

ARTICLE V: INTERCONNECTION AND TRANSPORT
AND TERMINATION OF TRAFFIC

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1.0 GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 1.1 This Article describes the technical arrangements by which Socket and CenturyTel will interconnect their networks when Socket is providing its switching facilities to serve a given exchange area and related terms and conditions herein.
- 1.2 [Intentionally omitted].
- 1.3 The Parties acknowledge that in paragraph 140 of its Triennial Review Remand Order the FCC said, in part: "We note in addition that our finding of non-impairment with respect to entrance facilities does not alter the right of competitive LECs to obtain interconnection facilities pursuant to section 251(c)(2) for the transmission and routing of telephone exchange service and local exchange service. Thus, competitive LECs will have access to these facilities at cost-based rates to the extent that they require them to interconnect with the incumbent LEC's network."
- 1.4 CenturyTel shall provide interconnection in compliance with Applicable Law.
- 1.5 [Intentionally omitted].

2.0 INTERCONNECTION REQUESTS

- 2.1 Upon request from Socket to establish an interconnection arrangement or augment an existing interconnection arrangement, Socket may invoke the provisions of Article III, Section 7 whereby the Parties will ensure that current contact and escalation information is exchanged for all functions and processes involved in implementation of interconnection. CenturyTel shall ensure that its personnel are knowledgeable and qualified to assist Socket in addressing issues and questions.
- 2.2 CenturyTel and Socket agree to follow the then-current ATIS/OBF ASOG Standards for completing ASRs. If CenturyTel intends to deviate from the then-current version, it will provide reasonable notice to Socket, explaining the nature of the deviation(s), the reason for the deviation(s), and how the deviation impacts Socket's filing of accurate and complete ASRs.
- 2.3 Upon request, CenturyTel shall provide to Socket technical information about CenturyTel's network facilities in sufficient detail to achieve interconnection consistent with 47 C.F.R. § 51.305.

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- 2.4 In the event that CenturyTel does not have the capacity to support an interconnection arrangement requested by Socket, CenturyTel shall provide a detailed explanation of the reason such capacity does not exist.
- 2.5 CenturyTel shall not delay processing and fulfilling, or refuse to process and fulfill, Socket's requests for additional interconnection facilities or capacity because CenturyTel believes Socket does not need the additional interconnection capacity.
- 2.6 Socket shall submit service orders for establishing interconnection arrangements consistent with the provisions of Article VIII: Ordering and Provisioning, using an LSR or ASR as appropriate. Upon receipt of a Socket service order, CenturyTel shall review the order in order to identify LSOG and ASOG OBF compliance errors on the order. If CenturyTel finds errors in an order submitted by Socket, CenturyTel will identify all known errors on the order and refer them back to Socket on a single response. Socket will then correct any errors that CenturyTel has identified and resubmit the request to CenturyTel through a supplemental order.
- 2.6.1 Socket shall have administrative and order control (e.g., determination of trunk group size), consistent with this Article, of all trunks groups provisioned between Socket and CenturyTel. This only applies to the extent that it does not require CenturyTel to redesign its network configuration.
- 2.7 [Intentionally omitted]
- 2.8 Inter-network connection and protocol must be based on industry standards developed consistent with the Act.
- 3.0 INTERCONNECTION, TRANSPORT AND TERMINATION OF TRAFFIC
- 3.1 The Parties shall interconnect, establish points of interconnection ("POIs"), and transport and terminate traffic consistent with the provisions of this Article.
- 3.2 For purposes of Section 4.3 and its subsections below, an "access line" shall mean an analog line or a digital voice-grade equivalent line used to connect an end-user to a company's central office. Voice-grade equivalent should be considered as each channel available for voice traffic on a high capacity line. One (1) high capacity line equipped with twenty-four (24) voice grade channels will be considered twenty four (24) access lines.
- 4.0 REQUIREMENTS FOR ESTABLISHING POINTS OF INTERCONNECTION ("POIs")
- 4.1 When the Parties directly interconnect for the mutual exchange of traffic covered by this Agreement, the Parties will initially interconnect their network facilities at a minimum of

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one technically feasible POI on CenturyTel's network in each LATA in which Socket offers telecommunications services.

