shall meet any service standard imposed by the FCC or by any state regulatory authority for any Local Services, Unbundled Network Elements, Ancillary Functions and Interconnection provided by GTE to AT&T for resale.
- 11.2 For any services that either Party is required by Applicable Law to provide to the other at parity, each Party shall provide services under this Agreement to the other Party that are equal in quality to that the Party provides to itself. "Equal in quality" shall mean that the service will meet the same technical criteria and performance standards that the providing Party uses within its own network for the same service at the same location under the same terms and conditions.
- 11.3 GTE and AT&T agree to implement standards to measure the quality of the Local Services and Unbundled Network Elements supplied by GTE, in particular with respect to pre-ordering, ordering/provisioning, maintenance and billing. These quality standards are described in Attachment 12. In the event of a violation of Quality Standards by either Party, which the Complaining Party alleges constitutes a breach of this Agreement, the Complaining Party may elect, subject to the procedures set forth in Attachment 1, either (1) to seek such money damages as may be available at law; or (2) to claim the penalties specified in Attachment 12, but the Complaining Party may not seek both (1) and (2) based on the same alleged breach; provided, however, that nothing in this sentence shall prevent the Complaining Party from seeking equitable relief at the same time that it pursues a claim for money damages or a claim under Attachment 12.

11.4 [Intentionally Left Blank]

11.5 [Intentionally deleted.]

12. **Customer Credit History**

12.1 With respect to customers either AT&T or GTE, as the case may be, deem delinquent in accordance with such Party's normal operating procedures, AT&T and GTE agree to make available to a designated third-party credit bureau, on a timely basis such of the following customer payment history information that is available solely from internal business records of the providing Party for each person or entity that applies for local or IntraLATA toll Telecommunications Service(s) from either carrier. Such information shall be provided on the condition that the credit bureau will only make such information available to the carrier to which the person or entity in question has applied for Telecommunication Service.

Applicants name;
Applicant's address;
Applicant's previous phone number, if any;
Amount, if any, of unpaid balance in applicant's name;
Whether applicant is delinquent on payments;
Length of service with prior local or IntraLATA toll provider;
Whether applicant had local or IntraLATA toll service terminated or suspended within the last six months with an explanation of the reason therefor; and
Whether applicant was required by prior local or IntraLATA toll provider to pay a deposit or make an advance payment, including the amount of each.

Nothing contained herein shall require either Party to undertake obligations which would subject that Party to requirements or liabilities as a consumer reporting agency under 15 U.S.C. §1681 et seq. and its implementing regulations or any similar statute, order or administrative rule of the State.

12.2 **Cooperation on Fraud Minimization** - The Parties shall cooperate with one another to investigate, minimize and take corrective action in cases of fraud. The Parties' fraud minimization procedures are to be cost effective and implemented so as not to unreasonably burden or harm one Party as compared to the other. At a minimum, such cooperation shall include, when permitted by law or regulation, providing the other Party, upon reasonable request, information concerning end users who terminate services to that Party without paying all outstanding charges, when that Party is notified that such end user seeks service from the other Party. If required, it shall be the responsibility of the Party seeking the information to secure the end user's

permission (in the format required by law) to obtain the information. Although in most circumstances the end user's current telephone number may be retained by the end user when switching local service providers, if an end user has past due charges associated with the account, for which payment arrangements have not been made with one Party, the end user's previous telephone number will not be made available to the other Party until the end user's outstanding balance has been paid.

13. Force Majeure

13.1 Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement, neither Party shall be liable for any delay or failure in performance of any part of this Agreement caused by any condition beyond the reasonable control of the Party claiming excusable delay or other failure to perform, including acts of the United States of America or any state, territory or political subdivision thereof, acts of God or a public enemy, fires, floods, freight embargoes, earthquakes, volcanic actions, wars, or civil disturbances. If any Force Majeure condition occurs, the Party whose performance fails or is delayed because of such Force Majeure condition shall give prompt notice to the other Party, and upon cessation of such Force Majeure condition, shall give like notice and commence performance hereunder as promptly as reasonably practicable, including implementation of disaster recovery plans.

13.2 Notwithstanding subsection 1, preceding, no delay or other failure to perform shall be excused pursuant to this Section:

- (i) by the acts or omission of a Party's subcontractors, material men, suppliers or other third persons providing products or services to such Party unless such acts or omissions are themselves the product of a Force Majeure condition, and
- (ii) unless such delay or failure and the consequences thereof are beyond the reasonable control and without the fault or negligence of the Party claiming excusable delay or other failure to perform.

14. Certain State and Local Taxes

Any 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. The collecting Party shall charge and collect from the obligated Party, and the obligated Party agrees to pay to the collecting Party, all applicable taxes, except to the extent that the obligated Party notifies the collecting Party and provides to the collecting Party appropriate documentation that qualifies the obligated Party for a full or partial exemption. Any such taxes shall be shown as separate items on applicable billing

- (3) Information Surcharge
 - (4) RIC
 - (5) CCLC
2. For Local Traffic and intraLATA Toll traffic originated from GTE to AT&T, GTE agrees to pay AT&T the following:
- (a) Local calls: Unless otherwise provided in Attachment 14, Bill and Keep shall apply to Local Traffic. In the event traffic (as defined from the point of interconnection) is out of balance, the rate specified in Attachment 14, Appendix 4, Annex 1 shall apply.
 - (b) Toll calls: The following AT&T Intrastate Switched Access rate elements, if such charges are applicable to intraLATA toll calls.
 - (1) For common switched transport where AT&T's tandem is used:
 - (a) Fixed - per minute of use.
 - (b) Variable - per mile per minute of use.
Mileage shall be calculated based on the airline miles between the Vertical and Horizontal ("V&H") coordinates of the POI, and the AT&T end office or Competitive Local Carrier/AT&T routing point.
 - (c) Tandem Switching.
 - (2) End Office switching.
 - (3) Information Surcharge
 - (4) RIC
 - (5) CCLC

documents between the Parties. The obligated Party 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 collecting Party shall cooperate in any such contest by the other Party, provided that the contesting Party shall pay the reasonable expenses of the collecting Party for any such cooperative activities.

15. **Alternative Dispute Resolution**

All Disputes arising under this Agreement or the breach hereof, except those arising pursuant to Attachment 6, Connectivity Billing, shall be resolved according to the procedures set forth in Attachment 1. Disputes involving matters subject to the Connectivity Billing provisions contained in Attachment 6, shall be resolved in accordance with the Billing Disputes section of Attachment 6. In no event shall the Parties permit the pendency of a Dispute to disrupt service to any customer of any Party contemplated by this Agreement except in the case of default and termination of this Agreement pursuant to Section 3.4. The foregoing notwithstanding, neither this Section 15 nor Attachment 1 shall be construed to prevent either Party from seeking and obtaining temporary equitable remedies, including temporary restraining orders.

16. **Notices**

Any notices or other communications required or permitted to be given or delivered under this Agreement shall be in hard-copy writing (unless otherwise specifically provided herein) and shall be sufficiently given if delivered personally or delivered by prepaid overnight express service or certified mail, return receipt requested or by facsimile (followed by a hard copy delivered by U.S. Mail or another method specified herein) to the following (unless otherwise specifically required by this Agreement to be delivered to another representative or point of contact):

If to AT&T:

Lois A. Hedg-Peth
Vice President, AT&T
Room 516
795 Folsom Street
San Francisco, California 94107
Facsimile Number: 415-442-5422

and

Russell D. Morgan
Director, AT&T
Suite 320
5501 LBJ Freeway
Dallas, Texas 75240
Facsimile Number: 972-778-2623

and

R. Steven Davis
Vice President, AT&T
Room 3162D1
295 North Maple Ave.
Basking Ridge, New Jersey 07920
Facsimile Number: 908-953-8360

If to GTE:

State Director – External Affairs
GTE Midwest Incorporated
MOJEFEXA
225 Madison
Jefferson City, MO 65101
Attention: Carolyn Little

and

Thomas R. Parker, Esq.
Assistant Vice President and Associate General Counsel
HQ EO3J43
600 Hidden Ridge Drive
Irving, TX 75038
Facsimile Number: 972-718-1250

Either Party may unilaterally change its designated representative and/or address for the receipt of notices by giving seven (7) days' prior written notice to the other Party in compliance with this Section. Any notice or other communication shall be deemed given when received.

17. Confidentiality and Proprietary Information

17.1 For the purposes of this Agreement, "Confidential Information" means confidential or proprietary technical or business information, in written or tangible form, given by the Discloser to the Recipient that is stamped,
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labelled, or otherwise designated as "Proprietary" or "Confidential" or that contains other words or symbols clearly indicating that the information is intended to be secure from public disclosure. "Confidential Information" also includes information that is intentionally provided or disclosed orally or visually if it is identified as proprietary or confidential when provided or disclosed and is summarized in a writing so marked and delivered within ten (10) days following such disclosure. "Confidential Information" also includes information that is observed or learned by one Party while it is on the premises (including leased collocation space) of the other Party. Notwithstanding the foregoing, all orders for Local Services or, Network Elements or Combinations placed by AT&T pursuant to this Agreement, and information that would constitute Customer Proprietary Network Information of AT&T Customers pursuant to the Act and the rules and regulations of the FCC and Recorded Usage Data as described in Attachment 7, whether disclosed by AT&T to GTE or otherwise acquired by GTE in the course of the performance of this Agreement, shall be deemed Confidential Information of AT&T for all purposes under this Agreement whether or not specifically marked or designated as confidential or proprietary.

[Combinations]

- 17.2 For the period set forth in Section 17.6, except as otherwise specified in this Agreement, the Recipient agrees (a) to use it only for the purpose of performing under this Agreement, (b) to hold it in confidence and disclose it to no one other than its employees or agents or consultants having a need to know for the purpose of performing under this Agreement, and (c) to safeguard it from unauthorized use or disclosure with at least the same degree of care with which the Recipient safeguards its own Confidential Information. Any agent or consultant must have executed a written agreement of non-disclosure and non-use comparable in scope to the terms of this Section 17 which agreement shall be enforceable by the Discloser.
- 17.3 The Recipient may make copies of Confidential Information only as reasonably necessary to perform its obligations under this Agreement. All such copies shall be subject to the same restrictions and protections as the original and shall bear the same copyright and proprietary rights notices as are contained on the original.
- 17.4 The Recipient agrees to return to the Discloser all Confidential Information received in tangible form from the Discloser, including any copies made by the Recipient, within thirty (30) days after a written request is delivered to the Recipient, or to destroy or erase all such Confidential Information and certify as to such event, except for Confidential Information that the Recipient reasonably requires to perform its obligations under this Agreement or as otherwise required by applicable law. If either Party loses or makes an

unauthorized disclosure of the other Party's Confidential Information, it shall notify such other Party as soon as is reasonably practicable after the loss is discovered and use reasonable efforts to retrieve the lost or wrongfully disclosed information.

- 17.5 The Recipient shall have no obligation to safeguard Confidential Information: (a) which was in the possession of the Recipient free of restriction on use or disclosure prior to its receipt from the Discloser; (b) after it becomes publicly known or available through no breach of this Agreement or other restriction on use or disclosure by the Recipient; (c) after it is rightfully acquired by the Recipient free of restrictions on its use or disclosure; or (d) after it is proven to be independently developed by personnel of the Recipient to whom the Discloser's Confidential Information had not been previously disclosed. In addition, either Party shall have the right to disclose Confidential Information to any mediator, arbitrator, state or federal regulatory body, the Department of Justice or any court in the conduct of any mediation, arbitration or approval of this Agreement subject to the requirements concerning notice and other measures specified in the last sentence of this Subsection. Additionally, the Recipient may disclose Confidential Information if so required by law, a court of competent jurisdiction, or governmental or administrative agency, so long as the Discloser has been notified of the requirement promptly after the Recipient becomes aware of the requirement, but prior to such disclosure and so long as the Recipient undertakes all lawful measures to avoid disclosing such information until Discloser has had reasonable time to seek a protective order and Discloser complies with any protective order that covers the Confidential Information to be disclosed.
- 17.6 Each Party's obligations with respect to Confidential Information disclosed prior to expiration or termination of this Agreement shall expire three (3) years from the date of receipt of the initial disclosure, regardless of any termination of this Agreement prior to such expiration date; provided that the duties with respect to Confidential Information that is software, protocols and interfaces shall expire fifteen (15) years from the date of the initial disclosure.
- 17.7 Except as otherwise expressly provided elsewhere in this Agreement, no license is hereby granted under any patent, trademark, copyright or other Intellectual Property Right, nor is any such license implied, solely by virtue of the disclosure of any Confidential Information.
- 17.8 Each Party agrees that the Discloser would be irreparably injured by a breach of this Agreement 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 the provisions of this Section 17. Such remedies shall not be deemed to be the exclusive remedies

for a breach of this Section 17, but shall be in addition to all other remedies available at law or in equity.

18. **Branding**

AT&T may, at its option, use the Network Elements, **Combinations** and Local Services provided in accordance with this Agreement to provide to its customers services branded as AT&T. Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement or specified in a separate writing by AT&T, AT&T shall provide the exclusive interface to AT&T Customers in connection with the marketing or offering of AT&T services. When a GTE technical representative goes to a customer premise on behalf of AT&T, in the event the representative has contact with the customer, the representative will indicate to the customer that he or she works for GTE but is at the customer premise on behalf of AT&T regarding AT&T service. If the customer is not at the premise at the time that the technical representative is at the premise, GTE agrees to deliver generic material or documents to the customer, and the representative will write AT&T's name on the document or material left for the customer. GTE personnel acting on behalf of AT&T will not discuss, provide, or leave information or material relative to GTE's services and products.

[Combinations]

- 18.1 Operator Services and Directory Assistance provided by GTE to AT&T local service customers under this Agreement will, upon AT&T's request, be branded exclusively as AT&T services, where technically feasible. GTE will perform the necessary software upgrades to allow for rebranding of its Operator Services and Directory Assistance in AT&T's name on a switch by switch basis, subject to capability and capacity limitations; until those upgrades have been completed, GTE will provide rebranded services through alternate means to the extent technically feasible. Such alternate means may include, for example, provisioning of additional trunks necessary to accommodate AT&T's rebranding requests. If it is not technically feasible for GTE to provide Operator Services and Directory Assistance as rebranded services, then GTE will provide such services to AT&T's local service customers without any branding, if allowed by state laws and regulations. Live operators handling Operator Services and Directory Assistance calls from AT&T local service customers will identify themselves as AT&T operators; where such rebranding is not technically feasible, such live operator response will be provided on an unbranded basis. AT&T shall pay GTE's costs, if any, pursuant to the pricing standards of Section 252(d) of the Act and in such amounts or levels as determined by the Commission for implementation of such branding.

19. **Directory Listings and Directory Distribution**

GTE shall offer the following to AT&T:

- 19.1 **Directory Listings (White Pages)** - A basic listing for each AT&T Customer shall be included in the GTE white pages directory for such AT&T Customer's specific geographic area at no charge to AT&T or AT&T's Customers. Where an AT&T Customer has two numbers for a line due to the implementation of interim Local Number Portability, the second number shall be considered part of the White pages basic listing. Other listings that are made available to GTE Customers (e.g. additional listings, non-published status, foreign listings, etc.,) will be made available to AT&T Customers on the same rates, terms and conditions as available to GTE Customers. AT&T Customer Government listings will be listed in the same manner as GTE Customer Government listings.
- 19.2 **Directory Listings (Yellow Pages)** GTE will provide AT&T Customers with the same yellow page services on the same terms and conditions as those provided to GTE Customers. GTE will provide each AT&T Customer within the geographical area covered by the yellow pages directory a basic listing in GTE "yellow pages" under the classified heading that most accurately reflects the primary nature of the AT&T Customer's business at no charge to AT&T or AT&T Customers for this listing. GTE will supply AT&T with a list of authorized classified headings and will notify AT&T of any changes to such headings. AT&T agrees to supply GTE, on a regularly scheduled basis and in the format mutually agreed between AT&T and GTE, with a classified heading assignment for each AT&T Customer who wishes to receive this listing. GTE shall provide AT&T with monthly schedules (for a rolling twelve (12) month period) for Yellow Pages publications in the State.
- 19.3 **Listing Information** - AT&T agrees to supply GTE, on a regularly scheduled basis and in the format mutually agreed between AT&T and GTE, all listing information for AT&T Customers who wish to be listed in the white or yellow pages of the GTE published directory for that subscriber area. Listing information will consist of names, addresses (including city and ZIP code where provided in that directory) and telephone numbers. GTE shall employ the listing information for the production of GTE-published white and yellow page directories. Listing inclusion in a given directory will be in accordance with directory configuration, scope and schedules established by GTE which are applicable to all GTE entities. GTE shall obtain AT&T's prior written approval for the use of AT&T Customers' listings for any other purpose. GTE will not sell or license, nor allow any third party, the use of AT&T subscriber listing and GTE will not disclose non-listed name or address information for any purpose without the prior written consent of AT&T, which shall not be unreasonably withheld. GTE will charge AT&T a reasonable service bureau

extraction fee for all third party translations and AT&T will be free to establish its own fees for direct billing the third parties.

