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December 8, 2008

Ms. Mary Jo Kunkle  
Executive Secretary  
Michigan Public Service Commission  
6545 Mercantile Way  
PO Box 30221  
Lansing, MI 48909

Re: In the matter of the petition of Communications Corporation of Michigan d/b/a  
TDS Telecom for Sections 251/252 arbitration of interconnection rates, terms, and  
conditions with Comcast Phone of Michigan, LLC d/b/a Comcast Digital Phone.  
MPSC Case No. U-15725

Dear Ms. Kunkle:

Attached for filing please find a copy of the Reply of Comcast Phone of Michigan, LLC  
to the Petition for Arbitration in the above-captioned proceeding. Proof of Service upon the  
Parties of Record is also attached.

Very truly yours,

CLARK HILL PLC

Haran C. Rashes

:hcr  
Enclosures

cc: Parties of Record

**STATE OF MICHIGAN**  
**BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

\* \* \* \* \*

In the matter of the petition of Communications )	
Corporation of Michigan d/b/a TDS Telecom )	
for Sections 251/252 arbitration of )	
interconnection rates, terms, and conditions )	Case No. U-15730
with Comcast Phone of Michigan, LLC d/b/a )	
<u>Comcast Digital Phone.</u> )	

**REPLY TO PETITION FOR ARBITRATION**

Comcast Phone of Michigan, LLC d/b/a Comcast Digital Phone (“Comcast”), by and through its attorneys, hereby replies to the above-captioned Petition for Arbitration filed by TDS Telecom/Communications Corp. of Michigan (“TDS”), which TDS filed with the Michigan Public Service Commission (“Commission” or “MPSC”).

**RESPONSE TO PETITION<sup>1</sup>**

The Commission now has pending before it two separate interconnection arbitration petitions related to an Interconnection Agreement between Comcast and TDS – this case initiated by TDS (the “TDS Petition”) and the one filed by Comcast (the “Comcast Petition”).<sup>2</sup> Both petitions were filed on November 12, 2008. Both petitions attach the identical fully-negotiated

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<sup>1</sup> In responding to TDS’s November 12, 2008 Petition in MPSC Case No. U-15725, Comcast refiles, and incorporates by reference, as part of its Response in this docket, its Petition for Arbitration and the accompanying exhibits, including the Prefiled Testimony of Beth Choroser, Senior Director of Regulatory Compliance for Comcast Cable Communications, LLC, filed on November 12, 2008 in *The Petition of Comcast Phone of Michigan, LLC for Arbitration pursuant to Section 252(b) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 to establish an Interconnection Agreement with TDS Telecom/Communications Corp. of MI (CCM)*, MPSC Case No. U-15730.

<sup>2</sup> See *Petition of Comcast Phone of Michigan, LLC for Arbitration pursuant to Section 252(b) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 to establish an Interconnection Agreement with TDS Telecom/Communications Corp of MI (CCM)*, MPSC Case No. U-15730, filed Nov. 12, 2008 (“Comcast Petition”).

Interconnection Agreement, which reflects months of negotiations between the parties. And both Petitions present the same, identical legal issue for resolution: whether Comcast is a telecommunications carrier under Federal law.

Section 252(c) of the Federal Communications Act of 1934, as amended (the “Act”) provides:

“(c) Standards for Arbitration. – In resolving by arbitration undersubsection (b) any open issues and imposing conditions upon the parties to the agreement, a State commission shall –

(1) ensure that such resolution and conditions meet the requirements of section 251, including the regulations prescribed by the [Federal Communications] Commission pursuant to section 251;

(2) establish any rates for interconnection, services, or network elements according to subsection (d); and

(3) provide a schedule for implementation of the terms and conditions by the parties to the agreement.”<sup>3</sup>

TDS, rather than raising issues that relate to the provision of telecommunications services and the interconnection of its telecommunications network with Comcast has raised the sole issue of whether or not Comcast is a telecommunications carrier.<sup>4</sup> That *TDS* would identify this issue in a Petition for Arbitration, brought pursuant to Section 252, is odd, to say the least. One would think that if TDS had questions about Comcast’s telecommunications carrier status that it would not have initiated an interconnection arbitration itself. But it has, and its Petition is expressly captioned as a Petition for Arbitration *under Sections 251/252*. Under any reasonable

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<sup>3</sup> 47 USC § 252(c).

<sup>4</sup> Comcast notes that it has raised the same issue in the context of its Petition for Arbitration in MPSC Case No. U-15730. Because Comcast is a “requesting carrier,” as that term is used in Sections 251 and 252 of the Act, 47 USC §§ 251 and 252, it has a right to petition for arbitration when Interconnection is refused. The refusing party, does not necessarily have a right to petition under Section 252 for what would be essentially a “declaratory ruling” that its failure to negotiate in good faith was justified.

standard, TDS' Petition would, thus, appear to constitute a waiver of TDS' right to argue that Comcast is *not*, in fact, entitled to interconnection under Section 251/252.

TDS' Petition is not only perplexing, it is also facially deficient. Beginning with its July 16, 1996 order in Case No. U-11134,<sup>5</sup> the Commission has established procedures for conducting interconnection arbitrations under Section 252 of the federal Communications Act of 1934, as amended ("Act"). Among other things, the Commission requires that a petition "specify the issues for which arbitration is sought and the position of the parties on each of those issues."<sup>6</sup> This is necessary because, in resolving interconnection arbitrations under Section 252, the Arbitrator must "limit its decision on each issue to selecting the position of one of the parties on that issue."<sup>7</sup> Thus, a prerequisite to any arbitration proceeding in Michigan is that the parties must state their position on each of the disputed issues. This mirrors the Federal Act, which requires that,

"A party that petitions a State commission under paragraph (1) shall, at the same time as it submits the petition, provide the State commission all relevant documentation concerning –

- (i) the unresolved issues;
- (ii) *the position of each of the parties with respect to those issues*; and
- (iii) any other issue discussed and resolved by the parties.<sup>8</sup>

TDS clearly fails to meet this basic threshold requirement. In fact, as set forth in the testimony of Linda Lowrance, TDS announces that it "*takes no position* on whether Comcast

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<sup>5</sup> *The Commission's Own Motion To Establish A Procedure For Arbitration Under The Federal Telecommunications Act Of 1996*, MPSC Case No. U-11134, Order, July 16, 1996 ("1996 Arbitration Order").

<sup>6</sup> *The Commission's own motion, to modify and establish additional procedures for arbitration and mediation related to telecommunications and broadband deployment*, MPSC Case No. U-13774, Order dated May 18, 2004. ("2004 Arbitration Order").

<sup>7</sup> 2004 Arbitration Order, at 4.

<sup>8</sup> 47 USC § 252(b)(2)(A) (emphasis added).

Phone is a Telecommunications Carrier.”<sup>9</sup> Consequently, by failing to state any position in the very same matter which TDS’ Petition calls into question, there is no basis on which the Commission or the Arbitrator may grant TDS any relief. Simply put, by failing to stake out a position, there is essentially no dispute for the Commission to resolve in this Docket.

The Petition is deficient for other reasons as well. The Commission has stated that its arbitration procedures “require the parties to include all information upon which they intend to rely in the petition and the response”<sup>10</sup> and the Federal Act requires that the Petitioner provide “all relevant documentation.”<sup>11</sup> TDS’ Petition clearly fails to satisfy this standard. The TDS Petition consists of nine separately enumerated paragraphs, none of which contains information that would allow the Commission to determine Comcast’s telecommunications carrier status, along with its Petition TDS filed a series of exhibits, including Petitions filed in other states and a Michigan and Federal notice of discontinuation of some services Comcast was previously offering. TDS provided no substantive or even relevant documentation to show that Comcast is not entitled to interconnection pursuant to Sections 251 and 252 of the Act.

The only hint of a substantive argument anywhere in the Petition is the citation in paragraph 8 referencing the attached testimony of Linda Lowrance, which Comcast presumes is the “information” that TDS intends to rely upon for its contentions in this case. But Ms. Lowrance’s testimony is deficient, as well. As noted above, Ms. Lowrance does not even take a

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<sup>9</sup> Petition Exh 4, Testimony of Linda Lowrance (“Lowrance Testimony”) at 8 (emphasis supplied).

<sup>10</sup> *Petition of Sprint Communications Co LP for arbitration pursuant to Section 252(b) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 to establish an Interconnection Agreement with CenturyTel Midwest – Michigan, Inc.*, MPSC Case No. U-15534, July 1, 2008, p 30.

<sup>11</sup> 47 USC § 252(b)(2)(A).

position on the fundamental issue. Instead, she asserts that there are “question[s]” as to “whether Comcast [] is a Telecommunications Carrier.”<sup>12</sup>

These “questions,” Ms. Lowrance claims, arise from Comcast’s discontinuance of its legacy, circuit switched telephone offering, marketed to the public under the brand name “Comcast Digital Phone” or “CDP.” As Comcast’s August 15, 2007 Discontinuance Notice filing with the Commission explained, CDP was offered over a circuit-switched “platform” that Comcast decided some time ago that it would no longer support.<sup>13</sup> Accordingly, CDP was discontinued in Michigan more than a year ago, just as analogous offerings by Comcast CLEC affiliates around the country were discontinued pursuant to state and federal regulatory process during 2007 and 2008. Thus, it is disingenuous, to say the least, for Ms. Lowrance to claim that TDS has just “recently ... bec[o]me aware that Comcast [] filed a Notice of Discontinuance.”<sup>14</sup> Indeed, Comcast’s Michigan Section 63.71 application to the FCC was put on public notice, and circulated nationally on August 16, 2007.<sup>15</sup>

More importantly, TDS’ claim misconstrues the purpose and content of the Michigan Discontinuance Notice. As the Notice explains, Comcast proposed to discontinue only “certain” local exchange and toll service offerings of its CDP offering.<sup>16</sup> In other words, Comcast discontinued its CDP product *only*. Comcast did not state that it was discontinuing *all* telecommunications services in Michigan. In fact, as explained in depth in Comcast’s corresponding Petition for Arbitration, Comcast continues to offer telecommunications services

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<sup>12</sup> Lowrance Testimony at 3 (punctuation altered).

<sup>13</sup> Lowrance Testimony Attachment A (Comcast Notice of Discontinuance filed with the Michigan Commission August 15, 2007) (“Michigan Discontinuance Notice”) ¶ 1.

<sup>14</sup> *Id.* at 2-3.

<sup>15</sup> See Comcast Reply Exh 1 (attached).

<sup>16</sup> Michigan Discontinuance Notice ¶ 2.

in Michigan.<sup>17</sup> Among other things, it offers terminating exchange access services to interexchange carrier customers, as well as various telephone exchange service offerings.<sup>18</sup> Indeed, Comcast continues to exchange intrastate traffic with TDS, as TDS could have easily determined from an examination of its records. Consequently, Comcast remains a “telecommunications carrier” entitled to interconnection rights under Section 251 of the Act.

The rest of Ms. Lowrance’s testimony consists of irrelevant, unsupported, and largely erroneous claims about Comcast’s service offerings. For example, on page 5, Ms. Lowrance quotes a recent Comcast securities filing that notes the regulatory uncertainty associated with interconnected VoIP services, and notes that some incumbent LECs, such as TDS in this case, may seize on some of these uncertainties in an attempt to prevent Comcast from entering and competing in their markets. By disclosing such risks to investors, Comcast was complying with its obligations under the federal securities laws. It was by no means suggesting that there is any legal basis for these anticompetitive attempts by ILECs to further perpetuate their local service monopolies.

Likewise, on page 5 of her testimony, Ms. Lowrance states that she “cannot be sure” whether Comcast is seeking interconnection in order to provide interconnected voice over Internet protocol (“VoIP”) services. In point of fact, however, there is no uncertainty whatsoever as to this issue. To the contrary, Comcast seeks interconnection in order to provide telecommunications services to, among others, interconnected VoIP service provider customers, including its affiliate.<sup>19</sup> Comcast does not provide interconnected VoIP services.

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<sup>17</sup> The fact that Comcast discontinued toll service to CDP customers is irrelevant, as a licensed telecommunications provider is not required to offer toll services. Michigan Act § 306.

<sup>18</sup> See Comcast Petition at 17-19.

<sup>19</sup> *Id.* at 15.

Ms. Lowrance concedes that the Commission has not revoked Comcast's license to offer services in Michigan, and Comcast continues to make the necessary regulatory filings to maintain such license. This, along with Comcast's continued offering of telecommunications services to the public, are the dispositive facts entitling Comcast to an Interconnection Agreement with TDS, as the FCC has recently recognized.<sup>20</sup> Likewise, more than one-half dozen states have recognized CLECs' telecommunications carrier status and associated Section 251 interconnection rights in identical circumstances.<sup>21</sup>

Because TDS takes no position in this matter, the Commission may dismiss TDS' Petition. Indeed, in its Relief Requested, TDS merely asks the Commission to "arbitrate this matter," but provides no guidance on what position TDS prefers. Correspondingly, Comcast asserts that it is a "telecommunications carrier" and a local exchange carrier entitled to negotiation and interconnection rights under Section 251 of the Act. The Commission should

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<sup>20</sup> See *Bright House Networks, LLC v Verizon California, Inc.*, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 23 FCC Rcd. 10704 ¶¶ 37-41 (2008). See also Comcast Petition at 11-15.

<sup>21</sup> See, e.g., *See Consolidated Comm Of Fort Bend Co v Public Utility Commission of Texas*, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 497 F Supp 2d 836 (WD Tex 2007), *aff'g* *Petition of Sprint Comm Co LP*, Order, Docket No. 32582, 2006 WL 2366391 (Tex PUC, Aug 14, 2006); *Sprint Comm Co LP*, Order, App No. 310183F0002AMA, *et al*, 101 PaPUC 895, 2006 WL 3675279 (Pa PUC, Nov 30, 2006); *Sprint Comm Co LP v ACE Comm Group, et al*, Order on Rehearing, Docket No. ARB-05-2, 2005 WL 3624405 (Iowa Util Bd, Nov 28, 2005); *Re Spring Comm Co LP*, Opinion and Findings, App No. C-3429, 2005 WL 3824447 (Neb PSC, Sept 13, 2005); *Cambridge Telephone Company, et al*, Order, Docket No. 05-0259, *et al*, 2005 WL 1863370 (Ill CC, July 15, 2005); *Re The Champaign Tel Co*, Finding and Order, Case No. 04-1494-TP-UNC (Ohio PUC Jan. 26, 2005), *request for rehearing denied in part, granted in part*, Order on Rehearing (April 13, 2005) ("Ohio Case"); See *Berkshire Tel Corp v Sprint*, Case No. 05-CV-6502, 2006 WL 3095665 (WDNY 2006) (*affirming Sprint Communications Co. LP*, Order Resolving Arbitration Issues, Cases Nos. 05-C-0170, 0183 (NY PSC May 24, 2005) and Order Denying Rehearing, Cases Nos. 05-C-0170, 0183 (NY PSC Aug 24, 2005)).



therefore find in favor of Comcast and order TDS to execute the parties' already fully-negotiated Interconnection Agreement.<sup>22</sup>

Alternatively, if the Commission decides not to dismiss TDS' petition, it should consolidate Comcast's and TDS' Petitions into one docket, and proceed accordingly.

## **SPECIFIC RESPONSES TO ENUMERATED PARAGRAPHS IN TDS PETITION**

### **PETITIONER AND COMCAST PHONE**

1. *Petitioner is a rural telephone company organized and formed under the laws of the State of Michigan, having an office at 212 S. Webster Street, P.O. Box 246, Augusta, MI 49012-0246. Petitioner is an incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC), licensed to provide basic local exchange services in Michigan.*

RESPONSE: Comcast lacks sufficient information to admit or deny the allegation in Paragraph 1 regarding the identity of Petitioner TDS. Comcast admits that TDS is an Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier ("ILEC") in this state as defined in Section 251(h) of the Act.

2. *The Commission's web site shows Comcast Phone's offices as being located at 29777 Telegraph Road, Suite 4400-B, Southfield, Michigan 48034-5155. Comcast Phone is currently licensed to provide basic local exchange service in the state of Michigan. However, effective September 17, 2007 Comcast Phone discontinued providing local service and other telecommunications service pursuant to a Notice of Discontinuance filed in Case No. U-15370 and a section 63.71 Application filed with the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC").*

RESPONSE: Comcast admits the allegation of Paragraph 2 that the Commission's website shows that Comcast's company name and address is 29777 Telegraph Road, Suite 4400-

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<sup>22</sup> The Commission may further find that TDS' continued refusal and delay in interconnecting with Comcast is a violation of Section 305 of the Michigan Telecommunications Act, which makes it unlawful for any licensed provider to refuse or delay in interconnecting with other providers. See Michigan Act § 305(b) ("A provider of basic local exchange service shall not ... [r]efuse or delay interconnection or provide inferior connections to another provider.").

B, Southfield, Michigan 48034-4155. Comcast nevertheless states that it is a Delaware limited liability company with its principal place of business at One Comcast Center, Philadelphia, PA 19103, and that it is licensed by the Commission to provide telecommunications service in 482 communities throughout Michigan. Comcast denies the remainder of Paragraph 2 to the extent that it is intended to suggest that Comcast's discontinuance of its CDP service offering in any way bears on its telecommunications carrier status, as explained above.

### **JURISDICTION**

3. *The MPSC has jurisdiction to consider this Petition under the MTA, MCL 484.2201 et seq., and sections 251 and 252 of the Act, 47 USC 251-252.*

RESPONSE: Comcast admits the allegations contained in Paragraph 3 of the Petition that the Commission has jurisdiction over TDS' Petition pursuant to the Michigan Telecommunications Act. However, Comcast denies that the Commission has jurisdiction under Sections 251 and 252 of the Act to find, in a Petition brought by an Incumbent Carrier, that the incumbent carrier does not have to provide interconnection services pursuant to Section 251 to a requesting telecommunications carrier.

4. *Petitioner requests that the Commission appoint a panel of arbitrators to resolve this Petition in accordance with the arbitration procedures established by the Commission's July 16, 1996, Order in Case No. U-11134, as amended by the May 18, 2004, Order in Case No. U-13774.*

RESPONSE: Paragraph 4 makes reference to the arbitration procedures set forth in the Commission's July 16, 1996 Order in Case No. U-11134, as amended by its May 18, 2004 Order in Case No. U-13774, to which no response is required. The Orders, which state that

“[a]rbitrations may be conducted by a single arbitrator or a panel of arbitrators,” speak for themselves.<sup>23</sup>

## **BACKGROUND AND STATEMENT OF CASE**

5. *By letter dated April 17, 2008, Comcast Phone requested negotiations with Petitioner pursuant to section 251 of the Act. Copies of the request letter, and subsequent related correspondence, are attached as Exhibit-1.*

RESPONSE: Comcast admits the allegation of Paragraph 5 that it sent a letter dated April 17, 2008, to Linda Lowrance requesting negotiations for an Interconnection Agreement with TDS. Comcast further states that, as indicated in Comcast’s August 15, 2008 letter attached to TDS’ Petition as part of Exhibit P-1, the parties agreed to extend the arbitration window to provide additional time to resolve the final outstanding issues.

6. *Between April 17, 2008 and November 10, 2008, the parties conducted negotiations and agreed on all of the terms of an Interconnection Agreement, except for one. The Interconnection Agreement resulting from the negotiations is attached as Exhibit-2.*

RESPONSE: Comcast denies the allegation of Paragraph 6 that the parties conducted negotiations between April 17, 2008 and November 10, 2008. After the parties initiated negotiations pursuant to Comcast’s April 17, 2008 letter, TDS suspended negotiations with Comcast on or about October 13, 2008, based on the unsupported contention that Comcast is not a telecommunications carrier entitled to interconnection. Comcast further denies the allegation that the parties agreed to all of the terms of their Interconnection Agreement “except for one.” In fact, prior to TDS suspending negotiations with Comcast, the parties had, in fact, resolved all issues, and all that remained was for the parties to execute the proposed, fully-negotiated Interconnection Agreement.

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<sup>23</sup> Order, Case No. U-13774, at 3.

7. *The single issue remaining unresolved and in dispute concerns whether Comcast Phone is a Telecommunications Carrier entitled to section 251 interconnection rights under the Act. TDS proposed certain language for inclusion in the Interconnection Agreement requiring a resolution of this issue as a pre-condition to the Interconnection Agreement becoming effective. TDS's proposed language is set forth in Exhibit-3. Comcast Phone has rejected TDS's proposed language.*

RESPONSE: Comcast admits the allegation of Paragraph 7 that there remains a single unresolved issue. Comcast notes, however, that TDS' Petition does not take a position on the question of whether Comcast is a "telecommunications carrier" and fails to include information necessary for the Commission to make a determination. For the reasons stated above, there is no question that Comcast is entitled to interconnection with TDS, and TDS has effectively conceded as much. The second and third sentences of Paragraph 7 reference TDS' proposed language, to which no response is required, except that Comcast denies that such language should be included in the Parties' Interconnection Agreement. As to the fourth sentence of Paragraph 7, Comcast admits that it has rejected TDS' proposed language.

8. *In further support of this Petition, Petitioner is relying on the Testimony of Linda Lowrance, Exhibit-4, which is being simultaneously filed with this Petition.*

RESPONSE: Comcast admits that Paragraph 8 refers to what appears to be the Testimony of Linda Lowrance. The Lowrance Testimony, however, contains argument, characterizations, assertions and legal conclusions to which no response is required.

9. *The Parties are at an impasse in their negotiations with no prospect of resolving their dispute. Therefore, Petitioner now seeks Commission resolution in this arbitration proceeding.*

RESPONSE: Comcast denies the allegations of Paragraph 9, in that the parties had already fully negotiated the terms and conditions of an Interconnection Agreement, and that there

is no purported “dispute” since TDS does not even take the position that Comcast is not a “telecommunications carrier.”

### **RELIEF REQUESTED**

10. *Petitioner respectfully requests that the Commission arbitrate this matter in accordance with sections 251 and 252 of the Act. If the Commission finds that Comcast Phone is not a Telecommunications Carrier and is not entitled to section 251 rights of negotiation and interconnection, Petitioner requests that this arbitration proceeding be dismissed with prejudice. If the Commission finds that Comcast Phone is a Telecommunications Carrier and is entitled to section 251 rights of negotiation and interconnection, Petitioner requests that the Interconnection Agreement be approved.*

RESPONSE: Comcast denies Paragraph 10, in that it fails to state a claim for relief. As noted previously, TDS has admitted that it takes no position as to whether Comcast is a “telecommunications carrier” entitled to Section 251 rights of negotiation and interconnection. Consequently, there is no basis on which the Commission or the Arbitrator may grant relief to TDS. Because the only position offered in this proceeding is that Comcast is, in fact, a “telecommunications carrier” entitled to Section 251 rights, the Commission should dismiss this Petition and require the parties to execute their otherwise fully-negotiated Interconnection Agreement. Further, Comcast notes that in Paragraph 10, the “Petitioner requests that the Interconnection Agreement be approved” – the identical Interconnection Agreement submitted with Comcast’s Petition and which Comcast respectfully urges the Commission to order the execution of; and respectfully urges the Commission to approve.

### **COMCAST’S AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES**

A. Pursuant to the Commission’s arbitration procedures set forth in its July 16, 1996 order in Case No. U-11134, *et seq.*, TDS’ Petition is facially deficient for failing to state a

position, as well as for failing to provide sufficient information from which the Commission may make an informed decision.

B. Comcast qualifies as a telecommunications carrier and local exchange carrier entitled to interconnection with TDS.

### **CONCLUSION**

For the reasons stated above, the Commission should dismiss the Petition and require the parties to execute their fully-negotiated Interconnection Agreement and submit such to the Commission for its approval.