- 4.2 If CenturyTel asserts that a Socket POI is no longer technically feasible, CenturyTel must prove to the Commission that interconnection at that point is no longer technically feasible.
- 4.2.1 If a Socket POI becomes no longer technically feasible, Socket must take such actions as may be necessary to make the POI technically feasible, including, where required, establishing one or more additional technically feasible POI(s).
- 4.3 As the volume of traffic exchanged between the parties increases, Socket must establish additional POIs as follows:
 - 4.3.1 CenturyTel's exchanges are classified on a thousand-access-line basis as follows:
 - a. Exchanges of 1,000 CenturyTel access lines or less are "Class I Exchanges"; and
 - b. Exchanges of more than 1,000 CenturyTel access lines are "Class II Exchanges".
 - c. If there is a dispute between the Parties as to the number of CenturyTel access lines in an exchange, the Staff of the Commission will assist with resolution of the dispute. If the dispute persists, either Party may seek Commission resolution of the dispute without following the normal dispute resolution process in the interconnection agreement.
 - 4.3.2 Intentionally left blank.
 - 4.3.3 Socket is required to establish an additional POI in a Class I Exchange when the total traffic covered by the Agreement it exchanges with CenturyTel to or from an existing POI and a Class I exchange exceeds, at peak over three consecutive months, a DS1 or 24-channels.
 - 4.3.4 Socket is required to establish an additional POI in a Class II Exchange when the total traffic covered by the Agreement it exchanges with CenturyTel to or from an existing POI and a Class II exchange exceeds, at peak over three consecutive months, a DS1 or 24-channels for each 1,000 access lines in the exchange, rounded to the nearest 1/10 of a DS1.
 - a. *E.g.*, for an exchange of 2,412 CenturyTel access lines, this threshold is reached when the total traffic covered by the Agreement exchanged between the Parties exceeds, at peak over three consecutive months, 2.4 DS1s of traffic to or from an existing POI and that exchange;
 - b. *E.g.*, for an exchange of 10,550 CenturyTel access lines, this threshold is reached when the total traffic covered by the Agreement exchanged between the Parties exceeds, at peak over three consecutive months 10.6 DS1s of traffic to or from an existing POI and that exchange; and,
 - c. *E.g.*, for an exchange of 28,100 CenturyTel access lines, this threshold is reached when the total traffic covered by the Agreement exchanged between the Parties exceeds, at peak over three consecutive months, 28.1 DS1s of traffic to or from an existing POI and that exchange.

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- 4.3.5 Socket will no longer be required to maintain a POI in exchanges where Socket establishes a POI pursuant to Sections 4.3.3 or 4.3.4 when the volume of traffic exchanged between the Parties falls below, at peak over 3 consecutive months, a DS1 or 24-channels in a Class I exchange, or a DS1 or 24-channels for each 1,000 access lines in a Class II exchange, rounded to the nearest 1/10 of a DS1. Socket shall provide CenturyTel with written notice of its intention to decommission a POI pursuant to this section. Socket shall not decommission such POI until the earlier of the 90th day after providing the written notice to CenturyTel or CenturyTel's notice to Socket that CenturyTel has re-provisioned trunking. If there is a dispute between the Parties about whether a threshold for decommissioning a POI as described in this section has been met, the Parties will follow the expedited dispute resolution process described in Article III, Section 18.4. Socket shall not be permitted to decommission a POI in a disputed exchange until the dispute resolution process concludes with an award.
- 4.4 Subject to this Article V and, in particular, Sections 4.1-4.3.4, the Parties agree that Socket has the right to choose a single POI or multiple POIs within the LATA.
- 4.5 Unless there is a dispute about the establishment of an additional POI in an exchange, the additional POI(s) will be established within 90 days of notification that the threshold has been met. Socket must provide CenturyTel notice of a dispute about the establishment of an additional POI within 15 business days after notification that the threshold has been met. If there is a dispute between the Parties about whether a threshold for establishment of one or more additional POIs as described in this section has been met, the Parties will follow the expedited dispute resolution process described in Article III, Section 18.4. Socket will not be required to establish an additional POI in a disputed exchange until the dispute resolution process concludes with an award.
- 4.6 When a POI is to be established to exchange traffic with a CenturyTel exchange that is not listed in the Local Exchange Routing Guide ("LERG") Common Language Location Identifier ("CLLI") Code classification as a "host" switch, the POI will be established within the exchange of the remote switch, unless the Parties agree to establish the POI within the exchange of the host switch.
- 4.7 [Intentionally omitted]
- 4.8 Socket will be responsible for engineering and maintaining its network on its side of the POI. CenturyTel will be responsible for engineering and maintaining its network on its side of the POI.
- 4.9 Each Party will be responsible for providing the necessary equipment and facilities on its side of the POI.
- 5.0 [INTENTIONALLY OMITTED].