- 19.4 **Directory Distribution** - Initial directories will be provided to AT&T Customers for each AT&T Customer's specific geographic region on the same basis as GTE Customers within the same directory area. More specifically, GTE will not charge AT&T or AT&T Customers for annual distribution of directories. GTE will provide secondary distributions of directories (e.g. a new customer, requests for additional copies) to AT&T Customers at the same price that GTE is charged for secondary distribution by GTE Directories. AT&T shall pay GTE Directories for such secondary distributions based on GTE's agreement that the secondary distribution costs will be excluded from GTE's cost studies and resulting avoided cost discounts and prices for unbundled elements. Timing of such delivery and the determination of which Telephone Directories shall be delivered (by customer address, NPA/NXX or other criteria), and the number of Telephone Directories to be provided per customer, shall be provided under the same terms that GTE delivers Telephone Directories to GTE Customers. AT&T will supply GTE in a timely manner with all required subscriber mailing information, including non-listed and non-published subscriber mailing information, to enable GTE to perform its distribution responsibilities.
- 19.5 **Critical Customer Contact Information** - GTE will list in the information pages of its directories at no charge to AT&T, AT&T's critical customer contact information for business and residential customers regarding emergency services, billing, sales and service information, repair service and AT&T's logo. GTE shall list Competitive Local Exchange Carrier critical customer contact information on an alphabetical basis.
- 19.6 GTE shall also include, in the customer call guide page(s) of each Telephone Directory, up to four full pages of consolidated space for the inclusion of information about AT&T products and services, including addresses and telephone numbers for AT&T customer service. The form and content of such customer information shall be provided by AT&T to GTE and shall be subject to GTE review and approval, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. AT&T agrees to pay a price per page to be determined by GTE Directories, provided that such price shall be non-discriminatory to GTE and AT&T.
- 19.7 GTE shall, at no charge to AT&T, make available recycling services for Telephone Directories to AT&T Customers under the same terms and conditions that GTE makes such services available to its own local service customers.

19.8 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, GTE may terminate this Section 19 as to a specific GTE exchange in the event that GTE sells or otherwise transfers the exchange to an entity other than a GTE Affiliate. GTE shall provide AT&T with at least ninety (90) days' prior written notice of such termination, which shall be effective on the date specified in the notice. Notwithstanding termination as to a specific exchange, this Section 19 shall remain in full force and effect in the remaining exchanges.

19.9 Notwithstanding the termination of this Section 19, the Parties' obligations with respect to any directories whose annual publication cycle has begun prior to the effective date of termination shall survive such termination. For example, if a Party terminates this Section 19 effective as of June 30, 1998, the Parties' survival obligations shall apply as follows:

Exchange	Beginning of Publication Cycle	Expiration of Obligations
1	January 1, 1998	December 31, 1998
2	June 1, 1998	May 31, 1999
3	August 1, 1998	June 30, 1999

a publication cycle begins the day following the listing activity close date for the current year's publication.

19.10 Directory Listing criteria shall be specified by GTE. GTE shall provide any changes to its Directory Listing Criteria thirty (30) days in advance of such changes becoming effective. The Directory Listing criteria shall include:

19.10.1 Classified heading information;

19.10.2 Rules for White Pages and Yellow Pages listings (e.g., eligibility for free Yellow Pages listing, space restrictions, unlisted and unpublished listings, abbreviated listings, foreign listings, and heading requirements);

19.10.3 Identification of Enhanced White Pages and Enhanced Yellow Pages listings available;

19.10.4 Publication schedules for White Pages and Yellow Pages;

19.10.5 Identification of which Telephone Directories are provided to which customers by customer address, NPA/NXX or other criteria;

19.10.6 Telephone Directory delivery schedules;

19.10.7 Restrictions, if any, on number of Telephone Directories provided at no charge to customer;

19.10.8 Processes and terms and conditions for obtaining foreign Telephone Directories from GTE; and

19.10.9 Geographic coverage areas of each Telephone (by municipality and NPA/NXX).

20. **Directory Assistance Listing Information**

20.1 GTE shall include in its directory assistance database all directory assistance listing information, which consists of name and address ("DA Listing Information") for all AT&T Customers, including those with nonpublished and unlisted numbers.

GTE shall provide to AT&T, at AT&T's request, for purposes of AT&T providing AT&T-branded directory assistance services to its local customers, within thirty (30) days after the Effective Date, all published GTE DA Listing Information via magnetic tape delivered within twenty-four (24) hours of preparation, at the rate specified in Attachment 14. Changes to the DA Listing Information shall be updated on a daily basis through the same means used to transmit the initial list. DA Listing Information provided shall indicate whether the customer is a residence or business customer.

20.2 Neither Party will release, sell, or license DA Listing Information that includes the other Party's end user information to third parties without the other Party's approval. The other Party shall inform the releasing Party if it desires to have the releasing Party provide the other Party's DA Listing Information to the third party, in which case, the releasing Party shall provide the other Party's DA Listing Information at the same time as the releasing Party provides the releasing Party's DA Listing Information to the third party. The rate to be paid by the releasing Party to the other Party for such sales shall be negotiated on a case-by-case basis.

21. **Busy Line Verification and Busy Line Verification Interrupt**

Prior to the exchange of traffic under this Agreement, each Party shall establish procedures whereby its operator bureau will coordinate with the operator bureau of the other Party to provide Busy Line Verification ("BLV") and Busy Line Verification Interrupt ("BLVI") services on calls between their respective end users. Each Party shall route BLV and BLVI inquiries over separate inward operator services trunks. Each Party's operator assistance bureau will only verify and/or interrupt the call and will not complete the call of the end-user initiating the BLV or BLVI. Each Party shall charge the other for the BLV and BLVI services on a bill-and-keep basis.

22. Number Assignment

- 22.1 GTE shall allocate Central Office Codes, i.e. NXXs, in a neutral manner at parity with itself in those LATAs where GTE is the number administrator. GTE shall not charge a fee for the allocation of NXXs to AT&T for any costs including, but not limited to, programming expenses incurred by GTE in their role as number administrator; provided, however, that when responsibility for number assignment is transferred to a neutral third party, GTE shall charge a fee for such services to recover costs incurred that is consistent with the applicable rules and regulations for such.
- 22.2 GTE shall process all AT&T NXX requests in a timely manner as per the ICCF Code Assignment Guidelines and will provide numbers in any NPA/NXX associated with a terminating line within the boundaries of an LSO, in those LATAs where GTE is the number administrator.
- 22.3 GTE, during the interim period, will maintain its current process of notifying public utility commissions and state regulatory bodies of plans for NPA splits and code relief.
- 22.4 GTE shall treat as confidential, and solely for use in its role as Code Administrator and for no other purpose, any and all information received from AT&T regarding NPA/NXX forecasts. This information shall be used only for the purposes of code administration, e.g. NPA code relief studies.
- 22.5 GTE shall participate in the transition of its code administration responsibilities to a neutral third party and will notify AT&T if there are not sufficient numbers to meet the forecasted requirements of AT&T.
- 22.6 GTE shall provide AT&T with a file, or files, containing a street address/LSO cross reference indicating which LSO serves the cross referenced street address.

23. Miscellaneous

- 23.1 **Delegation or Assignment** - Any assignment by either Party of any right, obligation, or duty, in whole or in part, or of any interest, without the written consent of the other Party shall be void, except that either Party may assign all of its rights, and delegate its obligations, liabilities and duties under this Agreement, either in whole or in part, to any entity that is, or that was, an Affiliate of that Party without consent, but with written notification, provided that in the case of AT&T, such Affiliate is a certified provider of local dial-tone service in the State to the extent such State requires such certification. The effectiveness of an assignment shall be conditioned upon the assignee's assumption of the rights, obligations, and duties of the assigning Party.

- 23.2 **Subcontracting** - GTE may subcontract the performance of any obligation under this Agreement without the prior written consent of AT&T, provided that GTE shall remain fully responsible for the performance of this Agreement in accordance with its terms, including any obligations it performs through subcontractors, and GTE shall be solely responsible for payments due its subcontractors. No contract, subcontract or other Agreement entered into by either Party with any third party in connection with the provision of Local Services or Network Elements hereunder shall provide for any indemnity, guarantee or assumption of liability by, or other obligation of, the other Party to this Agreement with respect to such arrangement, except as consented to in writing by the other Party. No subcontractor shall be deemed a third party beneficiary for any purposes under this Agreement.
- 23.3 [Intentionally deleted.]
- 23.4 **Binding Effect** - This Agreement shall be binding on and inure to the benefit of the respective successors and permitted assigns of the Parties.
- 23.5 **Nonexclusive Remedies** - Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Agreement, each of the remedies provided under this Agreement is cumulative and is in addition to any remedies that may be available at law or in equity.
- 23.6 **No Third-Party Beneficiaries** - Except as specifically set forth in Section 10.4 and 10.5, this Agreement does not provide and shall not be construed to provide third parties with any remedy, claim, liability, reimbursement, cause of action, or other privilege.
- 23.7 **Referenced Documents** - Whenever any provision of this Agreement refers to a technical reference, technical publication, AT&T Practice, GTE Practice, any publication of telecommunications industry administrative or technical standards, or any other document expressly 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) of such document that is in effect at the time of the execution of this Agreement, 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, GTE Practice, or publication of industry standards.
- 23.8 **Regulatory Agency Control** - This Agreement shall at all times be subject to changes, modifications, orders, and rulings by the FCC and/or the applicable state utility regulatory commission to the extent the substance of this Agreement is or becomes subject to the jurisdiction of such agency. This Agreement is subject to approval of the Commission in accordance with Section 252 of the Act. This Agreement shall not become effective until five

(5) Business Days after receipt by the Parties of written notice of such approval. "Business Day" shall mean Monday through Friday, except for holidays on which the U. S. Mail is not delivered.

- 23.9 **Governing Law** - This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the Act and the FCC's effective Rules and Regulations, and applicable state law to the extent such state law is not inconsistent with the Act, or the FCC's effective Rules and Regulations.
- 23.10 **Publicity and Advertising** - Any news release, public announcement, advertising, or any form of publicity pertaining to this Agreement, or the provision of Local Services, Unbundled Network Elements, Ancillary Functions or Interconnection Services pursuant to it, or association of the Parties with respect to provision of the services described in this Agreement shall be subject to prior written approval of both GTE and AT&T. 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.
- 23.11 **Amendments or Waivers** - 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. In addition, no course of dealing or failure of a Party strictly to enforce any term, right or condition of this Agreement shall be construed as a waiver of such term, right or condition. By entering into this Agreement, neither Party waives any right granted to it pursuant to the Act.
- 23.12 **Severability** - If any term, condition or provision of this Agreement is held by a governmental body of competent jurisdiction be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, such invalidity or unenforceability shall not invalidate the entire Agreement. The Agreement shall be construed as if it did not contain the invalid or unenforceable provision or provisions, and the rights and obligations of each Party shall be construed and enforced accordingly.
- 23.13 **Entire Agreement** - This Agreement, which shall include the Attachments, Appendices and other documents referenced herein, constitutes the entire Agreement between the Parties concerning the subject matter hereof and supersedes any prior agreements, representations, statements, negotiations, understandings, proposals or undertakings, oral or written, with respect to the subject matter expressly set forth herein.
- 23.14 **Survival of Obligations** - 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, limitations on 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.

- 23.15 - **Executed in Counterparts** - In the event that the Commission requires that this Agreement be executed by each of the Parties, 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.
- 23.16 **Headings of No Force or Effect** - The headings of Articles and Sections of this Agreement are for convenience of reference only, and shall in no way define, modify or restrict the meaning or interpretation of the terms or provisions of this Agreement.
- 23.17 **Trademarks and Trade Names** - Except as specifically set out in this Agreement, nothing in this Agreement shall grant, suggest, or imply any right, license or authority for one Party to use the name, trademarks, service marks, or trade names of the other Party for any purpose whatsoever.
- 23.18 **Notice of Network and Technology Changes** - GTE shall establish quarterly reviews of network and technologies plans. GTE shall notify AT&T at least six (6) months in advance of changes that would impact AT&T's provision of service.
- 23.19 **Technical References** -
- 23.19.1 This Agreement contains technical references for unbundled network elements, ancillary services, and interconnection facilities. 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 that pre-date current technical references, individual facility components deployed within GTE's network need not meet or adhere to, and may differ significantly from, the technical references included in this Agreement. Nothing in this Agreement shall prohibit GTE from improving or otherwise modifying its network, including, but not limited to, improvements or modifications to individual facility components, and such improvements or modifications need not meet or adhere to any of the technical references cited throughout this Agreement.

Accordingly, the Parties acknowledge and agree that the technical references contained in this Agreement shall be used only by them as a reference for their own internal network and operational service planning for unbundled network elements, ancillary services, and interconnection facilities. The technical references contained in this Agreement shall not, however, be

interpreted to require GTE to satisfy any of its obligations set forth in this Agreement in accordance with any specification set forth therein.

- 23.19.2 AT&T may request technical information related to any unbundled network element, ancillary service, or interconnection facility offered pursuant to this Agreement. GTE will supply such technical information pursuant to the processes and procedures currently in place between the Parties for answering similar requests for technical information with regard to interLATA access. The Parties agree that GTE will provide technical information belonging to GTE that GTE designates as proprietary and that GTE is otherwise authorized to release pursuant to the nondisclosure provisions of this Agreement. In the event GTE's supplier has designated such information as proprietary, GTE will assist AT&T in seeking the supplier's consent to review such technical information. The number and nature of requests shall be reasonable. If at such time as the above processes and procedures have been utilized by the Parties for a period no shorter than ninety (90) days after receipt by the applicable Party of an initial request, and upon receipt of notice from either Party from the other Party that the Party giving notice deems the existing processes and procedures unsatisfactory, the Parties shall negotiate new processes and procedures and the existing processes and procedures shall no longer apply.
- 23.20 Any figures and/or schematics used throughout this Agreement, including, but not limited to, the figures and/or schematics used in Attachment 2 to this Agreement, are for the convenience of reference only, and shall in no way define, modify or restrict the meaning or interpretation of the terms or provisions of this Agreement.

PART I LOCAL SERVICES RESALE

24. Telecommunications Services Provided for Resale

Upon request by AT&T in accordance with Section 25.1 and subject to the restrictions contained in Section 25.3 hereunder, GTE shall make available to AT&T at the applicable rate set forth in Attachment 14, any Telecommunications Service that GTE currently offers or may hereafter offer at retail to subscribers that are not telecommunications carriers. GTE shall also provide to AT&T local service customers of each such Telecommunications Service the service support functions GTE provides to its own local service customers of the same Telecommunications Service. Such Telecommunications Services and service support functions (preordering, ordering, provisioning, maintenance, repair and billing) provided by GTE pursuant to this Section are collectively referred to as "Local Services."

25. General Terms and Conditions for Resale

25.1 Ordering

- 25.1.1 Orders for resale of Local Services will be placed utilizing a standard Local Service Request ("LSR") form. A complete and accurate LSR must be provided by AT&T before a request can be processed; provided, however, that immaterial deviations or omissions in the LSR will not prevent an order from being processed. Each Party shall transfer the customer's service features and functionalities "as is" to the other Party when requested by a customer. For purposes of this Section 25, an "as is transfer" is the transfer of all the telecommunications services and features available for resale that are currently being provided for the specified account without the requirement of a specific enumeration of the services and features on the LSR.
- 25.1.2 A Letter of Authorization ("LOA") will be required before Local Services will be provided for resale to a subscriber that currently receives local exchange service from GTE or from a local service provider other than AT&T. Such LOA may be a blanket letter of authorization (Blanket LOA) or such other form as agreed upon by AT&T and GTE. When a Blanket LOA has been provided by AT&T, GTE shall not require an additional disconnect order, LOA or other writing from a customer, or another LEC, in order to process an order for Local Service. Each Party will provide the capability for customers to retain their current phone number in the event that they change local service providers to the extent technically feasible, allowing them to retain all existing features and functionalities.
- 25.1.3 GTE shall include an AT&T Customer's listing in its Directory Assistance database as part of the Local Service Request ("LSR") process. GTE will

honor AT&T Customer's preferences for listing status, including non-published and unlisted, as noted on the LSR and will enter the listing in the GTE database which is used to perform Directory Assistance functions as it appears on the LSR.

- 25.1.4 GTE shall accept requests for a change in the primary interexchange carrier of a local exchange customer of AT&T only from AT&T.

25.2 Pricing

The prices to be charged to AT&T for Local Services under this Agreement are set forth in Part V of this Agreement.

25.3 Restrictions on Resale

To the extent consistent with the applicable rules and regulations of the FCC and the Commission, AT&T may resell all GTE Local Services as defined in GTE's tariffs. The following restrictions shall apply to the resale of Local Services, as described in Section 24 of this Agreement by AT&T: (i) AT&T shall not resell residential services to business customers; and (ii) AT&T shall not resell low-income customer services to nonqualifying customers and (iii) AT&T shall resell special restricted educational services only to eligible educational institutions.

- 25.4 [Intentionally deleted]

25.5 Dialing and Service Parity

- 25.5.1 GTE will provide the same dialing parity to AT&T Customers as similarly-situated GTE Customers, such that, for all call types, an AT&T Customer is not required to dial any greater number of digits than a similarly-situated GTE Customer; provided however with respect to intra-LATA dialing, GTE shall provide dialing parity to AT&T customers in the State in accordance with the provisions and schedule established by the Commission.

- 25.5.2 GTE will provide service levels for Local Services for resale that are equal to service levels for similarly-situated GTE Customers, such that there is no loss of features or functionalities including, but not limited to: same dial tone and ringing; same capability for either dial pulse or touch tone recognition; flat and measured services; speech recognition as available; same extended local free calling area; 1+ IntraLATA toll calling; InterLATA toll calling and international calling; 500, 700, 800, 900, 976 and Dial Around (10xxx) Services; restricted collect and third number billing; all available speeds of analogue and digital private lines; off-premise extensions; CENTRANET and ISDN.