Respectfully Submitted,

CLARK HILL PLC

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Date: December 8, 2008

Attorneys For Comcast Phone of Michigan,  
LLC

**STATE OF MICHIGAN**  
**BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

\* \* \* \* \*

In the matter of the petition of Communications )  
Corporation of Michigan d/b/a TDS Telecom )  
for Sections 251/252 arbitration of )  
interconnection rates, terms, and conditions )  
with Comcast Phone of Michigan, LLC d/b/a )  
Comcast Digital Phone. )

Case No. U-15730

**REPLY TO PETITION FOR ARBITRATION**

**EXHIBIT A**

**In the matter of the Petition of Comcast Phone of Michigan, LLC for Arbitration pursuant to Section 252(b) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 to establish an Interconnection Agreement with TDS Telecom/Communications Corp. of MI (CCM), MPSC Case No. U-15730, Petition for Arbitration and Accompanying Exhibits, including the Prefiled Testimony of Beth Choroser, filed on November 12, 2008.**

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November 12, 2008

Ms. Mary Jo Kunkle  
Executive Secretary  
Michigan Public Service Commission  
6545 Mercantile Way  
PO Box 30221  
Lansing, MI 48909

Re: In the matter of the Petition of Comcast Phone of Michigan, LLC for Arbitration pursuant to Section 252(b) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 to establish an Interconnection Agreement with TDS Telecom/Communications Corp. of MI (CCM).  
MPSC Case No. U-15730

Dear Ms. Kunkle:

Attached for filing please find a copy of the Petition for Arbitration of Comcast Phone of Michigan, LLC in the above-captioned proceeding. Proof of Service upon the Parties of Record is also attached.

Very truly yours,

CLARK HILL PLC

Haran C. Rashes

:her  
Enclosures

cc: Andrew Fisher, Esq.  
Beth Choroser  
Michael C. Sloan  
Gregory J. Kopta  
Linda Lowrance  
Paul E. Pederson



**STATE OF MICHIGAN**

**BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

\* \* \* \* \*

In the matter of the Petition of )  
Comcast Phone of Michigan, LLC )  
for Arbitration pursuant to Section 252(b) )  
of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 )  
to establish an Interconnection Agreement )  
with TDS Telecom/Communications Corp. )  
of MI (CCM). )

Case No. U-15730

**PETITION FOR ARBITRATION  
OF COMCAST PHONE OF MICHIGAN, LLC**

Request for Negotiations Received:	April 17, 2008
9 Month Negotiation Period Commenced:	June 5, 2008 (stipulated)
135th Day Thereafter:	October 18, 2008
160th Day Thereafter:	November 12, 2008
9 Months Thereafter (Commission Order Due):	March 5, 2009

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November 12, 2008

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## PETITION FOR ARBITRATION

Comcast Phone of Michigan, LLC (“Comcast”), by and through its attorneys, petitions the Michigan Public Service Commission (“Commission”) to arbitrate, pursuant to Section 252(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (the “Act”),<sup>1</sup> Sections 201, 203, and 204 of the Michigan Telecommunications Act (“MTA”),<sup>2</sup> and the procedures established by the Commission,<sup>3</sup> an Interconnection Agreement between Comcast and TDS Telecom/Communications Corp. of MI (CCM) (“TDS”)<sup>4</sup> for the State of Michigan. (Hereafter, Comcast and TDS are collectively referred to as the “Parties”). The Parties have been negotiating since April 2008 and only one issue remains open for arbitration.

This Petition includes background information on the Parties, the history of the parties’ negotiations, an explanation of the Commission’s jurisdiction and applicable legal standards, and a comprehensive presentation of the one open issue, including the positions of both Parties, where known. The Exhibits to the Petition set forth the following additional information: (1) the initial letter in which Comcast requested that TDS enter into negotiations for an Interconnection Agreement under Sections 251(a) and 251(b) of the Act (attached hereto as Exhibit A); (2) a letter revising the arbitration schedule associated with this Petition (Exhibit B); and, (3) a copy of

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<sup>1</sup> Pub L No 104-104, 110 Stat 56 (1996), codified at 47 USC § 151, *et seq.*

<sup>2</sup> MCL 484.2201, 2203, and 2204.

<sup>3</sup> *See* MPSC Case No. U-13774, Order, May 18, 2004; The Commission’s Own Motion To Establish A Procedure For Arbitration Under The Federal Telecommunications Act Of 1996, MPSC Case No. U-11134, Order, July 16, 1996.

<sup>4</sup> The precise legal name of TDS is unclear. Based on information found on the Commission’s website, TDS is licensed as TDS Telecom/Communications Corp. of MI (CCM). The TDS entity identified in Appendix A of the proposed Interconnection Agreement, however, is Communications Corporation of Michigan d/b/a TDS Telecom and TDS files its tariffs as Communications Corporation of Michigan. Out of an abundance of caution, the term TDS is intended to refer to all three iterations of the company’s name, or to whatever is the company’s correct name.

the proposed Interconnection Agreement that the Parties have negotiated (Exhibit C). Attached as Exhibits D and E, respectively, are an excerpt from an interconnection agreement between Comcast and TDS affiliates in Vermont and a copy of Comcast's tariffed Local Interconnection Service Telecommunications Service offering on file with the Commission. Also included with this Petition is the Prefiled Direct Testimony of Beth Choroser in support of Comcast's positions.

## **I. APPLICABLE LEGAL STANDARDS.**

This Commission has jurisdiction over this Petition for Arbitration pursuant to Section 252(b)(1) of the Act.<sup>5</sup> Under the Act, Parties negotiating for interconnection and other rights under Section 251 within a particular state may petition the state commission for arbitration of any unresolved issues during the 135th to the 160th day of such negotiation.<sup>6</sup> Pursuant to Section 252(b)(4)(C) of the Act,<sup>7</sup> this arbitration is to be concluded not later than nine (9) months after the date that TDS and Comcast stipulated that TDS received a request for negotiations (June 5, 2008). Based on the dates stipulated to by the Parties and consistent with the statute, the arbitration should be concluded on or before March 5, 2009.

This arbitration must be resolved under the standards established in Sections 251 and 252 of the Act, the rules adopted and orders issued by the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") in implementing the Act, and the applicable rules and orders of this Commission. Section 252 of the Act requires that a state commission resolve open issues through arbitration to:

“ensure that such resolution and conditions meet the requirements of section 251, including the regulations prescribed by the [FCC] pursuant to section 251;” [and]

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<sup>5</sup> 47 USC § 251(b)(1).

<sup>6</sup> 47 USC § 252(b).

<sup>7</sup> 47 USC § 252(b)(4)(C).

“establish any rates for interconnection, services, or network elements according to subsection (d) [of section 252].”<sup>8</sup>

The Commission should make an affirmative finding that the rates, terms, and conditions that it prescribes in this proceeding are consistent with the requirements of Sections 251 and 252(d) of the Act.

Although Comcast has attempted to identify TDS’ position with respect to the one remaining open issue, Comcast respectfully requests that it be permitted to supplement this filing after it receives TDS’ response and to provide any additional information deemed necessary by the Commission.

## **II. CONTACT INFORMATION FOR COMCAST AND ITS COUNSEL.**

Comcast is a Delaware limited liability company with its principal place of business at One Comcast Center, Philadelphia, PA 19103. Comcast is a telecommunications carrier as defined in Section 3(44) of the Act.<sup>9</sup> Comcast is licensed to provide service in 482 communities

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<sup>8</sup> 47 USC § 252(c).

<sup>9</sup> 47 USC § 153(44).

throughout Michigan.<sup>10</sup> Comcast provides both intrastate and interstate telecommunications services to its customers in Michigan. Comcast's tariffs for its telecommunications services offerings in Michigan are on file with the Commission.<sup>11</sup> TDS is the incumbent local exchange provider ("ILEC") in some of the communities in which Comcast is licensed to provide service. Comcast currently has five interconnection agreements with eight other carriers in the state.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> See the Commission's Opinions and Orders of September 12, 1996, in Case No. U-11090, December 21, 1998 in Case No. U-11827, August 20, 2002, in Case No. U-13437, November 25, 2002, in Case No. U-13520, and August 22, 2006 in Case No. U-14915. The Commission's Opinion and Order in Case No. U-11090 granted a license to Continental Telecommunications of Michigan, Inc. As indicated in the Application for a license, Continental Telecommunications Corporation had announced an agreement to merge with U.S. West Media Group, a wholly owned Division of U.S. West, Inc. Subsequent to the issuance of the Commission's Opinion and Order in Case No. U-11090, Continental was renamed Media One Telecommunications. The Commission's Opinion and Order in Case No. U-11827 amended the geographic area of Media One's license. Effective January 1, 2001, Comcast Corporation purchased Media One Telecommunications of Michigan, Inc. and merged its operations into Comcast. Comcast is the successor in interest to Media One Telecommunications of Michigan, Inc. The Commission's Opinion and Orders in Case Nos. U-13437, U-13520, and U-14915 further amended the geographic area of Comcast Telecommunications of Michigan, LLC, n/k/a Comcast Phone of Michigan, LLC's license. In addition, Comcast is a Registered Intrastate Telecommunication Services Provider, which has registered with the Commission as a Competitive Local Exchange Carrier and as a Toll Reseller pursuant to the Commission's Order in MPSC Case No. U-11900.

<sup>11</sup> See *e.g.*, Comcast Phone of Michigan, LLC d/b/a Comcast Digital Phone, Tariff MPSC No. 1-R – Schedule of Rates, Charges, and Regulations Applying to the Provision of Exchange Services within the State of Michigan; Comcast Phone of Michigan, LLC d/b/a Comcast Digital Phone, Tariff MPSC No. 2-R – Schedule of Maps Applying to the Provision of Exchange Services within the State of Michigan; Comcast Phone of Michigan, LLC d/b/a Comcast Digital Phone, Tariff MPSC No. 3 R – Schedule of Rates, Charges, and Regulations Applying to the Provision of Access Services within the State of Michigan.

<sup>12</sup> See *infra* note 53.

The names, addresses, and contact information for Comcast's representatives in this proceeding are as follows:

Andrew Fisher, Esq.  
Beth Choroser  
Comcast Cable Communications, LLC  
One Comcast Center, 50<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
(215) 286-3039 – Fisher Direct Line  
(215) 286-7893 – Choroser Direct Line  
(215) 286-5039 Fax  
E-Mail: Andrew\_Fisher@Comcast.com  
Beth\_Choroser@Comcast.com

Roderick S. Coy (P12290)  
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Clark Hill PLC  
212 East Grand River Avenue  
Lansing, Michigan 48906  
(517) 318-3100  
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E-Mail: rcoy@clarkhill.com  
hrashes@clarkhill.com

Michael C. Sloan  
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Davis Wright Tremaine LLP  
1919 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20006  
(202) 973-4227  
(202) 973-4499 Fax  
E-Mail: michaelsloan@dwt.com  
gregkopta@dwt.com

### **III. CONTACT INFORMATION FOR TDS.**

Upon information and belief, TDS' principal place of business, as registered with the Commission, is located at 525 Junction Road, Madison, WI 53717. TDS is an Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier ("ILEC") in this state as defined in Section 251(h) of the Act.<sup>13</sup> Within its respective operating territory, TDS has been the incumbent provider of telephone exchange service during all relevant times.

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<sup>13</sup> 47 USC § 251(h).

The names, addresses, and contact information for TDS' representatives during the negotiations with Comcast are as follows:

Linda Lowrance  
Manager – Interconnection  
TDS Telecom – Knoxville  
10025 Investment Drive, Suite 200  
Knoxville, TN 37932  
(865) 671-4758  
(865) 966-4720 Fax  
E-Mail: Linda.Lowrance@tdstelecom.com

TDS' regulatory contact, as registered with the Commission, is:

Paul E. Pederson  
TDS Manager State Government Affairs  
525 Junction Road  
Madison, WI 53717  
(608) 664-4180  
(608) 664-4185 Fax  
E-Mail: paul.pederson@tdstelecom.com

#### **IV. BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE NEGOTIATION HISTORY.**

Comcast requested negotiation for an Interconnection Agreement with TDS in Michigan in April 2008.<sup>14</sup> In August 2008 the parties agreed to extend the arbitration window to provide additional time to resolve the final outstanding issues.<sup>15</sup> Comcast and TDS have resolved all issues and all that remained was for the Parties to execute the proposed fully-negotiated Interconnection Agreement, attached hereto as Exhibit C.

On or about October 13, 2008, however, TDS raised unspecified “concerns” about Comcast’s telecommunications carrier status and suspended negotiations with Comcast based on the unsupported contention that Comcast is not a telecommunications carrier entitled to interconnection. TDS now refuses to execute the agreement the parties have negotiated.

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<sup>14</sup> See Exhibit A.

<sup>15</sup> See Exhibit B.



**V. DATE OF INITIAL REQUEST FOR NEGOTIATION, AND DAY 135, DAY 160 AND NINE MONTHS AFTER THAT DATE.**

TDS received Comcast's request to negotiate on April 17, 2008. The Parties stipulated to a revised schedule with day 135 as October 18, 2008 and Day 160 as November 12, 2008.<sup>16</sup> Accordingly, pursuant to the Act, the arbitration shall be concluded on or before March 5, 2009, nine (9) months after the stipulated date that TDS received Comcast's request for negotiation, June 5, 2008.

**VI. ISSUES RESOLVED BY THE PARTIES.**

The Parties have negotiated contract language to govern the Parties' relationship and resolved all but one issue. The issues resolved by the Parties are reflected in the proposed fully-negotiated Interconnection Agreement attached as Exhibit C.

**VII. UNRESOLVED ISSUES THAT ARE NOT BEING SUBMITTED FOR ARBITRATION**

None.

**VIII. UNRESOLVED ISSUES SUBMITTED FOR ARBITRATION.**

The sole open issue is whether Comcast is a telecommunications carrier under Section 3(44) of the Act entitled to rights under Sections 251(a)-(b) of the Act.

**IX. ISSUES TO BE ARBITRATED**

**Issue No.1. Whether Comcast is a telecommunications carrier entitled to rights under Sections 251(a)-(b) of the Act.**

**A. Introduction**

While Comcast can only guess at the arguments that TDS may raise to support its claim that Comcast is not a telecommunications carrier, the *objective* underlying TDS' position is clear: TDS is looking for any means possible to delay or prevent Comcast's entry into its local

markets. The Commission should reject TDS' efforts to frustrate the development of competition in Michigan and reaffirm Comcast's status as a telecommunications carrier and associated rights under the Act.

**B. TDS Has Waived the Argument that Comcast Is Not a Telecommunications Carrier**

As an initial matter, TDS has already stipulated that Comcast is a telecommunications carrier and thus waived any right to argue otherwise. That stipulation can be found in the August 15, 2008 Letter Agreement that it entered into with Comcast (Exhibit B), which the Parties executed in order extend the Section 252(b)(1) negotiation timeline. The August 15 Letter Agreement states specifically that the Parties were engaged in negotiations for an "interconnection agreement ... pursuant to Section 251 and 252 of the Communications Act of 1934." Because only telecommunications carriers have rights under Sections 251 and 252 of the Act, TDS has expressly waived the right to argue otherwise now.<sup>17</sup>

Further, the Agreement states that the Parties agreed to the extension because it was "anticipated that the additional time will allow TDS and Comcast to resolve the outstanding issues through further negotiations." As of August 15, 2008, TDS had not raised any questions regarding Comcast's telecommunications carrier status. Had it done so, Comcast would not have agreed to the extension, which has only served to delay Comcast's entry into TDS' local market, at the cost of incalculable lost revenue, lost opportunity, and lost chance to establish good will in the relevant markets. Thus, TDS' attempt to raise the argument now, more than three months after it executed the Letter Agreement in which it stipulated to Comcast's telecommunications carrier status, is a clear breach of that agreement. The Commission should not permit TDS to

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<sup>16</sup> See Exhibit B

further benefit from its conduct and further delay Comcast's market entry. The Commission should, therefore, find that TDS is estopped from making those arguments now and refuse to consider TDS' contention that Comcast is not a telecommunications carrier.<sup>18</sup>

Finally, TDS affiliates in other states have entered into interconnection agreements with Comcast's competitive local exchange carrier affiliates in Tennessee, Indiana, and most recently in Vermont. The Vermont agreement, which the Vermont Public Service Board approved in August 2008, states expressly that it was entered into pursuant to Section 251 of the Act.<sup>19</sup> These agreements constitute additional evidence that TDS has already acknowledged Comcast's telecommunications carrier status and right to interconnection. TDS should be barred from taking a contrary position now.<sup>20</sup>

### **C. Comcast is a Telecommunications Carrier**

If the Commission nonetheless chooses to consider TDS' claims on the merits, it will find that they have no basis in law or fact. There are two requirements for qualifying as a telecommunications carrier under the Act. First, the carrier must hold itself out to serve all potential users indiscriminately and, second, it must allow each customer to transmit information

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<sup>17</sup> *Sweebe v Sweebe*, 474 Mich 151, 156-157; 712 NW2d 708 (2006) (observing that, under Michigan law, waiver is "the intentional relinquishment of a known right," which "may be shown by express declarations or by declarations that manifest the parties' intent and purpose").

<sup>18</sup> *See, e.g., City of Holland v Manish Enterprises*, 174 Mich App 509, 514; 436 N.W.2d 398 (1988).

<sup>19</sup> *See* Exhibit D (excerpt from agreement).

<sup>20</sup> To the extent that TDS may argue that Comcast surrendered its right to provide telecommunications service by virtue of its discontinuance of one of its product offerings, that is clearly contradicted by the facts. *See*, Direct Testimony of Beth Choroser ("Choroser Direct") at 6-7.

of the customer's choosing.<sup>21</sup> There is no doubt that Comcast qualifies under both prongs of this test. Indeed, many of Comcast's telecommunications services are offered pursuant to its state and federal tariffs.<sup>22</sup> The courts and the FCC uniformly have allowed providers of telecommunications to self-identify as common carriers. All that is required is that the carrier declare its willingness to serve as a common carrier.<sup>23</sup> While there are reported cases in which providers have successfully *avoided* being labeled "common carriers," there are few if any in which a provider has chosen to be treated as a common carrier and yet ultimately been found not to meet the test. The reason is clear: an entity that, (1) holds itself out as a telecommunications

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<sup>21</sup> *National Ass'n of Regulatory Util Comm'rs v FCC*, 525 F2d 630, 642 (DC Cir 1976). This common law definition was subsequently codified into the Communications Act. Thus, Section 251(a)(1) of the Act mandates that, "[e]ach telecommunications carrier has the duty too interconnect directly or indirectly with the facilities and equipment of other telecommunications carriers." 47 USC § 251(a)(1). Section 3(44) of the Act provides that a "telecommunications carrier" is "any provider of telecommunications services," *id.* § 3(44) which, in turn, are defined as "the offering of telecommunications for a fee directly to the public, or to such classes of users as to be effectively available directly to the public, regardless of the facilities used." *Id.* § 153(46). The Act defines "telecommunications" as "the transmission, between or among points specified by the user, of information of the user's choosing, without change in the form or content of the information as sent and received." *Id.* § 153(43). The Act further explains that, "[a] telecommunications carrier shall be treated as a common carrier ...." *Id.* § 153(44).

<sup>22</sup> Comcast's Michigan-specific offerings are available for viewing at the following web site: <http://www.comcast.com/corporate/about/phonetermsofservice/circuit-switched/statetariffs/michigan.html>. See also, Choroser Direct at 5-11.

<sup>23</sup> See *Southwestern Bell Tel Co v FCC*, 19 F3d 1474, 1481 (DC Cir 1994) (holding that whether a carrier is "common carrier" or "private carrier" ultimately turns on what the carrier "chooses" to be); *Nat'l Ass'n of Regulatory Util Comm'rs v FCC*, 533 F2d 601, 608 (DC Cir 1976) ("*NARUC II*") (explaining that "the primary sine qua non of common carrier status ... arises out of the undertaking 'to carry for all people indifferently ...'" (citation omitted)); *Appropriate Framework for Broadband Access to the Internet over Wireline Facilities*, Report and Order and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 20 FCC Rcd 14853, ¶ 91 (2005) (confirming that facilities-based providers of broadband Internet access may declare whether they will provide the "telecommunications" underlying their broadband service as a private carrier or common carrier); *Sprint Comm Co LP v ACE Comm Group, et al*, Order on Rehearing, Docket No. ARB-05-2, 2005 WL 3624405 (Iowa Util Bd, Nov. 28, 2005) (determining that Sprint is a common carrier because "Sprint is willing to provide wholesale service to any last-mile retail service provider that wants Sprint's services in Iowa").

carrier, and that (2) seeks and obtains authorization from the appropriate regulator to provide telecommunications services but that, (3) refuses to do so upon reasonable request therefore, is subject to discipline by regulators and the courts.

**1. Comcast’s Local Interconnection Service Offering is a Telecommunications Service**

Comcast offers several telecommunications services to prospective customers. First is Comcast’ wholesale Local Interconnection Service (“LIS”) telecommunications service offered to qualified providers of interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol (“VoIP”) services, as the term is defined in Section 9.3 of the FCC’s rules.<sup>24</sup> Comcast’s LIS offering provides interconnected VoIP service providers with access to the public switched telephone network (“PSTN”),<sup>25</sup> access to emergency calling (“E911”), numbering resources, directory listings and other services on a wholesale basis that make it possible for interconnected VoIP service providers to serve their retail end user customers.

The FCC has recognized “that interconnected VoIP service is increasingly used to replace” traditional telephone service.<sup>26</sup> Indeed, more than 16 million U.S. consumers currently

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<sup>24</sup> See 47 CFR § 9.3 (defining interconnected VoIP service). A copy of Comcast’s LIS offering is attached hereto as Exhibit E.

<sup>25</sup> As explained below, the “PSTN interconnection” feature of LIS constitutes a telephone exchange service offering under Section 3(47) of the Act, 47 USC § 153(47), which qualifies Comcast to the rights afforded to local exchange carriers under Section 251(b).

<sup>26</sup> *Telephone Number Requirements for IP-Enabled Services Providers*, Report and Order, Declaratory Ruling, Order on Remand, and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 22 FCC Rcd 19531, ¶ 18 (2007) (“*VoIP Number Portability Order*”).

receive interconnected VoIP service.<sup>27</sup> Undoubtedly one of the reasons that subscription to interconnected VoIP has grown so explosively in recent years is the stability that has come from the FCC's official sanctioning of the essential relationship between interconnected VoIP service providers and their local exchange / telecommunications carrier "partners."<sup>28</sup> The FCC has recognized that interconnected VoIP service providers require the services of LECs – usually CLECs like Comcast – to serve their customers. Thus, the FCC has definitively ruled that competitive local exchange carriers like Comcast that provide wholesale service to interconnected VoIP service providers are "entitled to interconnect and exchange traffic with [ILECs] when providing services ... pursuant to sections 251(a) and (b) of the [Act]."<sup>29</sup> And this is true *regardless* of the classification of interconnected VoIP as either an information service or a telecommunications service, which remains unresolved.<sup>30</sup>

Moreover, Comcast's wholesale LIS offering qualifies as a telecommunications service because Comcast offers it prospectively to qualified customers. The FCC expressly ruled as

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<sup>27</sup> This is a conservative estimate based on the reports of the National Cable and Telecommunications Association's estimate that cable VoIP providers currently serve 13.5 million customers (see <http://www.ncta.com/IssueBrief.aspx?contentId=3023>) and Vonage's recent report that it serves 2.6 million customers. See *Vonage Holding Corp. Reports Third Quarter 2008 Results*, Press Release (2008) (available at [http://files.shareholder.com/downloads/VAGE/462838671x0x247533/6dd8cb96-f536-405b-9681-cd84817d8db3/VG\\_News\\_2008\\_11\\_6\\_Financial.pdf](http://files.shareholder.com/downloads/VAGE/462838671x0x247533/6dd8cb96-f536-405b-9681-cd84817d8db3/VG_News_2008_11_6_Financial.pdf)). Given that there are other providers, the actual number of VoIP customers is no doubt significantly higher.

<sup>28</sup> *Id.* ¶¶ 12, 17-37. Promoting interconnected VoIP furthers other policy objectives, as well, including "driving demand for broadband connections and consequently encouraging more broadband investment and deployment." *VoIP Number Portability Order* ¶ 29 & n.102.

<sup>29</sup> Time Warner Cable Request for Declaratory Ruling that Competitive Local Exchange Carriers May Obtain Interconnection Under Section 251 of the Communications Act of 1934, as Amended, to Provide Wholesale Telecommunications Services to VoIP Providers, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 22 FCC Rcd 3513, ¶ 1 (2007) ("Time Warner Declaratory Ruling").