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6.0 INTERCONNECTION METHODS

6.1 Where Socket seeks to interconnect with CenturyTel for the purpose of mutually exchanging traffic between networks, Socket may use any of the following methods of obtaining interconnection. Such methods include but are not limited to:

6.1.1 Physical Collocation –

6.1.1.1 In instances where Physical Collocation is the Interconnection Method, the POI shall be where Socket's collocation cable facilities (or those of a third-party) physically connect to CenturyTel termination equipment. This shall be identified by the Circuit Facilities Address (CFA) provided by Socket.

6.1.2 Virtual Collocation.

6.1.2.1 In instances where Virtual Collocation is the interconnection method, the POI shall be the last entrance manhole (Manhole Zero). From this manhole into the premises, CenturyTel shall assume ownership of and maintain the fiber. From this manhole toward Socket's location, the fiber optic cable remains Socket's responsibility, with Socket performing all servicing and maintaining full ownership. If Socket is purchasing CenturyTel-provided unbundled interoffice facilities as transport, an entrance facility is not required.

6.1.3 Fiber Meet Point.

6.1.3.1 Option 1 – Socket's fiber cable and CenturyTel's fiber cable are connected at an economically and technically feasible point between the Socket location and the last entrance manhole at the CenturyTel Central Office.

6.1.3.1.1 The Parties may agree to a location with access to an existing CenturyTel fiber termination panel. In such cases, the network interconnection point (POI) shall be designated outside of the CenturyTel building, even though the Socket fiber may be physically terminated on a fiber termination panel inside of a CenturyTel building. In this instance, Socket will not incur fiber termination charges, and CenturyTel will be responsible for connecting the cable to the CenturyTel facility.

6.1.3.1.2 Conversely, the Parties may agree to a location with access to an existing Socket fiber termination panel. In these cases, the POI shall be designated outside of the Socket building, even though the CenturyTel fiber may be physically terminated on a fiber termination panel inside of a Socket building. In this instance, CenturyTel will not incur fiber termination charges, and Socket will be responsible for connecting the cable to the Socket facility.

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6.1.3.1.3 If a suitable location with an existing fiber termination panel cannot be agreed upon, Socket and CenturyTel shall mutually determine the provision of a fiber termination panel housed in an outside, above-ground cabinet placed at the physical POI.

6.1.3.2 Option 2 – Socket will provide fiber cable to the last entrance manhole (Manhole Zero) at the CenturyTel Tandem or End Office with which Socket wishes to interconnect. Socket will provide a sufficient length of fiber optic cable for CenturyTel to pull the fiber cable to the CenturyTel cable vault for termination. In this case, the POI shall be the manhole location.

6.1.4 Socket Self-Provision and/or Leasing of Facilities from a Third Party.

6.1.4.1 This would include instances where the Parties connect their networks at the location of a third-party such as a customer premise, building, or other location where CenturyTel has network facilities.

6.1.4.2 In this instance, the POI shall be the point where the facilities of Socket (or those of a third party) physically connect to the facilities of CenturyTel.

6.1.5 Leasing of Dedicated Transport Facilities from CenturyTel

6.1.5.1 Socket may elect to lease interconnection facilities from CenturyTel at the rates set forth in Article VIIA.

6.1.5.2 In this instance, the POI shall be where the leased channel termination equipment physically connects to the CenturyTel switch or to the cross-connect that connects the leased transmission equipment to the switch.

