

REMAND ORDER EMBEDDED BASE TEMPORARY RIDER

This is a Remand Order Embedded Base Temporary Rider (the “Embedded Base Rider”) to the Interconnection Agreement by and between one or more of the SBC Communications Inc. owned ILECs: Illinois Bell Telephone Company d/b/a SBC Illinois, Indiana Bell Telephone Company Incorporated d/b/a SBC Indiana, Michigan Bell Telephone Company d/b/a SBC Michigan, Nevada Bell Telephone Company d/b/a SBC Nevada, The Ohio Bell Telephone Company d/b/a SBC Ohio, Pacific Bell Telephone Company d/b/a SBC California, The Southern New England Telephone Company d/b/a SBC Connecticut, Southwestern Bell Telephone, L.P. d/b/a SBC Arkansas, SBC Kansas, SBC Missouri, SBC Oklahoma and SBC Texas, and Wisconsin Bell, Inc. d/b/a SBC Wisconsin, (“SBC” or “SBC ILEC”) and CLEC (collectively referred to as “the Parties”) (“Agreement”) previously entered into by and between the Parties pursuant to Sections 251 and 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the “Act”).

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) released on August 21, 2003 a “Report and Order on Remand and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking” in CC Docket Nos. 01-338, 96-98 and 98-147, 18 FCC Rcd 16978 (as corrected by the Errata, 18 FCC Rcd 19020, and as modified by Order on Reconsideration (rel. August 9, 2004) (the “Triennial Review Order” or “TRO”), which became effective as of October 2, 2003; and

WHEREAS, by its TRO, the FCC ruled that certain network elements were not required to be provided as unbundled network elements under Section 251(c)(3) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (“Act”), and therefore, SBC MISSOURI was no longer legally obligated to provide those network elements on an unbundled basis to CLEC under federal law; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, District of Columbia Circuit released its decision in *United States Telecom Ass’n v. F.C.C.*, 359 F3d 554 (D.C. Cir. 2004) (“USTA II”) on March 2, 2004 and its associated mandate on June 16, 2004; and

WHEREAS, the USTA II decision vacated certain of the FCC rules and parts of the TRO requiring the provision of certain unbundled network elements under Section 251(c)(3) of the Act, and therefore, SBC MISSOURI was no longer legally obligated to provide those network elements on an unbundled basis to CLEC under federal law; and

WHEREAS, the FCC issued its Order on Remand, including related unbundling rules,¹ on February 4, 2005 (“TRO Remand Order”), holding that an incumbent LEC is not required to provide access to local circuit switching on an unbundled basis to requesting telecommunications carriers (CLECs) for the purpose of serving end-user customers using DSO capacity loops (“mass market unbundled local circuit switching” or “Mass Market ULS” or access to certain high-capacity loop and certain dedicated transport on an unbundled basis to CLECs; and

WHEREAS, the FCC, in its TRO Remand Order, instituted transition periods and pricing to apply to CLEC’s embedded base of the affected elements; and

WHEREAS, as of the date the parties executed the Agreement to which this Temporary Rider is attached, CLEC has an embedded base of one or more of the affected elements, and the transition periods applicable to one or more of the elements had not yet expired;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Parties attach the following temporary terms and conditions to the Agreement to apply only to the embedded base of the affected elements, as set forth below:

¹ Order on Remand, *Unbundled Access to Network Elements: Review of the Section 251 Unbundling Obligations of Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers*, WC Docket No. 04-313; CC Docket No. 01-338, (FCC released Feb. 4, 2005).

1. TRO Remand-Declassified Loop-Transport Elements. Notwithstanding anything in the Agreement, pursuant to Rule 51.319(a) and Rule 51.319(e) as set forth in the TRO Remand Order, effective March 11, 2005, CLEC is not permitted to obtain the following new unbundled high-capacity loop and dedicated transport elements, either alone or in combination:

Dark Fiber Loops;

DS1/DS3 Loops in excess of the caps or to any building served by a wire center described in Rule 51.319(a)(4) or 51.319(a)(5), as applicable;

DS1/DS3 Transport in excess of the caps or between any pair of wire centers as described in Rule 51.319(e)(2)(ii) or 51.319(e)(2)(iii), as applicable; or

Dark Fiber Transport, between any pair of wire centers as described in Rule 51.319(e)(2)(iv).