<sup>30</sup> *Id.* ¶¶ 15-16.

much in its recent *Verizon Order*.<sup>31</sup> The case arose from claims that Verizon was violating the customer proprietary network information (“CPNI”) protection requirements of Section 222 of the Act. Verizon attempted (unsuccessfully) to defend the claim on the merits, but it also argued that Comcast (and a co-complainant, Brighthouse Networks) were not entitled to the protection of the CPNI rules in the first place because they were not telecommunications carriers. “Verizon’s argument,” the FCC explained, “boil[ed] down to an assertion that” Comcast was not “engage[d] in offering telecommunications directly to the public, or to such classes of users at to be effectively available directly to the public.”<sup>32</sup>

The FCC rejected Verizon’s claim. The FCC found particularly relevant that the complainant’s “self-certify that they do and will operate as common carriers and attest that they will serve all similarly situated customers equally.”<sup>33</sup> As the FCC explained,

“We give significant weight to these attestations because being deemed a “common carrier” (i.e., being deemed to be providing “telecommunications services”) confers substantial responsibilities as well as privileges, and we do not believe these entities would make such statements lightly. Further supporting our conclusion are the public steps the Comcast and Bright House Competitive Carriers have taken, consistent with their undertaking to serve the public indifferently. Specifically, each of the Comcast and Bright House Competitive Carriers has obtained a certificate of public convenience and necessity (or a comparable approval) from the state in which it operates. Moreover, each of the Comcast and Bright House Competitive Carriers has entered into a publicly-available interconnection agreement with Verizon, filed with and approved by the relevant state commission pursuant to sections 251 and 252 of the Act. These facts, in combination, establish a prima facie case that the Comcast and Bright House Competitive

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<sup>31</sup> *Bright House Networks, LLC v Verizon California, Inc*, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 23 FCC Rcd 10704, ¶¶ 37-41(2008).

<sup>32</sup> *Id.* ¶ 38 (internal citation omitted) (internal punctuation altered).

<sup>33</sup> *Id.* ¶ 39.

Carriers are indeed telecommunications carriers for purposes of section 222(b).”<sup>34</sup>

The facts in this case are identical to those presented to the FCC, and the Commission should reach the same result.<sup>35</sup> That the FCC should affirm the telecommunications carrier status of the PSTN interconnection services offered to interconnected VoIP service providers by CLECs like Comcast was not surprising, as it followed on the heels of more than one-half dozen similar state orders.<sup>36</sup> The Ohio Commission’s reasoning is illustrative:

“MCI is a certificated carrier in the state of Ohio. As such, MCI is a provider of telecommunications services and is qualified to submit an interconnection request to Applicants. Further, the Commission finds that MCI is acting in a role no different than other Telecommunications Carriers whose network could interconnect with Applicants so that traffic is terminated to and from each network and across networks. Therefore, the Commission disagrees with Applicants that MCI is not a telecommunications carrier and that Applicants have no duty to interconnect with MCI.”<sup>37</sup>

Likewise, the New York Commission found that:

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<sup>34</sup> *Id.* ¶ 39.

<sup>35</sup> While TDS may argue that the FCC limited its findings to Section 222(b) of the Act (*see Verizon Order* ¶ 41), in light of the clarity and persuasiveness of the FCC’s analysis, the burden is clearly on TDS to explain why the FCC’s ruling should not apply in this case.

<sup>36</sup> *See Consolidated Comm Of Fort Bend Co v Public Utility Commission of Texas*, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 497 F Supp 2d 836 (WD Tex 2007), *aff’g Petition of Sprint Comm Co LP*, Order, Docket No. 32582, 2006 WL 2366391 (Tex PUC, Aug 14, 2006); *Sprint Comm Co LP*, Order, App No. 310183F0002AMA, *et al*, 101 PaPUC 895, 2006 WL 3675279 (Pa PUC, Nov 30, 2006); *Sprint Comm Co LP v ACE Comm Group, et al*, Order on Rehearing, Docket No. ARB-05-2, 2005 WL 3624405 (Iowa Util Bd, Nov 28, 2005); *Re Spring Comm Co LP*, Opinion and Findings, Appl No. C-3429, 2005 WL 3824447 (Neb PSC, Sept 13, 2005); *Cambridge Telephone Company, et al*, Order, Docket No. 05-0259, *et al*, 2005 WL 1863370 (Ill CC, July 15, 2005); *Re The Champaign Tel Co*, Finding and Order, Case No. 04-1494-TP-UNC (Ohio PUC Jan. 26, 2005), *request for rehearing denied in part, granted in part*, Order on Rehearing (April 13, 2005) (“Ohio Case”); *See Berkshire Tel Corp v Sprint*, Case No. 05-CV-6502, 2006 WL 3095665 (WDNY 2006) (*affirming Sprint Communications Co. LP*, Order Resolving Arbitration Issues, Cases Nos. 05-C-0170, 0183 (NY PSC May 24, 2005) (“New York Case”) and Order Denying Rehearing, Cases Nos. 05-C-0170, 0183 (NY PSC Aug 24, 2005)).



“Sprint’s agreement to provide Time Warner Cable with interconnection, number portability order submission, intercarrier compensation for local and toll traffic, E911 connectivity, and directory assistance, for Time Warner to offer customers digital phone service, meets the definition of ‘telecommunications services.’ Sprint’s arrangement with Time Warner enables it to provide service directly to the public. While Sprint may act as an intermediary in terminating traffic within and across networks, the function that Sprint performs is no different than that performed by other competitive local exchange carriers with networks that are connected to the independents. Sprint meets the definition of ‘Telecommunications Carrier’ and, therefore, is to interconnect with the independents pursuant to § 251 (a).”<sup>38</sup>

The facts in this case are identical in all material respects. The only difference that TDS will be able to point to is that Comcast’s only LIS customer at this point is its own interconnected VoIP service provider affiliates. But that “distinction” makes no difference. First, as noted, Comcast offers LIS as a telecommunications service offering to any qualifying interconnected VoIP service provider that may request it. Comcast has received several inquiries about the service.<sup>39</sup> Most importantly, no prospective customer has filed a complaint with any regulator any where in the country alleging that Comcast has denied a reasonable request for service.<sup>40</sup>

But even if Comcast did serve only its own interconnected VoIP affiliates, that would still not alter the telecommunications service status of the offering. There is no requirement that an entity secure a certain number of customers before it can gain status as a common carrier. All that is required is that it serve “indiscriminately ... the clientele [it is] ... suited to serve.”<sup>41</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> Ohio Case, cited id. ¶ 5.

<sup>38</sup> New York Case, *cited supra* n.36, at 5.

<sup>39</sup> See Choroser Direct at 9.

<sup>40</sup> Id.

<sup>41</sup> *Consolidated Comm of Fort Bend Co v Public Utility Commission of Texas*, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 497 F Supp2d 836, 845 (WD Tex 2007) (quotation omitted).

While a carrier may not “make individualized decisions in particular cases” about who and who not to serve,<sup>42</sup> that “does not mean that the particular services offered must actually be available to the entire public. A specialized carrier whose service is of possible use to only a fraction of the population may nonetheless be a common carrier if he holds himself out to serve indifferently all potential users.”<sup>43</sup> Indeed, a service provider may be deemed a common carrier “even where it is not yet actually supplying service to *any* customers” in a particular area, and can be a common carrier even if it intends “to serve only a single customer.”<sup>44</sup> Likewise, as the courts have recognized, common carriers routinely offer service packages that “are based on contractual negotiations with a single customer and are specifically designed to meet the needs of only that customer.”<sup>45</sup>

Finally, to the extent that the Commission has any doubt about the telecommunications service status of Comcast’s LIS offering, it should give the benefit of that doubt to Comcast, the new entrant seeking to bring the benefits of competition and lower cost innovative communications services to Michigan consumers in TDS’ service territory. The “holding out indifferently” standard is, by design, not hard to satisfy for at least two reasons. First, public policy, as embodied in the Act, requires that common carriers must serve the public in various ways that private carriers need not, and are subject to enforcement action by regulators and claims for damages in the courts if they fail to honor requests for service. Second, because many of the rights (and corresponding duties) that make local competition possible are available only

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<sup>42</sup> *NARUC I*, 525 F.2d at 641

<sup>43</sup> *National Ass’n of Regulatory Utility Com’rs v FCC*, 533 F.2d 601, 608 (DC Cir 1976) (“*NARUC II*”).

<sup>44</sup> *Fiber Technologies Networks, LLC v North Pittsburgh Tel Co*, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 22 FCC Rcd 3392, ¶ 20 (2007).

<sup>45</sup> *MCI Telecomms Corp v FCC*, 917 F.2d 30, 34 (DC Cir 1990).

to common carriers, a narrow reading would impair competition in violation of the public policy that animates the Act. Indeed, the FCC expressly ruled that it is critical to treat those who provide wholesale services to VoIP providers as common carriers, in part, because that treatment is necessary to “advance the Commission’s goals in promoting facilities-based competition as well as broadband deployment.”<sup>46</sup>

For all these reasons, there is no basis for the Commission to deny Comcast Section 251(a)-(b) rights by virtue of the fact that Comcast has interconnected VoIP service provider customers, including its affiliates.

## **2. Comcast Is Also Entitled to Rights Under Section 251(b) Because It Offers Local Exchange Services**

But even if the Commission has unresolved questions about the telecommunications service status of Comcast’s LIS offering (which it should not), Comcast offers other telecommunications services that definitively resolves Comcast’s telecommunications carrier status. Moreover, while all telecommunications carriers are entitled to interconnection under Section 251(a)(1), local exchange carriers (“LECs”) – a special class of carriers that offer either “exchange access or telephone exchange services” – are also entitled to the mutual and reciprocal obligations provided by Section 251(b).<sup>47</sup> In addition to its LIS offering, Comcast also clearly qualifies as both a telecommunications carrier and as a LEC by virtue of its exchange access

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<sup>46</sup> *Time Warner Declaratory Ruling* ¶ 13; *See also, Id.* (finding that CLEC common carrier rights are “a critical component for the growth of facilities-based local competition”).

<sup>47</sup> A LEC is defined as any provider of telephone exchange service or exchange access. 47 USC § 153(26). Section 251(b) obligates all LECs to provide one another with number portability (§ 251(b)(2)), dialing parity and nondiscriminatory access to directory listings (§ 251(b)(3)), as well as the duty to transport and terminate traffic and pay reciprocal compensation (§ 251(b)(5)).

service offerings to the more than 25 interexchange carriers that purchase terminating access from Comcast pursuant to its Michigan and federal tariffs.<sup>48</sup>

“Exchange access” is defined as offering access to “telephone exchange services or facilities for the purpose of the origination or termination of telephone toll services.”<sup>49</sup> This is exactly the function that Comcast performs when it receives an incoming toll call and then switches it to the interconnected VoIP service provider customer for delivery to the end user. In that case, it is using its “telephone exchange facilities” to help terminate a toll call. Comcast has more than 25 exchange access customers in Michigan, as its Carrier Access Billing (“CABs”) records reflect.<sup>50</sup>

Comcast also provides “telephone exchange service,” which the Act defines as:

“(A) service within a telephone exchange, or within a connected system of telephone exchanges within the same exchange area operated to furnish to subscribers intercommunicating service of the character ordinarily furnished by a single exchange, and which is covered by the exchange service charge, or (B) comparable service provided through a system of switches, transmission equipment, or other facilities (or combination thereof) by which a subscriber can originate and terminate a telecommunications service.”<sup>51</sup>

In plain terms, “telephone exchange service” is the ability to make and receive local calls. This is exactly what Comcast provides when it makes its services available to interconnected VoIP service providers. Evidence that Comcast facilitates the origination and termination of telecommunications services is found in its reciprocal compensation billing records, which

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<sup>48</sup> See *Choroser Direct* at 10. Comcast also pays terminating access charges to numerous carriers, including TDS. *Id.* Comcast also offers a tariffed networking service to eligible school and library customers. See *id.* at 7, 10.

<sup>49</sup> 47 USC § 153(16).

<sup>50</sup> See *Choroser Direct* at 10.

<sup>51</sup> 47 USC § 153(47).

payments Comcast makes and receives pursuant to interconnection agreements with other ILECs *already* approved by the Commission.<sup>52</sup> Indeed, Comcast currently has five interconnection agreements with eight other ILECs in Michigan in place today, all of which were approved by the Commission,<sup>53</sup> and more than 150 Section 251 interconnection agreements with other ILECs and wireless carriers around the country. There is no reason why Michigan consumers in TDS' service territory should be the only end users in the nation denied the benefits of Comcast's competitive service offerings. But that would be the case if the Commission did not grant Comcast's petition and failed to order TDS to execute the fully negotiated agreement.

## **X. CONCLUSION**

Wherefore, for the foregoing reasons and those stated in the accompanying testimony of Beth Choroser, Comcast Phone of Michigan, LLC respectfully requests that the Michigan Public Service Commission:

1. Arbitrate the unresolved issue between Comcast and TDS, as described herein, within the timetable specified in the Act;

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<sup>52</sup> See Choroser Direct at 10.

<sup>53</sup> See In the matter of the request for Commission approval of an interconnection agreement between Comcast Telecommunications, Inc. and SBC Michigan, MPSC Case No. U-13378, July 10, 2002; In the matter of the request for Commission approval of an interconnection agreement between Comcast Phone of Michigan, LLC, d/b/a Comcast Digital Phone and Verizon North Inc. and Contel of the South, Inc., d/b/a Verizon North Systems, MPSC Case No. U-14395, Jan 25, 2005; In the matter of the request for Commission approval of an interconnection agreement between CenturyTel of Michigan, Inc., CenturyTel Midwest-Michigan, Inc., CenturyTel of Northern Michigan, Inc., and CenturyTel of Upper Michigan, Inc. and Comcast Phone of Michigan, LLC, MPSC Case No. U-14680, Nov 30, 2005; In the matter of the request for approval of an interconnection agreement between Frontier Communications of Michigan, Inc. and Comcast Phone of Michigan, LLC., MPSC Case No. U-15227, March 21, 2007.

2. Issue an Order requiring TDS to comply with all terms and conditions advocated by Comcast as set forth herein and directing the Parties to submit a fully executed Interconnection Agreement reflecting the agreed up language described above and in Exhibit C;

3. Retain jurisdiction of this arbitration until the Parties have submitted an agreement for approval in accordance with Section 252(e) of the Act;

4. Retain jurisdiction of this arbitration and the Parties hereto as necessary to enforce the agreement; and

5. Grant such other and further relief as the Commission deems just and proper.

Respectfully Submitted,

CLARK HILL PLC

Andrew Fisher, Esq.  
Beth Choroser  
Comcast Cable Communications, LLC  
One Comcast Center, 50<sup>th</sup> Floor  
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Date: November 12, 2008

Attorneys For:  
Comcast Phone of Michigan, LLC

**STATE OF MICHIGAN**

**BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

\* \* \* \* \*

In the matter of the Petition of )  
Comcast Phone of Michigan, LLC )  
for Arbitration pursuant to Section 252(b) )  
of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 )  
to establish an Interconnection Agreement )  
with TDS Telecom/Communications Corp. )  
of MI (CCM). )

Case No. U-15730

**PETITION FOR ARBITRATION  
OF COMCAST PHONE OF MICHIGAN, LLC**

**EXHIBIT A**

*Correspondence dated April 17, 2008  
from Beth Choroser at Comcast  
to Linda Lawrence at TDS*



Beth Choroser  
Senior Director, Regulatory Compliance

One Comcast Center  
50<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Phila., PA 19103-2838  
Tele: (215) 286-7893  
Fax: (215) 286-5039

VIA EMAIL

April 17, 2008

Ms. Linda Lowrance  
Manager – Interconnection  
TDS Telecom – Knoxville  
10025 Investment Drive, Suite 200  
Knoxville, TN 37932  
[Linda.Lowrance@tdstelecom.com](mailto:Linda.Lowrance@tdstelecom.com)

**RE: Request of Comcast Phone of Michigan, LLC d/b/a Comcast Digital Phone to  
Negotiate an Interconnection Agreement with Communication Corporation of  
Michigan for the state of Michigan**

Dear Linda:

Pursuant to Sections 251(a) and (b) of the Communication Act of 1934, as amended (the "Act"), Comcast Phone of New Michigan, LLC., d/b/a Comcast Digital Phone, a Delaware Limited Liability Company ("Comcast"), requests that Communication Corporation of Michigan ("TDS-Michigan") enter into negotiations with Comcast for an interconnection agreement (the "Agreement") in the state of New Hampshire. The Agreement should include terms and conditions for interconnection, including but not limited to the following:

1. Direct and indirect network interconnection;
2. Number portability;
3. Reciprocal compensation at "bill and keep";
4. Access to directory listings and directory assistance; and
5. Access to 911/E911 facilities, if owned or controlled by TDS-New Hampshire.

To the extent that TDS-Michigan does not currently support permanent local number portability ("LNP") in its applicable switches in Michigan, this letter shall also serve as a bona fide request ("BFR") for TDS-Michigan to open the switch(es) for number portability in the Augusta and Hickory Corners rate center exchanges:



For the purposes of the negotiation, Comcast represents the following:

1. Comcast represents that it holds a Certificate of Authority to provide competitive local exchange service in the state of Michigan, including in the above exchanges.
2. In entering into the Agreement, Comcast does not waive any rights it may have to negotiate or arbitrate amendments to the Agreement, to negotiate a successor agreement or to adopt a replacement agreement should an adoptable agreement become available. In negotiating the Agreement in the state of Michigan, Comcast does not waive any of its rights or remedies under the Act, and such other state and federal law, rules, regulations, and decisions as may be applicable.
3. Notice to Comcast as may be required under the terms of the Agreement shall be provided as follows:

Mr. Brian Rankin  
Assistant General Counsel  
One Comcast Center, 50<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
brian\_rankin@comcast.com  
Tel: (215) 286-7325  
Fax: (215) 286-5039

with a copy to:

Ms. Beth Choroser  
Senior Director of Regulatory Compliance  
One Comcast Center, 50<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
beth\_choroser@comcast.com  
Tel: (215) 286-7893  
Fax: (215) 286-5039

Since at this time I believe we have reached substantive agreement on the terms for the Vermont agreement, we propose to use that agreement as a starting point for negotiating the Michigan Agreement; provided however, neither Party shall be considered to waive any rights it may have in negotiating or arbitrating terms of the Agreement in the state of Michigan.

In connection with the negotiation of the Agreement, please contact me as soon as possible at the email address or phone number above to commence these negotiations. For the purposes of Section 252 of the Act, Comcast will consider the start date for negotiations to be April 21, 2008 unless the Parties agree to use an alternate start date.

Please let me know how you wish to proceed and advise me immediately if there is additional information that you require to process this request. Should you have any questions, please contact me at (215) 286-7893.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beth Choroser". The signature is fluid and written in dark ink.

Beth Choroser  
Senior Director of Regulatory Compliance

cc: Joyce Gailey (Kelley Drye)  
Andrew Fisher (Comcast)  
Beth O'Donnell (Comcast)

STATE OF MICHIGAN

BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

\* \* \* \* \*

In the matter of the Petition of )  
Comcast Phone of Michigan, LLC )  
for Arbitration pursuant to Section 252(b) )  
of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 )  
to establish an Interconnection Agreement )  
with TDS Telecom/Communications Corp. )  
of MI (CCM). )

Case No. U-15730

PETITION FOR ARBITRATION  
OF COMCAST PHONE OF MICHIGAN, LLC

EXHIBIT B

*Correspondence dated August 15, 2008  
from Beth Choroser at Comcast  
to Linda Lawrence at TDS*

*Countersigned by Linda Lawrence and revising dates for Arbitration*



Robert Munoz  
Director, Regulatory Compliance  
183 Inverness Dr. W, Suite 300S  
Englewood, CO 80112  
(720) 267-2660

August 15, 2008

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Ms. Linda Lowrance  
Manager – Interconnection  
TDS Telecom – Knoxville  
10025 Investment Drive, Suite 200  
Knoxville, TN 37932  
[Linda.Lowrance@tdstelecom.com](mailto:Linda.Lowrance@tdstelecom.com)

RE: **Revised Date Upon Which Communications Corporation of Michigan d/b/a TDS Telecom ("TDS") Received the Request to Negotiate an Interconnection Agreement with Comcast Phone of Michigan, LLC d/b/a Comcast Digital Phone ("Comcast")**

Dear Ms. Lowrance;

This letter is to confirm our agreement as to the window for negotiating an interconnection agreement between TDS and Comcast for the state of Michigan pursuant to Section 251 and 252 of the Communications Act of 1934 ("Act").

Specifically, TDS and Comcast agree to establish the start date of negotiations as June 5, 2008. As a result, the period during which either party may file for arbitration under section 252(b)(1) of the Act shall begin on October 18, 2008 and end on November 12, 2008. Those dates are the 135<sup>th</sup> and 160<sup>th</sup> days of negotiations, respectively.

It is anticipated that the additional time will allow TDS and Comcast to resolve the outstanding issues through further negotiations.

If the foregoing is acceptable to TDS, please sign in the space below and either fax a copy to my attention at 215-286-5039 or send a PDF copy via electronic mail to [Robert\\_Munoz@comcast.com](mailto:Robert_Munoz@comcast.com).

Should you have any questions, please feel free to call me on (720) 267-2660.

Sincerely,

  
Robert Munoz

Agreed by:  
**Communications Corporation of  
Michigan d/b/a TDS Telecom**



Date: 8-15-08

**STATE OF MICHIGAN**

**BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

\* \* \* \* \*

In the matter of the Petition of )  
Comcast Phone of Michigan, LLC )  
for Arbitration pursuant to Section 252(b) )  
of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 )  
to establish an Interconnection Agreement )  
with TDS Telecom/Communications Corp. )  
of MI (CCM). )

Case No. U-15730

**PETITION FOR ARBITRATION  
OF COMCAST PHONE OF MICHIGAN, LLC**

**EXHIBIT C**

*Agreed to Proposed Interconnection Agreement*

**INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT- UNDER SECTIONS 251  
AND 252 OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996**

Between

**TDS TELECOM**

and

**COMCAST Phone of Michigan, LLC  
d/b/a Comcast Digital Phone**

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**INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT**

This Interconnection Agreement - under Sections 251 and 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("Agreement") is dated as of [REDACTED], 2008 by and between TDS Telecommunications Corporation, a Delaware corporation, as agent for the Michigan operating companies listed in Appendix A, ("TDS TELECOM") and, Comcast Phone of Michigan, LLC, d/b/a Comcast Digital Phone, ("COMCAST"), a Delaware Limited Liability Company, with its principal place of business at One Comcast Center, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

**WHEREAS**, the Parties desire to interconnect their networks at mutually agreed upon points of interconnection to provide, directly or indirectly, Telephone Exchange Services and Exchange Access to residential and/or business End Users in the state of Michigan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Parties are entering into this Agreement to set forth the respective obligations of the Parties and the terms and conditions under which the Parties will interconnect their networks and facilities and provide to each other services as required by Sections 251(a) and (b) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 as specifically set forth herein.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of the premises and the mutual covenants of this Agreement COMCAST and TDS TELECOM hereby agree as follows:

This Agreement is composed of General Terms and Conditions, which are set forth below, together with certain Appendices, Schedules, Exhibits and Addenda which immediately follow this Agreement, all of which are hereby incorporated in this Agreement by this reference and constitute a part of this Agreement.

**GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS****1. INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE OF AGREEMENT**

1.1 Pursuant to Sections 251(a) and (b) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("Act"), this Agreement sets forth the terms and conditions for the interconnection of COMCAST's network to TDS TELECOM's network, compensation for the transport and termination of telecommunications traffic between TDS TELECOM and COMCAST, and the provision of ancillary functions by TDS TELECOM and COMCAST.

1.2 The Parties acknowledge and agree that by entering into and performing in accordance with this Agreement, the Parties have not waived any applicable

exemptions that are provided by or available under the Act, including but not limited to those described in 47 USC 251(f), or under state law, if any.

- 1.3 Either Party may fulfill the requirements imposed upon it by this Agreement by itself or may cause its Affiliates to take such actions to fulfill the responsibilities.

## 2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 Capitalized Terms used in this Agreement shall have the respective meanings specified below, in Section 2.2.x of each Appendix attached hereto, and/or as defined elsewhere in this Agreement.