6.1.6 Any other technically feasible method for obtaining interconnection.

7.0 INDIRECT NETWORK INTERCONNECTION

7.1 Where one Party chooses to route traffic through a third-party Transit provider, the third party must have a POI with the originating and terminating carrier in the same LATA as the originating and terminating Parties' Local Routing Numbers ("LRNs") as defined in the LERG. Each Party must have connection to the third party.

8.0 INTERCONNECTION FACILITY COMPENSATION

8.1 Each Party is responsible for bringing its facilities and trunks to the POI.

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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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- 10.3.1 Because Transit Traffic is an obligation imposed pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §§ 251(c)(2) and (3), the applicable pricing standard for Non-MCA Transit Traffic is TELRIC.
- 10.3.2 The originating Party will compensate the transiting Party for each minute of non-MCA originated traffic that does not terminate to the Transit provider's end user but terminates to a third party (e.g., other CLEC, ILEC, or wireless service provider). The applicable rate for this charge is the Transit Rate, which is based upon the tandem switching and common transport rates set forth in Article VIIA.
- 10.4 Where the Transit provider is sent CPN by the originating carrier, the Transit provider will send the original and true CPN to the terminating Party.
- 10.5 In the event one Party originates traffic that transits the other Party's network to reach a third-party telecommunications carrier with whom the originating Party does not have a traffic interexchange agreement, then the originating Party will indemnify the transiting Party for any lawful charges that any terminating third-party carrier imposes or levies on the transiting Party for the delivery or termination of such traffic.
- 10.6 Unless otherwise provided in this Agreement, neither the terminating Party nor the Transit provider shall be required to function as a billing intermediary, e.g., clearinghouse. Terminating carriers shall be required to directly bill the Party that originates calls and sends traffic over the Transit provider's network.
- 10.7 [Intentionally omitted]
- 10.8 [Intentionally omitted]
- 11.0 TRUNKING
- 11.1 Trunking Requirements: The interconnection of Socket and CenturyTel networks shall be designed to promote network efficiency. CenturyTel will not impose any restrictions on Socket that are not imposed on its own traffic with respect to trunking and routing options afforded to Socket. In accordance with Article III, it will be necessary for the Parties to have met and discussed trunking, forecasting, availability and requirements in order for the Parties to begin exchange of traffic.
- 11.1.1 The Parties agree to establish trunk groups of sufficient capacity from the interconnecting facilities such that trunking is available to any switching center designated by either Party, including End Offices, Tandems, and 911 routing switches. Where available, the Parties will use two-way trunks for delivery of Local Interconnection Traffic, or either Party may elect to provision its own one-way trunks for delivery of Local Interconnection Traffic to the other Party. If a Party elects to provision its own one-way trunks when two-way trunking is available, that Party will be responsible for its own expenses associated with the trunks. If two-way trunking is not available, the Parties shall use one-way trunking for the exchange of Local Interconnection Traffic, and each Party will be responsible for its own expenses associated with its own one-way trunks.

