

ARTICLE V: INTERCONNECTION AND TRANSPORT
AND TERMINATION OF TRAFFIC

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**9.0 INTERCARRIER COMPENSATION FOR TRANSPORT AND TERMINATION
OF TRAFFIC SUBJECT TO THIS INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT**

9.1 [Intentionally omitted].

9.2 MCA Traffic is traffic originated by a Party providing a local calling scope pursuant to Case No. TO-92-306 and Case No. TO-99-483 (MCA Orders) and routed as Local Traffic based on the calling scope of the originating Party pursuant to the MCA Orders.

9.2.1 Compensation for MCA Traffic will be consistent with the Commission's decisions in Case No. TO-92-306 and Case No. TO-99-483.

9.2.2 The Parties agree to use the Local Exchange Routing Guide (LERG) to provision the appropriate MCA NXXs in their networks. The LERG should be updated in accordance with industry standards for opening a new code to allow the other Party the ability to make the necessary network modifications. If the Commission orders the Parties to use an alternative other than the LERG, the Parties will comply with the Commission's final order.

9.2.3 VNXX Traffic. If Socket assigns NPA/NXXs to a customer physically located outside of the CenturyTel Local Calling Area containing the Rate Center with which the NPA/NXX is associated, traffic originating from CenturyTel customers within that CenturyTel Local Calling Area to Socket customers physically located outside of the CenturyTel Local Calling Area shall not be deemed Local Traffic but shall be at Bill-and-Keep.

9.2.4 MCA Transit Traffic. Neither Party shall assess transit charges on any MCA Transit Traffic.

9.3 [Intentionally omitted].

9.4 [Intentionally omitted].

9.4.1 [Intentionally omitted].

9.4.2 "Bill-and-Keep" refers to an arrangement in which neither of two interconnecting Parties charges the other for terminating traffic that originates on the other Party's network.

9.5 [Intentionally omitted].

9.6 [Intentionally omitted].

9.6.1 [Intentionally omitted].

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9.6.2 [Intentionally omitted].

9.6.3 [Intentionally omitted].

9.7 Transport.

Transport includes dedicated and common transport and any necessary Tandem Switching of Local Traffic from the POI between the two carriers to the terminating carrier's End-Office Switch that directly serves the called end-user.

9.7.1 Transport of Local Traffic.

Each Party shall be responsible for facilities and transport of Local Traffic between a Party's Central Office Switch and the POI.

9.7.2 Termination.

Termination includes the Tandem Switching of Local Traffic at the terminating carrier's End Office Switch. Termination rates are set forth in Article VIIA.

9.7.3 Compensation for Terminating Access Charges on Calls to Ported Numbers.

The Parties agree that a Meet Point Billing arrangement will be used to bill for terminating switched access charges associated with calls terminated to a ported number. Each Party will bill the IXC the applicable switched access rate elements for functions provided over each respective Party's facilities. The Parties will follow any industry standards established for call record exchanges for Meet Point Billing.

9.8 Nothing in this Section shall be interpreted to (i) change compensation as set forth in this Agreement for traffic or services other than traffic or services for which compensation is addressed in this Article V, including but not limited to Internetwork Facilities, access traffic or wireless traffic, or (ii) allow either Party to aggregate traffic other than Local Traffic for the purpose of compensation under the Bill-and-Keep arrangement described in this Section. The Parties reserve the right to otherwise seek compensation for non-Local Traffic including the imposition of access charges where appropriate.

10.0 TRANSIT TRAFFIC

10.1 Socket may indirectly interconnect with other carriers.

10.2 Compensation for MCA Transit Traffic.

10.2.1 Consistent with the Commission's decision in Case No. TO-92-306 and Case No. TO-99-483 and notwithstanding any other provision of the Agreement to the contrary, neither Party shall assess Transit charges on any MCA Transit Traffic.

10.3 Compensation for Non-MCA Transit Traffic.

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