25.6 Changes in Retail Service

GTE will notify AT&T of proposed new retail services or modifications to existing retail services forty-five (45) days prior to the expected date of regulatory approval of the new or modified services. If new services or modifications are introduced with less than forty-five (45) days notice to the regulatory authority, GTE will notify AT&T at the same time it determines to introduce the new or modified service. With respect to changes in prices for existing retail services or related resale rates, GTE will notify AT&T at the same time as GTE begins internal implementation efforts (i.e., at least at the time that GTE's Product Management Committee is notified of the proposed change) or obtains internal approval to make the price change, whichever is sooner.

26. Requirements for Specific Services

26.1 [Intentionally deleted]

26.2 CLASS/LASS and Custom Features Requirements

AT&T may purchase the entire set of CLASS/LASS and Custom features and functions, or a subset of any one or any combination of such features, on a customer-specific basis, without restriction on the minimum or maximum number of lines or features that may be purchased for any one level of service, provided such CLASS/LASS and Custom features are available to GTE Customers served by the same GTE Central Office. GTE shall provide to AT&T a list of CLASS/LASS and Custom features and functions within ten (10) business days of the Effective Date and shall provide updates to such list when new features and functions become available. GTE shall provide to AT&T a list of all services, features, and products including a definition of the service (by specific reference to the appropriate tariff sections) and how such services interact with each other. GTE shall provide features and services by street address guide and by switch. All features shall be at least at parity with the GTE service offering.

26.3 This Section intentionally left blank.

26.4 Intercept and Transfer Service

GTE shall provide intercept and transfer service to AT&T for AT&T Customers on the same basis and for the same length of time as such service is available to similarly-situated GTE Customers. To that end, when an end-user customer transfers service from GTE to AT&T, or from AT&T to GTE, and does not retain its original telephone number, the Party formerly providing service to the end user will provide, upon request, a referral announcement on

the original telephone number. The announcement will provide the new number of the customer.

26.5 E911/911 Services

GTE shall provide to AT&T, for AT&T Customers, E911/911 call routing to the appropriate PSAP. AT&T shall provide AT&T Customer information to GTE, and GTE shall validate and provide AT&T Customer information to the PSAP. GTE shall use its service order process to update and maintain, on the same schedule that it uses for its end users, the AT&T Customer service information in the ALI/DMS (Automatic Location Identification/Location Information Database Management System) used to support E911/911 services, pursuant to National Emergency Number Agency (NENA) standards. AT&T shall have the right to verify the accuracy of the information regarding AT&T Customers in the ALI database.

26.6 Telephone Relay Service

GTE will provide the following information to AT&T at no additional charge:

- (i) information concerning a customer's qualification for Telephone Relay Service (TRS) on the Customer Service Record (CSR) when that customer chooses AT&T for local service; and
- (ii) all usage billing information which GTE receives from a provider of TRS for TRS usage by an AT&T Customer.

26.7 Voice Mail Related Services

Nothing in this Agreement shall limit the right of AT&T to purchase features capabilities of voice mail services in accordance with GTE's tariffs. In addition, nothing in this Agreement shall limit the right of AT&T to combine features capabilities of voice mail services purchased in accordance with GTE's tariffs with any Local Services purchased for resale in accordance with this Agreement.

26.8 Voluntary Federal Customer Financial Assistance Programs

Local Services provided to low-income subscribers, pursuant to requirements established by the appropriate state or federal regulatory body, include programs such as Voluntary Federal Customer Financial Assistance Programs, such as Lifeline, and Link-up America (collectively referred to as "Voluntary Federal Customer Financial Assistance Programs") and Directory Assistance - Exempt. When a GTE Customer eligible for these services chooses to obtain Local Service from AT&T, GTE shall forward to AT&T on the Customer Service Record information regarding such customer's eligibility to participate in such programs. If GTE under the applicable laws of the State cannot provide the CSR to AT&T, GTE shall otherwise inform AT&T of such customer's eligibility.

27. Advanced Intelligent Network

- 27.1 GTE will provide AT&T access to the GTE Service Creation Environment (SCE) to design, create, test, deploy and provision AIN-based features, equivalent to the access GTE provides to itself, providing that security arrangements can be made. AT&T requests to use the GTE SCE will be subject to request, review and testing procedures to be agreed upon by the parties.
- 27.2 When AT&T utilizes GTE's Local Switching network element and requests GTE to provision such network element with a Currently Available AIN trigger, GTE will provide access to the appropriate AIN Call Related Database for the purpose of invoking either a GTE AIN feature or an AT&T developed AIN feature described in 27.1, above.
- 27.3 When AT&T utilizes its own local switch, GTE will provide access to the appropriate AIN Call Related Database for the purpose of invoking either a GTE AIN feature or an AT&T developed AIN feature described in 27.1, above.
- 27.4 Any mediation to GTE's AIN database will be performed on a competitively neutral, nondiscriminatory basis. Any network management controls found necessary to protect the SCP from an overload condition must be applied on a nondiscriminatory basis for all users of that database, including GTE. GTE and AT&T agree that any load mediation will affect all links to the STP, including GTE's, in a like manner. AT&T will provide the information necessary to ensure that GTE is able to engineer sufficient capacity on the AIN SCP platform.

28. Routing to Directory Assistance and Operator Services

- 28.1 Where AT&T purchases either Local Services or Local Switching as an Unbundled Element, upon AT&T's request, GTE will, where technically feasible, provide the functionality and features required to modify the AT&T Customer's line at GTE's local switch (LS) to route all calls to the AT&T Network for local Directory Assistance and the AT&T Platform for Operator Services. AT&T shall pay GTE's costs, if any, pursuant to the pricing standards of Section 252(d) of the Act and in such amounts or levels as determined by the Commission for implementation of such routing.
- 28.2 **Directory Assistance**
- Upon AT&T's request, and where technically feasible, GTE shall route local Directory Assistance calls, including 411 and (NPA) 555-1212, dialed by AT&T Customers directly to the AT&T platform, unless AT&T requests otherwise pursuant to Section 28.7.2. AT&T shall pay GTE's costs, if any, pursuant to

the pricing standards of Section 252(d) of the Act and in such amounts or levels as determined by the Commission for implementation of such routing.

28.3 Operator Services

Upon AT&T's request, and where technically feasible, GTE shall route local Operator Services calls (0+, 0-) dialed by AT&T Customers directly to the AT&T Local Operator Services platform, unless AT&T requests otherwise pursuant to Section 28.7.1. Such traffic shall be routed over trunk groups specified by AT&T which connect GTE end offices and the AT&T Local Operator Services platform, using standard Operator Services dialing protocols of 0+ or 0-. Where intraLATA presubscription is not available, GTE will provide the functionality and features within its local switch (LS), to route AT&T Customer dialed 0- and 0+ intraLATA calls to the AT&T designated line or trunk on the Main Distributing Frame (MDF) or Digital Cross Connect (DSX) panel via Modified Operator Services (MOS) Feature Group C signaling. Where intraLATA presubscription is available, AT&T Customer dialed 0- and 0+ intraLATA calls will be routed to the intraLATA PIC carrier's designated operator services platform. In all cases, GTE will provide post-dial delay no greater than that provided by GTE for its end user customers. For switches lacking the existing capacity and capability to provide the customized rerouting described in this Section 28, GTE shall develop alternative forms of customized routing. AT&T shall pay GTE's costs, if any, pursuant to the pricing standards of Section 252(d) of the Act and in such amounts or levels as determined by the Commission for implementation of such routing.

28.4 Repair Calls

In the event an AT&T Customer calls GTE with a request for repairs, GTE shall provide the AT&T Customer with AT&T's repair 800-telephone number. AT&T agrees to provide GTE with AT&T's repair 800-telephone numbers.

In the event a GTE Customer calls AT&T with a request for repairs, AT&T shall provide the GTE Customer with GTE's repair 800-telephone number. GTE agrees to provide AT&T with GTE's repair 800-telephone number.

28.5 Non-discriminatory Treatment

All direct routing capabilities described herein shall permit AT&T Customers to dial the same telephone numbers for AT&T Directory Assistance, Local Operator and the same number of digits for Repair Services that similarly-situated GTE Customers dial for reaching equivalent GTE services. AT&T and GTE will use 800/888 numbers where necessary to achieve this result.

28.6 [Intentionally deleted.]

28.7 Optional Routing

28.7.1 **Operator Services:** AT&T may request GTE to route AT&T Customers to GTE Operator Services. In this case, the requirements for GTE-provided Operator Services as part of the Total Services Resale service shall be those requirements specified in Attachment 2, "Unbundled Elements", Section 5.1, "Operator Services."

28.7.2 **Directory Assistance:** AT&T may request GTE to route AT&T Customers to GTE's Directory Assistance. In this case, the requirements for GTE-provided Directory Assistance Services as part of the Total Services Resale service shall be those requirements specified in Attachment 2, "Unbundled Elements", Section 6, "Directory Services."

28.8 Line Information Database Updates

GTE shall update and maintain AT&T Customer information in the GTE Line Information Database ("LIDB") in the same manner and on the same schedule that it maintains information in LIDB for GTE Customers.

28.9 Telephone Line Number Calling Cards

Upon request by an AT&T Customer or by AT&T on behalf of an AT&T Customer, and effective as of the date of an end user's subscription to AT&T service (or such later date as such request is received), GTE will remove any GTE-assigned telephone line calling card number (including area code) ("TLN") from GTE's LIDB. AT&T may issue a new telephone calling card to such customer, utilizing the same TLN, and AT&T shall have the right to enter such TLN in AT&T's LIDB for calling card validation purposes.

28.10 End Office Features

GTE shall provide the following end-office features in those end offices in which such features are available to GTE Customers: CLASS features; Repeat Dial Capability; Multi-line Hunting; and trunk connectivity to private branch exchange switches (PBX's) and Direct Inward Dialed Services and all other end-office features that GTE makes available to GTE Customers.

28.11 Call Blocking

Upon AT&T's request and when available to similarly-situated GTE Customers, GTE will provide blocking on a line by line basis of an AT&T Customer's access to any or all of the following call types: 900/976; bill to third and collect; and such other call types for which GTE provides blocking to similarly situated GTE Customers.

28.12 Law Enforcement and Service Annoyance

Not later than forty-five (45) business days after the Effective Date, GTE and AT&T will begin the process of developing procedures to handle requests from law enforcement agencies for service termination, wire taps and provisions of Customer Usage Data pursuant to a lawful process as well as procedures to handle AT&T Customer complaints concerning harassing or annoying calls. Such procedures will include, but not be limited to, a process for AT&T to interface with GTE regarding law enforcement and service annoyance issues on a 24 hour per day, 7 days a week basis and otherwise on the same basis as GTE provides access for its own customers.

29. Service Support Functions

29.1 Electronic Interface

29.1.1 [Intentionally Deleted.]

29.1.1.1 [Intentionally Deleted.]

29.1.2 [Intentionally Deleted.]

29.1.3 GTE will make available all services and functions covered under this Agreement via the then Currently Available national interface options provided to AT&T by GTE for purposes of connecting to GTE's Operations Support Systems ("OSS"). GTE and AT&T will mutually agree upon the date for implementation of the interface options in the State.

29.1.4 [Intentionally Deleted.]

29.1.5 [Intentionally Deleted.]

29.1.6 GTE shall provide the same information, of the same quality and within the same time frames for Pre-Ordering, Ordering/Provisioning, Maintenance/Repairs and Billing to AT&T as GTE provides to itself. The Parties recognize that GTE is not required to establish new systems or processes in order to provide information to AT&T which GTE does not provide to itself.

29.1.7 GTE shall recover its costs of creating the permanent OSS gateway and any interim interfaces in a competitively neutral manner. GTE shall track the costs it incurs in implementing the electronic interface and prepare proposed rates for this service to be submitted to the Commission once the interface is operative. The proposal will include the underlying assumptions, rationale, and supporting work papers and all other documentation on which the proposal is based. GTE shall also provide cost data and a copy of the proposal, including all workpapers, underlying assumptions, rationale,

supporting workpapers, and all other documentation on which the proposal is based to AT&T and AT&T may submit proposed rates as well.

29.2 Service Standards

29.2.1 GTE shall ensure that all Service Support Functions used to provision Local Service to AT&T for resale are provided at a quality level equal to that which GTE provides to itself, to its end users or to its affiliates.

29.2.2 Not later than twenty (20) business days after the Effective Date of this Agreement, GTE and AT&T shall begin the process of developing mutually agreed-upon escalation and expedite procedures to be employed at any point in the Local Service Pre-Ordering, Ordering/Provisioning, Testing, Maintenance, Billing and Customer Usage Data transfer processes to facilitate rapid and timely resolution of Disputes.

29.3 Point of Contact for the AT&T Customer

29.3.1 Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement or as directed by AT&T, AT&T shall be the single and sole point of contact for all AT&T Customers with respect to AT&T Local Services.

29.3.2 GTE shall refer all questions regarding any AT&T service or product directly to AT&T at a telephone number specified by AT&T and provided to GTE for that purpose.

29.3.3 GTE representatives who receive inquiries regarding AT&T services: (i) shall refer callers who inquire about AT&T services or products to the numbers provided; and (ii) will not in any way disparage or discriminate against AT&T, or its products or services.

29.4 Single Point of Contact

Each Party shall provide the other Party with a single point of contact ("SPOC") for each functional area for all inquiries regarding the implementation of this Part. Each Party shall accept all inquiries from the other Party and provide timely responses.

29.5 Service Order

To facilitate the ordering of new service for resale or changes to such service to an AT&T Customer, AT&T's representative will have access to GTE Customer information to enable the AT&T representative to perform the tasks enumerated below. Until electronic interfaces are established, these functions will be performed with the use of an 800 number.

29.5.1 Obtain customer account information through the same nondiscriminatory access to Operation Support Systems for pre-ordering, ordering, provisioning,

maintenance and repair, and billing as GTE provides itself including information regarding the facilities and services assigned to individual customers.

- 29.5.2 Obtain information on all features and services available, including new services, by LSO identified by switch, NPA-NXX and customer street address.
- 29.5.3 Submit the AT&T Customer order by submitting an LSR using the agreed upon electronic interface (the Network Data Mover or NDM) for all desired features and services;
- 29.5.4 Assign a telephone number, including a vanity number, (if the AT&T Customer does not have one assigned). As an interim step prior to the implementation of the electronic interface specified in Section 29.1, GTE will establish an 800 (toll-free) number for AT&T;
- 29.5.5 Submit the appropriate directory listing using the agreed to EI;
- 29.5.6 Determine if a service call is needed to install the line or service;
- 29.5.7 Schedule dispatch and installation, if applicable;
- 29.5.8 Provide service availability dates to customer;
- 29.5.9 Order local and intraLATA toll service and enter AT&T Customer's choice of primary interexchange carrier on a single, unified order; and
- 29.5.10 Suspend, terminate or restore service to an AT&T Customer using agreed to methods (temporary disconnects for nonpayment may not be requested using the LSR).

29.6 Provisioning

- 29.6.1 After receipt and acceptance of an LSR, GTE shall provision such LSR in accordance with the following Intervals and in accordance with the service parity standards and other performance standards specified in Section 11 and Attachment 12.
- 29.6.2 GTE shall provide AT&T with service status notices, on a Real Time basis. Such status notices shall include the following:
 - 29.6.2.1 Firm order confirmation, including service availability date and information regarding the need for a service dispatch for installation;
 - 29.6.2.2 Notice of service installation issued at time of installation, including any additional information, such as material charges;

- 29.6.2.3 Changes/rejections/errors in LSRs;
- 29.6.2.4 Service completion;
- 29.6.2.5 Jeopardies and missed appointments;
- 29.6.2.6 Charges associated with necessary construction;
- 29.6.2.7 Order status at critical intervals;
- 29.6.2.8 Test results of the same type that GTE records for itself or its own customers.
- 29.6.3 GTE shall inform AT&T of overall change order flexibility and any changes thereto on a Real Time basis.
- 29.6.4 GTE shall notify AT&T prior to making any changes in the services, features or functions specified on the LSR. If an AT&T Customer requests a service change at the time of installation GTE shall refer the AT&T Customer to AT&T.
- 29.6.5 GTE shall provide provisioning support to AT&T on the same basis that it provides to other competitive LECs and to itself. GTE retains full discretion to control the scheduling of its provisioning workforce.
- 29.6.6 GTE shall provide training for all GTE employees who may communicate, either by telephone or face-to-face, with AT&T Customers, during the provisioning process. Such training shall include training on compliance with the branding requirements of this Agreement.
- 29.7 **Provision of Customer Usage Data**

GTE shall provide the Customer Usage Data recorded by GTE. Such data shall include complete AT&T Customer usage data for Local Service, (i.e., the same usage data that GTE records for billing its own customers), in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in Attachment 7.
- 29.8 **Service/Operation Readiness Testing**
 - 29.8.1 In addition to testing described elsewhere in this Section 29, GTE shall test the systems used to perform the following functions at a negotiated interval and in no event less than ten (10) business days prior to commencement of GTE's provision of Local Service to AT&T, in order to establish system readiness capabilities:
 - 29.8.1.1 All interfaces between AT&T and GTE work centers for Service Order Provisioning;
 - 29.8.1.2 Maintenance, Billing and Customer Usage Data;

- 29.8.1.3 The process for GTE to provide customer profiles;
- 29.8.1.4 The installation scheduling process;
- 29.8.1.5 Network alarm reporting;
- 29.8.1.6 Telephone number assignment;
- 29.8.1.7 Procedures for communications and coordination between AT&T SPOC and GTE SPOC;
- 29.8.1.8 Procedures for transmission of Customer Usage Data; and
- 29.8.1.9 Procedures for transmitting bills to AT&T for Local Service.
- 29.8.2 The functionalities identified above shall be tested in order to determine whether GTE performance meets the service parity requirements and other performance standards specified in Section 11. GTE shall make available sufficient technical staff to perform such testing. GTE technical staff shall be available to meet with AT&T as necessary to facilitate testing. GTE and AT&T shall mutually agree on the schedule for such testing.
- 29.8.3 At AT&T's request, GTE shall provide to AT&T any results of the testing performed pursuant to the terms of this Part. AT&T may review such results and may notify GTE of any failures to meet the requirements of this Agreement.
- 29.8.4 GTE shall provide to AT&T the same type and quality of loop testing information that it provides to and records for itself. Where GTE develops loop testing information as a matter of course, it will make that information available to AT&T where such information is relevant to AT&T's business. Where GTE maintains the internal discretion to test loops as needed, GTE will provide similar testing discretion to AT&T. AT&T shall pay the full cost of any such discretionary testing.
- 29.8.5 Within 60 days of the Effective Date of this Agreement, AT&T and GTE will agree upon a process to resolve cooperative testing issues and technical issues relating to GTE's provision of Local Services to AT&T. The agreed upon process shall include procedures for escalating disputes and unresolved issues up through higher levels of each company's management. If AT&T and GTE do not reach agreement on such a process within 60 days, any issues that have not been resolved by the Parties with respect to such process shall be submitted to the ADR procedures set forth in Section 15 and Attachment 1 of this Agreement unless both Parties agree to extend the time to reach agreement on such issues.