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- 11.1.2 With respect to trunking, the Parties recognize that the terminating carrier may elect to require that traffic be delivered to it over separate trunk groups.
- 11.1.2.1 For traffic Socket originates that CenturyTel terminates, Socket shall establish separate trunk groups for the delivery of IXC and LEC-to-LEC traffic to CenturyTel.
- 11.1.2.2 For traffic that will be terminated by Socket, CenturyTel shall establish separate trunk groups for the delivery to Socket of IXC and LEC-to-LEC traffic.
- 11.1.2.3 Except as necessary to comply with the Commission's rules, CenturyTel may not limit the types of traffic that pass over interconnection facilities or require that traffic be routed or separated in a given way.
- 11.1.2.4 [Intentionally omitted]
- 11.1.2.5 Dedicated trunking may be established by mutual agreement of the Parties.
- 11.1.3 Each Party agrees to route traffic only over the proper jurisdictional trunk group.
- 11.1.3.1 [Intentionally omitted].
- 11.1.3.2 Neither Party shall route IXC Switched Access Service traffic over local interconnection trunks, or Local Traffic over Switched Access Service trunks.
- 11.1.4 End-Office Trunking. The Parties will work cooperatively to establish high volume End-Office trunk groups sufficient to handle the greater of the actual or reasonably forecasted traffic volumes between a Socket End Office and a CenturyTel End Office.
- 11.1.5 Consistent with Section 8.1, each Party will be responsible for the expenses associated with its own portion of the trunking on its own side of the Point of Interconnection.
- 11.1.6 Reciprocal traffic exchange arrangement trunk connections shall be made at a DS-1 or multiple DS-1 level, DS-3, (Synchronous Optical Network (SONET) where technically available) and shall be jointly engineered to the appropriate industry grade of service standard. Socket and CenturyTel agree to jointly plan interconnection trunking to ensure that the reciprocal traffic exchange arrangement trunk groups are maintained at the appropriate industry grade of service standard (B.01). Such plan shall also include mutually-agreed upon default standards for the configuration of all segregated trunk groups.
- 11.1.7 SS7 Common Channel Signaling will be used to the extent that such technology is available. If SS7 is not available, Multi-Frequency Signaling (MF) will be used as specified.
- 11.1.8 The Parties agree to offer and provide to each other B8ZS Extended Superframe Format (ESF) facilities, where available, capable of voice and data traffic transmission.
- 11.1.9 The Parties will support intercompany 64kbps clear channel where available.

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11.1.10 Orders between the Parties to establish, add, change or disconnect trunks shall be processed by use of an Access Service Request (ASR), or another industry standard eventually adopted to replace the ASR for local service ordering.

11.2 Trunk Forecasting.

11.2.1 The Parties will develop joint forecasting of trunk groups in accordance with Article III. Intercompany forecast information must be provided by the Parties to each other once a year. The annual forecasts will include:

11.2.1.1 Yearly forecasted trunk quantities for no less than a two-year period (current year, plus one year).

11.2.2 A description of major network projects that affect the other Party will be provided with the semi-annual forecasts provided pursuant to Section 11.2.1.1. Major network projects include but are not limited to trunking or network rearrangements, shifts in anticipated traffic patterns, or other activities by either Party that may be reflected in a significant increase or decrease in trunking demand for the following forecasting period.

11.2.3 The Parties will meet to review and reconcile their forecasts if their respective forecasts differ significantly from one another.

11.3 Trunk Facility Underutilization.

At least once a year, the Parties shall exchange trunk group measurement reports for trunk groups terminating to the other Party's network. In addition and from time to time, each Party will determine the required trunks for each of the other Party's trunk groups from the previous 12 months servicing data. Required trunks will be based on the appropriate grade of service standard (B.01). When a condition of excess capacity is identified, the Parties will facilitate a review of the trunk group existing and near term (3 to 6 months) traffic requirements for possible network efficiency adjustment.

11.4 [Intentionally omitted].

11.5 Network Redesigns Initiated by CenturyTel.

CenturyTel will not charge Socket when CenturyTel initiates its own network redesigns/reconfigurations.

12.0 BILLING AND RECORDING

12.1 Charges for physical facilities and other non-usage sensitive charges shall be billed in advance, except for charges and credits associated with the initial or final bills. Usage sensitive charges shall be billed in arrears.

12.2 Usage Measurement. Usage measurement for calls shall begin when Answer Supervision or the equivalent Signaling System 7 (SS7) message is received from the terminating

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office and shall end at the time of call disconnect by the calling or called subscriber, whichever occurs first. Minutes of use (MOU), or fractions thereof, shall not be rounded upward on a per-call basis, but will be accumulated over the billing period. At the end of the billing period, any remaining fraction shall be rounded up to the nearest whole minute to arrive at total billable minutes for each interconnection. MOU shall be collected and measured in minutes, seconds, and tenths of seconds.

- 12.3 Recording and Billing for Local Interconnection Traffic. All recording and billing of Local Interconnection Traffic shall be in compliance with the provisions of the Missouri Enhanced Records Exchange Rule, 4 CSR 240, Chapter 29.

12.3.1 [Intentionally omitted].