The above-listed element(s) are referred to herein as the "Affected Loop-Transport Element(s)."

- 1.1 Transitional Provision of Embedded Base. As to each Affected Loop-Transport Element, after March 11, 2005, pursuant to Rules 51.319(a) and (e), as set forth in the TRO Remand Order, SBC MISSOURI shall continue to provide access to CLEC's embedded base of Affected Loop-Transport Element(s) (i.e. only Affected Loop-Transport Elements ordered by CLEC *before* March 11, 2005), in accordance with and only to the extent permitted by the terms and conditions set forth in the [NAME OF PRIOR, SUPERSEDED AGREEMENT AND APPLICABLE ATTACHMENT/APPENDIX], for a transitional period of time, ending upon the earlier of:

- (a) CLEC's disconnection or other discontinuance of use of one or more of the Affected Element(s);
- (b) CLEC's transition of an Affected Element(s) to an alternative arrangement; or
- (c) March 11, 2006 (for Affected DS1 and DS3 Loops and Transport) or September 11, 2006 (for Dark Fiber Loops and Affected Dark Fiber Transport).

SBC MISSOURI's transitional provision of embedded base Affected Element(s) under this Section 1.1 shall be on an "as is" basis. Upon the earlier of the above three events occurring, as applicable, SBC MISSOURI may, without further notice or liability, cease providing the Affected Element(s).

- 1.2 Transitional Pricing for Embedded Base. Notwithstanding anything in the [NAME OF PRIOR, SUPERSEDED AGREEMENT AND APPLICABLE ATTACHMENT/APPENDIX], during the applicable transitional period of time, the price for the embedded base Affected Loop-Transport Element(s) shall be the higher of (A) the rate CLEC paid for the Affected Loop-Transport Element(s) as of June 15, 2004 *plus 15%* or (B) the rate the state commission has established or establishes, if any, between June 16, 2004 and March 11, 2005 for the Affected Loop-Transport Element(s), *plus 15%*.

- 1.2.1 Regardless of the execution or effective date of this Embedded Base Rider or the underlying Agreement, CLEC will be liable to pay the Transitional Pricing for all Affected Loop-Transport Element(s), beginning March 11, 2005.

- 1.2.2 CLEC shall be fully liable to SBC to pay such Transitional Pricing under the Agreement, effective as of March 11, 2005, including applicable terms and conditions setting forth interest and/or late payment charges for failure to comply with payment terms.