29.9 Maintenance

GTE shall provide maintenance in accordance with the requirements and standards set forth in Attachment 5 and in accordance with the service parity requirements set forth in this Agreement.

29.10 Billing For Local Service

29.10.1 GTE shall bill AT&T for Local Service provided by GTE to AT&T pursuant to the terms of this Part, and in accordance with the terms and conditions for Connectivity Billing and Recording in Attachment 6.

29.10.2 GTE shall recognize AT&T as the customer of record for all Local Service and will send all notices, bills and other pertinent information directly to AT&T.

30. Pay Phone Lines and Pay Phone Services

30.1 Intentionally left blank.

30.2 "Pay phone lines" are defined as the loop from the pay phone point of demarcation to the Service Wiring Center and includes all supporting central office functions and features.

30.3 GTE shall make available to AT&T for resale the following classes of pay phone lines:

30.3.1 Customer Owned Coin Operated Telephone (COCOT) Lines;

30.3.2 Coinless COCOT Lines;

30.3.3 Coin Lines in those jurisdictions where provision of such lines is required by law;

30.3.4 [This section left intentionally blank]

30.3.5 [Intentionally deleted.]

30.4 [This section left intentionally blank]

30.5 GTE shall make available pay phone line service options as follows:

30.6 When providing COCOT Lines to AT&T for resale, GTE shall offer the following, to the extent that GTE provides such services and in those jurisdictions and/or central offices where available: originating line screening; billed number screening; PIC protection for all 1+ inter and intraLATA traffic (when presubscription is authorized); one way and/or two way service (if so provided in the applicable tariff) on the line; detailed billing showing all 1+

traffic; AT&T's service center phone number to all AT&T end users that contact GTE service centers; number portability for end users; touchtone service; line side answer supervision; GTE designated contact center as single point of contact for customer service; provisioning of 911 service; access to Answer Number Identifier (ANI) Information; all information necessary to permit AT&T to bill end users for access line usage; the same monitoring and diagnostic routines as GTE utilizes on its own facilities; one directory for each line installed; blocking for 1+ international calls, 10XXX1+ international calls 1-900 calls, 1-976 calls DA link, any 1+ service that can be billed to the line but that is not rated, 1-700 calls, 1-500 calls, and in bound international calls where SS7 signaling is available.

- 30.7 When providing Coinless COCOT Lines to AT&T for resale, GTE shall offer the following, to the extent that GTE provides such services and in those jurisdictions and/or central offices where available: originating line screening; billed number screening; PIC protection for all 1+ inter and intraLATA traffic (where inter and intraLATA presubscription is available); one way and/or two way service on the line (if so provided in the tariff); flat service where flat service is required by the applicable tariff, measured service where measured service is required by the applicable tariff, and both flat and measured service where both flat and measured service are required by the applicable tariff; detailed billing showing all 1+ traffic; AT&T's service center phone number to all AT&T end users that contact GTE service center; number portability for end users; touchtone service; GTE designated contact center as single point of contact for customer service; provisioning of 911 service; access to ANI information; all information necessary to permit AT&T to bill end users for access line usage; the same monitoring and diagnostic routines as GTE utilizes on its own facilities; one directory for each line installed; blocking for any service that can be billed to the line but not rated and all 1+ calls except where local mandate requires access to Directory Assistance.
- 30.8 [Intentionally Deleted.]
- 30.9 When providing Customer Owned Pay Telephone (COPT) Lines to AT&T for resale, GTE shall offer the following to the extent that GTE provides such services and in those jurisdictions and/or central offices where available. Access to all Central Office intelligence required to provide COPT Line pay phone services; far end disconnect recognition; call timing for intra- and interLATA calls; at the customer's option, one way or two way service on the line in those jurisdictions where available; detailed billing showing all 1+ traffic; AT&T's service center phone number to all AT&T end users; touchtone service; line side supervision in those jurisdictions where available; GTE designated contact center for use by AT&T only as single point of contact for customer service; provisioning of 911 service; access to ANI information; all information necessary to permit AT&T to bill end users for access line usage;

the same monitoring and diagnostic routines as GTE utilizes on its own facilities; one directory for each line installed; blocking for 1+ international calls and any 1+ service that cannot be rated by the phone pay line or any operator service.

- 30.10 For any pay phone line provided to AT&T for resale, GTE shall also make available to AT&T any future pay phone line option that GTE provides to any of its own customers using such a pay phone line.
- 30.11 GTE shall adhere to the following additional requirements when providing pay phone lines for resale:
 - 30.11.1 GTE shall provide AT&T with the same call restrictions and fraud protections used by GTE in connection with its pay phones;
 - 30.11.2 GTE shall not block AT&T's existing access to NAI codes;
 - 30.11.3 GTE shall forward all AT&T pay phone customers to the designated AT&T line or trunk group for handling Operator Services or Directory Assistance calls.
 - 30.11.4 [Intentionally Deleted.]
 - 30.11.5 GTE shall provide all pay phone lines for resale to AT&T at the wholesale discount price required by the Commission, except that GTE is not required to provide a wholesale discount on pay phone services that it does not offer at retail.

PART II: UNBUNDLED NETWORK ELEMENTS

31. Introduction

This Part II sets forth the unbundled Network Elements that GTE agrees to offer to AT&T in accordance with its obligations under Section 251(c)(3) of the Act and effective rules of the FCC. The specific terms and conditions that apply to the unbundled Network Elements are described below and in Attachment 2. Prices for Network Elements are set forth in Part V and Attachment 14 of this Agreement.

32. Unbundled Network Elements

- 32.1 GTE will offer Network Elements to AT&T on an unbundled basis at rates set forth in Attachment 14.
- 32.2 GTE will permit AT&T to interconnect AT&T's facilities or facilities provided by AT&T or by third parties with each of GTE's unbundled Network Elements at any point designated by AT&T that is technically feasible.
- 32.3 AT&T, at its option, may designate any Currently Available network interface.
- 32.4 Pursuant to the terms of this Agreement, AT&T may use one or more Network Elements to provide any Telecommunications Service that such Network Element is capable of providing.

- 32.5 Network Elements offered to AT&T by GTE pursuant to this Agreement shall be offered individually and for purposes of AT&T offering telecommunications services to its end-user customers. In no event shall GTE be required to bundle or combine Network Elements offered pursuant to this Agreement GTE shall offer each Network Element individually and in combination with any other Network Element or Network Elements, so long as such combination is technically feasible, in order to permit AT&T to combine such Network Element or Network Elements with another Network Element or other Network Elements obtained from GTE or with network components provided by itself or by third parties to provide telecommunications services to its customers. Any bundling or combining of Network Elements purchased from GTE will be the sole responsibility of AT&T, and any such bundling or combining of Network Elements shall be performed at AT&T's sole expense. If AT&T combines any Network Elements provided pursuant to this Agreement and replicates a resold service offered by GTE, AT&T shall pay the wholesale price for such retail

service as set forth in this Agreement, not the unbundled Network Element rate. In connection with any request by AT&T that GTE provide pursuant to this Agreement, any unbundled Network Element that is located in, or terminates to, a GTE Wire Center including but not limited to GTE's central offices, serving wire centers, tandem switches, and at controlled environmental vaults, huts and cabinets; and prior to provision by GTE of any such unbundled Network Element pursuant to this Agreement, AT&T shall enter into a collocation arrangement with GTE consistent with the requirements of Attachment 3 to this Agreement and shall pay the appropriate rate for such collocation in accordance with Attachment 14 to this Agreement. If AT&T interconnects any such Network Element with GTE's Wire Centers or otherwise interconnects such Network Element with GTE's network, AT&T shall do so in accordance with Part IV of this Agreement.

[Combinations]

- 32.6 For each Network Element, GTE shall provide a demarcation point (e.g., an interconnection point at a Digital Signal Cross-Connect or Light Guide Cross-Connect panels or a Main Distribution Frame) and, if necessary, access to such demarcation point, which AT&T agrees is suitable. However, where GTE provides contiguous Network Elements to AT&T, GTE may, at its option, provide the existing interconnections and no demarcation point shall exist between such contiguous Network Elements.

[Combinations]

- 32.7 GTE shall not charge AT&T an interconnection fee or demand other consideration for directly interconnecting any Network Element or Combination to any other Network Element or Combination provided by GTE to AT&T if GTE directly interconnects the same two Network Elements or Combinations in providing any service to its own customers or a GTE affiliate, including the use of intermediate devices, such as a digital signal cross connect panel, to perform such interconnection.

[Combinations]

- 32.8 The total charge to AT&T to interconnect any Network Element or Combination to any other Network Element or Combination provided by GTE to AT&T if GTE does not directly interconnect the same two Network Elements or Combinations in providing

any service to its own customers or a GTE affiliate (e.g., the interconnection required to connect the Loop Feeder to GTE's collocated equipment), shall be the total service long-run incremental cost of providing the interconnection.

[Combinations]

32.9 Except with respect to the Loop Distribution, Loop Concentrator/Multiplexer, and Loop Feeder elements, which shall in all cases be subject to the bona fide request process described in Attachment 12, set forth below is a list of Network Elements that AT&T and GTE have identified as of the Effective Date of this Agreement and will be offered to AT&T by GTE in accordance with Applicable Law. AT&T and GTE agree that AT&T may identify additional or revised Network Elements that it desires, provided, however, that in no event shall there be a presumption that GTE is required to provide any such additional or revised Network Element(s) on the basis that the unbundling of such Network Element(s) is, will, or has become technically feasible. To the extent any such new or revised Network Elements are proprietary Network Elements, GTE's obligation, if any, to provide such new or revised Network Elements shall be determined pursuant to and in accordance with 47 CFR 51.317(b) as such rule is then in effect. All such additional or modified Network Elements shall be subject to the Bona Fide Requests Procedures outlined in Attachment 12. Descriptions and references for each Network Element identified below are set forth in Attachment 2. The Network Elements described in Attachment 2 consist of:

Loop or Loop Combination

Network Interface Device (NID)

Loop Distribution, otherwise known as Distribution Media

Loop Concentrator/Multiplexer

Loop Feeder

Local Switching

Operator Service

Directory Assistance Service

Common Transport

Dedicated Transport

Signaling Link Transport

Signaling Transfer Points

Service Control Points (SCPs)/Databases

Tandem Switching
Unused Transmission Media
OSS

Operational Support Systems will be provided in accordance with the terms of this Agreement, including without limitation, Section 29 and Attachments 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7.

[Combinations]

32.10 Standards for Network Elements

32.10.1 Nothing in this Agreement shall be interpreted to require GTE to bundle or combine Network Elements upon AT&T's request. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, GTE shall only be responsible for the functioning of each of the Network Elements that GTE provides to AT&T pursuant to this Agreement and under no event or circumstance shall GTE be responsible for the combined or end-to-end performance of any Network Element(s) that AT&T bundles or combines with any other Network Element(s).

[Combinations]

32.10.2 [Intentionally Deleted]

32.10.3 [Intentionally Deleted]

32.10.3.1 If AT&T contends that GTE has failed to meet the requirements of this Section 32, AT&T will provide GTE documentation of such purported failure. Within a reasonable time period after receiving such documentation, GTE shall provide to AT&T engineering, design, performance and other network data that the parties mutually agree in accordance with Section 23.19 of this Agreement is necessary and sufficient for AT&T to determine that the requirements of this Section 32 are being met. In the event that such data establishes that the requirements of this Section 32 are not being met, GTE shall, within ten (10) business days, cure any design, performance or other deficiency and provide new data that the parties mutually agree is sufficient for AT&T to determine that such deficiencies have been cured. To the extent that GTE is unable to meet the above time frame, GTE shall promptly notify AT&T prior to the expiration of such time frame and the Parties shall agree on a revised completion date.

32.10.3.2 The Parties agree to work cooperatively with each other to effectuate the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

32.10.4 [Intentionally Deleted]

PART III: ANCILLARY FUNCTIONS

33. Introduction

This Part III sets forth the Ancillary Functions that GTE agrees to offer to AT&T so that AT&T may interconnect to GTE's network and obtain access to unbundled Network Elements to use to provide services to its customers.

34. GTE Provision of Ancillary Functions

34.1 GTE will offer Ancillary Functions to AT&T pursuant to this Agreement on the rates, terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement.

34.2 GTE will permit AT&T to interconnect AT&T's equipment and facilities or equipment and facilities provided by AT&T or by third parties for purposes of interconnection or access to Network Elements in accordance with the interconnection provisions of this Agreement.

34.3 Pursuant to the terms of this Agreement, AT&T may use any Ancillary Function to provide any Telecommunications Service that such Ancillary Function is capable of providing.

34.4 Set forth below is the list of Ancillary Functions that AT&T and GTE have identified as of the Effective Date of this Agreement. Either Party may identify additional or revised Ancillary Functions that it desires. All such additional or revised Ancillary Functions shall be subject to the Bona Fide Requests procedures outlined in Attachment 12. Descriptions and requirements for each Ancillary Function are set forth in Attachment 3. The Ancillary Functions described in Attachment 3 consist of:

Collocation
Right of Way (ROW)
Conduit
Pole attachment

35. Standards for Ancillary Functions

35.1 Subject to Section 23.19, each Ancillary Function shall meet or exceed the requirements set forth in applicable technical references, as well as the performance and other requirements, identified in this Agreement.

- 35.2 Unless otherwise provided for in this Agreement or mutually agreed to by the Parties, the performance standards of such Ancillary Functions made available to AT&T under this Agreement shall be equal to that which GTE provides to itself, its subsidiaries or its Affiliates.
- 35.3 If AT&T contends that GTE has failed to meet the requirements of Part III and Attachment 3, AT&T will provide GTE documentation of such purported failure. Within a reasonable time period after receiving such documentation, GTE shall provide to AT&T engineering, design, performance and other network data that the parties mutually agree is necessary and sufficient for AT&T to determine that the requirements of Part III and Attachment 3 of this Agreement are being met. In the event that such data establishes that the requirements of Part III and Attachment 3 of this Agreement are not being met, GTE shall, within 30 business days, cure any design, performance or other deficiency and provide new data that the parties mutually agree is sufficient for AT&T to determine that such deficiencies have been cured. To the extent that GTE is unable to meet the above timeframe, GTE shall promptly notify AT&T prior to the expiration of such timeframe and the Parties shall agree on a revised completion date.
- 35.4 Unless otherwise provided in this Agreement or mutually agreed by the Parties, each Ancillary Function shall be made available to AT&T by GTE on a basis that is equal to the priorities that GTE provides to itself, its subsidiaries or its Affiliates.
- 35.5 [Intentionally deleted]

PART IV: INTERCONNECTION PURSUANT TO SECTION 251(C)(2)

36. Scope

Section 37 describes the physical architecture for Interconnection of the Parties' facilities and equipment for the transmission and routing of Local Traffic and Exchange Access traffic between the respective business and residential customers of the Parties pursuant to the Act. Interconnection may not be used solely for the purpose of originating a Party's own interexchange traffic. Sections 38 to 39 prescribe the specific logical trunk groups (and traffic routing parameters) which will be configured over the physical Interconnections described in this Part related to the transmission and routing of Local Traffic and Exchange Access traffic, respectively. Other trunk groups, as described in this Agreement, may be configured using this architecture.

37. Interconnection Points and Methods.

37.1 In each LATA identified pursuant to the procedures of Section 37.6, AT&T and GTE shall Interconnect their networks at the GTE and AT&T Wire Centers identified in such notice for the transmission and routing within that LATA of Local Traffic and Exchange Access traffic.