12.3.2 [Intentionally omitted].

12.3.3 [Intentionally omitted].

12.3.4 [Intentionally omitted].

- 12.4 Service Ordering, Service Provisioning, and Billing.

Except as specifically provided otherwise in this Agreement, service ordering, provisioning, billing and maintenance for non-access services shall be governed by the CenturyTel Service Guide. CenturyTel will provide Socket with clear, advance notice of changes to CenturyTel's procedures as stated in the Service Guide, and Socket has the right to raise a valid dispute under the terms of this Agreement if a change materially affects Socket's service. If there is any variation in the terms of this Agreement and the terms in CenturyTel's Service Guide, the terms of this Agreement shall prevail.

13.0 MEET-POINT ARRANGEMENT AND BILLING (MPB)

- 13.1 Meet-Point Arrangements.

- 13.1.1 As set forth in Section 11.1.2, the Parties will establish MPB arrangements in order to provide Switched Access Services to Access Service customers via a CenturyTel Access Tandem in accordance with the MPB guidelines adopted by and contained in the Ordering and Billing Forum's MECAB and MECOD documents.

- 13.1.2 Except in instances of capacity limitations, CenturyTel shall permit and enable Socket to sub-tend the CenturyTel Access Tandem(s) nearest to the Socket Rating Point(s) associated with the NPA/NXX(s) to/from which the Switched Access Services are homed. In instances of capacity limitation at a given Access Tandem, Socket shall be allowed to sub-tend the next-nearest CenturyTel Access Tandem in which sufficient capacity is available.

- 13.1.3 Interconnection for the MPB arrangement shall occur at the interconnection point (POI).

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13.1.4 Common Channel Signaling shall be utilized in conjunction with MPB arrangements to the extent such signaling is resident in the CenturyTel Access Tandem Switch.

13.1.5 Socket and CenturyTel will use diligent efforts, individually and collectively, to maintain provisions in their respective federal and state access tariffs, and/or provisions within the National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA) Tariff No. 4, or any successor tariff, sufficient to reflect this MPB arrangement, including MPB percentages.

13.1.6 As detailed in the MECAB document, Socket and CenturyTel will, in a timely fashion, exchange all information necessary to accurately, reliably and promptly bill access service customers for Switched Access Services traffic jointly handled by Socket and CenturyTel via the Meet-Point Billing arrangement. Information shall be exchanged in Exchange Message Record (EMR) format, on magnetic tape or via a mutually acceptable Electronic File Transfer protocol.

13.1.7 Socket and CenturyTel shall work cooperatively to coordinate rendering of Meet-Point bills to customers, and shall reciprocally provide each other usage data and related information at no charge.

Should the exchange of information become out of balance, either Party may invoke the dispute resolution process to begin charging for the exchange of usage data and related information.

13.1.8 [Intentionally omitted].

13.2 Compensation for Meet-Point Traffic.

Billing to access service customers for the Switched Access Services jointly provided by Socket and CenturyTel via the MPB arrangement shall be according to the multiple-bill/multiple tariff method as described in the MECAB guidelines. This means each Party will bill the portion of service it provided at the appropriate tariff, or price list.

14.0 COMMON CHANNEL SIGNALING

14.1 Service Description.

The Parties will provide Common Channel Signaling (CCS) to one another via Signaling System 7 (SS7) network interconnection, where and as available, in the manner specified in FCC Order 95-187, in conjunction with all traffic exchange trunk groups. The Parties will cooperate on the exchange of all appropriate SS7 messages for local and intraLATA call set-up signaling, including ISDN User Part (ISUP) and Transaction Capabilities Application Part (TCAP) messages to facilitate full interoperability of all CLASS Features and functions between their respective networks. Any other SS7 message services to be provided using TCAP messages (such as data base queries) will be jointly negotiated and agreed upon.

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14.2 Signaling Parameters.

All SS7 signaling parameters will be provided in conjunction with traffic exchange trunk groups, where and as available. These parameters include Automatic Number Identification (ANI), Calling Party Number (CPN), Privacy Indicator, calling party category information, originating line information, charge number, etc. Also included are all parameters relating to network signaling information, such as Carrier Information Parameter (CIP), wherever such information is needed for call routing or billing.