- 1.3 End of Transitional Period. CLEC will complete the transition of embedded base Affected Loop-Transport Elements to an alternative arrangement by the end of the transitional period of time defined in the TRO Remand Order (as set forth in Sections 1.3.1 and 1.3.2, below). For Dark Fiber Affected Elements, CLEC will remove all CLEC services from such Dark Fiber Affected Elements and return the facilities to SBC by the end of the transition period defined in the TRO Remand Order for such Dark Fiber Affected Elements.
- 1.3.1 For Dark Fiber Loops and Affected Dark Fiber Transport, the transition period shall end on September 11, 2006.
- 1.3.2 For Affected DS1 and DS3 Loops and Transport, the transition period shall end on March 11, 2006.
- 1.3.3 To the extent that there are CLEC embedded base Affected DS1 and DS3 Loops or Transport in place on March 11, 2006, SBC MISSOURI without further notice or liability, will convert them to a Special Access month-to-month service under the applicable access tariffs.
2. TRO Remand-Declassified Switching and UNE-P. Subject to Sections 4.7.3, 10.10.3 and 10.10.4 of Attachment UNE 6 and pursuant to Rule 51.319(d) and para. 233 and 234 as set forth in the TRO Remand Order, effective March 11, 2005, CLEC is not permitted to obtain new Mass Market ULS, whether alone, in combination (as in with "UNE-P"), or otherwise. For purposes of this Section, "Mass Market" shall mean 1 – 23 lines, inclusive (i.e. less than a DS1 or "Enterprise" level.)
- 2.1 Transitional Provision of Embedded Base. As to each Mass Market ULS or Mass Market UNE-P, after March 11, 2005, pursuant to Rules 51.319(d), as set forth in the TRO Remand Order, SBC MISSOURI shall continue to provide access to CLEC's embedded base of Mass Market ULS Element or Mass Market UNE-P (i.e. only Mass Market ULS Elements or Mass Market UNE-P ordered by CLEC *before* March 11, 2005), in accordance with and only to the extent permitted by the terms and conditions set forth in the [NAME OF PRIOR, SUPERSEDED AGREEMENT AND APPLICABLE ATTACHMENT/APPENDIX], for a transitional period of time, ending upon the earlier of:
- (a) CLEC's disconnection or other discontinuance [except Suspend/Restore] of use of one or more of the Mass Market ULS Element(s) or Mass Market UNE-P;
- (b) CLEC's transition of a Mass Market ULS Element(s) or Mass Market UNE-P to an alternative arrangement; or
- (c) March 11, 2006.
- SBC MISSOURI's transitional provision of embedded base Mass Market ULS or Mass Market UNE-P under this Section 2.1 shall be on an "as is" basis, except that CLEC may continue to submit orders to add, change or delete features on the embedded base Mass Market ULS or Mass Market UNE-P, or may re-configure to permit or eliminate line splitting. Upon the earlier of the above three events occurring, as applicable, SBC MISSOURI may, without further notice or liability, cease providing the Mass Market ULS Element(s) or Mass Market UNE-P.
- 2.1.1 Concurrently with its provision of embedded base Mass Market ULS or Mass Market UNE-P pursuant to this Embedded Base Rider, and subject to this Section 2, and subject to the conditions set forth in Section 2.1.1.1 below, SBC MISSOURI shall also continue to

provide access to call-related databases, SS7 call setup, ULS shared transport and other switch-based features in accordance with and only to the extent permitted by the terms and conditions set forth in the [NAME OF PRIOR, SUPERSEDED AGREEMENT AND APPLICABLE ATTACHMENT/APPENDIX], and only to the extent such items were already being provided before March 11, 2005, in conjunction with the embedded base Mass Market ULS or Mass Market UNE-P.

2.1.1.1 The [NAME OF PRIOR, SUPERSEDED AGREEMENT AND APPLICABLE ATTACHMENT/APPENDIX] must contain the appropriate related terms and conditions, including pricing; and the features must be “loaded” and “activated” in the switch.

2.2 Transitional Pricing for Embedded Base. Notwithstanding anything in the [NAME OF PRIOR, SUPERSEDED AGREEMENT AND APPLICABLE ATTACHMENT/APPENDIX], during the applicable transitional period of time, the price for the embedded base Mass Market ULS or Mass Market UNE-P shall be the higher of (A) the rate at which CLEC obtained such Mass Market ULS/UNE-P on June 15, 2004 plus one dollar, or (B) the rate the applicable state commission established(s), if any, between June 16, 2004, and March 11, 2005, for such Mass Market ULS/UNE-P, plus one dollar. CLEC shall be fully liable to SBC to pay such pricing under the Agreement, including applicable terms and conditions setting forth interest and/or late payment charges for failure to comply with payment terms, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Agreement.

2.2.1 Regardless of the execution or effective date of this Embedded Base Rider or the underlying Agreement, CLEC will be liable to pay the Transitional Pricing for Mass Market ULS Element(s) and Mass Market UNE-P, beginning March 11, 2005.

2.2.2 CLEC shall be fully liable to SBC to pay such Transitional Pricing under the Agreement, effective as of March 11, 2005, including applicable terms and conditions setting forth interest and/or late payment charges for failure to comply with payment terms.