37.2 Interconnection in each LATA shall be accomplished at any technically feasible point within GTE's networks for a given LATA, including through collocation in GTE's Wire Centers as provided in Attachment 3. AT&T shall designate a minimum of one interconnection point within a LATA. If AT&T desires a single interconnection point within a LATA, AT&T shall ensure that GTE maintains the ability to bill for the services provided. AT&T may interconnect at one tandem in the LATA for exchange of local, mandatory EAS and IntraLATA toll traffic by bringing separate trunk groups to that interconnection point for each tandem in that LATA and then by using dedicated special access transport to extend the trunk group from the interconnection point to the designated tandem.

37.3 Interconnection using Collocation:

If the Parties Interconnect their networks using Collocation in GTE's Wire Centers, the following requirements apply:

37.3.1 AT&T will deploy a local service network that places switching and transmission equipment throughout the LATA. The placement of this equipment uses a combination of AT&T owned Wire Centers and collocated space in GTE Wire Centers.

37.3.2 AT&T will request interconnection with GTE at specific points in GTE's network. The following options are available for (i) the termination of traffic to the GTE network, (ii) the termination of traffic to the AT&T network and (iii) the transiting of traffic to/from a third party network.

37.4 Local Traffic and IntraLATA Toll Traffic - Originating on AT&T, Terminating on GTE.

AT&T may build trunk groups to GTE using the following representative, but not exclusive, options: (i) from AT&T collocated equipment in a Wire Center to the GTE Tandem; (ii) from AT&T collocated equipment in a GTE Wire Center to the GTE End Office Switch; or (iii) from AT&T 4ESS Switches located at AT&T POPs to the nearest GTE Tandem.

Interfaces for these interconnections may be based upon, but not limited to, the following: (i) DS1: from an AT&T-collocated DDM-2000 to a GTE Central Office Switch; (ii) SONET STS1: from an AT&T-collocated DDM-2000 to an GTE 5ESS®-2000 Central Office Switch and (iii) DS1/DS3: from an AT&T 4ESS Switch at an AT&T POP to a GTE Tandem using new trunk groups on existing facilities.

37.4.1 Upon request by either Party, the other Party shall provide, for the purpose of network planning and management, performance data regarding traffic characteristics with respect to the first Party's trunks and interconnections to and with the other Party. The specific quantity, timing and detail of such performance data shall be mutually agreed upon by the teams implementing this Agreement.

37.5 Transit Service Traffic

37.5.1 GTE agrees that it shall provide Transit Service to AT&T on terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement.

37.5.2 "Transit Service" means the delivery of certain traffic between AT&T and a third party LEC or ILEC by GTE over the Local/IntraLATA Trunks. The following types of traffic will be delivered: (i) Local Traffic and IntraLATA Toll Traffic originated from AT&T to such third party LEC or ILEC and (ii) Local Traffic and IntraLATA Toll Traffic originated from such third party LEC or ILEC and terminated to AT&T

where GTE carries such traffic pursuant to the Commission's primary toll carrier plan or other similar plan.

- 37.5.3 While the Parties agree that it is the responsibility of each third party LEC or ILEC to enter into arrangements to deliver Local Traffic between them, they acknowledge that such arrangements are not currently in place and an interim arrangement is necessary to ensure traffic completion. Accordingly, until the earlier of (i) the date on which either Party has entered into an arrangement with such third party LEC or ILEC to deliver Local Traffic via direct trunks or (ii) the termination of this Agreement, GTE will transit such traffic.
- 37.5.4 All networks involved in transit traffic will deliver each call to each involved network with CCIS to the extent available from third party LECs and the appropriate Transaction Capabilities Application Part (TCAP) messages to facilitate full interoperability and billing functions. In all cases, each Party is responsible to follow Exchange Message Record ("EMR") standard and exchange records with both the other Party and the terminating LEC or ILEC to facilitate the billing process to the originating network.
- 37.5.5 Transiting traffic will be delivered using the physical connection options as described in Section 37.4.
- 37.6 Selection of LATAs**
- 37.6.1 If AT&T determines to offer Telephone Exchange Services in any LATA, AT&T shall provide written notice to GTE of its need to establish Interconnection in such LATA pursuant to this Agreement. This notice shall include (i) the Wire Centers that AT&T has designated in the LATA, and (ii) a non-binding forecast of AT&T's trunking requirements indicating the proposed Interconnection Activation Date. AT&T shall issue an ASR to GTE in accordance with Section 37.6.3 to order the Interconnection facilities and trunks.
- 37.6.2 Unless otherwise agreed by the Parties, the Parties shall designate the Wire Center AT&T has identified as its initial Routing Point in the LATA as the ATIWC in that LATA and shall designate the GTE Tandem Office within the LATA nearest to the ATIWC (as measured in airline miles utilizing the V&H coordinates method) as the AIWC in that LATA.
- 37.6.3 Unless otherwise agreed by the Parties, the Interconnection Activation Date in each LATA in which no construction is required shall be twenty-five (25) business days after the date on which AT&T delivered notice via an ASR to GTE pursuant to this Section. Where

construction is required, the Interconnection Activation Date shall be as mutually agreed by the Parties.

- 37.6.4 GTE and AT&T will conduct joint planning sessions to determine the following representative, but not exclusive, information: (i) forecasted number of trunk groups; and (ii) the interconnection activation date.

37.7 Additional Switches or Interconnection Points

If AT&T deploys additional switches in a LATA after the date hereof or otherwise wishes to establish Interconnection with additional GTE Wire Centers, AT&T may, upon written notice thereof to GTE, establish such Interconnection and the terms and conditions of this Agreement shall apply to such Interconnection. If GTE deploys additional switches in a LATA after the date hereof or otherwise wishes to establish Interconnection with additional AT&T Wire Centers, GTE may, upon written notice thereof to AT&T, establish such Interconnection and the terms and conditions of this Agreement shall apply to such Interconnection. If either Party establishes an additional Tandem Switch in a given LATA, the Parties shall jointly determine the requirements regarding the establishment and maintenance of separate trunk group connections and the sub-tending arrangements relating to Tandem Switches and End Offices which serve the other Party's customers within the Exchange Areas served by such Tandem Switches.

37.8 Nondiscriminatory Interconnection

Interconnection provided by GTE shall be equal in quality to that provided by GTE to itself or any subsidiary, Affiliate or other person. "Equal in quality" means the same or equivalent technical criteria and service standards that a Party uses within its own network and, at a minimum, requires GTE to design interconnection facilities to meet the same technical criteria and service standards that are used within GTE's network.

37.9 Technical Specifications

- 37.9.1 The Parties agree to establish trunk groups of sufficient capacity such that trunking is available as a direct transmission path between each AT&T and GTE interconnected Central Office. The Parties will mutually agree as to where one-way or two-way trunking will be applicable. The Parties may use two-way trunks for delivery of Local Traffic or either Party may elect to provision one-way trunks for delivery of Local Traffic to the other Party provided that where a

Party elects to provision one or more one-way trunks, the other Party shall be entitled to do the same. Each Party shall be responsible for the expenses associated with its own portion of the trunking. AT&T and GTE shall work cooperatively to install and maintain a reliable network. AT&T and GTE shall exchange appropriate information (e.g., maintenance contact numbers, network information, information required to comply with law enforcement and other security agencies of the government and such other information as the Parties shall mutually agree) to achieve this desired reliability.

37.9.2 AT&T and GTE shall work cooperatively to apply sound network management principles by invoking network management controls to alleviate or to prevent congestion.

37.10 911/E911 Arrangements

37.10.1 Description of Service

AT&T shall have the right to utilize the existing GTE 911/E911 infrastructure (as agreed in Sections 37.10.3 and 37.10.5 below) to provide all 911/E911 capabilities to its end users. AT&T will install a minimum of two dedicated trunks to GTE's 911/E911 selective routers (i.e., 911 tandem offices) that serve the areas in which AT&T provides Exchange Services, for the provision of 911/E911 services and for access to all subtending PSAPs. The dedicated trunks shall be, at minimum, DSO level trunks configured as a 2-wire analog interface or as part of a digital (1.544 Mbps) interface. Either configuration shall use CAMA type signaling with multifrequency (MF) tones that will deliver ANI with the voice portion of the call. At the request of AT&T, GTE will provide AT&T with the appropriate CLLI codes and specifications of the tandem office serving area. If an AT&T Central Office serves end users in an area served by more than one GTE 911/E911 selective router, AT&T will install a minimum of two dedicated trunks in accordance with this section to each of such 911/E911 selective routers. _

37.10.2 Transport

If AT&T desires to obtain transport from its end office to the GTE 911 selective routers, AT&T may purchase such transport from GTE at the rates set forth in GTE's intrastate switched access tariff or in GTE's intrastate special access tariff.

37.10.3 Cooperation and Level of Performance

- 37.10.3.1** The Parties agree to provide access to 911/E911 in a manner that is transparent to the end user. The Parties will work together to facilitate the prompt, reliable and efficient interconnection of AT&T's systems to the 911/E911 platforms to ensure that 911/E911 service is fully available to AT&T's end users, with a level of performance that will provide the same grade of service as that which GTE provides to its own end users and that meets State requirements, provided, however that GTE shall not be contractually liable to AT&T in the event that the grade of service offered by GTE does not meet State requirements. To this end, GTE will provide documentation to AT&T showing the correlation of its rate centers to its E911 tandems.
- 37.10.3.2** In the event of an GTE or AT&T 911 trunk group failure, the Party that owns the trunk group will notify, on a priority basis, the other Party of such failure, which notification shall occur within two (2) hours of the occurrence or sooner if required under Applicable Law. The Parties will exchange a list containing the names and telephone numbers of the support center personnel responsible for maintaining the 911 Service between the Parties.
- 37.10.3.3** When AT&T purchases transport, GTE will provide AT&T with the order number and the circuit identification code in advance of the service due date.
- 37.10.3.4** AT&T or its third party agent will provide CNA data to GTE for use in entering the data into the 911 data base. The initial CNA data will be provided to GTE in a format prescribed by NENA (National Emergency Number Association). AT&T is responsible for providing GTE updates to the CNA data and error corrections which may occur during the entry of CNA data to the GTE 911 Database System. GTE will confirm receipt of such data and corrections by close of business on the next Business Day by providing AT&T with a report of the number of items sent, the number of items entered correctly, and the number of errors.
- 37.10.3.5** AT&T will monitor the 911 circuits for the purpose of determining originating network traffic volumes. AT&T will notify GTE if the traffic study information indicates that additional circuits are required to meet the current level of 911 call volumes.
- 37.10.3.6** [Intentionally deleted.]
- 37.10.3.7** Inter-office trunks provided for 911 shall be engineered to assure minimum P.01 transmission grade of service as measured during the

busy day/busy hour. A minimum of two trunks shall be provided by AT&T.

37.10.4 Updates to MSAG

It shall be the responsibility of AT&T to ensure that the address of each of its end users is included in the Master Street Address Guide ("MSAG") via information provided on AT&T's Local Service Request ("LSR") or via a separate feed established by AT&T and GTE pursuant to Section 37.10.5 of this Agreement. Any MSAG change that appears to be required by AT&T must be approved by the County. Within thirty (30) days after the Effective Date of this Agreement, GTE shall provide AT&T with an initial electronic copy and a paper copy of the MSAG or its equivalent. Prior to the time that updates are available electronically, GTE will provide updates to AT&T on a monthly basis. Thereafter, GTE will provide updates to AT&T as changes are made.

37.10.5 Updates to Database

GTE and AT&T will work together to develop the process by which the 911/E911 database will be updated with AT&T's end user 911/E911 information. AT&T shall have the right to verify the accuracy of the information regarding AT&T's end users in the 911/E911 database.

37.10.6 Compensation

In situations in which GTE is responsible for maintenance of the 911/E911 database and can be compensated for maintaining AT&T's information by the municipality, GTE will seek such compensation from the municipality. GTE will seek compensation from AT&T only if and to the extent that GTE is unable to obtain such compensation from the municipality.

38. Transmission and routing of telephone exchange service traffic pursuant to section 251(c)(2)

38.1 Scope of Traffic

This Section prescribes parameters for trunk groups (the "Local/IntraLATA Trunks") to be effected over the Interconnections specified in Part IV for the transmission and routing of Local Traffic and IntraLATA Toll Traffic between the Parties' respective Telephone Exchange Service Customers.

38.2 Limitations

No Party shall terminate Exchange Access traffic or originate untranslated 800/888 traffic over Local/IntraLATA Interconnection Trunks.

38.3 Trunk Group Architecture and Traffic Routing

The Parties shall jointly engineer and configure Local/IntraLATA Trunks over the physical Interconnection arrangements as follows:

- 38.3.1 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Section, if the traffic volumes between any two Central Office Switches at any time exceeds the CCS busy hour equivalent of one DS1, the Parties shall within sixty (60) days after such occurrence establish new direct trunk groups to the applicable End Office(s) consistent with the grades of service and quality parameters set forth in the Grooming Plan.
- 38.3.2 Only those valid NXX codes served by an End Office may be accessed through a direct connection to that End Office.
- 38.3.3 Each Party shall ensure that each Tandem connection permits the completion of traffic to all End Offices which sub-tend that Tandem or to End Offices which sub-tend an additional Tandem, provided, that AT&T enters into an appropriate billing arrangement pursuant to Section 38.3.4. Alternatively, each Party shall establish and maintain separate trunk groups connected to each Tandem of the other Party which serves, or is sub-tended by End Offices which serve, such other Party's customers within the Exchange Areas served by such Tandem Switches.
- 38.3.4 GTE will provide tandem to tandem switching to AT&T. AT&T shall enter into an appropriate billing arrangement with GTE to ensure recovery of inter-tandem switching costs at rates established by the Commission.
- 38.4 **Signaling**

SS7 Signaling may be used for signaling for IntraLATA and local calls between AT&T switches, between AT&T switches and GTE switches, and between AT&T switches and those third party networks with which GTE's SS7 network is interconnected.
- 38.4.1 Where available, CCIS signaling shall be used by the Parties to set up calls between the Parties' local networks. Each Party shall supply

Calling Party Number (CPN) within the SS7 signaling message, if available. If Common Channel Interoffice Signaling ("CCIS") is unavailable, MF (Multi-Frequency) signaling shall be used by the Parties.

38.4.2 Each Party is responsible for requesting Interconnection to the other Party's CCIS network, where SS7 signaling on the trunk group(s) is desired. Each Party shall connect, either directly or via arrangements with third party providers, to a pair of access STPs where traffic will be exchanged. The Parties shall establish interconnection at the STP.

38.4.3 The Parties will cooperate on the exchange of Transactional Capabilities Application Part (TCAP) messages to facilitate interoperability of CCIS based features between their respective networks, including all CLASS features and functions, to the extent each Party offers such features and functions to its Customers. Each Party shall honor all privacy indicators as required under Applicable Law.

38.4.4 Where available and upon the request of the other Party, each Party shall cooperate to ensure that its trunk groups are configured utilizing the B8ZS ESF protocol for 64 kbps clear channel transmission to allow for ISDN interoperability between the Parties' respective networks.

38.5 **Grades of Service**

The Parties shall initially engineer and shall jointly monitor and enhance all trunk groups consistent with the Grooming Plan.

38.6 **Measurement and Billing**

38.6.1 Each Party shall pass Calling Party Number (CPN) information on each call that it originates and terminates over the Local/IntraLATA Trunks. Until GTE installs the capability to use actual CPN information, all calls exchanged shall be billed either as Local Traffic or IntraLATA Toll Traffic based upon a percentage of local usage (PLU) factor calculated based on the amount of actual volume (or best estimate) during the preceding three months. The PLU will be reevaluated every three (3) months.

38.6.2 Measurement of Telecommunications traffic billed hereunder shall be (i) in actual conversation time as specified in FCC terminating FGD Switched access tariffs for Local Traffic and (ii) in accordance with applicable tariffs for all other types of Telecommunications traffic.

38.7 Reciprocal Compensation Arrangements

Reciprocal Compensation for the exchange of traffic shall be paid as described in Part V and Attachment 15, at the prices specified in Attachment 14.

38.8 Transiting Traffic

38.8.1 The exchange of transiting traffic is defined in Section 37.5.2.

38.8.2 Compensation for transiting traffic shall be paid as described in Part V and Attachment 15, at the prices specified in Attachment 14.

39. Transmission and Routing of Exchange Access Traffic

39.1 Scope of Traffic

This Section prescribes parameters for certain trunk groups ("Access Toll Connecting Trunks") to be established over the Interconnections specified in this Agreement for the transmission and routing of Exchange Access traffic and nontranslated 800 traffic between AT&T Telephone Exchange Service Customers and Interexchange Carriers.

39.2 Trunk Group Architecture and Traffic Routing

39.2.1 The Parties shall jointly establish Access Toll Connecting Trunks by which they will jointly provide Tandem transported Switched Exchange Access Services to Interexchange Carriers to enable such Interexchange Carriers to originate and terminate traffic from and to AT&T's customers.

39.2.2 Access Toll Connecting Trunks shall be used solely for the transmission and routing of Exchange Access and nontranslated 800/888 traffic to allow AT&T's customers to connect to or be connected to the interexchange trunks of any Interexchange Carrier which is connected to a GTE access Tandem.

39.2.3 The Access Toll Connecting Trunks shall be two way trunks connecting an End Office Switch that AT&T utilizes to provide Telephone Exchange Service and Switched Exchange Access Service in a given LATA to an access Tandem Switch GTE utilizes to provide Exchange Access in such LATA.