### 2.2 GENERAL DEFINITIONS

- 2.2.1 **“Access Service Request” (ASR)** is an industry standard form used by the Parties to add, establish, change or disconnect trunks for the purposes of Interconnection.
- 2.2.2 **“Act”** means the Communications Act of 1934 [47 U.S.C. 153(R)], as amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Public Law 104-104, 110 Stat. 56 (1996) codified throughout 47 U.S.C.
- 2.2.3 **Intentionally left blank.**
- 2.2.4 **“Affiliate”** is As Defined in the Act.
- 2.2.5 **“Alternate Billing Service (ABS)”** means a service that allows End Users to bill calls to accounts that may not be associated with the originating line. There are three types of ABS calls: calling card, collect and third number billed calls.
- 2.2.6 **“Applicable Law”** means all laws, statutes, common law, regulations, ordinances, codes, rules, guidelines, orders, permits, tariffs and approvals, including those relating to the environment or health and safety, of any Governmental Authority that apply to the Parties or the subject matter of this Agreement.
- 2.2.7 **“As Defined in the Act”** means as specifically defined by the Act.
- 2.2.8 **“As Described in the Act”** means as described in or required by the Act.
- 2.2.9 **“Automatic Message Accounting” (AMA)** is a structure inherent in switch technology that initially records Telecommunication message information. AMA format is contained in the Automated Message Accounting document published by Telcordia (formerly known as

Bellcore) as GR-1100-CORE, which defines and amends the industry standard for message recording.

- 2.2.10 **“Business Day”** means Monday through Friday, excluding holidays observed by either Party. A list of recognized holidays will be exchanged between the Parties. Either Party will provide notice of any changes to the recognized holidays.
- 2.2.11 **“Calling Party Number” (CPN)** means a Signaling System 7 “SS7” parameter whereby the seven (7) or ten (10) digit number of the calling Party is forwarded from the End Office.
- 2.2.12 **“Central Office switch” (Central Office)** is a switching entity within the public switched telecommunications network, including but not limited to:
- 2.2.12.1 **“End Office Switch” or “End Office”** is a switching machine that directly terminates traffic to and receives traffic from purchasers of local exchange services. An End Office Switch does not include a PBX.
- 2.2.12.2 **“Tandem Office Switch” or “Tandem(s)”** are used to connect and switch trunk circuits between and among other Central Office Switches. A Tandem Switch does not include a PBX.
- 2.2.13 **“Commission”** means the Michigan Public Service Commission.
- 2.2.14 **“Common Channel Signaling” (CCS)** means an out-of-band, packet-switched, signaling network used to transport supervision signals, control signals, and data messages. It is a special network, fully separate from the transmission path of the public switched network. Unless otherwise agreed by the Parties, the CCS protocol used by the Parties shall be SS7.
- 2.2.15 **“Common Language Location Identifier” (CLLI)** codes provide a unique 11-character representation of a network interconnection point. The first 8 characters identify the city, state and building location, while the last 3 characters identify the network component.
- 2.2.16 **“Consequential Damages”** means Losses claimed to have resulted from any indirect, incidental, reliance, special, consequential, punitive, exemplary, multiple or any other Loss, including damages claimed to have resulted from harm to business, loss of anticipated revenues, savings, or profits, or other economic Loss claimed to have been suffered not measured by the prevailing Party's actual damages, and regardless of

whether the Parties knew or had been advised of the possibility that such damages could result in connection with or arising from anything said, omitted, or done hereunder or related hereto, including willful acts or omissions.

2.2.17 **“Custom Local Area Signaling Service Features” (CLASS Features)** means certain Common Channel Signaling based features available to End Users, including: Automatic Call Back; Call Trace; Distinctive Ringing/Call Waiting; Selective Call Forward; and Selective Call Rejection.

2.2.18 **“Customer” or “End Users”** means a third-party residence or business that subscribes to Telecommunications Services provided by any of the Parties. As used herein, the term "End Users" does not include any of the Parties to this Agreement with respect to any item or service obtained under this Agreement.

2.2.19 **“Delaying Event”** means (a) any failure of a Party to perform any of its obligations set forth in this Agreement, caused in whole or in part by:

2.2.19.1 the failure of the other Party to perform any of its obligations set forth in this Agreement, including but not limited to a Party’s failure to provide the other Party with accurate and complete Service Orders;

2.2.19.2 any delay, act or failure to act by the other Party or its End User, agent or subcontractor; or

2.2.19.3 any Force Majeure Event.

2.2.20 **“Dialing Parity”** is As Defined in the Act. As used in this Agreement, Dialing Parity refers to both Local Dialing Parity and Toll Dialing Parity.

2.2.21 **“Digital Signal Level”** is one of several transmission rates in the time-division multiplex hierarchy.

2.2.21.1 **“Digital Signal Level 0” (DS-0)** is the 64 Kbps zero-level signal in the time-division multiplex hierarchy.

2.2.21.2 **“Digital Signal Level 1” (DS-1)** is the 1.544 Mbps first-level signal in the time-division multiplex hierarchy.

2.2.21.3 **“Digital Signal Level 3” (DS-3)** is the 44.736 Mbps third-level signal in the time-division multiplex hierarchy.

- 2.2.22 **“Exchange Access”** is As Defined in the Act.
- 2.2.23 **“Exchange Area”** means an area, defined by the Commission, for which a distinct local rate schedule is in effect.
- 2.2.24 **“Exchange Service”** means Telephone Exchange Service, As Defined in the Act.
- 2.2.25 **“FCC”** means the Federal Communications Commission.
- 2.2.26 **“Feature Group D” (FG-D)** is access available to all customers, providing trunk side access to a Party’s End Office Switches with an associated uniform 101XXXX access code for customer’s use in originating and terminating communications.
- 2.2.27 **“Fiber Meet”** means an Interconnection architecture method whereby the Parties physically interconnect their networks via an optical fiber interface (as opposed to an electrical interface) at a mutually agreed upon location, which is the demarcation point for each Party’s financial and operational responsibility.
- 2.2.28 **“Governmental Authority”** means any federal, state, local, foreign, or international court, government, department, commission, board, bureau, agency, official, or other regulatory, administrative, legislative, or judicial authority with jurisdiction over the subject matter at issue.
- 2.2.29 **“Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier” (ILEC)** is As Defined in the Act.
- 2.2.30 **“Indirect Interconnection”** provides for network interconnection between the Parties through a third party tandem provider performing a transit function.
- 2.2.31 **“Integrated Services Digital Network” (ISDN)** means a switched network service that provides end-to-end digital connectivity for the simultaneous transmission of voice and data.
- 2.2.32 **“Intellectual Property”** means copyrights, patents, trademarks, trade secrets, mask works and all other intellectual property rights.
- 2.2.33 **“Interconnection”** is As Defined in the Act.
- 2.2.34 **“Interconnection Activation Date”** is the date that the construction of the joint facility Interconnection arrangement has been completed, trunk groups have been established, joint trunk testing is completed and trunks have been mutually accepted by the Parties.

- 2.2.35 **“Interexchange Carrier” (IXC)** means a carrier that provides, directly or indirectly, interLATA or intraLATA Telephone Toll Services.
- 2.2.36 **“InterLATA”** is As Defined in the Act.
- 2.2.37 **“Internet Service Provider” (ISP)** is an Enhanced Service Provider that provides Internet Services, and is defined in paragraph 341 of the FCC’s First Report and Order in CC Docket No. 97-158.
- 2.2.38 **Intentionally left blank.**
- 2.2.39 **“IntraLATA Toll Traffic”** means the IntraLATA traffic between two locations within one LATA where one of the locations lies outside of the normal local calling area as defined by the applicable Commission. Optional extended local calling area service within a LATA is IntraLATA Toll Traffic, with the exception of Optional Local Measured Calling Service in effect in TDS Telecom’s tariffs as of the Effective date of this Agreement.
- 2.2.40 **“Line Information Data Base” (LIDB)** means a transaction-oriented database system that functions as a centralized repository for data storage and retrieval. LIDB is accessible through CCS networks. LIDB contains records associated with End User line numbers and special billing numbers. LIDB accepts queries from other network elements and provides return result, return error, and return reject responses as appropriate. Examples of information that Data Owners might store in LIDB and in their Line Records are: ABS Validation Data, Originating Line Number Screening (OLNS) data, ZIP Code data, and Calling Name Information.
- 2.2.41 **“Line Record”** means information in LIDB and/or the LIDB administrative system that is specific to a single telephone number or Special Billing Number.
- 2.2.42 **“Local Access Transport Area” (LATA)** is As Defined in the Act.
- 2.2.43 **“Local Traffic”**, for purposes of intercarrier compensation, is Telecommunications traffic originated by a End User Customer of one Party in an exchange on that Party’s network and terminated to a End User Customer of the other Party on that other Party’s network located within the same exchange or other non-optional extended local calling area associated with the originating customer’s exchange as defined by TDS TELECOM’s applicable local exchange tariff. Local Traffic does not include: (1) any ISP-Bound Traffic; (2) traffic that does not originate and

terminate within the same TDS TELECOM local calling area as such local calling area is defined by TDS TELECOM's applicable local exchange tariff; (3) Toll Traffic, including, but not limited to, calls originated on a 1+ presubscription basis, or on a casual dialed (10XXX/101XXXX) basis; (4) optional extended local calling area traffic; (5) special access, private line, Frame Relay, ATM, or any other traffic that is not switched by the terminating Party; or, (6) Tandem Transit Traffic.

2.2.44 **"Local Exchange Carrier" (LEC)** is As Defined in the Act.

2.2.45 **"Local Exchange Routing Guide" (LERG)** is a Telcordia Reference document used by Telecommunications Carriers to identify NPA-NXX routing and homing information as well as equipment designations.

2.2.46 **"Local Number Portability" (LNP)** is as defined by the Act.

2.2.47 **"Location Routing Number" (LRN)** is a ten (10) digit number that is assigned to the network switching elements (Central Office – Host and Remotes as required) for the routing of calls in the network. The first six (6) digits of the LRN will be one of the assigned NPA NXX of the switching element. The purpose and functionality of the last four (4) digits of the LRN have not yet been defined but are passed across the network to the terminating switch.

2.2.48 **"Loss" or "Losses"** means any and all losses, costs (including court costs), claims, damages (including fines, penalties, and criminal or civil judgments and settlements), injuries, liabilities and expenses (including attorneys' fees).

2.2.49 **Intentionally left blank.**

2.2.50 **Intentionally left blank.**

2.2.51 **Intentionally left blank.**

2.2.52 **"Mutual Compensation"** is the compensation agreed upon by the Parties for "Local Calls" that originate on one network and terminate on the other network.

2.2.53 **"North American Numbering Plan" (NANP)** A numbering architecture in which every station in the NANP Area is identified by a unique ten-digit address consisting of a three-digit NPA code, a three digit central office code of the form NXX, and a four-digit line number of the form XXXX.

2.2.54 **"Number Portability"** is As Defined in the Act.

- 2.2.55 **“Numbering Plan Area” (NPA)** also called area code. An NPA is the 3-digit code that occupies the A, B, C positions in the 10-digit NANP format that applies throughout the NANP Area. NPAs are of the form NXX, where N represents the digits 2-9 and X represents any digit 0-9. In the NANP, NPAs are classified as either geographic or non-geographic. a) Geographic NPAs are NPAs that correspond to discrete geographic areas within the NANP Area. b) Non-geographic NPAs are NPAs that do not correspond to discrete geographic areas, but which are instead assigned for services with attributes, functionalities, or requirements that transcend specific geographic boundaries. The common examples are NPAs in the N00 or 8xx format, e.g., 800, 866, 877 or 888.
- 2.2.56 **“NXX” or “Central Office Code”** is the three-digit switch entity indicator that is defined by the fourth through sixth digits of a 10-digit telephone number within the NANP. Each NXX Code contains 10,000 station numbers.
- 2.2.57 **“Ordering and Billing Forum” (OBF)** is a forum comprised of local telephone companies and interexchange carriers whose responsibility is to create and document Telecommunication industry guidelines and standards.
- 2.2.58 **“Party”** means either COMCAST or TDS TELECOM that is a party to this Agreement. **“Parties”** means both COMCAST and TDS TELECOM.
- 2.2.59 **Intentionally left blank.**
- 2.2.60 **“Point of Interconnection” (POI)** is a physical location at which the Parties’ networks meet for the purpose of establishing Interconnection and serve as the operational responsibility hand-off between the Parties’ networks. POIs include a number of different technologies and technical interfaces based on the Parties’ mutual agreement.
- 2.2.61 **“Rate Center”** means the specific geographic point that has been designated by a given LEC as being associated with a particular NPA-NXX code that has been assigned to the LEC for its provision of Telephone Exchange Service. The Rate Center is the finite geographic point identified by a specific V&H coordinate, which is used by that LEC to measure, for billing purposes, distance sensitive transmission services associated with the specific Rate Center.
- 2.2.62 **“Rating Point”** means the V&H coordinates associated with a particular telephone number for rating purposes.



- 2.2.63 **“Referral Announcement”** refers to a process by which calls are routed to an announcement that states the new telephone number of an End User.
- 2.2.64 **Intentionally Left Blank.**
- 2.2.65 **Intentionally Left Blank.**
- 2.2.66 **Signaling Transport Signal level (STS-n)** is an electrical signal that is converted to or from SONET’s optically based signal. Level 1 is 51.84 Mb/s or the electrical equivalent to OC-1 optical signal, level 2 is 155.52 Mb/s or the electrical equivalent to OC-3.
- 2.2.67 **“Signaling System 7” (SS7)** means a signaling protocol used by the CCS Network.
- 2.2.68 **“Switched Exchange Access Service”** means the offering of transmission or switching services to Telecommunications Carriers for the purpose of the origination or termination of telephone toll service. Switched Exchange Access Services include: Feature Group A, Feature Group B, Feature Group D, 800/8xx access, and 900 access and their successors or similar Switched Exchange Access Services.
- 2.2.69 **“Synchronous Optical Network” (SONET)** is an optical interface standard that allows inter-networking of transmission products from multiple vendors. The base rate is 51.84 Mbps (“OC-1/STS-1”) and higher rates are direct multiples of the base rate, up to 13.22 Gbps.
- 2.2.70 **“Tandem Transit Traffic”** is defined as local traffic or ISP-bound traffic originated on one Party's network, transited through the other Party’s network, and terminated to a third party telecommunications carrier’s network or that is originated on a third party telecommunications carrier’s network, transited through a Party’s network and terminated to the other Party’s network. For purposes of this Agreement, Tandem Transit Traffic does not include overflow traffic between the Parties that is routed through a third party tandem provider.
- 2.2.71 **“Telecommunications”** is As Defined in the Act.
- 2.2.72 **“Telecommunications Carrier”** is As Defined in the Act.
- 2.2.73 **“Telecommunications Service”** is As Defined in the Act.
- 2.2.74 **“Telephone Exchange Service”** is As Defined in the Act.
- 2.2.75 **“Telephone Toll Service”** is As Defined in the Act.

2.2.76 **“Trunk”** means a communication line between two switching systems.

2.2.77 **“Wire Center”** is the location of one or more local switching systems. A point at which End User’s loops within a defined geographic area converge. Such local loops may be served by one (1) or more Central Office Switches within such premises.

2.3 For purposes of this Agreement, certain terms have been defined in this Agreement to encompass meanings that may differ from, or be in addition to, the normal connotation of the defined word. Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, any term defined or used in the singular will include the plural. The words “include,” “includes,” and “including” shall be deemed to be followed by the phrase “without limitation” and/or “but not limited to.” The words “will” and “shall” are used interchangeably throughout this Agreement and the use of either connotes a mandatory requirement. The use of one or the other will not mean a different degree of right or obligation for either Party. A defined word intended to convey its special meaning is capitalized when used. Other terms that are capitalized and not defined in this Agreement will have the meaning in the Act, or in the absence of their inclusion in the Act, their customary usage in the Telecommunications industry as of the Effective Date.

### 3. **EFFECTIVE DATE**

3.1 This Agreement becomes effective (“Effective Date”) (1) when executed by each Party and after approval by the Commission under Section 252(e) of the Act; or (2) absent such Commission approval, by operation of law pursuant to Section 252(e)(4) of the Act.

### 4. **INTERVENING LAW**

4.1 The Parties acknowledge that the respective rights and obligations of each Party as set forth in this Agreement are based upon the Act and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder by the FCC and the Commission as of the Effective Date (“Applicable Rules”). In the event of any amendment of the Act, any effective legislative action or any effective regulatory or judicial order, rule, regulation, arbitration award, Commission or court decision pursuant to dispute resolution procedures under this Agreement or other legal action purporting to apply the provisions of the Act to the Parties or in which the court, FCC or the Commission makes a generic determination that is generally applicable which revises, modifies or reverses the Applicable Rules (individually, “Amended Rules”), either Party may, by providing written notice to the other Party, require that the affected provisions of this Agreement be renegotiated in good faith and this Agreement shall be amended accordingly to reflect the pricing, terms and conditions of each such Amended Rules relating to any of the provisions in this

Agreement. If negotiations fail, disputes between the Parties concerning the interpretation of the actions required or provisions affected by such governmental actions shall be resolved pursuant to the dispute resolution process provided for in this Agreement. The Parties further acknowledge and agree that by executing this Agreement, neither Party waives any of its rights, remedies, or arguments with respect to such decisions and any remand thereof, including its right to seek legal review or a stay pending appeal of such decisions or its rights under this Intervening Law paragraph.

## 5. TERM OF AGREEMENT

- 5.1 This Agreement will become effective as of the Effective Date stated above, and unless terminated earlier in accordance with the terms hereof, shall continue in effect until [REDACTED] (the "Initial Term"), and thereafter the Agreement shall continue in force and effect unless and until terminated as provided herein.
- 5.2 Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, either Party (the "Terminating Party") may terminate this Agreement and the provision of any Interconnection, functions, facilities, products or services provided pursuant to this Agreement in the event that the other Party fails to perform a material obligation or breaches a material term of this Agreement and the other Party (i) fails to cure such nonperformance or breach within forty-five (45) calendar days after receiving written notice thereof pursuant to this Section 5.2; and (ii) has not commenced a dispute regarding the subject of the breach pursuant to Section 16.2.1 within the same forty-five (45) calendar days; and (iii) fails to obtain and provide to the Terminating Party within that same forty-five (45) calendar days an Order by the Commission prohibiting or delaying such termination. Any termination pursuant to this Section 5.2 shall take effect on or after the forty-fifth (45<sup>th</sup>) calendar day where conditions (i), (ii), and (iii) above pertain.
- 5.3 Upon the expiration of the Initial Term or any time thereafter, either Party may terminate this Agreement by providing written notice to the other Party of its intention to terminate, such written notice to be received at least ninety (90) days in advance of the date of termination. Neither Party shall have any liability to the other Party for termination of this Agreement pursuant to this Section 5.3 other than its obligations under Sections 5.4, 5.5, 5.6 and 5.7.
- 5.4 Upon termination or expiration of this Agreement in accordance with Section 5.2:
- 5.4.1 Each Party shall continue to comply with its obligations set forth in Section 44; and
- 5.4.2 Each Party shall promptly pay all amounts owed under this Agreement, or follow the procedures for billing disputes as set forth herein.

5.4.3 Each Party's confidentiality obligations shall survive; and

5.4.4 Each Party 's indemnification obligations shall survive.

5.5 In the event of termination of this Agreement pursuant to Section 5.3, where neither Party has requested renegotiation under Section 5.6, TDS TELECOM and COMCAST shall cooperate in good faith to effect an orderly transition of service under this Agreement; provided that each Party shall be solely responsible (from a financial, operational and administrative standpoint) to ensure that its End Users have been transitioned to a new LEC by the expiration date or termination date of this Agreement.

5.6 If either Party terminates this Agreement pursuant to Section 5.3, the other Party may request renegotiation of the Agreement by providing written notice thereof to the terminating Party within thirty (30) days of the other Party's receipt of the termination notice. Any such request shall be deemed by both Parties to be a good faith request for Interconnection pursuant to Section 252 of the Act (or any successor provision), regardless of which Party made such request. If the Parties do not execute a new interconnection agreement within the respective periods set under the Act, either Party may exercise its applicable rights under the Act.

5.7 If either Party requests renegotiation of this Agreement pursuant to Sections 4.1 or 5.6 above, the rates, terms and conditions of this Agreement shall continue in full force and effect until the effective date of its successor agreement, whether such successor agreement is established via negotiation, arbitration or pursuant to Section 252(i) of the Act; provided, however, when a successor agreement becomes effective and the Parties agree that the terms, rates and charges of such successor Agreement shall apply retroactively back to the date this Agreement is terminated or expires, whichever is later, and that the retro-active true-up shall be completed within ninety (90) calendar days following the effective date of such successor Agreement. Notwithstanding the forgoing, no retroactive true-up shall be made for any charges that were incurred more than twelve (12) months prior to the true-up date.

## **6. ASSIGNMENT**

6.1 Neither Party hereto may assign or otherwise transfer its rights or obligations under this Agreement, except with the prior written consent of the other Party hereto, which consent will not be unreasonably withheld; provided, that either Party may assign its rights and delegate its benefits, duties and obligations under this Agreement without the consent of the other Party to any Affiliate, provided the obligations and duties of either Party under this Agreement shall be binding on all successors in interest and assigns of such Party. Nothing in this Section is intended to impair the right of either Party to utilize subcontractors.

- 6.2 Each Party will notify the other in writing not less than thirty (30) days in advance of anticipated assignment.

## 7. DELEGATION TO AFFILIATE

- 7.1 Each Party may, without the consent of the other Party, fulfill its obligations under this Agreement by itself or may cause its Affiliate(s) to take some or all of such actions to fulfill such obligations. Upon such delegation, the Affiliate shall become a primary obligor hereunder with respect to the delegated matter, but such delegation shall not relieve the delegating Party of its obligations as co-obligor hereunder. Any Party which elects to perform its obligations through an Affiliate shall cause its Affiliate to take all action necessary for the performance of such Party's obligations hereunder. Each Party represents and warrants that if an obligation under this Agreement is to be performed by an Affiliate, such Party has the authority to cause such Affiliate to perform such obligation and such Affiliate will have the licensure, certification, and all other legal authority required to accomplish the delegated performance.

## 8. CONFIDENTIALITY AND PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

- 8.1 For the purposes of this Agreement, "Proprietary Information" means confidential or proprietary technical or business information given by one Party ("the Disclosing Party") or its agent, employee, representative or Affiliate to the other Party ("the Receiving Party") in connection with this Agreement, during negotiations and the term of this Agreement:
- 8.1.1 In written, graphic, electromagnetic, or other tangible form and marked at the time of delivery as "Confidential" or "Proprietary" however, regardless of whether so marked, any non-public information which, because of legends or other markings, the circumstances of disclosure or the information itself, is otherwise reasonably understood by the Receiving Party to be proprietary and confidential to the Disclosing Party, shall be deemed to be Proprietary Information; or
- 8.1.2 Any portion of any notes, analyses, data, compilations, studies, interpretations or other documents prepared by any Receiving Party to the extent the same contain, reflect, are derived from, or are based upon, any of the information described in this Section 8, unless such information contained or reflected in such notes, analyses, etc. is so commingled with the Receiving Party's information that disclosure could not possibly disclose the underlying proprietary or confidential information (such portions of such notes, analyses, etc. referred to herein as "**Derivative Information**").

## 8.2 Proprietary Information Shall be Held in Confidence

### 8.2.1 Each Receiving Party agrees that:

8.2.1.1 all Proprietary Information communicated to it or any of its agents, attorneys, employees, representatives and Affiliates in connection with this Agreement shall be held in confidence to the same extent as such Receiving Party holds its own confidential information of like importance; provided that such Receiving Party and its agents, attorneys, employees, representatives and Affiliates shall not use less than a reasonable standard of care in maintaining the confidentiality of such information;

8.2.1.2 it will not, and it will not permit any of its agents, attorneys, employees, representatives and Affiliates to disclose such Proprietary Information to any non-party to this Agreement ("Third Party");

8.2.1.3 it will disclose Proprietary Information only to those of its agents, attorneys, employees, representatives and Affiliates who have a need for it in connection with the use or provision of any services required to fulfill this Agreement; and

8.2.1.4 it will, and will cause each of its agents, attorneys, employees, representatives and Affiliates, to use such Proprietary Information only to perform its obligations under this Agreement or to use services provided by the Disclosing Party hereunder and for no other purpose, including its own marketing purposes.

8.2.2 A Receiving Party may disclose Proprietary Information of a Disclosing Party to the Receiving Party's agents, attorneys, employees, representatives and Affiliates who need to know such information to perform their obligations under this Agreement; provided that before disclosing any Proprietary Information to any agent, employee, representative or Affiliate, the Receiving Party shall notify such agent, employee, representative or Affiliate of such Party's obligation to comply with this Agreement. Each Receiving Party making such disclosure shall notify the Disclosing Party as soon as possible if it has knowledge of a breach of this Agreement in any material respect.