14.3 Privacy Indicators.

Each Party will honor all privacy indicators as required under Applicable Law.

14.4 Third-Party Signaling Providers.

Socket may choose a third-party SS7 signaling provider.

14.5 Multi-Frequency Signaling.

In the case where CCS is not available, in band Multi-Frequency (MF), wink start, E & M channel associated signaling with ANI will be provided by the Parties. Network signaling information, such as CIC/OZZ, will be provided wherever such information is needed for call routing or billing.

15.0 NETWORK MANAGEMENT CONTROLS

- 15.1 Each Party shall provide a 24-hour contact number for network traffic management issues to the other's network surveillance management center. A fax number must also be provided to facilitate event notifications for planned mass calling events. Additionally, both Parties agree that they shall work cooperatively in attempting to ensure that all such events are conducted in such a manner as to avoid degradation or loss of service to other end-users. Each Party shall maintain the capability of respectively implementing standard protective controls.

16.0 ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

- 16.1 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. When a Party opens a new NXX, it will submit an ASR to advise the other Party how to route the traffic to the new NXX.

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- 16.2 Each Party will transmit call detail information to the other for each call being transited to or terminated on the other's network in compliance with the provisions of the Missouri Enhanced Records Exchange Rule; 4 CSR 240, Chapter 29. For traffic that is not covered by that rule, including but not limited to Meet-Point traffic, each Party will include in the information transmitted to the other for each call being terminated on the other's network (where technically available to the transmitting party), the originating Calling Party Number (CPN). For all traffic originated on a Party's network including, without limitation, Switched Access Traffic, and wireless traffic, such Party shall provide CPN as defined in 47 C.F.R. § 64.1600(c) ("CPN"). Each Party to this Agreement will be responsible for passing on any CPN it receives from a third party for traffic delivered to the other Party. In addition, each Party agrees that it shall not strip, alter, modify, add, delete, change, or incorrectly assign any CPN. If either Party identifies improper, incorrect, or fraudulent use of local exchange services (including, but not limited to PRI, ISDN and/or Smart Trunks), or identifies stripped, altered, modified, added, deleted, changed, and/or incorrectly assigned CPN, the Parties agree to cooperate with one another to investigate and take corrective action.
- 16.3 If one Party is passing CPN but the other Party is not properly receiving information, the Parties will use their best efforts to work cooperatively to correct the problem, with both Parties reserving their rights to pursue dispute resolution or other recourse as appropriate.
- 16.4 In the event that either Party provides unbundled local switching (ULS), or its equivalent provided via a commercial agreement, to a third-party CLEC, the other Party will bill the providing Party directly for calls that originate from any third-party CLECs using that Party's unbundled local switching (ULS) or equivalent provided via a commercial agreement.
- 16.5 Rate Centers.
- For purposes of compensation between the Parties and the ability of the Parties to appropriately apply their toll rates to their end-user customers, Socket shall assign NPA/NXX codes to Rate Centers and use Rating Points in accordance with the CO Code Guidelines, FCC Rules, and Applicable State regulatory Requirements, as appropriate.
- 16.6 Routing Points.
- Socket also will designate a Routing Point for each assigned NXX code.
- 16.7 Programming Switches.
- It shall be the responsibility of each Party to program and update its own switches and network systems pursuant to the Local Exchange Routing Guide (LERG) to recognize

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and route traffic to the other Party's assigned NXX codes. Neither Party shall impose any fees or charges whatsoever on the other Party for such activities.

16.8 Agreements with Third Parties.

Neither Party shall take any action to prevent the other Party from entering into a direct and reciprocal traffic exchange agreement with any carrier to which it originates, or from which it terminates traffic.

Where necessary, the Parties agree to enter into their own agreements with third-party providers. In the event that Socket sends traffic through CenturyTel's network to a third-party provider with whom Socket does not have a traffic interexchange agreement, then Socket agrees to indemnify CenturyTel for any termination charges rendered by a third-party provider for such traffic.

17.0 [INTENTIONALLY OMITTED].