39.2.4 The Parties shall jointly determine which GTE access Tandem(s) will be sub-tended by each AT&T End Office Switch.

39.2.5 Only those valid NXX codes served by an End Office may be accessed through a direct connection to that End Office.

40. Transport and Termination of Information Services Traffic

40.1 Each Party shall route Information Service Traffic which originates on its own network to the appropriate information services platform(s) connected to the other Party's network over the Local/IntraLATA Trunks.

40.2 The Party ("Originating Party") on whose network the Information Services Traffic originated shall provide an electronic file transfer or monthly magnetic tape containing recorded call detail information to the Party ("Terminating Party") to whose information platform the Information Services Traffic terminated.

40.3 The Terminating Party shall provide to the Originating Party via electronic file transfer or magnetic tape all necessary information to rate the Information Services Traffic to the Originating Party's customers and establish uncollectible reserves pursuant to the Terminating Party's agreements with each information provider.

40.4 The Originating Party shall bill and collect such information provider charges and remit the amounts collected to the Terminating Party less:

40.4.1 The Information Services Billing and Collection fee set forth in Attachment 14; and

40.4.2 An uncollectibles reserve calculated based on the uncollectibles reserve in the Terminating Party's billing and collection agreement with the applicable information provider; and

40.4.3 Customer adjustments provided by the Originating Party.

40.5 The Originating Party shall provide to the Terminating Party sufficient information regarding uncollectibles and customer adjustments. The Terminating Party shall pass through the adjustments to the information provider. Final resolution regarding all disputed adjustments shall be solely between the Originating Party and the information provider.

40.6 Nothing in this Agreement shall restrict either Party from offering to its Telephone Exchange Service Customers the ability to block the completion of Information Service Traffic.

41. Installation, Maintenance, Testing and Repair

41.1 Grooming Plan

Within ninety (90) days after the Effective Date, AT&T and GTE shall jointly begin the development of a plan (the "Grooming Plan") which shall define and detail, inter alia, (i) standards to ensure that Interconnection trunk groups experience a grade of service, availability and quality in accord with all appropriate relevant industry-accepted quality, reliability and availability standards and in accordance with the levels GTE provides to itself, or any subsidiary, Affiliate or other person; (ii) the respective duties and responsibilities of the Parties with respect to the administration and maintenance of the Interconnections (including signaling) specified in Part IV and the trunk groups specified in Part IV, including standards and procedures for notification and discoveries of trunk disconnects; (iii) disaster recovery and escalation provisions; and (iv) such other matters as the Parties may agree.

41.2 Operation and Maintenance

Each Party shall be solely responsible for the installation, operation and maintenance of equipment and facilities provided by it for Interconnection, subject to compatibility and cooperative testing and monitoring and the specific operation and maintenance provisions for equipment and facilities used to provide Interconnection. Operation and maintenance of equipment in Virtual Collocation shall be in accordance with the provisions of Attachment 3. Each party shall also be responsible for engineering and maintaining its network on its side of the interconnection point. If and when the Parties choose to interconnect at a mid-span meet, the Parties will jointly provision the fiber optic facilities that connect the two networks and shall share the financial and other responsibilities for those facilities.

PART V: PRICING

42. General Principles

Prices applicable to, and costs GTE is entitled to recover for, its performance under this Agreement including but not limited to provision of services under this Agreement (e.g. provision of resold Local Services, Network Elements, Ancillary Functions, Interconnection and any new and additional services or Network Elements to be provided hereunder), shall be priced in accordance with all applicable provisions of the Act, applicable court decisions, the effective rules and orders of the FCC and any state public utility commission having jurisdiction over this Agreement, and other Applicable Law. Numerous provisions in this Agreement and its Attachments specifically refer to or raise issues with regard to the extent and nature of AT&T's obligation to reimburse GTE for costs GTE incurs in preparation for and in providing services under this Agreement. Additional provisions of this Agreement which may require GTE to perform may not specifically refer to AT&T's obligation to pay GTE for the costs GTE incurs to satisfy its obligations under this Agreement. In all such cases, and for all costs incurred by GTE in performing under this Agreement, and to the extent the Parties do not agree otherwise, AT&T's obligation, if any, to compensate GTE, and GTE's entitlement to recover such costs, shall be determined in accordance with all applicable provisions of the Act, applicable court decisions, the effective rules and orders of the FCC and any state public utility commission having jurisdiction over this Agreement, and other Applicable Law. The Parties further agree that the amount and timing of AT&T's obligation, if any, with respect to specific cost recovery issues may ultimately be determined by the Commission or another party having jurisdiction over this Agreement (the "Deciding Party"). Unless and until such time as the Deciding Party renders a final decision as to the specific amount of AT&T's obligation with respect to a specific cost recovery or pricing issue, to the extent AT&T requests or requires services which cause GTE to incur costs or for which GTE is entitled to charge a price, the Parties shall endeavor to negotiate an agreed interim cost recovery mechanism (price) for the unrecovered costs at issue in accordance with the mechanism for establishing prices to be determined (TBD prices) set forth in Section 6 of Attachment 14 to this Agreement. In such case, references to the Commission as they appear in Section 6 of Attachment 14 shall be to the Deciding Party. Nothing in this Section 42 shall foreclose either party from asserting

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its rights pursuant to Section 43 of this Agreement or Attachment 14 to this Agreement.

43. Price Schedules

43.1 Local Service Resale

The prices to be charged to AT&T for Local Services shall be as specified in Attachment 14.

43.2 Unbundled Network Elements

The prices charged to AT&T for Unbundled Network Elements shall be as specified in Attachment 14 and shall be nondiscriminatory.

43.2.1 If implementation of an unbundled loop feeder supports shared use of required unbundling facilities, the cost of such facilities shall be allocated and prorated among all users in a non-discriminatory and competitively neutral manner. If such implementation supports only AT&T's use, then AT&T shall pay to GTE the incremental cost of such implementation.

43.2.2 If implementation of an unbundled loop concentrator/multiplexer element supports shared use of required unbundling facilities, the cost of such facilities shall be allocated and prorated among all users in a non-discriminatory and competitively neutral manner. If implementation supports only AT&T's use, then AT&T shall pay to GTE the incremental cost of such implementation.

43.2.3 AT&T will be responsible for the costs (if any) required to create an interface at the main distribution frame if such interface does not already exist, such as in the case of an Integrated Digital Loop Carrier System.

43.3 Interconnection

43.3.1 Reciprocal Compensation applies for transport and termination of Local Traffic billable by GTE or AT&T which a Telephone Exchange Service Customer originates on GTE's or AT&T's network for termination on the other Party's network. Reciprocal Compensation for exchange of traffic shall initially be paid on a "bill and keep" basis subject to the right of either Party to demand that compensation be calculated based upon actual local exchange traffic volumes as further specified in Attachment 14.

43.3.2 The Reciprocal Compensation arrangements set forth in this Agreement are not applicable to Switched Exchange Access

Service. All Switched Exchange Access Service and all IntraLATA Toll Traffic shall continue to be governed by the terms and conditions of the applicable federal and state tariffs.

- 43.3.3 Each Party shall charge the other Party its effective tariffed intraLATA FGD switched access rates for the transport and termination of all IntraLATA Toll Traffic.
- 43.3.4 Standard meet point billing arrangements, as defined in Attachment 6, shall apply when the completion of a toll call involves both GTE and AT&T facilities, as further described in Attachment 6.
- 43.3.5 Access Charges. To compensate AT&T for the applicable access revenues associated with terminating interLATA or intraLATA toll calls to AT&T subscribers whose telephone numbers have been ported from GTE and routed by GTE, GTE shall pay AT&T eighty-five percent (85%) of the terminating access revenues as determined on a state basis by the following formulae. GTE will be responsible for providing the data and performing the calculations of the formulae. AT&T will have the right to audit both the data and calculations upon request. Such formulae shall be updated on a quarterly basis at the request of either Party. The format and date for settlement of access charges shall be mutually agreed between the Parties.
- 43.3.5.1 (total terminating access revenues generated from ported numbers and routed by GTE for business customers) divided by the (number of business subscriber lines) times (the number of business lines ported to AT&T) and
- 43.3.5.2 (total terminating access revenues generated from ported numbers and routed by GTE for residential customers) divided by (the number of residential subscriber lines) times (the number of residential lines ported to AT&T).
- 43.3.6 **Transiting Traffic**
- The following applies to all scenarios with transiting traffic.
- 43.3.6.1 AT&T shall pay to GTE a Transiting Service Charge for the use of its Tandem Switching as specified in Attachment 14.
- 43.3.6.2 Until such time as AT&T and the third party LEC or ILEC agree upon mutual compensation, third party mutual compensation will be exchanged between AT&T and GTE as follows:

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43.3.6.3 [Intentionally Deleted.]

43.3.6.4 [Intentionally Deleted.]

43.3.6.5 GTE will provide tandem switching at GTE access tandems for traffic between AT&T and GTE end offices subtending the GTE access tandem, as well as for traffic between AT&T and non-GTE end offices subtending GTE access tandems. By transporting traffic to a non-GTE end office(s) via a GTE tandem, AT&T assumes responsibility for compensation to GTE for all tandem switched traffic between AT&T and the non-GTE end office(s). This responsibility may be fulfilled either by payment by AT&T to GTE for all tandem switched traffic between AT&T and the non-GTE end office(s) or by an agreement between AT&T and the non-GTE end office LEC pursuant to which GTE is expressly made a third party beneficiary and GTE would receive compensation from either AT&T or the non-GTE end office LEC, depending upon which entity originated the traffic. GTE will bill AT&T for each minute of use AT&T generates that is tandem switched.

43.3.6.6 By transporting traffic to non-GTE end offices via a GTE tandem, AT&T assumes responsibility for compensation to the non-GTE end office company. AT&T assumes responsibility for negotiating a compensation arrangement with the non-GTE end office for IntraLATA Toll Traffic terminating to AT&T from such third party LEC or ILEC.

In witness whereof, the Parties have executed this Agreement through their authorized representatives.

GTE Midwest Incorporated **

AT&T Communications of
the Southwest, Inc.

By: Connie E. Nicholas
Signature

By: _____
Signature

CONNIE E. NICHOLAS
Name

Name

AVP WHOLESALE MARKETS-INTERCONNECTION
Title

Title

June 18, 1998
Date

Date

APPROVED AS TO FORM BY
LEGAL DEPARTMENT

[Signature]

** GTE Midwest Incorporated does not consent to this purported agreement (which does not comply with the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996) and does not authorize any of its representatives to consent to it. The signature of a GTE Midwest Incorporated representative has been placed on this document only under the duress of an order of the Missouri Public Service Commission requiring such signature.

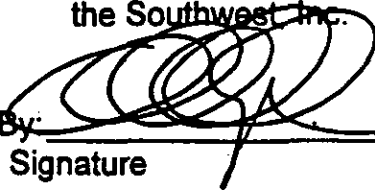
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In witness whereof, the Parties have executed this Agreement through their authorized representatives.

GTE Midwest Incorporated

AT&T Communications of
the Southwest Inc.

By: _____
Signature

By:  _____
Signature

Russell D. Morgan

Name

Name

Southwest Region Vice President

Title

Title

June 11, 1998

Date

Date

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ATTACHMENT 1
ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

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Appendix 1 Procedures for Resolution of Service-Affecting Disputes

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

1. Purpose

This Attachment 1 is intended to provide for the expeditious, economical, and equitable resolution of disputes between GTE and AT&T arising under this Agreement, and to do so in a manner that permits uninterrupted, high quality services to be furnished to each Party's customers.

2. Exclusive Remedy

2.1 Negotiation and arbitration under the procedures provided herein shall be the exclusive remedy for all disputes between GTE and AT&T arising out of this Agreement or its breach. GTE and AT&T agree not to resort to any court, agency, or private group with respect to such disputes except in accordance with this Attachment.

2.1.1 If, for any reason, certain claims or disputes are deemed to be non-arbitrable, the non-arbitrability of those claims or disputes shall in no way affect the arbitrability of any other claims or disputes.

2.1.2 If, for any reason, the FCC or any other federal or state regulatory agency exercises jurisdiction over and decides any dispute related to this Agreement or to any GTE Tariff and, as a result, a claim is adjudicated in both an agency proceeding and an arbitration proceeding under this Attachment 1, the following provisions shall apply:

2.1.2.1 To the extent required by law, the agency ruling shall be binding upon the parties for the limited purposes of regulation within the jurisdiction and authority of such agency.

2.1.2.2 The arbitration ruling rendered pursuant to this Attachment 1 shall be binding upon the parties for purposes of establishing their respective contractual rights and obligations under this Agreement, and for all other purposes not expressly precluded by such agency ruling.

2.1.3 Nothing in this Attachment 1 shall limit the right of either GTE or AT&T to obtain provisional remedies (including injunctive relief) from a court before, during or after the pendency of any arbitration proceeding brought pursuant to this Attachment 1. However, once a decision is reached by the Arbitrator, such decision shall supersede any provisional remedy.

3. **Informal Resolution of Disputes**

- 3.1 Prior to initiating an arbitration pursuant to the American Arbitration Association ("AAA") rules, as described below, the Parties to this Agreement shall submit any dispute between GTE and AT&T for resolution to an Inter-Company Review Board consisting of one representative from AT&T at the Director-or-above level and one representative from GTE at the Vice-President-or-above level (or at such lower level as each Party may designate). The dispute will be submitted by either Party giving written notice to the other Party, consistent with the notice requirements of this Agreement, that the Party intends to initiate the Informal Resolution of Disputes process. The notice shall define the dispute to be resolved. The Parties may use a mediator to help informally settle a dispute.

The initial representatives of each Party shall be as follows:

AT&T

Telephone: _____
Telecopier: _____

GTE

Telephone: _____
Telecopier: _____

A representative shall be entitled to appoint a delegate to act in his or her place as a Party's representative on the Inter-Company Review Board for any specific dispute brought before the Board.

- 3.2 The Parties may enter into a settlement of any dispute at any time. The Settlement Agreement shall be in writing, and shall identify how the Arbitrator's or mediator's fee for the particular proceeding, if any, will be apportioned.
- 3.3 At no time, for any purposes, may a Party introduce into evidence or inform the Arbitrator appointed under Section 6 below of any statement or other action of a Party in connection with negotiations between the Parties

pursuant to the Informal Resolution of Disputes provision of this Attachment 1.

- 3.4 By mutual agreement, the Parties may agree to submit a dispute to mediation prior to initiating arbitration.

4. **Initiation of an Arbitration**

If the Inter-Company Review Board is unable to resolve a non-service affecting dispute within 30 days (or such longer period as agreed to in writing by the Parties) of such submission, and the Parties have not otherwise entered into a settlement of their dispute, the Parties shall initiate an arbitration in accordance with the AAA rules. Any dispute over a matter which directly affects the ability of a Party to provide high quality services to its customers will be governed by the procedures described in Appendix 1 to this Attachment 1.

5. **Governing Rules for Arbitration**

The rules set forth below and the rules of Commercial Arbitrations of the AAA shall govern all arbitration proceedings initiated pursuant to this Attachment; however, such arbitration proceedings shall not be conducted under the auspices of the AAA unless the Parties mutually agree. Where any of the rules set forth herein conflict with the rules of the AAA, the rules set forth in this Attachment shall prevail.

6. **Appointment and Removal of Arbitrator**

- 6.1 Within forty-five (45) days following the Effective Date of this Agreement the Parties will appoint three arbitrators, each of whom will have experience in the field of telecommunications. Each such Arbitrator shall serve for the full term of this Agreement, unless removed pursuant to Section 6.3 of this Attachment. Each of the three Arbitrators will be appointed by mutual agreement of the Parties in writing within the aforementioned forty-five day period. Each Arbitrator so appointed shall receive an assignment designation number (1, 2 or 3), and the Arbitrators shall be assigned in that sequence as disputes arise that are subject to this Attachment. In the event that any of the three initial Arbitrators so appointed resigns or is removed pursuant to Section 6.3 of this Attachment, or becomes unable to discharge his or her duties, the Parties shall, by mutual written agreement, appoint a replacement Arbitrator within thirty (30) days after the date of such resignation, removal or disability. All matters pending before the departing Arbitrator shall be reassigned as provided in Section 6.4 of this Attachment; provided however that such matters shall not be assigned to the replacement

Arbitrator. New matters will be assigned the replacement Arbitrator in accordance with the procedure set forth herein (above).

- 6.2 For each dispute properly submitted for arbitration under this Attachment, the Parties shall assign a sole Arbitrator from among the three Arbitrators appointed under Section 6.1 in accordance with the assignment sequence described therein. Each such assignment shall be made within ten (10) days of the expiration under Section 4 of this Attachment of the Inter-Company Review Board review period. Insofar as common issues arise concerning more than one Interconnection, Resale and Unbundling Agreement signed between an AT&T Affiliate and a GTE Affiliate, the Parties agree that such common issues will be combined and submitted to the same Arbitrator for resolution.
- 6.3 The Parties may, by mutual written agreement, remove an Arbitrator at any time, and shall provide prompt written notice of removal to such Arbitrator. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any Arbitrator may be removed at any time unilaterally by either Party as permitted in the rules of the AAA. Furthermore, upon (30) days' prior written notice to the Arbitrator and to the other Party, a Party may remove an Arbitrator with respect to future disputes which have not been submitted to arbitration in accordance with the requirements of Section 4 of this Attachment 1, as of the date of such notice.
- 6.4 In the event that an Arbitrator resigns or is removed pursuant to Section 6.3 of this Attachment, or becomes unable to discharge his or her duties, or is otherwise unavailable to perform the duties of Arbitrator, any matters then pending before that departing or disabled Arbitrator will be assigned to the incumbent Arbitrator with the next assignment designation number (in ascending order). Such assignment will be made effective by written notice of the Parties to be provided within ten days following the resignation, removal or unavailability that necessitates such reassignment.
- 6.5 In the event that the Parties do not appoint an Arbitrator or replacement Arbitrator within the time periods prescribed in Section 6.1 of this Attachment 1, either Party may apply to AAA for appointment of such Arbitrator. Prior to filing an application with the AAA, the Party filing such application shall provide ten (10) days' prior written notice to the other Party to this Agreement.