8.2.3 Proprietary Information shall not be reproduced by any Receiving Party in any form except to the extent (i) necessary to comply with the provisions of Section 8.5 and (ii) reasonably necessary to perform its obligations under this Agreement.

- 8.3 Unless otherwise agreed, the obligations of confidentiality and non-use set forth in this Agreement do not apply to such Proprietary Information that:
- 8.3.1 Was at the time of receipt, already known to the Receiving Party, free of any obligation to keep confidential and evidenced by written records prepared prior to delivery by the Disclosing Party; or
  - 8.3.2 Is, or becomes publicly known through no wrongful act of the Receiving Party; or
  - 8.3.3 Is rightfully received from a Third Party having no direct or indirect secrecy or confidentiality obligation to the Disclosing Party with respect to such information; provided that such Receiving Party has exercised commercially reasonable efforts to determine whether such Third Party has any such obligation; or
  - 8.3.4 Is independently developed by an agent, employee representative or Affiliate of the Receiving Party and such Party is not involved in any manner with the provision of services pursuant to this Agreement and does not have any direct or indirect access to the Proprietary Information; or
  - 8.3.5 Is disclosed to a Third Party by the Disclosing Party without similar restrictions on such Third Party's rights; or
  - 8.3.6 Is approved for release by written authorization of the Disclosing Party, but only to the extent of the authorization granted; or
  - 8.3.7 Is required to be made public by the Receiving Party pursuant to Applicable Law or regulation, provided that such production or disclosure shall have been made in accordance with Section 8.5.
- 8.4 Proposed Disclosure of Proprietary Information to a Governmental Authority
- 8.4.1 If a Receiving Party desires to disclose or provide to a Commission, the FCC or any other governmental authority any Proprietary Information of the Disclosing Party, such Receiving Party shall, prior to and as a condition of such disclosure, (i) provide the Disclosing Party with written notice and the form of such proposed disclosure as soon as possible but in any event early enough to allow the Disclosing Party to protect its interests in the Proprietary Information to be disclosed and (ii) attempt to obtain in accordance with the applicable procedures of the intended recipient of such Proprietary Information an appropriate order for protective relief or other reliable assurance that confidential treatment shall be accorded to such Proprietary Information.

- 8.4.2 If a Receiving Party is required by any Governmental Authority or by Applicable Law to disclose any Proprietary Information, then such Receiving Party shall provide the Disclosing Party with written notice of such requirement as soon as possible, and in no event later than five (5) calendar days after receipt of such requirement, and prior to such disclosure. Upon receipt of written notice of the requirement to disclose Proprietary Information, the Disclosing Party at its expense, may then either seek appropriate protective relief in advance of such requirement to prevent all or part of such disclosure or waive the Receiving Party's compliance with this Section 8.4 with respect to all or part of such requirement.
- 8.4.3 The Receiving Party shall use all commercially reasonable efforts to cooperate with the Disclosing Party in attempting to obtain any protective relief which such Disclosing Party chooses to seek pursuant to this Section 8.4. In the absence of such relief, if the Receiving Party is legally compelled to disclose any Proprietary Information, then the Receiving Party shall exercise all commercially reasonable efforts to preserve the confidentiality of the Proprietary information, including cooperating with the Disclosing Party to obtain an appropriate order for protective relief or other reliable assurance that confidential treatment will be accorded the Proprietary Information.
- 8.5 Notwithstanding any of the foregoing, each Party shall be entitled to disclose Proprietary Information on a confidential basis to regulatory agencies upon request for information as to a Disclosing Party's activities under the Act if the Party has provided reasonable prior written notice to the other Party and obtained an appropriate order for protective relief or other reliable assurance that confidential treatment shall be accorded to such Proprietary Information.
- 8.6 Return of Proprietary Information
- 8.6.1 All Proprietary Information, other than Derivative Information, shall remain the property of the Disclosing Party, and all documents or other tangible media delivered to the Receiving Party that embody such Proprietary Information shall be, at the option of the Disclosing Party, either promptly returned to Disclosing Party or destroyed, except as otherwise may be required from time to time by Applicable Law (in which case the use and disclosure of such Proprietary Information will continue to be subject to this Agreement), upon the earlier of (i) the date on which the Receiving Party's need for it has expired and (ii) the expiration or termination of this Agreement.
- 8.6.2 At the request of the Disclosing Party, any Derivative Information shall be, at the option of the Receiving Party, either promptly returned to the



Disclosing Party or destroyed, except as otherwise may be required from time to time by Applicable Law (in which case the use and disclosure of such Derivative Information will continue to be subject to this Agreement), upon the earlier of (i) the date on which the Receiving Party's need for it has expired and (ii) the expiration or termination of this Agreement.

- 8.6.3 The Receiving Party may at any time either return the Proprietary Information to the Disclosing Party or destroy such Proprietary Information. If the Receiving Party elects to destroy Proprietary Information, all copies of such information shall be destroyed and upon the written request of the Disclosing Party, the Receiving Party shall provide to the Disclosing Party written certification of such destruction. The destruction or return of Proprietary information shall not relieve any Receiving Party of its obligation to continue to treat such Proprietary Information in the manner required by this Agreement.
- 8.7 Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, the Proprietary Information provisions of this Agreement shall apply to all information furnished by either Party to the other in furtherance of the purpose of this Agreement, even if furnished before the date of this Agreement and each Party's obligation to safeguard Proprietary Information disclosed prior to expiration or termination of this Agreement will survive such expiration or termination.
- 8.8 Pursuant to Section 222(b) of the Act, both Parties agree to limit their use of Proprietary Information received from the other to the permitted purposes identified in the Act.
- 8.9 Each Party has the right to refuse to accept any Confidential Information under this Agreement, and nothing in this Section 8 shall obligate either Party to disclose to the other Party any particular information.
- 8.10 The Parties agree that an impending or existing violation of any provision of this Section 8 would cause the Disclosing Party irreparable injury for which it would have no adequate remedy at law, and agree that Disclosing Party shall be entitled to obtain immediate injunctive relief prohibiting such violation, in addition to any other rights and remedies available to it at law or in equity, including both specific performance and monetary damages. In the event of any breach of this Section 8 for which legal or equitable relief is sought, all reasonable attorney's fees and other reasonable costs associated therewith shall be recoverable by the prevailing Party.

## **9. LIABILITY AND INDEMNIFICATION**

### **9.1 Limitation of Liabilities**

- 9.1.1 Except for indemnity obligations expressly set forth herein, each Party's liability to the other Party for any Loss relating to or arising out of such Party's performance under this Agreement, including any negligent act or omission (whether willful or inadvertent), whether in contract, tort or otherwise, including alleged breaches of this Agreement and causes of action alleged to arise from allegations that breach of this Agreement also constitute a violation of a statute, including the Act, shall not exceed in total the amount TDS TELECOM or COMCAST has charged or would have charged to the other Party for the affected Interconnection, functions, facilities, products and service(s) that were not performed or were improperly performed.
- 9.1.2 Except for losses alleged or made by an end user of either Party, in the case of any loss alleged or made by a third party arising under the negligence or willful misconduct of both Parties, each Party shall bear, and its obligation under this section shall be limited to, that portion (as mutually agreed to by the Parties) of the resulting expense caused by its own negligence or willful misconduct or that of its agents, servants, contractors, or others acting in aid or concert with it.

9.2 NO CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES

- 9.2.1 NEITHER COMCAST NOR TDS TELECOM WILL BE LIABLE TO THE OTHER PARTY FOR ANY INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL CONSEQUENTIAL, RELIANCE, OR SPECIAL DAMAGES SUFFERED BY SUCH OTHER PARTIES (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. NOTHING CONTAINED IN THIS SECTION WILL LIMIT TDS TELECOM'S OR COMCAST'S LIABILITY TO THE OTHER FOR (i) WILLFUL OR INTENTIONAL MISCONDUCT (INCLUDING GROSS NEGLIGENCE); AND (ii) BODILY INJURY, DEATH, OR DAMAGE TO TANGIBLE REAL OR TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY PROXIMATELY CAUSED BY TDS TELECOM'S OR COMCAST'S NEGLIGENT ACT OR OMISSION

OR THAT OF THEIR RESPECTIVE AGENTS, SUBCONTRACTORS OR EMPLOYEES, NOR WILL ANYTHING CONTAINED IN THIS SECTION LIMIT THE PARTIES INDEMNIFICATION OBLIGATIONS, AS SPECIFIED BELOW.

## 10. REMEDIES

- 10.1 Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, no remedy set forth herein is intended to be exclusive and each and every remedy shall be cumulative and in addition to any other rights or remedies now or hereafter existing under Applicable Law or otherwise.

## 11. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

- 11.1 Any Intellectual Property originating from or developed by a Party shall remain in the exclusive ownership of that Party.

## 12. INDEMNITY

- 12.1 Except as otherwise expressly provided herein, and to the extent not prohibited by Applicable Law, each Party (the "Indemnifying Party") shall release, defend and indemnify the other Party (the "Indemnified Party") and hold such Indemnified Party harmless against any Loss to a Third Party arising out of the negligence or willful misconduct ("Fault") of such Indemnifying Party, its agents, its End Users, contractors, or others retained by such Parties, in connection with the Indemnifying Party's provision of Interconnection, functions, facilities, products and services under this Agreement; provided, however, that (i) with respect to employees or agents of the Indemnifying Party, such Fault occurs while performing within the scope of their employment, (ii) with respect to subcontractors of the Indemnifying Party, such Fault occurs in the course of performing duties of the subcontractor under its subcontract with the Indemnifying Party, and (iii) with respect to the Fault of employees or agents of such subcontractor, such Fault occurs while performing within the scope of their employment by the subcontractor with respect to such duties of the subcontractor under the subcontract.
- 12.2 A Party (the "**Indemnifying Party**") shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the other Party ("**Indemnified Party**") against any claim or Loss arising from the Indemnifying Party's use of Interconnection, functions, facilities, products and services provided under this Agreement involving:
- 12.2.1 Any claim or Loss arising from such Indemnifying Party's use of Interconnection, functions, facilities, products and services offered under this Agreement, involving any claim for libel, slander, invasion of privacy,

or infringement of Intellectual Property rights arising from the Indemnifying Party's or its End User's use.

12.2.2 The foregoing includes any claims or Losses arising from disclosure of any End User-specific information associated with either the originating or terminating numbers used to provision Interconnection, functions, facilities, products or services provided hereunder and all other claims arising out of any act or omission of the End User in the course of using any Interconnection, functions, facilities, products or services provided pursuant to this Agreement.

12.2.3 The foregoing includes any Losses arising from claims for actual or alleged infringement of any Intellectual Property right of a Third Party to the extent that such Loss arises from an Indemnifying Party's or an Indemnifying Party's End User's use of Interconnection, functions, facilities, products or services provided under this Agreement; provided, however, that an Indemnifying Party's obligation to defend and indemnify the Indemnified Party shall not apply:

12.2.3.1 where an Indemnified Party or its End User modifies Interconnection, functions, facilities, products or services; provided under this Agreement without authorization of the Indemnifying Party; and

12.2.3.2 no infringement would have occurred without such modification.

12.3 Consistent with and subject to the waiver of subrogation set forth under Section 26.6.2, COMCAST shall reimburse TDS TELECOM for damages to TDS TELECOM's facilities utilized to provide Interconnection hereunder caused by the negligence or willful act of COMCAST, its agents or subcontractors or COMCAST's End User or resulting from COMCAST's improper use of TDS TELECOM's facilities, or due to malfunction of any facilities, functions, products, services or equipment provided by COMCAST, its agents or subcontractors or COMCAST's End User. Upon reimbursement for damages, TDS TELECOM will cooperate with COMCAST in prosecuting a claim against the person causing such damage. COMCAST shall be subrogated to the right of recovery by TDS TELECOM for the damages to the extent of such payment.

12.4 Consistent with and subject to the waiver of subrogation set forth under Section 26.6.2, TDS TELECOM shall reimburse COMCAST for damages to COMCAST's facilities utilized to provide or access Interconnection hereunder caused by the negligence or willful act of TDS TELECOM, its agents or subcontractors or End User or resulting from TDS TELECOM's improper use of COMCAST's facilities, or due to malfunction of any facilities, functions,

products, services or equipment provided by TDS TELECOM, its agents or subcontractors or TDS TELECOM's End User. Upon reimbursement for damages, COMCAST will cooperate with TDS TELECOM in prosecuting a claim against the person causing such damage. TDS TELECOM shall be subrogated to the right of recovery by COMCAST for the damages to the extent of such payment.

## 12.5 Obligation to Defend; Notice; Cooperation

12.5.1 Should a claim arise for indemnification under this Section, the relevant Indemnified Party, as appropriate, will promptly notify the Indemnifying Party and request in writing the Indemnifying Party to defend the same. Failure to so notify the Indemnifying Party will 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 will have the right to defend against such liability or assertion in which event the Indemnifying Party will give written notice to the Indemnified Party of acceptance of the defense of such claim and the identity of counsel selected by the Indemnifying Party.

12.5.2 Until such time as Indemnifying Party provides written notice of acceptance of the defense of such claim, the Indemnified Party shall defend such claim, at the expense of the Indemnifying Party, subject to any right of the Indemnifying Party to seek reimbursement for the costs of such defense in the event that it is determined that Indemnifying Party had no obligation to indemnify the Indemnified Party for such claim.

12.5.3 Upon accepting the defense, the Indemnifying Party shall have exclusive right to control and conduct the defense and settlement of any such claims, subject to consultation with the Indemnified Party. So long as the Indemnifying Party is controlling and conducting the defense, the Indemnifying Party shall not be liable for any settlement by the Indemnified Party unless such Indemnifying Party has approved such settlement in advance and agrees to be bound by the agreement incorporating such settlement.

12.6 At any time, an Indemnified Party will have the right to refuse such compromise or settlement and, at the refusing Party's cost, to take over such defense, provided that in such event the Indemnifying Party will not be responsible for, nor will it be obligated to indemnify the refusing Party against any cost or liability in excess of such refused compromise or settlement.

12.7 In the event the Indemnifying Party does not accept the defense of any indemnified claim as provided above, the Indemnified Party will have the right to

employ counsel for such defense at the expense of the Indemnifying Party unless it is determined that Indemnifying Party had no obligation to indemnify the Indemnified Party for such claim.

- 12.8 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, subject to the restrictions and limitations set forth in Section 8.

### **13. OSHA STATEMENT**

- 13.1 Each Party, in recognition of the other Party's status as an employer, agrees to abide by and to undertake the duty of compliance with all federal, state and local laws, safety and health regulations relating to the space which Party has assumed the duty to maintain pursuant to this Agreement, and to indemnify and hold the other Party harmless for any judgments, citations, fines, or other penalties which are assessed against the indemnified Party as the result of the indemnifying Party's failure to comply with any of the foregoing.

### **14. DEPOSITS**

- 14.1 The Parties will, in order to safeguard their interests, only require the billed Party which has a proven history of late payments, defined as two consecutive late payments within a twelve (12) month period, or does not have established credit to make a deposit, prior to or at any time after the provision of service, to be held by the billing Party as a guarantee of the payment of rates and charges. No such deposit will be required of the billed Party which is a successor of a company which has established credit and has no history of late payments to the billing Party. Such deposit may not exceed the actual or estimated rates and charges for the service for a two-month period. The fact that a deposit has been made in no way relieves the billed Party from complying with the billing Party's regulations as to the prompt payment of bills. At such time as the provision of the service to the billed Party is terminated, the amount of the deposit, plus any interest accrued on a cash deposit pursuant to Section 14.2 below, will be credited to the billed Party's account and any credit balance which may remain will be refunded.
- 14.2 Such a deposit will be refunded or credited to the billed Party's account when the billed Party has established credit or, in any event, after the billed Party has established a one-year prompt payment record at any time prior to the termination of the provision of the service to the billed Party. In the case of a cash deposit, for the period the deposit is held by the billing Party, the billed Party will receive simple interest at the lower of: the rate of 1% per month (12% annually) or the highest rate allowed by applicable law. The rate will be calculated from the date

the billed Party's deposit is received by the billing Party up to and including the date such deposit is credited to the billed Party's account or the date the deposit is refunded by the billing Party. Should a deposit be credited to the billed Party's account, as indicated above, no interest will accrue on the deposit from the date such deposit is credited to the customer's account.

## 15. BILLING AND PAYMENT OF RATES AND CHARGES

15.1 Unless otherwise stated, each Party will render monthly bill(s) to the other for Interconnection, functions, facilities, products and services provided hereunder at the rates set forth in the applicable Appendix Pricing, as set forth in applicable tariffs or other documents specifically referenced herein and, as applicable, as agreed upon by the Parties or authorized by a Party.

15.1.1 Remittance in full of all bills rendered by TDS TELECOM is due within thirty (30) calendar days of each bill date (the **"Bill Due Date"**).

15.1.2 Remittance in full of all bills rendered by COMCAST is due within thirty (30) calendar days of each bill date (the **"Bill Due Date"**).

15.1.3 If either Party fails to remit payment for any undisputed charges for services by the Bill Due Date, or if a payment or any portion of a payment is received after the Bill Due Date, or if a payment or any portion of a payment is received in funds which are not immediately available as of the Bill Due Date (individually and collectively, **"Past Due"**), then a late payment charge shall be assessed as provided in Section 15.1.3.1 as applicable.

15.1.3.1 If any charge incurred under this Agreement is Past Due by fifteen days or more, the unpaid amounts shall accrue interest from the Bill Due Date at the lesser of (i) one and one-half percent (1 ½%) per month and (ii) the highest rate of interest that may be charged under Applicable Law, to and including the date that the payment is actually made and available.

15.2 If any portion of an amount due to a Party (the **"Billing Party"**) under this Agreement is subject to a bona fide dispute between the Parties, the Party billed (the **"Non-Paying Party"**) shall give written notice to the Billing Party of the amounts it disputes (**"Disputed Amounts"**) and include in such written notice the specific details and reasons for disputing each item listed in Section 16.3.1.1. The Non-Paying Party shall pay when due all undisputed amounts to the Billing Party.

15.3 Issues related to Disputed Amounts shall be resolved in accordance with the procedures identified in the Dispute Resolution provisions set forth in Section 16.

- 15.4 If the Non-Paying Party disputes any charges and any portion of the dispute is resolved in favor of such Non-Paying Party, the Parties shall cooperate to ensure that all of the following actions are taken:
- 15.4.1 the Billing Party shall credit the invoice of the Non-Paying Party for that portion of the Disputed Amounts resolved in favor of the Non-Paying Party, together with any Late Payment Charges assessed with respect thereto no later than the second Bill Due Date after the resolution of the Dispute; and
- 15.4.2 no later than the third Bill Due Date after the resolution of the dispute regarding the Disputed Amounts, the Non-Paying Party shall pay the Billing Party for that portion of the Disputed Amounts resolved in favor of the Billing Party, together with any Late Payment Charges such Billing Party is entitled to receive pursuant to this Section.
- 15.5 Failure by the Non-Paying Party to pay any charges determined by final non-appealable order resulting from the dispute resolution process to be owed to the Billing Party within the time specified in the order or if no time is specified, then within the time set forth in Section 15.4.2 shall be grounds for termination of this Agreement.
- 15.6 If either Party request one or more additional copies of a bill, the requesting Party will pay the Billing Party a reasonable fee for each additional copy, unless such copy was requested due to failure in delivery of the original bill or correction(s) to the original bill.
- 15.7 Notwithstanding the foregoing, in no event shall the Billing Party be allowed to back bill any charge or charges more than twelve (12) months after the billing period in which the charges were incurred.

## **16. DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

### **16.1 Finality of Disputes**

- 16.1.1 Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement, no claims will be brought for disputes arising from this Agreement more than twenty-four (24) months from the date the occurrence which gives rise to the dispute is discovered or reasonably should have been discovered with the exercise of due care and attention.
- 16.1.2 The Parties desire to resolve disputes arising out of this Agreement without litigation. Accordingly, except for action seeking a temporary restraining order or an injunction related to the purposes of this



Agreement, or suit to compel compliance with this Dispute Resolution process, the Parties agree to use the following Dispute Resolution procedure with respect to any controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this Agreement or its breach. Services as provided under this Agreement shall continue during the pendency of a dispute pursuant to this Section 16.

## 16.2 Commencing Dispute Resolution

16.2.1 Dispute Resolution shall commence upon one Party's receipt of written notice of a controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this Agreement or its breach. No Party may pursue any claim unless such written notice has first been given to the other Party. There are three (3) separate Dispute Resolution methods each of which is described below:

16.2.1.1 Service Center;

16.2.1.2 Informal Dispute Resolution; and

16.2.1.3 Formal Dispute Resolution.

## 16.3 Service Center Dispute Resolution

16.3.1 The following Dispute Resolution procedures will apply with respect to any billing dispute arising out of or relating to the Agreement.

16.3.1.1 If the written notice given pursuant to Section 15.2 discloses that a dispute relates to billing, then the procedures set forth in this Section 16.3.1 shall be used and the dispute shall first be referred to the appropriate service center for resolution. In order to resolve a billing dispute, one Party shall furnish the other Party written notice of (i) the date of the bill in question, (ii) BAN number of the bill in question, (iii) telephone number, circuit ID number or trunk number in question, (iv) any USOC information relating to the item questioned, (v) amount billed, (vi) amount in question, and (vii) the reason that the Party disputes the billed amount.

16.3.1.2 The Parties shall attempt to resolve Disputed Amounts appearing on current billing statements thirty (30) to sixty (60) calendar days from the Bill Due Date (provided the disputing Party furnishes all requisite information and evidence under Section 16.3.1.1 by the Bill Due Date). If not resolved within thirty (30) calendar days, upon request, the Parties will notify each other of the status of the dispute and the expected resolution date.

16.3.1.3 The Parties shall attempt to resolve Disputed Amounts appearing on statements prior to the current billing statement within thirty (30) to ninety (90) calendar days, but resolution may take longer depending on the complexity of the dispute. Either Party may initiate Informal Resolution of Disputes identified in Section 16.4 prior to initiating Formal Resolution of Disputes identified in Section 16.5 if the Parties are unable to resolve the Disputed Amounts.

#### 16.4 Informal Resolution of Disputes

16.4.1 Upon receipt by one Party of notice of a dispute by the other Party pursuant to Section 16.2 or Section 16.3, each Party will appoint a knowledgeable, responsible representative to meet and negotiate in good faith to resolve any dispute arising under this Agreement. The location, form, frequency, duration, and conclusion of these discussions will be left to the discretion of the representatives. Upon agreement, the representatives may utilize other alternative Dispute Resolution procedures such as mediation to assist in the negotiations. Discussions and the correspondence among the representatives for purposes of settlement are exempt from discovery and production and will not be admissible in the arbitration described below or in any lawsuit without the concurrence of both Parties. Documents identified in or provided with such communications that were not prepared for purposes of the negotiations are not so exempted, and, if otherwise admissible, may be admitted in evidence in the arbitration or lawsuit.

#### 16.5 Formal Resolution of Disputes

16.5.1 Except as otherwise specifically set forth in this Agreement, for all disputes arising out of or pertaining to this Agreement, including but not limited to matters not specifically addressed elsewhere in this Agreement which require clarification, re-negotiation, modifications or additions to this Agreement, either Party may invoke dispute resolution procedures available pursuant to the dispute resolution rules, as amended from time to time, of the Commission. Also, upon mutual agreement, the Parties may seek commercial binding arbitration as specified in Section 16.6.1.

16.5.2 The Parties agree that the Dispute Resolution procedures set forth in this Agreement are not intended to conflict with applicable requirements of the Act or the Commission with regard to procedures for the resolution of disputes arising out of this Agreement.

#### 16.6 Arbitration

16.6.1 When both Parties agree to binding arbitration, disputes will be submitted to a single arbitrator pursuant to the Commercial Arbitration Rules of the American Arbitration Association or pursuant to such other provider of arbitration services or rules as the Parties may agree. The arbitrator shall be a person knowledgeable in the area of telecommunications. The place where each separate arbitration will be held will be Philadelphia, PA, unless the Parties agree otherwise. The arbitration hearing will be requested to commence within sixty (60) days of the demand for arbitration. The arbitrator will control the scheduling so as to process the matter expeditiously. The Parties may submit written briefs upon a schedule determined by the arbitrator. The Parties will request that the arbitrator rule on the dispute by issuing a written opinion within thirty (30) days after the close of hearings. The arbitrator has no authority to order punitive or consequential damages. The times specified in this Section may be extended or shortened upon mutual agreement of the Parties or by the arbitrator upon a showing of good cause. Each Party will bear its own costs of these procedures. The Parties will equally split the fees of the arbitration and the arbitrator. Judgment upon the award rendered by the arbitrator may be entered in any court having jurisdiction.