2.3 End of Transitional Period. CLEC will complete the transition of embedded base Mass Market ULS and Mass Market UNE-P to an alternative arrangement by the end of the transitional period of time defined in the TRO Remand Order (March 11, 2006).

2.3.1 To the extent that there are CLEC embedded base Mass Market ULS or UNE-P [and related items, such as those referenced in Section 2.1.1, above] in place on March 11, 2006, SBC MISSOURI, without further notice or liability, will re-price such arrangements to a market-based rate.

3. Sections 1 and 2, above, apply and are operative regardless of whether CLEC is requesting the Affected Element(s), Mass Market ULS or Mass Market UNE-P under the Agreement or under a state tariff, if applicable, and regardless of whether the state tariff is referenced in the Agreement or not.

4. In entering into this Embedded Base Rider, neither Party is waiving, and each Party hereby expressly reserves, any of the rights, remedies or arguments it may have at law or under the intervening law or regulatory change provisions in the underlying Agreement (including intervening law rights asserted by either Party via written notice predating this Embedded Base Rider) with respect to any orders, decisions, legislation or proceedings and any remands thereof, including, without limitation, the following actions, which the Parties have not yet fully incorporated into this Agreement or which may be the subject of further review: *Verizon v. FCC, et. al*, 535 U.S. 467 (2002); *USTA, et. al v. FCC*, 290 F.3d 415 (D.C. Cir. 2002) (“*USTA I*”)

and following remand and appeal, *USTA v. FCC*, 359 F.3d 554 (D.C. Cir. 2004) ("*USTA II*"); the FCC's 2003 Triennial Review Order and 2005 Triennial Review Remand Order; and the FCC's Order on Remand and Report and Order in CC Dockets No. 96-98 and 99-68, 16 FCC Rcd 9151 (2001), (rel. April 27, 2001), which was remanded in *WorldCom, Inc. v. FCC*, 288 F.3d 429 (D.C. Cir. 2002).

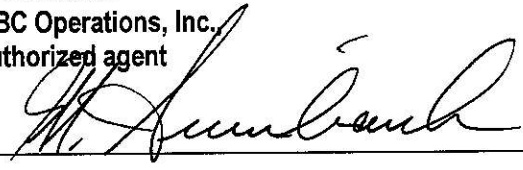
5. Except to the extent of the very limited purposes and time periods set forth in this Embedded Base Rider, this Embedded Base Rider, does not, in any way, extend the rates, terms or conditions of the [NAME OF PRIOR, SUPERSEDED AGREEMENT AND APPLICABLE ATTACHMENT/APPENDIX] beyond its term.
6. In all states other than Ohio, the Parties acknowledge and agree that this Embedded Base Rider shall be filed with, and is subject to approval by the applicable state commission and shall become effective ten (10) days following the date upon which such state commission approves this Embedded Base Rider under Section 252(e) of the Act or, absent such state commission approval, the date this Embedded Base Rider is deemed approved by operation of law. In the state of Ohio only, the Parties acknowledge and agree that this Embedded Base Rider shall be filed with, and is subject to approval by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio ("PUCO"). Based upon PUCO practice, this Embedded Base Rider shall be effective upon filing and will be deemed approved by operation of law on the 31st day after filing.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Embedded Base Rider to the Agreement was exchanged in triplicate on this _____ day of _____, 2005, by the Parties, signing by and through their duly authorized representatives.

Birch Telecom of Missouri, Inc.
Ionex Communications, Inc.

Southwestern Bell Telephone, L.P. d/b/a
SBC MISSOURI
By SBC Operations, Inc.
Its authorized agent

By: _____

By:  _____

Name: _____
(Print or Type)

Name: Mike Auinbauh
(Print or Type)

Title: _____
(Print or Type)

Title: AVP-Local Interconnection Marketing

Date: _____

Date: 8-9-05

FACILITIES-BASED OCN # _____

ACNA _____