7. **Duties and Powers of the Arbitrator**

- 7.1 The Arbitrator shall receive complaints and other permitted pleadings, oversee discovery, administer oaths and subpoena witnesses pursuant to the United States Arbitration Act, hold hearings, issue decisions, and maintain a record of proceedings. The Arbitrator shall have the power to

award any remedy or relief that a court with jurisdiction over this Agreement could order or grant, including, without limitation, the awarding of damages, pre-judgment interest, specific performance of any obligation created under the Agreement, issuance of an injunction, or imposition of sanctions for abuse or frustration of the arbitration process, except that the Arbitrator may not award punitive damages or any remedy rendered unavailable to the Parties pursuant to Section 10.3 of the General Terms and Conditions of this Agreement.

- 7.2 The Arbitrator shall not have the authority to limit, expand, or otherwise modify the terms of this Agreement.

8. **Discovery**

GTE and AT&T shall attempt, in good faith, to agree on a plan for document discovery. Should they fail to agree, either GTE or AT&T may request a joint meeting or conference call with the Arbitrator. The Arbitrator shall resolve any disputes between GTE and AT&T, and such resolution with respect to the scope, manner, and timing of discovery shall be final and binding.

9. **Privileges**

Although conformity to certain legal rules of evidence may not be necessary in connection with arbitrations initiated pursuant to this Attachment, the Arbitrator shall, in all cases, apply the attorney-client privilege and the work product immunity doctrines.

10. **Location of Hearing**

Unless both Parties agree otherwise, any hearings shall take place in Dallas, Texas.

11. **Decision**

- 11.1 Except as provided below, the Arbitrator's decision and award shall be final and binding, and shall be in writing and shall set forth the Arbitrator's reasons therefor for decision unless the Parties mutually agree to waive the requirement of a written opinion. Judgment upon the award rendered by the Arbitrator may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof. Either Party may apply to the United States District Court for the district in which the hearing occurred for an order enforcing the decision.

- 11.2 A decision of the Arbitrator shall not be final in the following situations:

- a) a Party appeals the decision to the Commission or FCC, and the matter is within the jurisdiction of the Commission or FCC, provided that the agency agrees to hear the matter;
- b) the dispute concerns the misappropriation or use of intellectual property rights of a Party, including, but not limited to, the use of the trademark, tradename, trade dress or service mark of a Party, and the decision appealed by a Party to a federal or state court with jurisdiction over the dispute.

11.3 Each Party agrees that any permitted appeal must be commenced within thirty (30) days after the Arbitrator's decision in the arbitration proceedings is issued. In the event of an appeal, a Party must comply with the results of the arbitration process during the appeal process.

12. **Fees**

Unless otherwise mutually agreed in writing, each Arbitrator's fees and expenses shall be shared equally between the Parties, provided, however, that in the arbitration of any particular dispute either Party may request that all fees and expenses directly related to that arbitration matter be imposed on the other Party, and the Arbitrator shall have the power to grant such relief, in whole or in part.

13. **Confidentiality**

13.1 GTE, AT&T, and the Arbitrator will treat the arbitration proceeding, including the hearings and conferences, discovery, or other related events, as confidential, except as necessary in connection with a judicial challenge to, or enforcement of, an award, or unless otherwise required by an order or lawful process of a court or governmental body.

13.2 In order to maintain the privacy of all arbitration conferences and hearings, the Arbitrator shall have the power to require the exclusion of any person, other than a Party, counsel thereto, or other essential persons.

13.3 To the extent that any information or materials disclosed in the course of an arbitration proceeding contains proprietary or confidential Information of either Party, it shall be safeguarded in accordance with Section 17 of this Agreement. However, nothing in Section 17 of this Agreement shall be construed to prevent either Party from disclosing the other Party's Information to the Arbitrator in connection with or in anticipation of an arbitration proceeding. In addition, the Arbitrator may issue orders to

protect the confidentiality of proprietary information, trade secrets, or other sensitive information.

14. Service of Process

- 14.1 Service may be made by submitting one copy of all pleadings and attachments and any other documents requiring service to each Party and one copy to the Arbitrator. Service shall be deemed made (i) upon receipt if delivered by hand; (ii) after three (3) business days if sent by first class certified U.S. mail; (iii) the next business day if sent by overnight courier service; (iv) upon confirmed receipt if transmitted by facsimile. If service is by facsimile, a copy shall be sent the same day by hand delivery, first class U.S. mail, or overnight courier service.
- 14.2 Service by AT&T to GTE and by GTE to AT&T at the address designated for delivery of notices in this Agreement shall be deemed to be service to GTE or AT&T, respectively. The initial address for delivery of notices is specified in Subsection 3 above.

Appendix I to Attachment 1

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Procedure for Resolution of Service-Affecting Disputes

1. Purpose.

This Appendix 1 describes the procedures for an expedited resolution of disputes between GTE and AT&T arising under this Agreement which directly affect the ability of a Party to provide uninterrupted, high quality services to its customers and which cannot be resolved using the procedures for informal resolution of disputes contained in Attachment 1 to the Agreement.

Except as specifically provided in this Appendix 1 to Attachment 1, the provisions of Attachment 1 shall apply.

2. Initiation of an Arbitration.

- a) If the Inter-Company Review Board is unable to resolve a service affecting dispute within two (2) business days (or such longer period as agreed to in writing by the Parties) of such submission, and the Parties have not otherwise entered into a settlement of their dispute, a Party may initiate an arbitration in accordance with the requirements of this Appendix 1 to Attachment 1. However, in the sole discretion of the Party which submitted the dispute to the Inter-Company Review Board, the dispute may be arbitrated in accordance with the general procedures described in Attachment 1 rather than the expedited procedures of this Appendix 1 to Attachment 1.
- b) A proceeding for arbitration will be commenced by a Party ("Complaining Party") filing a complaint with the Arbitrator and simultaneously serving a copy on the other Party ("Complaint").
- c) Each Complaint will concern only the claims relating to an act or failure to act (or series of related acts or failures to act) of a Party which affect the Complaining Party's ability to offer a specific service (or group or related services) to its customers.

A Complaint may be in letter or memorandum form and must specifically describe the action or inaction of a Party in dispute and identify with particularity how the complaining Party's service to its customers is affected.

3. **Response to Complaint.**

A response to the Complaint must be filed within five (5) business days after service of the Complaint.

4. **Reply to Complaint.**

A reply is permitted to be filed by the Complaining Party within three (3) business days of service of the response. The reply must be limited to those matters raised in the response.

5. **Discovery.**

The Parties shall cooperate on discovery matters as provided in Section 8 of Attachment 1, but following expedited procedures.

6. **Hearing.**

- a) The Arbitrator will schedule a hearing on the Complaint to take place within twenty (20) business days after service of the Complaint. However, if mutually agreed to by the parties, a hearing may be waived and the decision of the Arbitrator will be based upon the papers filed by the Parties.
- b) The hearing will be limited to four (4) days, with each Party allocated no more than two (2) days, including cross examination by the other Party, to present its evidence and arguments. For extraordinary reasons, including the need for extensive cross-examination, the Arbitrator may allocate more time for the hearing.

In order to focus the issues for purposes of the hearing, to present initial views concerning the issues, and to facilitate the presentation of evidence, the Arbitrator has the discretion to conduct a telephone prehearing conference at a mutually convenient time, but in no event later than three (3) days prior to any scheduled hearing.

Each Party may introduce evidence and call witnesses it has previously identified in its witness and exhibit lists. The witness and exhibit lists must be furnished to the other Party at least three (3) days prior to commencement of the hearing. The witness list will disclose the substance of each witness' expected testimony. The exhibit list will identify by name (author and recipient), date, title and any other identifying characteristics the exhibits to be used at the arbitration. Testimony from witnesses not listed on the witness list or exhibits not listed on the exhibit list may not be presented in the hearing.

- c) The parties will make reasonable efforts to stipulate to undisputed facts prior to the date of the hearing.
- d) Witnesses will testify under oath and a complete transcript of the proceeding, together with all pleadings and exhibits, shall be maintained by the Arbitrator.

7. Decision.

- a) The Arbitrator will issue and serve his or her decision on the Parties within five (5) business days of the close of the hearing or receipt of the hearing transcript, whichever is later.
- b) The Parties agree to take the actions necessary to implement the decision of the Arbitrator immediately upon receipt of the decision.

ATTACHMENT 2

SERVICE DESCRIPTION: UNBUNDLED NETWORK ELEMENTS

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SERVICE DESCRIPTION: UNBUNDLED NETWORK ELEMENTS

1. Introduction

This Attachment sets forth the descriptions and requirements for unbundled network elements that GTE agrees to offer to AT&T under this Agreement. To the extent sections contained in this Attachment and Appendix A to this Attachment set forth technical references, technical standards, technical requirements and/or performance standards. GTE's obligation to comply with such references, requirements, and/or standards shall be subject to Section 23.19 of the General Terms and Conditions of this Agreement.

2. Network Interface Device

2.1. Definition:

The Network Interface Device (NID) is a single-line termination device or that portion of a multiple-line termination device required to terminate a single line or circuit. The fundamental function of the NID is to establish the official network demarcation point between a carrier and its end-user customer. The NID generally features two independent chambers or divisions which separate the service provider's network from the customer's inside wiring. Each chamber or division contains the appropriate connection points or posts to which the service provider, and the end-user customer each make their connections. The NID provides a protective ground connection, and is capable of terminating cables such as twisted pair cable. The NID may be ordered as a Network Element independently from the Loop Distribution.

- 2.1.1. With respect to multiple-line termination devices, AT&T shall specify the quantity of NIDs it requires within such device.

Figure 1 - Network Interface Device [Intentionally Deleted]

2.1.2. Technical References (subject to Section 23.19 of the General Terms and Conditions of this Agreement):

- 2.1.2.1. The Network Interface Device shall provide a clean, accessible point of connection for the inside wiring and for the Distribution Media and shall maintain a connection to ground that meets the references set forth below.

- 2.1.2.2. The NID shall be capable of transferring electrical analog or digital signals between the customer's inside wiring and the Distribution Media.
- 2.1.2.3. All NID posts or connecting points shall be in place, secure, usable and free of any rust or corrosion. The protective ground connection shall exist and be properly installed. The ground wire will also be free of rust or corrosion and have continuity relative to ground.
- 2.1.2.4. The NID shall be capable of withstanding all normal local environmental variations.
- 2.1.2.5. Where the NID is not located in a larger, secure cabinet or closet, the NID shall be protected from physical vandalism. The NID shall be physically accessible to AT&T designated personnel and GTE will identify the cable pair used for the particular service which will be replaced by AT&T. In cases where entrance to the customer premises is required to give access to the NID, AT&T shall obtain entrance permission directly from the customer.
- 2.1.2.6. [Intentionally Deleted]
- 2.1.3. Interface References (subject to Section 23.19 of the General Terms and Conditions of this Agreement):
- 2.1.3.1. AT&T shall be permitted to connect its own Loop directly to GTE's Network Interface Device (NID) in cases in which AT&T uses its own facilities to provide local service to an end user formerly served by GTE, as long as such direct connection does not adversely affect GTE's network. In order to minimize any such adverse effects, AT&T shall follow the procedures in sub-sections 2.1.3.2 and 2.1.3.3.
- The NID will be made available to AT&T as a separate unbundled network element to which AT&T will connect their own loop. GTE will not require that a separate NID be installed by AT&T to make a NID to NID connection as required in the FCC First Report and Order. AT&T will assume responsibility for ensuring that the proper over voltage protection is maintained to protect the customer premise.
- 2.1.3.2. When connecting its own loop facility directly to GTE's NID for a residence or business customer, AT&T must make a clean cut on the GTE drop wire at the NID so that no bare wire is exposed. AT&T shall not remove or disconnect GTE's drop wire from the NID

or take any other action that might cause GTE's drop wire to be left lying on the ground.

- 2.1.3.3. At multi-tenant customer locations, AT&T must remove the jumper wire from the distribution block (i.e. the NID) to the GTE cable termination block. If AT&T cannot gain access to the cable termination block, AT&T must make a clean cut at the closest point to the cable termination block. At AT&T's request and discretion, GTE will determine the cable pair to be removed at the NID in multi-tenant locations. AT&T will compensate GTE for the trip charge necessary to identify the cable pair to be removed.
- 2.1.3.4. GTE agrees to offer NIDs for lease to AT&T, but not for sale. AT&T may remove GTE identification from any NID which it connects to an AT&T loop, but AT&T may not place its own identification on such NID.
- 2.1.3.5. NID to NID Connection. GTE will not require that a separate NID be installed by AT&T in order to make a NID to NID connection. Rather than connecting its loop directly to GTE's NID, AT&T may also elect to install its own NID and effect a NID to NID connection to gain access to the end user's inside wiring.
- 2.1.3.6. Removal of Cable Pairs. Removal from the NID of existing cable pairs required for AT&T to terminate service is the responsibility of AT&T.
- 2.1.3.7. Maintenance / Liability. Sub-paragraphs 2.1.3.8 through 2.1.3.11 outline AT&T's responsibilities when leasing NIDs from GTE.
- 2.1.3.8. GTE is responsible for the maintenance of the NID when it is leased as part of the unbundled loop.
- 2.1.3.9. GTE is not responsible for any damage to AT&T's customer's interior wiring, station apparatus, or physical harm to the dwelling or persons resulting from over-voltage intrusion from AT&T's cable facilities.
- 2.1.3.10. When AT&T no longer wishes to lease the GTE NID, AT&T is responsible for ensuring that this equipment is left in proper working order.
- 2.1.3.11. When AT&T discontinues the use of the NID, GTE will perform a physical inspection of the NID prior to reconnection to a GTE

customer and charge AT&T for any corrective maintenance which may be required.

- 2.1.4. The Network Interface Device shall be provided to AT&T in accordance with the technical references listed in Appendix A, under paragraph 1.

3. Loop

3.1. **Definition:**

A "Loop" is a transmission facility between the main distribution frame (cross-connect), or functionally comparable piece of equipment in a GTE end office or wire center to a demarcation, connector block or network interface device at a customer's premises. Loop types typically include, but are not limited to, two-wire and four-wire copper analog voice-grade loops, two-wire and four-wire loops that are conditioned to transmit analog and digital signals, needed to provide, for example, ISDN, ADSL, HDSL, and DS-1 level signals, DS-1 loops, Coax loops and Fiber loops. A Loop is composed of the following Sub-Loop Elements, to the extent that each is physically existent in the LEC network where the Loop is ordered and the Network Interface Device (NID). The Sub-Loop Elements are defined in detail below:

Loop Distribution Media

Loop Concentrator/Multiplexer

Loop Feeder

3.1.1. Technical References (subject to Section 23.19 of the General Terms and Conditions of this Agreement):

- 3.1.1.1. **Basic Loop.** The Basic Loop is a 2-wire copper facility or functional equivalent which will meet industry standard specifications for Voice Frequency transmission. The Basic Loop may include load coils, bridge taps, etc., or may include carrier derived facility components (i.e. pair gain applications, loop concentrator/multiplexers). The Basic Loop will be designed within industry design parameters with a loop loss (from customer to MDF) which does not exceed 10 dB and with a noise level less than 30 dbmC. For loaded loops, the Bridge Tap and End section will be between 3 and 12 kFt.

- 3.1.1.2. **Special Conditioning Requirements.** The Basic Loop will be provided to AT&T at parity with GTE customers and will, subject to

Section 23.19 of the General Terms and Conditions of this Agreement, comply with the specifications noted in this Section 3.1, Loop. Transmission of signaling messages or tones not provided by these specifications will be provided to AT&T, as agreed between AT&T and GTE. When placing an order for unbundled Loop and Sub-Loop elements, AT&T will notify GTE of any special requirements. Special conditioning to provide such requirements will be provided on a case-by-case basis, if Currently Available. AT&T agrees to bear the cost of any such special conditioning. Types of Loops which may require such conditioning include 2W/4W PABX Trunks, 2W/4W voice grade private line and foreign exchange lines, 4W digital data (2.4Kbps through 64Kbps), etc.