## 17. TERMINATION OF SERVICE FOR NON-PAYMENT

- 17.1 Unless otherwise specified therein, Sections 17.1, 17.2, 17.3, and 17.4 shall apply to all charges billed for all products and services furnished under this Agreement.
- 17.2 Failure of a Party to pay charges or, by the due date, provide reasonably specific notice of any disputed charges, may be grounds for disconnection of Interconnection, functions, facilities, products and services furnished under this Agreement. If a Party fails to pay by the Bill Due Date, any and all undisputed charges billed to them under this Agreement, including any Late Payment Charges as provided for in Section 15.1.3 or miscellaneous charges (“**Unpaid Charges**”), and any portion of such Unpaid Charges remain unpaid after the Bill Due Date, the Billing Party shall notify the Non-Paying Party in writing that in order to avoid disruption or disconnection of the applicable Interconnection, functions, facilities, products and services furnished under this Agreement, the Non-Paying Party must remit all undisputed Unpaid Charges to the Billing Party.
- 17.3 Disputes hereunder will be resolved in accordance with the Dispute Resolution Procedures set out in Section 16 of this Agreement.
- 17.4 If any the Non-Paying Party’s undisputed charges remain unpaid at the conclusion of the time period as set forth in Section 15.1.1 above (thirty (30) calendar days from the due date of such unpaid charges), the Billing Party will notify the Non-paying Party and the appropriate commission(s) in writing, that

unless all charges are paid within thirty (30) calendar days from the date of such notice, all services rendered to may be disconnected in accordance with the appropriate commission(s) rules for discontinuance.

- 17.5 In the event the Billing Party discontinues service to the Non-Paying Party upon failure to pay undisputed charges only as provided in this section, the Billing Party will have no liability to the Non-Paying Party in the event of such disconnection.
- 17.6 After disconnect procedures have begun, the Billing Party will not accept service orders from the Non-Paying Party until all unpaid, undisputed charges are paid. The Non-Paying Party will have the right to require a deposit equal to one month's charges (based on the highest previous month of service from the Billing Party) prior to resuming service after disconnect for nonpayment.
- 17.7 Beyond the specifically set out limitations in this section and the appropriate commission(s) rules, nothing herein will be interpreted to obligate the Billing Party to continue to provide service to any such end users or to limit any and all disconnection rights the Billing Party may have with regard to such end users.
- 17.8 If the Non-Paying Party desires to dispute any portion of the Unpaid Charges, such Party shall take all of the following actions not later than fourteen (14) calendar days following receipt of notice of Unpaid Charges:
- 17.8.1 The Non-Paying Party shall notify the Billing Party in writing which portion(s) of the Unpaid Charges it disputes, including the total amount disputed (**"Disputed Amounts"**) and the specific details listed in Section 16.3.1 of this Agreement, together with the reasons for its dispute; and
- 17.8.2 The Non-Paying Party shall immediately pay all undisputed Unpaid Charges.

## 18. NOTICES

- 18.1 In the event any notices are required to be sent under the terms of this Agreement, they may be sent by mail and are deemed to have been given on the date received. Notice may also be effected by personal delivery or by overnight courier, and will be effective upon receipt. Notice may also be provided by facsimile, which will be effective on the next business day following the date of transmission; provided, however, notices to a Party's 24-hour maintenance contact number will be by telephone and/or facsimile and will be deemed to have been received on the date transmitted. The Parties will provide the appropriate telephone and facsimile numbers to each other.

- 18.2 Initial communications may be provided via email messages to the Parties set forth below. However, such e-mail communications shall be followed by one of the notice methods set forth above in Section 18.1, and notice shall be deemed given only pursuant to the terms of Section 18.1.
- 18.3 Unless otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement, notice will be directed as follows:

If to COMCAST:

ATTN: Mr. Brian Rankin  
Assistant General Counsel  
One Comcast Center  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
Phone: 215-286-7325  
Fax: 215-286-5039  
Email: [Brian\\_Rankin@comcast.com](mailto:Brian_Rankin@comcast.com)

with a copy to:

Ms. Beth Choroser  
Senior Director of Regulatory Compliance  
One Comcast Center  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
Phone: 215-286-7893  
Fax: 215-286-5039  
Email: [beth\\_choroser@comcast.com](mailto:beth_choroser@comcast.com)

If to TDS TELECOM:

TDS TELECOM  
ATTN: Carrier Relations  
10025 Investment Dr., Suite 200  
Knoxville, TN 37932  
Fax: (865)966-4720  
[carrierrelations@tdstelecom.com](mailto:carrierrelations@tdstelecom.com)

With a copy to:

TDS TELECOM  
ATTN: Regulatory & Corporate Counsel  
P.O. Box 5366  
Madison, WI 53705-0366  
Fax: (608) 664-4519  
[Peter.healy@tdstelecom.com](mailto:Peter.healy@tdstelecom.com)

- 18.4 Either Party may unilaterally change its designated representative and/or address, telephone contact number or facsimile number for the receipt of notices by giving written notice to the other Party in compliance with this Section. Any notice to change the designated contact, address, telephone and/or facsimile number for receipt of notices will be deemed effective ten (10) calendar days following receipt by the other Party.

## 19. TAXES

- 19.1 With respect to any purchase of service under this Agreement, if any Federal, state or local government tax, fee, surcharge, or other tax-like charge (a "Tax") is required or permitted by applicable law, ordinance or tariff to be collected from a purchasing Party by the providing Party, then (i) the providing Party will bill, as a separately stated item, the purchasing Party for such Tax, (ii) the purchasing Party will timely remit such Tax to the providing Party, and (iii) the providing Party will remit such collected Tax to the applicable taxing authority.
- 19.2 If the providing Party does not collect a Tax because the purchasing Party asserts that it is not responsible for the tax, or is otherwise excepted from the obligation which is later determined by formal action to be wrong then, as between the providing Party and the purchasing Party, the purchasing Party will be liable for such uncollected Tax and any interest due and/or penalty assessed on the uncollected Tax by the applicable taxing authority or governmental entity.
- 19.3 If either Party is audited by a taxing authority or other governmental entity, the other Party agrees to reasonably cooperate with the Party being audited in order to respond to any audit inquiries in a proper and timely manner so that the audit and/or any resulting controversy may be resolved expeditiously.
- 19.4 If applicable law excludes or exempts a purchase of services under this Agreement from a Tax, and if such applicable law also provides an exemption procedure, such as an exemption certificate requirement, then, if the purchasing Party complies with such procedure, the providing Party, subject to Section 19.2, will not collect such Tax during the effective period of the exemption. Such exemption will be effective upon receipt of the exemption certificate or affidavit in accordance with Section 19.6.
- 19.5 If applicable law excludes or exempts a purchase of services under this Agreement from a Tax, including but not limited to Taxes levied on the providing Party's gross revenue or Taxes that do not apply to carrier's carrier revenue, then the providing Party will not collect such Tax. Where a Tax is required to be levied on the purchasing Party if the purchasing Party meets a *de minimis* threshold (e.g., the federal Universal Service Fund surcharge), the purchasing

Party may be asked to supply the providing Party with a letter or form signed by an officer of the purchasing Party claiming an exemption.

- 19.6 To the extent a sale is claimed to be for resale and thus subject to tax exemption, the purchasing Party shall furnish the providing Party a proper resale tax exemption certificate as authorized or required by statute or regulation of the jurisdiction providing said resale tax exemption. Failure to timely provide said resale tax exemption certificate will result in no exemption being available to the purchasing Party for any period prior to the date that the purchasing Party presents a valid certificate. If Applicable Law excludes or exempts a purchase of Interconnection, functions, facilities, products and services under this Agreement from a Tax, but does not also provide an exemption procedure, then the providing Party will not collect such Tax. Where a Tax is required to be levied on the purchasing Party if the purchasing Party meets a *de minimis* threshold (e.g., the federal Universal Service Fund surcharge), the purchasing Party may be asked to supply the providing Party with a letter or form signed by an officer of the purchasing Party claiming an exemption.
- 19.7 With respect to any Tax or Tax controversy covered by this Section 19, the purchasing Party is entitled to contest with the imposing jurisdiction, pursuant to Applicable Law and at its own expense, any Tax that it is ultimately obligated to pay or collect. The purchasing Party will ensure that no lien is attached to any asset of the providing Party as a result of any contest. The purchasing Party shall be entitled to the benefit of any refund or recovery of amounts that it had previously paid resulting from such a contest. Amounts previously paid by the providing Party shall be refunded to the providing Party. The providing Party will cooperate in any such contest.
- 19.8 All notices, affidavits, exemption certificates or other communications required or permitted to be given by either Party to the other under this Section shall be sent in accordance with Section 18 hereof.

## **20. FORCE MAJEURE**

- 20.1 Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement, neither Party will be liable for any delay or failure in performance of any part of this Agreement caused by a Force Majeure condition, 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, labor disputes such as strikes and lockouts, freight embargoes, earthquakes, volcanic actions, wars, acts of terrorism, civil disturbances, cable cuts, or other causes beyond the reasonable control of the Party claiming excusable delay or other failure to perform. Provided, Force Majeure will not include acts of any Governmental Authority relating to environmental, health, or safety conditions at work locations. If any Force Majeure condition occurs the Party whose performance fails or is delayed because

of such Force Majeure conditions will give prompt notice to the other Party, and upon cessation of such Force Majeure condition, will give like notice and commence performance hereunder as promptly as reasonably practicable.

## **21. PUBLICITY**

- 21.1 The Parties agree not to use in any advertising or sales promotion, press releases or other publicity matters, any endorsements, direct or indirect quotes or pictures implying endorsement by the other Party or any of its employees without such Party's prior written approval. The Parties will submit to each other for written approval, prior to publication, all such publicity endorsement matters that mention or display the other's name and/or marks or contain language from which a connection to said name and/or marks may be inferred or implied; the Party to whom a request is directed shall respond promptly. Nothing herein, however, shall be construed as preventing either Party from publicly stating the fact that it has executed this Agreement with the other Party. This does not prohibit the use of valid comparison advertising.
- 21.2 Nothing in this Agreement shall grant, suggest, or imply any authority for either Party to use the name, trademarks, service marks, trade names, brand names, logos, proprietary trade dress or trade names, insignia, symbols or decorative designs of the other Party or its affiliates without the other Party's prior written authorization.

## **22. NETWORK MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

- 22.1 The Parties will work cooperatively to implement this Agreement. The Parties will exchange appropriate information (e.g., maintenance contact numbers, network information, information required to comply with law enforcement and other security agencies of the federal and state governments, etc.) to achieve this desired result.
- 22.2 Each Party will provide a 24-hour contact number for Network Traffic Management issues to the other's surveillance management center. Each Party will administer its network to ensure acceptable service levels to all users of its network services. Service levels are generally considered acceptable only when End Users are able to establish connections with little or no delay encountered in the network. A facsimile (FAX) number must also be provided to facilitate event notifications for planned mass calling events. Each Party will maintain the right to implement protective network traffic management controls such as "cancel to" or "call gapping" or 7-digit and 10-digit code gaps, to selectively cancel the completion of traffic over its network, including traffic destined for the other Party's network, when required to protect the public-switched network from congestion as a result of occurrences such as facility failures, switch congestion



or failure or focused overload. Each Party shall immediately notify the other Party of any protective control action planned or executed.

- 22.3 Where the capability exists, originating or terminating traffic reroutes may be implemented by either Party to temporarily relieve network congestion due to facility failures or abnormal calling patterns. Reroutes shall not be used to circumvent normal trunk servicing. Expansive controls shall be used only when mutually agreed to by the Parties.
- 22.4 The Parties shall cooperate and share pre-planning information regarding cross-network call-ins expected to generate large or focused temporary increases in call volumes to prevent or mitigate the impact of these events on the public-switched network, including any disruption or loss of service to the other Party's End Users.
- 22.5 In the event of interference or impairment of the quality of service between services or facilities of COMCAST and TDS TELECOM the Parties agree to the following:
- 22.5.1 The Party that first becomes aware of the interference will provide notice to the other Party as soon as possible.
- 22.5.2 The Parties will work cooperatively to determine the source of the interference and to implement mutually agreeable solutions that provide for the minimum negative impact to either Party's products and services. However, the Parties acknowledge that multiple carriers and end users connect to each Party's network and in some instances the solution that minimizes the impact to the greatest number of carriers and end users may require that a facility, product, or service of a Party be temporarily disconnected until the interference can be corrected.
- 22.5.3 If the Parties are unable to agree upon a solution, either Party may invoke the dispute resolution provisions of the Agreement, provided that a Party may apply for injunctive relief immediately if such is required to prevent irreparable harm.

## **23. LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CIVIL PROCESS**

- 23.1 TDS TELECOM and COMCAST shall reasonably cooperate with the other Party in handling law enforcement requests as follows:

### **23.1.1 Intercept Devices**

Local and federal law enforcement agencies periodically request information or assistance from local telephone service providers. When

either Party receives a request associated with a customer of the other Party, the receiving Party will refer such request to the appropriate Party, unless the request directs the receiving Party to attach a pen register, trap-and-trace or form of intercept on the Party's own facilities, in which case that Party will comply with any valid request, to the extent the receiving Party is able to do so; if such compliance requires the assistance of the other Party such assistance will be provided.

#### 23.1.2 Subpoenas

If a Party receives a subpoena for information concerning an end user the Party knows to be an end user of the other Party, the receiving Party will refer the subpoena to the requesting entity with an indication that the other Party is the responsible company. Provided, however, if the subpoena requests records for a period of time during which the receiving Party was the end user's service provider, the receiving Party will respond to any valid request to the extent the receiving Party is able to do so; if response requires the assistance of the other Party such assistance will be provided.

#### 23.1.3 Law Enforcement Emergencies

If a Party receives a request from a law enforcement agency to implement at its switch a temporary number change, temporary disconnect, or one-way denial of outbound calls for an end user of the other Party, the receiving Party will comply so long as it is a valid emergency request. Neither Party will be held liable for any claims or damages arising from compliance with such requests, and the Party serving the end user agrees to indemnify and hold the other Party harmless against any and all such claims.

### **24. CHANGES IN SUBSCRIBER CARRIER SELECTION**

- 24.1 Each Party will abide by applicable federal and state laws and regulations in obtaining End User authorization prior to changing an End User's Local Exchange Carrier to itself and in assuming responsibility for any applicable charges as specified in Section 258(b) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and as implemented by the relevant orders of the FCC. Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. Section 64.1120, neither Party may request to view an individual End-User authorization before releasing a customer service record (CSR) to the other Party, nor may such authorization be requested before processing a local service request (LSR).

### **25. AMENDMENTS OR WAIVERS**

- 25.1 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 will 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 will be construed as a waiver of such term, right, or condition. Waiver by either Party of any default by the other Party shall not be deemed a waiver of any other default. Failure of either Party to insist on performance of any term or condition of this Agreement or to exercise any right or privilege hereunder shall not be construed as a continuing or future waiver of such term, condition, right or privilege. By entering into this Agreement, the Parties do not waive any right granted to them pursuant to the Act; however, the Parties enter into this Agreement without prejudice to any positions they have taken previously, or may take in the future in any legislative, regulatory or other public forum addressing any matters, including matters related to the types of arrangements prescribed by this Agreement.
- 25.2 At anytime during the effective term of this Agreement and upon request by the COMCAST, COMCAST shall be entitled to obtain from TDS TELECOM any interconnection agreement in its entirety provided by TDS TELECOM to any other telecommunications provider that has been filed and approved by the Commission on the same terms and conditions. The Parties agree that such terms and conditions shall be effective immediately upon request by the COMCAST.

## **26. GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES**

- 26.1 TDS TELECOM and COMCAST shall each use commercially reasonable efforts to meet the Interconnection Activation Dates.
- 26.2 Each Party is individually responsible to provide facilities within its network that are necessary for routing, transporting, measuring, and billing traffic from the other Party's network and for delivering such traffic to the other Party's network in the standard format and to terminate the traffic it receives in that standard format to the proper address on its network.
- 26.3 The Parties shall exchange technical descriptions and forecasts of their Interconnection and traffic requirements in sufficient detail necessary to establish the facilities required to assure traffic completion to and from all End Users in their respective designated service areas.
- 26.4 Each Party is solely responsible for all products and services it provides to its End Users and to other Telecommunications Carriers.
- 26.5 Facilities-based carriers are responsible for administering their End User records in a LIDB.

- 26.6 At all times during the term of this Agreement, each Party shall keep and maintain in force at its own expense the following minimum insurance coverage and limits and any additional insurance and/or bonds required by Applicable Law:
- 26.6.1 Workers' Compensation insurance with benefits afforded under the laws of each state covered by this Agreement and Employers Liability insurance with minimum limits of \$1,000,000 for Bodily Injury-each accident, \$1,000,000 for Bodily Injury by disease-policy limits and \$1,000,000 for Bodily Injury by disease-each employee.
- 26.6.2 Commercial General Liability insurance with minimum limits of: \$5,000,000 General Aggregate limit; \$1,000,000 each occurrence sub-limit for all bodily injury or property damage incurred in any one occurrence; \$1,000,000 each occurrence sub-limit for Personal Injury and Advertising; \$5,000,000 Products/Completed Operations Aggregate limit, with a \$1,000,000 each occurrence sub-limit for Products/Completed Operations. The other Party must be named as an Additional Insured on the Commercial General Liability policy. Each Party agrees to waive its respective rights of subrogation in favor of the other Party on the Commercial General Liability policy.
- 26.6.3 If use of an automobile is required, Automobile Liability insurance with minimum limits of \$1,000,000 combined single limits per occurrence for bodily injury and property damage, which coverage shall extend to all owned, hired and non-owned vehicles.
- 26.6.4 Each Party shall require subcontractors providing services under this Agreement to maintain in force the insurance coverage and limits required in Sections 26.6 through 26.6.3 of this Agreement provided that a Party may, with consent of the other Party, utilize a subcontractor with different limits of insurance if appropriate to the scope of work to be performed, consent not to be unreasonably withheld.
- 26.6.5 The Parties agree that companies affording the insurance coverage required under Section 26.6 shall have a rating of A- or better and a Financial Size Category rating of VII or better, as rated in the A.M. Best Key Rating Guide for Property and Casualty Insurance Companies. Upon request from the other Party, each Party shall provide to the other Party evidence of such insurance coverage.
- 26.6.6 Each Party agrees to provide the other Party with at least thirty (30) calendar days advance written notice of cancellation, material reduction or non-renewal of any of the insurance policies required herein.

- 26.6.7 This Section 26.6 is a general statement of insurance requirements and shall be in addition to any specific requirement of insurance referenced elsewhere in this Agreement or a Referenced Instrument.
- 26.7 Upon the Parties' signature of this Agreement, the Parties shall exchange state-specific authorized and nationally recognized OCN/AOCNs for facilities-based Interconnection.
- 26.8 In the event that either Party makes any corporate name change (including addition or deletion of a d/b/a), change in OCN/AOCN, or makes or accepts a transfer or assignment of interconnection trunks or facilities (including leased facilities), or a change in any other identifier (collectively, a "**Party Change**"), changing Party shall submit written notice to the other Party within thirty (30) calendar days of the first action taken to implement such Party Change. Within thirty (30) calendar days following receipt of that notice, the Parties shall negotiate rates to compensate the non-changed Party for the direct costs to be incurred to make the change to the applicable non-changed Party's databases, systems, records and/or recording announcement(s). In addition, the Party requesting the change shall compensate the other Party for any service order charges and/or service request charges associated with such Party Change. The Party's agreement to implement a Party Change is conditioned upon the requesting Party's agreement to pay all reasonable charges billed for such Party Change.
- 26.9 When an End User changes its service provider from TDS TELECOM to COMCAST or from COMCAST to TDS TELECOM and does not retain its original telephone number, the Party formerly providing service to such End User shall furnish, upon request, a referral announcement ("**Referral Announcement**") on the original telephone number that specifies the End User's new telephone number.
- 26.9.1 Referral Announcements shall be provided by a Party to the other Party for the period of time and at the rates set forth in the referring Party's tariff(s); provided, however, if either Party provides Referral Announcements for a period different (either shorter or longer) than the period(s) stated in its tariff(s) when its End Users change their telephone numbers, such Party shall provide the same level of service to End Users of the other Party.
- 26.10 Each Party agrees to notify the other Party as soon as practicable whenever such Party has knowledge that a labor dispute concerning its employees is delaying or threatens to delay such Party's timely performance of its obligations under this Agreement and shall endeavor to minimize impairment of service to the other Party.

**27. AUTHORITY**

- 27.1 Each person whose signature appears below represents that he or she has authority to bind the Party on whose behalf he or she has executed this Agreement.
- 27.2 Each of the TDS TELECOM operating companies, for which this Agreement is executed represents and warrants that it is a corporation duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the State of Michigan.
- 27.3 COMCAST represents that it is a corporation duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the State of Michigan and has full power and authority to execute and deliver this Agreement and to perform its obligations hereunder. COMCAST represents that it has been certified to provide intrastate telecommunications in Michigan, including local exchange service, by the Commission prior to submitting any orders hereunder and is or will be authorized to provide the Telecommunications Services contemplated hereunder in the territory contemplated hereunder prior to submission of orders for such Service.

**28. BINDING EFFECT**

- 28.1 This Agreement will be binding on and inure to the benefit of the respective successors and permitted assigns of the Parties.

**29. CONSENT**

- 29.1 Where consent, approval, or mutual agreement is required of a Party, it will not be unreasonably withheld, conditioned or delayed.

**30. EXPENSES**

- 30.1 Except as specifically set out in this Agreement, each Party will be solely responsible for its own expenses involved in all activities related to the subject of this Agreement.
- 30.2 TDS TELECOM and COMCAST shall each be responsible for one-half (1/2) of any applicable expenses payable to a Third Party for Commission fees or other charges (including regulatory fees and any costs of notice or publication, but not including attorney's fees) associated with the filing of this agreement.

**31. HEADINGS**

- 31.1 The headings and number of Sections, Parts, Appendices, Schedules and Exhibits to this Agreement are inserted for convenience and identification only and will

not be considered to define or limit any of the terms herein or affect the meaning or interpretation of this Agreement.

### **32. RELATIONSHIP OF PARTIES/INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR**

- 32.1 Each Party is an independent contractor, and has and hereby retains the right to exercise full control of and supervision over its own performance of its obligations under this Agreement and retains full control over the employment, direction, compensation and discharge of its employees assisting in the performance of such obligations. Each Party and each Party's contractor(s) shall be solely responsible for all matters relating to payment of such employees, including the withholding or payment of all applicable federal, state and local income taxes, social security taxes and other payroll taxes with respect to its employees, as well as any taxes, contributions or other obligations imposed by applicable state unemployment or workers' compensation acts and all other regulations governing such matters. Each Party has sole authority and responsibility to hire, fire and otherwise control its employees.
- 32.2 Nothing contained herein shall constitute the Parties as joint venturers, partners, employees or agents of one another, and neither Party shall have the right or power to bind or obligate the other. Nothing herein will be construed as making either Party responsible or liable for the obligations and undertakings of the other Party. Except for provisions herein expressly authorizing a Party to act for another, nothing in this Agreement shall constitute a Party as a legal representative or agent of the other Party, nor shall a Party have the right or authority to assume, create or incur any liability or any obligation of any kind, express or implied, against or in the name or on behalf of the other Party unless otherwise expressly permitted by such other Party. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Agreement, no Party undertakes to perform any obligation of the other Party, whether regulatory or contractual, or to assume any responsibility for the management of the other Party's business.

### **33. MULTIPLE COUNTERPARTS**

- 33.1 This Agreement may be executed in multiple counterparts, each of which will be deemed an original but all of which will together constitute but one, and the same document.

### **34. THIRD PARTY BENEFICIARIES**

- 34.1 This Agreement is for the sole benefit of the Parties and their permitted assigns, and nothing herein expressed or implied shall create or be construed to create any Third Party beneficiary rights hereunder. This Agreement shall not provide and will not be construed to provide any Person not a party hereto with any remedy,

claim, liability, reimbursement, cause of action, or other right in excess of those existing without reference hereto.