- 3.1.1.3. ISDN BRI Loops. Upon request by AT&T, GTE will provide where Currently Available, 2W loops capable of transmitting ISDN data rates as it provides to its own ISDN customers.
- 3.1.1.4. 4-Wire DS-1 Loops/ISDN PRI. These Loops will be designed to support a digital transmission rate of 1,544, 000 bps. These Loops will be designed within industry parameters and have no bridge taps or load coils. These Loops will employ special line treatment (span line repeaters, office terminating repeaters at the GTE wire center, or similar technology).
- 3.1.1.5. Features, Functions, Attributes, Etc. To the degree Currently Available, all transport-based features, functions, service attributes, grades-of-service, installation, maintenance and repair intervals that apply to the bundled services, will apply to the above unbundled Loop.
- 3.1.1.6. All Loop facilities furnished by GTE on the premises of AT&T's end users and up to the network interface or functional equivalent are the property of GTE. GTE must have access to all such facilities for network management purposes. GTE employees and agents may enter said premises at any reasonable hour to test and inspect such facilities in connection with such purposes or, upon termination or cancellation of the Loop facility, to remove such facility.
- 3.1.1.7. If AT&T leases Loops which are conditioned to transmit digital signals, as a part of that conditioning, GTE will test the Loop after conditioning and provide recorded test results to AT&T. When AT&T provides its own switching, it will test the unbundled loops. If there is a maintenance problem on an unbundled loop, AT&T will report the problem to GTE, and GTE will be responsible for the

repair of the loop. In maintenance and repair cases, if loop tests are taken, GTE will provide any recorded readings to AT&T at the time the trouble ticket is closed in the same manner as GTE provides to itself and its end users.

- 3.1.1.8. AT&T may order an unbundled Loop provided over copper facility even in instances where the Loop for services that GTE offers is other than a copper facility.

3.1.2. Unbundled Loop Facility Certification

- 3.1.2.1. Before deploying any service enhancing copper cable technology (e.g., HDSL, ISDN, etc.) over unbundled 2-wire analog voice grade loops provided by GTE, AT&T shall notify GTE of such intentions to enable GTE to assess the loop transport facilities to determine whether there are any existing copper cable loop transport technologies (e.g., analog carrier, etc.) deployed within the same cable sheath that would be interfered with if AT&T deployed the proposed service enhancing copper cable technology. If there are existing copper cable loop transport technologies already deployed within the same cable sheath, or if GTE already has specific planned projects to deploy copper cable loop transport technologies within the next six months for which it can demonstrate a specific commitment by producing detailed engineering plans, GTE will so inform AT&T and AT&T shall not be permitted to deploy such service enhancing copper cable technologies.

- 3.1.2.1.1. If AT&T fails to notify GTE of its plans to deploy service enhancing copper cable technology and obtain prior certification from GTE of the facilities, and if AT&T's deployment of such technology is determined to have caused interference with existing or planned copper cable loop transport technologies deployed by GTE in the same cable sheath, AT&T will immediately remove such service enhancing copper cable technology and shall reimburse GTE for all incurred expense related to this interference.

- 3.1.2.2. Prior to GTE deploying service enhancing copper cable technology, as described above, GTE will validate, through a search of its facility assignment records, that AT&T has not deployed technologies within the same cable sheath that would be interfered by those planned by GTE. Should such incompatibility exist, GTE will not deploy such technology that would interfere with those already deployed by AT&T.

- 3.1.2.2.1. Should GTE deploy service enhancing copper cable technology which is determined to interfere with technology previously deployed by AT&T, and AT&T can demonstrate that they had complied with GTE's Unbundled Loop Facility Certification procedure, GTE will remove their technology from the cable sheath, reimburse AT&T for all incurred expenses related to this interference.
- 3.1.3. Unbundled Loop Facility Reservation. GTE and AT&T may each reserve for up to 6 (six) months the right to deploy within GTE's network copper cable loop transport technology for specific projects for which a party can demonstrate a specific commitment by producing detailed engineering plans.
- 3.1.4. Technical References(subject to Section 23.19 of the General Terms and Conditions of this Agreement):
- Specific Loops as described in 3.1.1.1 through 3.1.1.4 are capable of transmitting signals for the following services (as needed by AT&T to provide end-to-end service capability to its end-user customer):
1. 2-wire voice grade basic telephone services
 2. 2-wire ISDN
 3. 2-wire Centrex
 4. 2 and 4-wire PBX lines or trunks
 5. 2 and 4-wire voice grade private lines and foreign exchange lines
 6. 4-wire digital data (2.4kbps through 64Kbps and n times 64Kbps) (where $n < 24$)
 7. 4-wire DS1 (switched or private line)
- 3.1.5. Additional technical references for Loop Where Integrated Digital Loop Carrier Systems are being used. If GTE uses Integrated Digital Loop Carrier (DLCs) systems to provide local loop, GTE will make alternative arrangements to permit AT&T to order a contiguous unbundled Loop. These arrangements may include the following: provide AT&T with copper facilities or universal DLC that are acceptable to AT&T, deploy Virtual Remote Terminals, allow AT&T to purchase the entire Integrated DLC, or convert integrated DLCs to non-integrated systems.

3.2. Loop Distribution Media

3.2.1. Definition:

Loop Distribution Media provides connectivity between the NID and the terminal block on the customer-side of a Feeder Distribution Interface (FDI). The FDI is a device that terminates the Loop Distribution Media and the Loop Feeder, and cross-connects them in order to provide a continuous transmission path between the NID and a telephone company central office.

3.2.1.1. In some instances, AT&T may request and GTE will provide, to the extent Currently Available, a copper twisted pair Distribution Media in instances where the Loop Distribution Media for services that GTE offers is other than a copper facility.

3.2.2. GTE will provide to AT&T Loop Distribution Media of the same condition that exists for the current GTE customer.

3.2.3. GTE is not responsible for the end to end performance of the entire loop when GTE provides only the Loop Distribution Media.

3.2.4. The Loop Distribution Media provided under this Agreement shall meet or exceed the applicable interface references set forth in the technical references listed in Appendix A to this Attachment 2 under paragraph 2 thereof.

3.2.5. The Loop Distribution Media may be ordered by AT&T through the Bona Fide Request procedures outlined in Attachment 12. The request shall specify the technical requirements for the Loop Distribution Media.

3.2.6. GTE shall perform all cross connections to the FDI as AT&T may request from time to time in order to provide Network Elements to AT&T in accordance with this Agreement. Since GTE will be performing all necessary cross connections within the FDI and at the main distribution frame, AT&T agrees that there will be no requirement for personnel of AT&T to access the FDI or the serving wire center to the extent that AT&T has no equipment collocated in the GTE central office.

3.2.7. AT&T shall be responsible for the costs (if any) required to create an interface at the main distribution frame if such interface does not already exist, such as in the case of an Integrated Digital Loop Carrier System, as specified in Attachment 14.

3.3. **Loop Concentrator/Multiplexer**

3.3.1. **Definition:**

The Loop Concentrator/Multiplexer is the Network Element that: (1) aggregates lower bit rate or bandwidth signals to higher bit rate or bandwidth signals (multiplexing); (2) disaggregates higher bit rate or bandwidth signals to lower bit rate or bandwidth signals (demultiplexing); (3) aggregates a specified number of signals or channels to fewer channels (concentrating); (4) performs signal conversion, including encoding of signals (e.g., analog to digital and digital to analog signal conversion); and (5) in some instances performs electrical to optical (E/O) conversion.

The Loop Concentrator/Multiplexer function will be provided through a Digital Loop Carrier (DLC) system, channel bank, multiplexer or other equipment at which traffic is encoded and decoded, multiplexed and demultiplexed, or concentrated.

3.3.2. GTE is not responsible for the end to end performance of the entire loop when GTE provides only the Loop Concentrator/Multiplexer.

3.3.3. The Loop Concentrator/Multiplexer provided under this Agreement shall, subject to Section 23.19 of the General Terms and Conditions of this Agreement, meet or exceed the applicable interface references set forth in Appendix A to this Attachment 2, under paragraph 2 thereof.

3.3.4. The Loop Concentrator/Multiplexer may be ordered by AT&T through the Bona Fide Request procedures outlined in Attachment 12. The request shall specify the technical requirements for the Loop Concentrator/Multiplexer.

3.4. **Loop Feeder**

3.4.1. **Definition:**

3.4.2. The Loop Feeder is the Network Element that provides connectivity between (1) a FDI associated with Loop Distribution Media and a termination point appropriate for the media in a central office, or (2) a Loop Concentrator/Multiplexer provided in a remote terminal and a termination point appropriate for the media in a central office. Since GTE will be performing all necessary cross connections within the FDI and the main distribution frame, there will be no requirement for personnel of AT&T to access the FDI or the serving

wire center to the extent that AT&T has no equipment collocated in the GTE central office.

- 3.4.3. In certain cases, AT&T may request and GTE will provide to the extent Currently Available a copper twisted pair loop even in instances where the medium of the Loop Feeder for services that GTE offers is other than a copper facility.
- 3.4.4. The Loop Feeder provided under this Agreement shall meet or exceed the applicable interface technical references listed in Appendix A to this Attachment 2, under paragraph 2 thereof.
- 3.4.5. The Loop Feeder may be ordered by AT&T through the Bona Fide Request procedures outlined in Attachment 12. The request shall specify the technical requirements for the Loop Feeder.
- 3.4.6. GTE is not responsible for the end performance of the entire loop when GTE provides only the Loop Feeder.
- 3.5. Other Sub-Loop Terms and Conditions
 - 3.5.1. GTE agrees to provide access to the sub-loop network elements at the Feeder Distribution Interface (FDI), based on the following conditions:
 - 3.5.2. AT&T agrees to pay GTE to expand or replace the FDI (over and above the established price of the basic loop) to accommodate terminating the new AT&T cable.
 - 3.5.3. AT&T agrees to pay GTE an agreed upon charge to perform all cross connections within the GTE FDI (in addition to the price of the basic sub-loop network element(s) leased by AT&T).
 - 3.5.4. AT&T agrees that since all cross connects will be performed by GTE personnel, AT&T personnel will not require access to the FDI.

4. Local Switching

4.1. **Definition:**

Local Switching is the Network Element that provides the functionality required to connect the appropriate originating lines or trunks wired to the Main Distributing Frame (MDF) or Digital Signal Cross Connect (DSX) panel to a desired terminating line or trunk. Such functionality shall include all of the features, functions, and capabilities of the GTE switch including but not limited to: line

signaling and signaling software, digit reception, dialed number translations, call screening, routing, recording, call supervision, dial tone, switching, telephone number provisioning, announcements, calling features and capabilities (including call processing), CENTRANET, Automatic Call Distributor (ACD), Carrier pre-subscription (e.g., long distance carrier, intraLATA toll), Carrier Identification Code (CIC) portability capabilities, testing and other operational features inherent to the switch and switch software. Local Switching provides access to transport, signaling (ISDN User Part (ISUP) and Transaction Capabilities Application Part (TCAP), and platforms such as adjuncts, Public Safety Systems (911), operator services, directory services and Advanced Intelligent Network (AIN). Remote Switching Module functionality is included in the Local Switching function. The switching capabilities used will be based on the line side features they support, where Currently Available. Local Switching will also be capable of routing local directory assistance and operator services calls to alternative directory assistance and operator services platforms.

- 4.1.1. Where Currently Available Local Switching also includes Data Switching, which provides for ISDN Packet and Circuit Switched Data service, the data switching functionality that is required to connect between industry standard ISDN interfaces. In this case, the purpose of Data Switching is to terminate, concentrate, and switch data traffic from Customer Premises Equipment (CPE) in the digital format consistent with ISDN standards. Data Switching also provides connectivity for the purpose of conveying the customer data to its final destination.
- 4.2. **Technical References** (subject to Section 23.19 of the General Terms and Conditions of this Agreement):
The technical references set forth in this Section 4.2 apply to Local Switching.
- 4.2.1. GTE shall offer to AT&T unbundled access to all facilities, functions, features and capabilities of its local switches to the extent each such facility, function, feature or capability is Currently Available within the applicable switch and GTE has the right to use such facility, function, feature or capability.
- 4.2.1.1. Where Currently Available, GTE shall offer Local Switching together with and separately from Data Switching.

- 4.2.1.2. When applicable, GTE shall route calls to the appropriate trunk or lines for call origination or termination.
- 4.2.1.3. GTE shall route local directory assistance and operator services calls on a per line or per screening class basis to (1) GTE platforms providing Network Elements or additional requirements, (2) AT&T designated platforms, or (3) third-party platforms.
- 4.2.1.4. GTE shall provide standard recorded announcements as designated by AT&T and call progress tones to alert callers of call progress and disposition.
- 4.2.1.5. GTE shall activate service for an AT&T Customer or network interconnection on any of the Local Switching interfaces. This includes provisioning changes to change a customer from GTE's services to AT&T's services without loss of feature functionality.
- 4.2.1.6. GTE shall perform routine testing (e.g., Mechanized Loop Tests (MLT) and test calls such as 105, 107 and 108 type calls) and fault isolation on a mutually agreed to schedule where such testing is Currently Available.
- 4.2.1.7. GTE shall repair and restore any equipment or any other maintainable component owned by or under the control of GTE that may adversely impact Local Switching.
- 4.2.1.8. GTE shall control congestion points such as those caused by radio station call-ins, and network routing abnormalities, using capabilities such as Automatic Call Gapping, Automatic Congestion Control, and Network Routing Overflow.
- 4.2.1.9. GTE shall perform call trace (manual or otherwise) consistent with the other provisions of testing, maintenance and repair sections of this Agreement (including, but not limited to Attachments 2, 4 and 5 to this Agreement). GTE shall permit customer originated call trace in accordance with Attachment 9 to this Agreement.
- 4.2.1.10. GTE shall record billable events and send the appropriate billing data to AT&T as outlined in Attachment 6.
- 4.2.1.11. For Local Switching used as 911 Tandems, GTE shall allow interconnection from AT&T local switching elements and GTE shall route the calls to the appropriate Public Safety Access Point (PSAP).

- 4.2.1.12. GTE shall provide where the switch is capable, each of the following capabilities:
- 4.2.1.13. Essential Service Lines;
- 4.2.1.14. Telephone service prioritization;
- 4.2.1.15. Telephone Relay Services for handicapped;
- 4.2.1.16. Soft dial tone where required by law; and
- 4.2.1.17. Any other capability required by law.
- 4.2.1.18. GTE shall provide Switching Service Point (SSP) capabilities and signaling software to interconnect the signaling links destined to the Signaling Transfer Point Switch (STPS). In the event that Local Switching is provided out of a switch without SS7 capability, the Tandem shall provide this capability as discussed in the section on Tandem Switching. These capabilities shall adhere to Bellcore specifications - TCAP (GR-1432-CORE), ISUP (GR-905-CORE), Call Management (GR-1429-CORE), Switched Fractional DS1 (GR-1357-CORE), Toll Free Service (GR-1428-CORE), Calling Name (GR-1597-CORE), Line Information Database (GR-954-CORE), and Advanced Intelligent Network (GR-2863-CORE). A further description of AIN is set forth in Sections 4.2.1.26.1 and 4.2.1.26.2 of this Attachment 2.
- 4.2.1.19. GTE shall provide interfaces to adjuncts through industry standard and Bellcore interfaces. These adjuncts can include, but are not limited to, the Service Circuit Node and Automatic Call Distributors. Examples of existing interfaces are ANSI ISDN standards Q.931 and Q.932.
- 4.2.1.20. GTE shall provide performance data regarding a customer line, traffic characteristics or other measurable elements to AT&T to the extent that it provides that information to itself.
- 4.2.1.21. GTE shall offer Local Switching that provides feature offerings at parity to those provided by GTE to itself or any other party. Such feature offerings, where available, shall generally include but not be limited to:
- 4.2.1.22. Basic and primary rate ISDN;
- 4.2.1.23. Residential features;

- 4.2.1.24. Customer Local Area Signaling Services (CLASS/LASS);
- 4.2.1.25. CENTRANET (including equivalent administrative capabilities, such as customer accessible reconfiguration and detailed message recording); and
- 4.2.1.26. Advanced intelligent network triggers supporting AT&T features. GTE shall offer to AT&T all subscribed or end-user specific AIN triggers to the extent technically feasible, and Currently Available to GTE for offering AIN-based services in accordance with the applicable technical references listed in Appendix A to this Attachment 2, under paragraph 3 thereof, subject to Section 23.19 of the General Terms and Conditions of this Agreement.
- 4.2.1.26.1. When AT&T utilizes GTE's Local Switching network element and requests GTE to provision such network element with a Currently Available subscribed or end end-user specific AIN trigger, GTE will provide access to the appropriate AIN Call Related Database for the purpose of invoking either a GTE AIN feature or an AIN feature developed by AT&T through use of GTE's SCE/SMS under Section 11.7 below, provided, however, that GTE is not required to allow SS7 advanced intelligent access from AT&T's SCP to GTE's switch to invoke an AT&T-developed AIN feature, until testing and security concerns regarding the reliability of service to GTE's end users have been addressed, either through industry forums or successful testing.
- 4.2.1.26.2. When AT&T utilizes its own local switch, GTE will provide access to the appropriate AIN Call Related Database for the purpose of invoking either a GTE AIN feature or an AIN feature developed by AT&T through use of GTE's SCE/SMS under Section 11.7 below, provided, however, that GTE is not required to allow such use until testing and security concerns regarding the reliability of service to GTE's end users have been addressed, either through industry forums or successful testing.
- 4.2.1.27. Upon AT&T's request, GTE shall assign each AT&T Customer line the class of service designated by AT&T (e.g., using line class codes or other switch specific provisioning methods), and shall terminate Directory Assistance traffic onto the dedicated AT&T trunks previously identified by AT&T for this purpose.
- 4.2.1.28. Upon AT&T's request, GTE shall assign each AT&T Customer line the class of services designated by AT&T (e.g., using line class codes or other switch specific provisioning methods) and shall