### **35. REGULATORY APPROVAL**

- 35.1 The Parties understand and agree that this Agreement and any amendment or modification hereto will be filed with the Commission for approval in accordance with Section 252 of the Act and may thereafter be filed with the FCC. Each Party covenants and agrees to fully support approval of this Agreement by the Commission or the FCC under Section 252 of the Act without modification.

### **36. REGULATORY AUTHORITY**

- 36.1 TDS TELECOM will 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. COMCAST will 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 obligations under this Agreement. COMCAST will reasonably cooperate with TDS TELECOM in obtaining and maintaining any required approvals for which TDS TELECOM is responsible, and TDS TELECOM will reasonably cooperate with COMCAST in obtaining and maintaining any required approvals for which COMCAST is responsible.

### **37. COMPLIANCE AND CERTIFICATION**

- 37.1 Each Party shall comply at its own expense with all Applicable Laws that relate to that Party's obligations to the other Party under this Agreement. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as requiring or permitting either Party to contravene any mandatory requirement of Applicable Law.
- 37.2 Each Party represents that it has obtained all necessary state certification prior to ordering any Interconnection, functions, facilities, products and services from the other Party pursuant to this Agreement. Upon request, each Party shall provide proof of certification.
- 37.3 Each Party shall be responsible for obtaining and keeping in effect all approvals from, and rights granted by, Governmental Authorities, building and property owners, other carriers, and any other Third Parties that may be required in connection with the performance of its obligations under this Agreement.

### **38. AUDITS**



- 38.1 Subject to the restrictions set forth in Section 8 and except as may be otherwise expressly provided in this Agreement, a Party (the "Auditing Party") may audit the other Party's (the "Audited Party") books, records, data and other documents, as provided herein, once annually, with the audit period commencing not earlier than the date on which services were first supplied under this Agreement ("service start date") for the purpose of evaluating (i) the accuracy of Audited Party's billing and invoicing of the services provided hereunder and (ii) verification of compliance with any provision of this Agreement that affects the accuracy of Auditing Party's billing and invoicing of the services provided to Audited Party hereunder. Notwithstanding the foregoing, an Auditing Party may audit the Audited Party's books, records and documents more than once annually if the previous audit found (i) previously uncorrected net variances or errors in invoices in Audited Party's favor with an aggregate value of at least ten percent (10%) of the amounts payable by Auditing Party for audited services provided during the period covered by the audit or (ii) non-compliance by Audited Party with any provision of this Agreement affecting Auditing Party's billing and invoicing of the services provided to Audited Party with an aggregate value of at least ten percent (10%) of the amounts payable by Audited Party for audited services provided during the period covered by the audit.
- 38.1.1 The scope of the audit shall be limited to the period which is the shorter of (i) the period subsequent to the last day of the period covered by the audit which was last performed (or if no audit has been performed, the service start date) and (ii) the twelve (12) month period immediately preceding the date the Audited Party received notice of such requested audit, but in any event not prior to the service start date. Such audit shall begin no fewer than thirty (30) calendar days after Audited Party receives a written notice requesting an audit and shall be completed no later than thirty (30) calendar days after the start of such audit.
- 38.1.2 Such audit shall be conducted either by the Auditing Party's employee(s) or an independent auditor acceptable to both Parties. If an independent auditor is to be engaged, the Parties shall select an auditor by the thirtieth (30<sup>th</sup>) day following Audited Party's receipt of a written audit notice. Auditing Party shall cause the independent auditor to execute a nondisclosure agreement in a form agreed upon by the Parties. Audits shall be performed at Auditing Party's expense.
- 38.1.3 Each audit shall be conducted on the premises of the Audited Party during normal business hours. Audited Party shall cooperate fully in any such audit and shall provide the auditor reasonable access to any and all appropriate Audited Party employees and any books, records and other documents reasonably necessary to assess (i) the accuracy of Audited Party's bills and (ii) Audited Party's compliance with the provisions of this Agreement that affect the accuracy of Auditing Party's billing and

invoicing of the services provided to Audited Party hereunder. Audited Party may redact from the books, records and other documents provided to the auditor any Audited Party Proprietary Information that reveals the identity of End Users of Audited Party.

38.1.4 Each Party shall maintain reports, records and data relevant to the billing of any services that are the subject matter of this Agreement for a period of not less than twenty-four (24) months after creation thereof, unless a longer period is required by Applicable Law.

38.1.5 If any audit confirms any undercharge or overcharge, then Audited Party shall (i) promptly correct any billing error, including making refund of any overpayment by Auditing Party in the form of a credit on the invoice for the first full billing cycle after the Parties have agreed upon the accuracy of the audit results and (ii) for any undercharge caused by the actions of the Audited Party, immediately compensate Auditing Party for such undercharge, and (iii) in each case, calculate and pay interest as provided in Section 15.1.3.1 for the number of calendar days from the date on which such undercharge or overcharge originated until the date on which such credit is issued or payment is made and available.

38.1.6 Any disputes concerning audit results shall be referred to the Parties' respective personnel responsible for informal resolution. If these individuals cannot resolve the dispute within thirty (30) calendar days of the referral, either Party may request in writing that an additional audit shall be conducted by an independent auditor acceptable to both Parties, subject to the requirements set out in this section. Any additional audit shall be at the requesting Party's expense.

## **39. COMPLETE TERMS**

39.1 The terms contained in this Agreement and any Appendices, Attachments, Exhibits, Schedules, and Addenda constitute the entire agreement between the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof, superseding all prior understandings, proposals and other communications, oral or written.

## **40. COOPERATION ON PREVENTING END USER FRAUD**

40.1 Neither Party shall be liable for any fraud associated with the other Party's End User's account, including 1+ IntraLATA toll, ported numbers, and Alternate Billing Service (ABS). ABS is a service that allows End Users to bill calls to account(s) that might not be associated with the originating line. There are three (3) types of ABS calls: calling card, collect, and third number billed calls.

- 40.2 The Parties agree to 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 unduly burden or harm one Party as compared to the other.

#### **41. NOTICE OF NETWORK CHANGES**

- 41.1 Nothing in this Agreement shall limit either Party's ability to upgrade its network through the incorporation of new equipment, new software or otherwise. Each Party agrees to provide reasonable notice of changes in the information necessary for the transmission and routing of services using facilities or networks, as well as other changes that affect the interoperability of those respective facilities and networks.

#### **42. GOOD FAITH PERFORMANCE**

- 42.1 In the performance of their obligations under this Agreement the Parties will act in good faith and consistently with the intent of the Act. Where notice, 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 will not be unreasonably delayed, withheld or conditioned.

#### **43. GOVERNMENTAL COMPLIANCE**

- 43.1 COMCAST and TDS TELECOM each will comply at its own expense with all applicable law related to (i) its obligations under or activities in connection with this Agreement; of (ii) its activities undertaken at, in connection with or relating to work locations. COMCAST and TDS TELECOM 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 or the failure of its contractors or agents to so comply. Except as expressly specified in this Agreement, TDS TELECOM, at its own expense, will be solely responsible for obtaining from governmental authorities, building owners, other carriers, and any other persons or entities, all rights and privileges (including, but not limited to, space and power), which are necessary for TDS TELECOM to provide services pursuant to this Agreement.

#### **44. RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION**

- 44.1 Each Party will be solely responsible at its own expense for the proper handling, storage, transport, treatment, disposal and use of all Hazardous Substances by such Party and its contractors and agents. "Hazardous Substances" includes those substances:
- 44.1.1 included within the definition of hazardous substance, hazardous waste, hazardous material, toxic substance, solid waste or pollutant or contaminant under any Applicable Law, and
  - 44.1.2 listed by any governmental agency as a hazardous substance.
- 44.2 COMCAST will in no event be liable to TDS TELECOM for any costs whatsoever resulting from the presence or Release of any Environmental Hazard, including Hazardous Substances, that COMCAST did not introduce to the affected work location. TDS TELECOM will indemnify, defend (at COMCAST's request) and hold harmless COMCAST, 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 arises out of or result from (i) any Environmental Hazard that TDS TELECOM, its contractors or agents introduce to the work locations or (ii) the presence or Release of any Environmental Hazard for which TDS TELECOM is responsible under Applicable Law.
- 44.3 TDS TELECOM will in no event be liable to COMCAST for any costs whatsoever resulting from the presence or Release of any Environmental Hazard that TDS TELECOM did not introduce to the affected work location. COMCAST will indemnify, defend (at TDS TELECOM's request) and hold harmless TDS TELECOM, 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 i) any Environmental Hazard that COMCAST, its contractors or agents introduce to the work locations or ii) the presence or Release of any Environmental Hazard for which COMCAST is responsible under Applicable Law.

## **45. SUBCONTRACTING**

- 45.1 If any obligation is performed through a subcontractor, each Party will remain fully responsible for the performance of this Agreement in accordance with its terms, including any obligations either Party performs through subcontractors, and each Party will be solely responsible for payments due the Party's subcontractors. No subcontractor will be deemed a third party beneficiary for any purposes under this Agreement. Any subcontractor who gains access to CPNI or

Confidential Information covered by this Agreement will be required by the subcontracting Party to protect such CPNI or Confidential Information to the same extent the subcontracting Party is required to protect the same under the terms of this Agreement.

#### **46. REFERENCED DOCUMENTS**

46.1 Unless the context shall otherwise specifically require, and subject to Section 21, whenever any provision of this Agreement refers to a technical reference, technical publication, any publication of telecommunications industry administrative or technical standards, or any other document specifically 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 each document that is in effect, 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, or publication of industry standards.

##### **46.2 References**

References herein to Sections, Paragraphs, Exhibits, Parts, Schedules, and Appendices shall be deemed to be references to Sections, Paragraphs and Parts of, and Exhibits, Schedules and Appendices to, this Agreement unless the context shall otherwise require.

##### **46.3 Tariff References**

46.3.1 Wherever any Commission ordered tariff provision or rate is cited or quoted herein, it is understood that said cite encompasses any revisions or modifications to said tariff.

46.3.2 Wherever any Commission ordered tariff provision or rate is incorporated, cited or quoted herein, it is understood that said incorporation or reference applies only to the entity within the state whose Commission ordered that tariff.

##### **46.4 Conflict in Provisions**

46.4.1 In the event of a conflict between the provisions of this Agreement, either Party's operational guidelines and the Act, the order of control shall be the Act, followed by this Agreement and finally the operational guidelines.

46.4.2 If any definitions, terms or conditions in any given Appendix, Attachment, Exhibit, Schedule or Addenda differ from those contained in the main body of this Agreement, the definitions, terms or conditions in the main

body of this Agreement will supersede those contained in any given Appendix, Attachment, Exhibit, Schedule or Addenda; provided, however unless the Appendix, Attachment, Exhibit, Schedule or Addenda explicitly calls for its definition, terms or conditions to control, which effect shall be limited to that particular Appendix, Attachment, Exhibit, Schedule or Addenda and such Appendix, Attachment, Exhibit, Schedule or Addenda is executed by an officer (at the vice president level or higher) of both parties). If an Appendix contains a Term length that differs from the Term length in the main body of this Agreement, the Term length of that Appendix will control the length of time that services or activities are to occur under that Appendix, but will not affect the Term length of the remainder of this Agreement. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions in this subsection 46.4.2, the provisions of Section 5 (Liability and Indemnification) and Section 6 (Breach of Contract) of Appendix WP (White Pages Directory) shall supersede the liability, indemnification and breach provisions contained in the main body of this Agreement with respect to services or activities that are to occur under Appendix WP.

#### 46.5 Joint Work Product

46.5.1 This Agreement is the joint work product of the Parties and has been negotiated by the Parties and their respective counsel and shall be fairly interpreted in accordance with its terms and, in the event of any ambiguities, no inferences shall be drawn against either Party.

### 47. **SEVERABILITY**

47.1 Subject to the provisions set forth in Section 4 of the General Terms and Conditions, if any term, condition or provision of this Agreement is held to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, each Party agrees that such provision shall be enforced to the maximum extent permissible so as to effect the intent of the Parties, and the validity, legality and enforceability of the remaining provisions of this Agreement shall not in any way be impaired or affected thereby. If necessary to effectuate the intent of the Parties, the Parties will promptly negotiate in good faith to amend this Agreement with a replacement provision or provisions for the unenforceable language that reflects such intent as closely as possible. If impasse is reached, the Parties will resolve said impasse under the dispute resolution procedures set forth in Section 16.

#### 47.2 Incorporation by Reference

The General Terms and Conditions of this Agreement, and every Interconnection, function, facility, product or service provided hereunder, shall be subject to all

rates, terms and conditions contained in the Appendices to this Agreement which are legitimately related to such Interconnection, function, facility, product or service.

#### **48. SURVIVAL OF OBLIGATIONS**

- 48.1 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, will survive cancellation or termination thereof.

#### **49. GOVERNING LAW**

- 49.1 Unless otherwise provided by Applicable Law, this Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the Act, the FCC Rules and Regulations interpreting the Act and other applicable federal law, as well as the laws of the State of Michigan, and the rules and regulations of the Commission. To the extent that federal law would apply state law in interpreting this Agreement, the domestic laws of the state in which the Interconnection, functions, facilities, products and services at issue are furnished or sought shall apply, without regard to that state's conflict of laws principles. The Parties submit to personal jurisdiction in Michigan, and waive any and all objection to any such venue.

#### **50. OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

##### **50.1 ACCESS TO RIGHTS-OF-WAY - SECTION 251(b)(4)**

- 50.1.1 TDS TELECOM shall provide to COMCAST non-discriminatory access to Poles, Ducts, Conduits and Rights of Way owned or controlled by TDS TELECOM. Such access shall be provided in accordance with, but only to the extent required by, Applicable Law, pursuant to TDS TELECOM's applicable tariffs, or, in the absence of an applicable TDS TELECOM tariff, TDS TELECOM's generally offered form of license agreement or a mutually acceptable agreement negotiated, or to be negotiated, by the Parties.

##### **50.2 DIALING PARITY – SECTION 251(b)(3)**

- 50.2.1 The Parties shall provide Dialing Parity to each other as required under Section 251(b)(3) of the Act.

#### **51. APPENDICES INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE**

- 51.1 This Agreement incorporates the following listed Appendices. These appendices along with their associated Attachments, Exhibits and Addenda constitute the entire Agreement between the Parties.

ITR- Interconnection Trunking Requirements  
NIM- Network Interconnection Methods  
Number Portability  
Numbering  
Pricing  
Reciprocal Compensation  
WP- White Pages  
911

51.2 LOCAL NUMBER PORTABILITY- SECTION 251(b)(2)

- 51.2.1 The Parties shall provide to each other Local Number Portability (LNP) on a reciprocal basis as outlined in the applicable Appendix Number Portability, which is/are attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

51.3 INTERCONNECTION TRUNKING REQUIREMENTS- SECTION 251(a)

- 51.3.1 TDS TELECOM shall provide to COMCAST Interconnection of the Parties' facilities and equipment for the transmission and routing of Telephone Exchange Service traffic and Exchange Access traffic pursuant to the Appendix ITR, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference. Methods for Interconnection and Physical Architecture shall be as defined in the Appendix NIM, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

51.4 TRANSMISSION AND ROUTING OF TELEPHONE EXCHANGE SERVICE TRAFFIC

- 51.4.1 The Appendix Reciprocal Compensation, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, prescribe traffic routing parameters for Local Interconnection Trunk Group(s) the Parties shall establish over the Interconnections specified in the Appendix ITR, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

51.5 COMPENSATION FOR DELIVERY OF TRAFFIC- SECTION 251(b)(5)

- 51.5.1 The Parties agree to compensate each other for the transport and termination of traffic as provided in Appendix Reciprocal Compensation.



**52. CUSTOMER INQUIRIES**

- 52.1 Each Party will refer all questions regarding the other Party's services or products directly to the other Party at a telephone number specified by that Party.
- 52.2 Each Party will ensure that all of their representatives who receive inquiries regarding the other Party's services: (i) provide the numbers described in Section 52.1 to callers who inquire about the other Party's services or products; and (ii) do not in any way disparage or discriminate against the other Party or its products or services.

**53. DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTIES**

53.1 EXCEPT AS EXPRESSLY PROVIDED UNDER THIS AGREEMENT, NO PARTY MAKES OR RECEIVES ANY WARRANTY, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, WITH RESPECT TO THE INTERCONNECTION, FUNCTIONS, FACILITIES, PRODUCTS AND SERVICES IT PROVIDES UNDER OR IS CONTEMPLATED TO PROVIDE UNDER THIS AGREEMENT AND EACH PARTY DISCLAIMS THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND/OR OF FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. ADDITIONALLY, NO PARTY TO THIS AGREEMENT ASSUMES RESPONSIBILITY WITH REGARD TO THE CORRECTNESS OF DATA OR INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY ANY OTHER PARTY TO THIS AGREEMENT WHEN SUCH DATA OR INFORMATION IS ACCESSED AND USED BY A THIRD PARTY.

**Comcast Phone of Michigan, LLC**  
**d/b/a Comcast Digital Phone**

**TDS Telecommunications Corporation,**  
agent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date

Susan Jin-Davis  
Printed Name

Katherine S. Barnekow  
Printed Name

Vice President, Corp. Development  
Position/Title

Director- Carrier Relations  
Position/Title

Signature Page to the Interconnection Agreement TDS Telecommunications Corporation (Comm. Corp. of Michigan) and Comcast Phone of Michigan, LLC d/b/a Comcast Digital Phone (COMCAST) dated the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2008.

**Schedule of TDS Telecommunications Corporation  
Michigan Companies**

Communications Corporation of Michigan d/b/a TDS Telecom

# **APPENDIX ITR**

## **(Interconnection Trunking Requirements)**

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## **APPENDIX ITR**

### **Interconnection Trunking Requirements**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This Appendix sets forth terms and conditions for Interconnection provided by TDS TELECOM and COMCAST.
- 1.2 This Appendix provides descriptions of the trunking requirements between COMCAST and TDS TELECOM. All references to incoming and outgoing trunk groups are from the perspective of COMCAST. The paragraphs below describe the required and optional trunk groups for local and mass calling.
- 1.3 Local trunk groups may only be used to transport traffic between the Parties' End Users.

#### **2. DEFINITIONS**

- 2.1 "Network Interconnection Methods" (NIM) designates facilities established between the Parties' Networks.

#### **3. ONE-WAY AND TWO-WAY TRUNK GROUPS**

- 3.1 One-way trunk groups for ancillary services (e.g. mass calling) can be established between the Parties. Ancillary trunk groups will utilize Signaling System 7 (SS7) or multi-frequency (MF) signaling protocol, with SS7 signaling preferred whenever possible. The originating Party will have administrative control of one-way trunk groups.
- 3.2 Two-way trunk groups for local, IntraLATA and InterLATA traffic can be established between a COMCAST switch and a TDS TELECOM End Office switch. This trunk group will utilize Signaling System 7 (SS7) or multi-frequency (MF) signaling protocol, with SS7 signaling preferred whenever possible. Two-way trunking will be jointly provisioned and maintained, which shall include each Party being responsible for the cost of such trunks on its side of the mutually agreed upon POI identified in Appendix NIM. For administrative consistency COMCAST will have control for the purpose of issuing Access Service Requests (ASRs) on two-way groups. TDS TELECOM will use the Trunk Group Service Request (TGSR) as described in section 8.0 of this Appendix, to request changes in trunking. TDS TELECOM shall not assess any ordering or installation charges associated with two-way trunk groups COMCAST orders that shall carry shared traffic. Both Parties reserve the right to issue ASRs, if so required, in the normal course of business.

- 3.3 The Parties agree that two-way trunking shall be established when possible and appropriate for a given trunk group. However, certain technical and billing issues may necessitate the use of one-way trunking for an interim period. The Parties will negotiate the appropriate trunk configuration, whether one-way or two-way giving consideration to relevant factors, including but not limited to, existing network configuration, administrative ease, any billing system and/or technical limitations and network efficiency. Any disagreement regarding appropriate trunk configuration shall be subject to the dispute resolution process in Section 16 of the General Terms and Conditions.
- 3.4 The Parties agree to exchange traffic data on two-way trunks and to implement such an exchange within three (3) months of the date that two-way trunking is established and the trunk groups begin passing live traffic, or another date as agreed to by the Parties. Exchange of traffic data will permit each company to have knowledge of the offered and overflow load at each end of the two-way trunk group, and thereby enable accurate and independent determination of performance levels and trunk requirements. The Parties agree to the electronic exchange of data where possible.

#### 4. TRUNKING

- 4.1 Direct End Office trunks terminate traffic from a COMCAST switch to a TDS TELECOM End Office and, except as otherwise provided herein, are not switched at a Tandem location. The Parties shall establish a direct End Office trunk group when End Office traffic requires twenty-four (24) or more trunks over a consecutive three (3) month period. Overflow from either end of the direct End Office trunk group will be alternate routed to the appropriate Tandem. The Parties will negotiate the appropriate trunk configuration, whether one-way or two-way to accommodate the present billing and technical limitations.
- 4.2 All traffic received by TDS TELECOM on the direct End Office trunk group from COMCAST must terminate in the End Office, i.e. no Tandem switching will be performed in the End Office. All traffic received by COMCAST on the direct End Office trunk group from TDS TELECOM must terminate in the End Office, i.e., no Tandem switching will be performed in the End Office. Where End Office functionality is provided in a remote End Office of a host/remote configuration, the Interconnection for that remote End Office is only available at the host switch. The number of digits to be received by the terminating Party shall conform to standard industry practices; but in no case shall the number of digits be less than seven (7).
- 4.3 Trunk Configuration
- 4.3.1 Trunk Configuration –

4.3.1.1 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 Capability (64CCC) transmission to allow for ISDN interoperability between the Parties' respective networks. Trunk groups configured for 64CCC and carrying Circuit Switched Data (CSD) ISDN calls shall carry the appropriate Trunk Type Modifier in the CLCI-Message code. Trunk groups configured for 64CCC and not used to carry CSD ISDN calls shall carry a different appropriate Trunk Type Modifier in the CLCI-Message code.

## 5. TRUNK GROUPS

5.1 The following trunk groups shall be used to exchange local traffic between COMCAST and TDS TELECOM.

5.2 Local Interconnection Trunk Group(s) in Each Exchange

5.2.1 Direct End Office Trunking

5.2.1.1 The Parties shall establish direct End Office primary high usage Local Interconnection trunk groups for the exchange of Local traffic where actual or projected traffic demand is or will be twenty four (24) or more trunks, as described in Sections 4.1 and 4.2.

5.3 Intentionally left blank.

5.4 TDS TELECOM will not block switched access customer traffic delivered to any TDS TELECOM Office for completion on COMCAST's network. The Parties understand and agree that InterLATA trunking arrangements are available and functional only to/from switched access customers who directly connect with any TDS TELECOM End Office. TDS TELECOM shall have no responsibility to ensure that any switched access customer will accept traffic that COMCAST directs to the switched access customer. TDS TELECOM agrees to furnish COMCAST, upon request, a list of those IXCs which also interconnect with TDS TELECOM's End Office(s).

5.5 COMCAST shall provide all SS7 signaling information including, without limitation, charge number and originating line information (OLI). For terminating FGD, TDS TELECOM will pass all SS7 signaling information including, without limitation, CPN if it receives CPN from FGD carriers. All privacy indicators will be honored. Where available, network signaling information such as transit network selection (TNS) parameter, carrier identification codes (CIC) (CCS platform) and CIC/OZZ information (non-SS7 environment) will be provided by COMCAST wherever such information is



needed for call routing or billing. The Parties will follow all OBF adopted standards pertaining to TNS and CIC/OZZ codes.

**5.6 High Volume Call In (HVC) / Mass Calling (Choke) Trunk Group:**

5.6.1 If COMCAST should acquire a HVC/Mass Calling customer, i.e. a radio station, COMCAST shall provide written notification to TDS TELECOM. TDS TELECOM reserves the option to provide either a physical or "virtual" trunk group, with a virtual group preferred where technically feasible, for HVC/Mass Calling Trunking.

**6. FORECASTING RESPONSIBILITIES**

6.1 COMCAST agrees to provide an initial forecast for establishing the initial Interconnection facilities. TDS TELECOM shall review this forecast, and if it has any additional information that will change the forecast shall provide this information to COMCAST. The Parties recognize that, to the extent historical traffic data can be shared between the Parties, the accuracy of the forecasts will improve. COMCAST shall provide subsequent forecasts on a semi-annual basis. COMCAST forecasts should include yearly forecasted trunk quantities for all appropriate trunk groups described in this Appendix for a minimum of two (2) years. Forecasts shall be non-binding on both TDS TELECOM and COMCAST. TDS TELECOM shall take COMCAST's forecasts into consideration in its network planning, and shall exercise its best efforts to provide the quantity of interconnection trunks and facilities forecasted by the COMCAST. However, the development and submission of forecasts shall not replace the ordering process in place for interconnection trunks and facilities, and the provision of the forecasted quantity of interconnection trunks and facilities is subject to capacity existing at the time the order is submitted. Furthermore, the development and receipt of forecasts does not imply any liability for failure to perform if capacity is not available for use at the forecasted time. The Parties agree to the use of Common Language Location Identification (CLLI) coding and Common Language Circuit Identification for Message Trunk coding (CLCI-MSG) which is described in TELCORDIA TECHNOLOGIES documents BR795-100-100 and BR795-400-100 respectively. Inquiries pertaining to use of TELCORDIA TECHNOLOGIES Common Language Standards and document availability should be directed to TELCORDIA TECHNOLOGIES at 1-800-521-2673. Analysis of trunk group performance, and ordering of relief if required, will be performed on a monthly basis at a minimum (trunk servicing).

6.2 The semi-annual forecasts shall include:

6.2.1 Yearly forecasted trunk quantities (which include measurements that reflect actual, End Office Local Interconnection trunks, and Tandem subtending Local Interconnection End Office equivalent trunk requirements) for a minimum of two (current and plus 1 ) years; and

- 6.2.2 A description of major network projects anticipated for the following six (6) months. Major network projects include trunking or network rearrangements, shifts in anticipated traffic patterns, orders greater than four (4) DS1's, or other activities that are reflected by a significant increase or decrease in trunking demand for the following forecasting period.
- 6.3 The Parties shall agree on a forecast provided above to ensure efficient utilization of trunks. Orders for trunks that exceed forecasted quantities for forecasted locations will be accommodated as facilities and/or equipment becomes available. Parties shall make all reasonable efforts and cooperate in good faith to develop alternative solutions to accommodate orders when facilities are not available.
- 6.4 COMCAST shall be responsible for forecasting two-way trunk groups. TDS TELECOM shall be responsible for forecasting and servicing the one-way trunk groups terminating to COMCAST and COMCAST shall be responsible for forecasting and servicing the one-way trunk groups terminating to TDS TELECOM, unless otherwise specified in this Appendix. Standard trunk traffic engineering methods will be used by the Parties.
- 6.5 If forecast quantities are in dispute, the Parties shall meet, either in person or via conference call, to reconcile the differences.
- 6.6 Each Party shall provide a specified point of contact for planning, forecasting and trunk servicing purposes.

## **7. TRUNK DESIGN BLOCKING CRITERIA**

- 7.1 Trunk requirements for forecasting and servicing shall be based on the blocking objectives shown in Table 1. Trunk requirements shall be based upon time consistent average busy season busy hour twenty-one (21) day averaged loads applied to industry standard Neal-Wilkinson Trunk Group Capacity algorithms (use Medium day-to-day Variation and 1.0 Peakedness factor until actual traffic data is available).

TABLE 1

<u>Trunk Group Type</u>	<u>Design Blocking Objective</u>
Local Direct End Office (Primary High)	as mutually agreed upon
Local Direct End Office (Final)	1%

## 8. TRUNK SERVICING

- 8.1 Orders between the Parties to establish, add, change or disconnect trunks shall be processed by using an Access Service Request (ASR). COMCAST will have administrative control for the purpose of issuing ASR's on two-way trunk groups. Where one-way trunks are used (as discussed in section 3.3), TDS TELECOM will issue ASRs for trunk groups for traffic that originates from TDS TELECOM and terminates to COMCAST. The Parties agree that neither Party shall alter trunk sizing on two-way trunk groups without first conferring with the other Party.
- 8.2 The Parties will jointly manage the capacity of two-way Local Interconnection Trunk Groups. Either Party may send a Trunk Group Service Request (TGSR) to the other Party to trigger changes to the Local Interconnection Trunk Groups based on capacity assessment. The TGSR is a standard industry support interface developed by the Ordering and Billing Forum of the Carrier Liaison Committee of the Alliance for Telecommunications Solutions (ATIS) organization. TELECORDIA TECHNOLOGIES Special Report STS000316 describes the format and use of the TGSR. The forms can be obtained from [www.atis.org/atis/clc/obf/download.htm](http://www.atis.org/atis/clc/obf/download.htm).
- 8.3 In A Blocking Situation:
- 8.3.1 In a blocking final situation, a TGSR will be issued by either Party when additional capacity is required to reduce measured blocking to objective design blocking levels based upon analysis of trunk group data. Either Party upon receipt of a TGSR in a blocking situation will issue an ASR to the other Party within three (3) business days after receipt of the TGSR, and upon review and in response to the TGSR received. The ordering Party will note "Service Affecting" on the ASR.
- 8.4 Underutilization:
- 8.4.1 Underutilization of Interconnection trunks and facilities exists when provisioned capacity is greater than the current need. This over provisioning is an inefficient deployment and use of network resources

and results in unnecessary costs. Those situations where more capacity exists than actual usage requires will be handled in the following manner:

8.4.1.1 If a trunk group is under 75 percent (75%) of CCS capacity on a monthly average basis, for each month of any three (3) consecutive months period, unless otherwise agreed due to forecasted demand, either Party may request the issuance of an order to resize the trunk group, which shall be left with not less than 25 percent (25%) excess capacity. In all cases grade of service objectives shall be maintained.

8.4.1.2 Either Party may send a TGSR to the other Party to trigger changes to the Local Interconnection Trunk Groups based on capacity assessment.

8.4.1.3 Upon review of the TGSR if a Party does not agree with the resizing, the Parties will schedule a joint planning discussion within twenty (20) business days. The Parties will meet to resolve and mutually agree to the disposition of the TGSR.

8.4.1.4 Those situations where more capacity exists than actual usage requires, and the Parties disagree on the quantity of trunks to disconnect, will be handled via the dispute resolution process pursuant to Section 16 of the General Terms and Conditions.

8.5 In all cases except a blocking situation, either Party upon receipt of a TGSR will issue an ASR to the other Party:

8.5.1 Within ten (10) business days after receipt of the TGSR.

8.5.2 At any time as a result of either Party's own capacity management assessment, in order to begin the provisioning process.

8.5.3 In all cases, either Party upon receipt of an ASR will issue the FOC to the other Party within three (3) business days after receipt of the ASR.

8.6 Projects require the coordination and execution of multiple orders or related activities between and among TDS TELECOM and COMCAST work groups, including but not limited to the initial establishment of Local Interconnection or Meet Point Trunk Groups and service in an area, NXX code moves, re-homes, facility grooming, or network rearrangements.

8.6.1 Orders greater than four (4) DS-1's to a single Central Office, shall be submitted at the same time, and their implementation shall be jointly planned and coordinated.

- 8.7 COMCAST will be responsible for engineering its network on its side of the Point of Interconnection (POI). TDS TELECOM will be responsible for engineering its network on its side of the POI.
- 8.8 Where facilities are available, and unless otherwise agreed, due dates for the installation of Local Interconnection Trunks covered by this Appendix shall be no longer than ten (10) business days from receipt of a request by either Party. If either COMCAST or TDS TELECOM is unable to or not ready to perform Acceptance Tests, or is unable to accept the Local Interconnection Service Arrangement trunk(s) by the due date, the Parties will reschedule the date no more than seven (7) days from the original date.
- 8.9 Utilization shall be defined as Trunks Required as a percentage of Trunks In Service. Trunks Required shall be determined using methods described in Section 6.0 using Design Blocking Objectives stated in section 7.1.

## **9. TRUNK DATA EXCHANGE**

- 9.1 Each Party agrees to service trunk groups to the foregoing blocking criteria in a timely manner when trunk groups exceed measured blocking thresholds on an average time consistent busy hour for a twenty-one (21) day study period. The Parties agree that twenty-one (21) days is the study period duration objective. However, a study period on occasion may be less than twenty-one (21) days but at minimum must be at least three (3) business days to be utilized for engineering purposes, although with less statistical confidence.
- 9.2 Exchange of traffic data enables each Party to make accurate and independent assessments of trunk group service levels and requirements. Parties agree to establish a timeline for implementing an exchange of traffic data. Implementation shall be within three (3) months of the date, or such date as agreed upon, that the trunk groups begin passing live traffic. The traffic data to be exchanged will be the Originating Attempt Peg Count, Usage (measured in Hundred Call Seconds), Overflow Peg Count, and Maintenance Usage (measured in Hundred Call Seconds) on a seven (7) day per week, twenty-four (24) hour per day, fifty-two (52) weeks per year basis. These reports shall be made available at a minimum on a semi-annual basis upon request. Exchange of data on one-way groups is optional.

## **10. NETWORK MANAGEMENT**

### **10.1 Restrictive Controls**

- 10.1.1 Either Party may use protective network traffic management controls such as 7-digit and 10-digit code gaps set at appropriate levels on traffic toward each other's network, when required, to protect the public switched network from congestion due to facility failures, switch congestion, or

failure or focused overload. COMCAST and TDS TELECOM will immediately notify each other of any protective control action planned or executed.

## 10.2 Expansive Controls

10.2.1 Where the capability exists, originating or terminating traffic reroutes may be implemented by either Party to temporarily relieve network congestion due to facility failures or abnormal calling patterns. Reroutes will not be used to circumvent normal trunk servicing. Expansive controls will only be used when mutually agreed to by the Parties.

## 10.3 Mass Calling

10.3.1 COMCAST and TDS TELECOM shall cooperate and share pre-planning information regarding cross-network call-ins expected to generate large or focused temporary increases in call volumes.

# 11. **APPLICABILITY OF OTHER RATES, TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

11.1 Every interconnection and service provided hereunder shall be subject to all rates, terms and conditions contained in this Agreement which are legitimately related to such interconnection or service.

# **APPENDIX NIM (NETWORK INTERCONNECTION METHODS)**

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## **APPENDIX NIM (NETWORK INTERCONNECTION METHODS)**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This Appendix sets forth the terms and conditions that Network Interconnection Methods (NIM) are provided by TDS TELECOM and COMCAST. This Appendix describes the physical architecture for Interconnection of the Parties' facilities and equipment for the transmission and routing of Telephone Exchange Service traffic and Exchange Access traffic between the respective Customers of the Parties; provided, however, Interconnection may not be used solely for the purpose of originating a Party's own interexchange traffic.
- 1.2 Network Interconnection Methods (NIMs) include, but are not limited to, Indirect Interconnection, Leased Facilities Interconnection; Fiber Meet Interconnection; and other methods as mutually agreed to by the Parties.
  - 1.2.1 Trunking requirements associated with Interconnection are contained in Appendix ITR.
- 1.3 TDS TELECOM shall provide Interconnection for COMCAST's facilities and equipment for the transmission and routing of telephone exchange service and exchange access, at a level of quality equal to that which TDS TELECOM provides itself, a subsidiary, an affiliate, or any other party to which TDS TELECOM provides Interconnection and on rates, terms and conditions that are just, reasonable and non-discriminatory.
- 1.4 The Parties shall effect an Interconnection that is efficient, fair and in a manner that is mutually agreeable to the Parties.

### **2. PHYSICAL ARCHITECTURE**

- 2.1 TDS TELECOM's network is partly comprised of End Office switches that serve IntraLATA, InterLATA, Local, and EAS traffic. TDS TELECOM's network architecture in any given local exchange area and/or LATA can vary markedly from another local exchange area/LATA. Using one or more of the NIMs herein, the Parties will agree to a physical architecture plan for the Grand Rapids LATA 348. Where the Parties elect to interconnect indirectly, the physical architecture plan will be completed within thirty (30) days from COMCAST's written request for interconnection contingent upon the Parties' mutual agreement on the architecture. Where the Parties elect to interconnect directly, the physical architecture plan will be completed within sixty (60) days from COMCAST's written request for interconnection contingent upon the Parties' mutual agreement on the architecture. COMCAST and TDS TELECOM agree to Interconnect their networks through existing and/or new Interconnection facilities between COMCAST switch(es) and TDS TELECOM's End Office(s). Where the Parties

elect to interconnect via direct trunking, the physical architecture plan will, at a minimum, include the location of COMCAST's switch(es) and TDS TELECOM End Office switch(es) to be interconnected, the facilities that will connect the two networks, the timelines for completion of all major tasks, and which Party will provide (be financially responsible for) the Interconnection facilities. At the time of implementation in the LATA the plan will be documented and signed by appropriate representatives of the Parties, indicating their mutual agreement to the physical architecture plan.

- 2.2 Points of Interconnection (POIs): A Point of Interconnection (POI) is a point in the network where the Parties deliver Interconnection traffic to each other, and also serves as a demarcation point between the facilities that each Party is responsible to provide.
- 2.3 At least one POI must be established at or within the TDS TELECOM company's serving area boundary. Additional POIs may be established for each central office switch where COMCAST and TDS TELECOM interconnect directly, as specified in Appendix ITR Section 4. The Parties shall mutually agree on the selection of new POIs. In some cases, multiple POI(s) will be necessary to balance the facilities investment and provide the best technical implementation of Interconnection requirements to each End Office within a TDS TELECOM company's service area. Both Parties shall negotiate the architecture in each location that will seek to mutually minimize and equalize investment.
- 2.4 The Parties agree to meet as often as necessary to negotiate the selection of new POIs. The overall goal of POI selection will be to achieve a balance in the provision of facilities that is fair to both Parties. Criteria to be used in determining POIs include existing facility capacity, location of existing POIs, traffic volumes, relative costs, future capacity needs, etc. Agreement to the location of POIs will be based on the network architecture existing at the time the POI(s) is/are negotiated. In the event either Party makes subsequent changes to its network architecture, including but not limited to trunking changes or adding new switches, then the Parties will negotiate new POIs if required. The mutually agreed to POIs will be documented and distributed to both Parties.
- 2.5 Each Party is responsible for the facilities to its side of the POI(s) and may utilize any method of Interconnection described in this Appendix. Each Party is responsible for the appropriate sizing, operation, and maintenance of the transport facility to the POI(s).
- 2.6 Either Party, must provide thirty (30) days written notice of any changes to the physical architecture plan.
- 2.7 Each Party is solely responsible for the facilities that carry OS/DA, 911 or mass calling for their respective End Users.

## 2.8 Technical Interfaces

- 2.8.1 The Interconnection facilities provided by each Party shall be formatted using B8ZS with Extended Superframe format framing.
- 2.8.2 Electrical handoffs at the POI(s) will be DS1, DS3 or STS-1 as mutually agreed to by the parties. When a DS3 or STS-1 handoff is agreed to by the Parties, each Party will provide all required multiplexing at their respective end.

## 3. **METHODS OF INTERCONNECTION**

### 3.1 Leased Facility Interconnection ("LFI")

- 3.1.1 Where facilities exist, either Party may lease facilities from the other Party pursuant to applicable tariff.

### 3.2 Fiber Meet Interconnection

- 3.2.1 Fiber Meet Interconnection between TDS TELECOM and COMCAST can occur at any mutually agreeable, economically and technically feasible point(s) between COMCASTs premises and a TDS TELECOM End Office.
- 3.2.2 Where the Parties interconnect their networks pursuant to a Fiber Meet, the Parties shall jointly engineer and operate this Interconnection as a Synchronous Optical NETWORK (SONET) ring or single point-to-point linear SONET system. Administrative control of the SONET system shall be mutually agreed upon by the Parties. Only Interconnection trunks or trunks used to provide ancillary services as described in Section 5 of Appendix ITR shall be provisioned over this facility.
- 3.2.3 Neither Party will be given the IP address or allowed to access the Data Communications Channel (DCC) of the other Party's Fiber Optic Terminal (FOT). The Fiber Meet will be designed so that each Party may, as far as is technically feasible, independently select the transmission, multiplexing, and fiber terminating equipment to be used on its side of the POI(s). The Parties will work cooperatively to achieve equipment and vendor compatibility of the FOT equipment. Requirements for such Interconnection specifications will be defined in joint engineering planning sessions between the Parties. The Parties will share the investment of the fiber as mutually agreed such that neither Party bears a disproportionate share of the investment. The Parties will use good faith efforts to develop and agree on these facility arrangements within ninety (90) days of the determination by the Parties that such specifications shall

be implemented, and in any case, prior to the establishment of any Fiber Meet arrangements between them.

3.2.4 There are four basic Fiber Meet design options.

3.2.4.1 Design One: COMCAST's fiber cable (four, or some integral multiple thereof, fibers) and TDS TELECOM's fiber cable (four, or some integral multiple thereof, fibers) are connected at an economically and technically feasible point between the COMCAST and TDS TELECOM locations. This Interconnection point would be at a mutually agreeable location. The Parties' fiber cables would be terminated on fiber termination panel(s) and then cross-connected with jumpers jointly provided by the Parties. Each Party would supply a fiber optic terminal (FOT) at their respective end. The POI would be at the fiber termination panel at the mid-point meet.

3.2.4.2 Design Two: COMCAST will provide fiber cable to the last entrance (or TDS TELECOM designated) manhole at the TDS TELECOM's End Office switch. TDS TELECOM shall make all necessary preparations to receive and to allow and enable COMCAST to deliver fiber optic facilities into that manhole. COMCAST will provide a sufficient length of Optical Fire Resistant (OFR) cable for TDS TELECOM to pull the fiber cable through the TDS TELECOM cable vault and terminate on the TDS TELECOM fiber distribution frame (FDF) in TDS TELECOM's office. COMCAST shall deliver and maintain such strands wholly at its own expense up to the POI. TDS TELECOM shall take the fiber from the manhole and terminate it inside TDS TELECOM's office on the FDF at TDS TELECOM's expense. In this case the POI shall be at the TDS TELECOM designated manhole location.

3.2.4.3 Design Three: TDS TELECOM will provide fiber cable to the last entrance (or COMCAST designated) manhole at the COMCAST location. COMCAST shall make all necessary preparations to receive and to allow and enable TDS TELECOM to deliver fiber optic facilities into that manhole. TDS TELECOM will provide a sufficient length of Optical Fire Resistant (OFR) cable for COMCAST to run the fiber cable from the manhole and terminate on the COMCAST fiber distribution frame (FDF) in COMCAST's location. TDS TELECOM shall deliver and maintain such strands wholly at its own expense up to the POI. COMCAST shall take the fiber from the manhole and terminate it inside COMCAST's office on the FDF at COMCAST's expense. In this case the POI shall be at the COMCAST designated manhole location.

- 3.2.4.4 Design Four: Both COMCAST and TDS TELECOM each provide two fibers between their locations. This design may only be considered where existing fibers are available and there is a mutual benefit to both Parties. TDS TELECOM will provide the fibers associated with the “working” side of the system. COMCAST will provide the fibers associated with the “protection” side of the system. The Parties will work cooperatively to terminate each other’s fiber in order to provision this joint SONET ring or point-to-point linear system. Both Parties will work cooperatively to determine the appropriate technical handoff for purposes of demarcation and fault isolation. The POI will be defined as being at the TDS TELECOM location.
- 3.2.5 The COMCAST location includes FOTs, multiplexing and fiber required to terminate the optical signal provided from TDS TELECOM. This location is COMCAST’s responsibility to provision and maintain.
- 3.2.6 The TDS TELECOM location includes all TDS TELECOM FOTs, multiplexing and fiber required to terminate the optical signal provided from COMCAST. This location is TDS TELECOM’s responsibility to provision and maintain.
- 3.2.7 TDS TELECOM and COMCAST shall, solely at their own expense, procure, install, and maintain the agreed-upon FOT equipment in each of their locations where the Parties established a Fiber Meet. Capacity shall be sufficient to provision and maintain all trunk groups prescribed by Appendix ITR for the purposes of Interconnection.
- 3.2.8 Each Party shall provide its own, unique source for the synchronized timing of its FOT equipment. At a minimum, each timing source must be Stratum-3 traceable and cannot be provided over DS0/DS1 facilities, via Line Timing; or via a Derived DS1 off of FOT equipment. Both Parties agree to establish separate and distinct timing sources that are not derived from the other, and meet the criteria identified above.
- 3.2.9 COMCAST and TDS TELECOM will mutually agree on the capacity of the FOT(s) to be utilized based on equivalent DS1s, DS3s or STS-1s. Each Party will also agree upon the optical frequency and wavelength necessary to implement the Interconnection. The Parties will develop and agree upon methods for the capacity planning and management for these facilities, terms and conditions for over provisioning facilities, and the necessary processes to implement facilities as indicated below. These methods will meet quality standards as mutually agreed to by COMCAST and TDS TELECOM.

### 3.3 Indirect Interconnection

- 3.3.1 The Parties agree that where traffic volumes require less than twenty-four (24) trunks, such traffic shall be exchanged by transiting through third party LEC tandems (in this case AT&T- Ameritech Michigan) unless otherwise agreed by both Parties. Each Party shall be financially and operationally responsible for the costs incurred with providing facilities from its network to the Point of Interconnection (POI) for the exchange of such traffic.
- 3.3.2 Where the traffic exchanged between COMCAST and a specific TDS TELECOM host or end office switch requires twenty-four (24) or more trunks or the Parties agree it is otherwise economically advantageous, either Party may request to implement direct trunks to a POI associated with the specific host or end office switch in accordance with Appendix ITR Section 4. The Parties agree to negotiate in good faith to reach agreement to accommodate direct interconnection.

#### **4. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES**

- 4.1 If COMCAST determines to offer local exchange service within a TDS TELECOM area, COMCAST shall provide written notice to TDS TELECOM of the need to establish Interconnection. Such request shall include (i) COMCAST's Switch address, type, and CLLI; (ii) COMCAST's requested Interconnection activation date; and (iii) a non-binding forecast of COMCAST's trunking and facilities requirements.
- 4.2 Upon receipt of COMCAST's notice to interconnect, the Parties shall schedule a meeting to negotiate and mutually agree on the network architecture (including trunking) to be documented as discussed above. The Interconnection activation date for an Interconnect shall be established based on then-existing work force and load, the scope and complexity of the requested Interconnection and other relevant factors.
- 4.3 If COMCAST deploys additional switches after the Effective Date or otherwise wishes to establish Interconnection with additional TDS TELECOM Central Offices, COMCAST shall provide written notice to TDS TELECOM to establish such Interconnection. The terms and conditions of this Agreement shall apply to such Interconnection. If TDS TELECOM deploys additional End Office switches in a local exchange after the effective date or otherwise wishes to establish Interconnection with additional COMCAST Central Offices in such local exchange, TDS TELECOM shall be entitled, upon written notice to COMCAST, to establish such Interconnection and the terms and conditions of this Agreement shall apply to such Interconnection.
- 4.4 COMCAST and TDS TELECOM shall work cooperatively to install and maintain a reliable network. COMCAST and TDS TELECOM shall exchange appropriate

information (e.g., maintenance contact numbers, network information, information required to comply with law enforcement and other security agencies of the federal and state government and such other information as the Parties shall mutually agree) to achieve this desired reliability.

4.5 COMCAST and TDS TELECOM will review engineering requirements as required and establish semi-annual forecasts for facilities utilization provided under this Appendix.

4.6 COMCAST and TDS TELECOM shall:

4.6.1 Provide trained personnel with adequate and compatible test equipment to work with each other's technicians.

4.6.2 Notify each other when there is any change affecting the service requested, including the due date.

4.6.3 Recognize that a facility handoff point must be agreed to that establishes the demarcation for maintenance and provisioning responsibilities for each party on their side of the POI.

## **5. JOINT FACILITY GROWTH PLANNING**

5.1 Facilities will be planned for in accordance with the trunk forecasts exchanged between the Parties and are to be deployed in accordance with the processes described in Appendix ITR.

5.2 For a Fiber Meet Interconnection, an initial fiber optic system deployed for each Interconnection shall be agreed to by the Parties. The following lists the criteria and processes needed to satisfy additional capacity requirements beyond the initial system.

### **5.2.1 Criteria:**

5.2.1.1 Investment is to be minimized.

5.2.1.2 Facilities will be planned for in accordance with the trunk forecasts exchanged between the Parties as described in Appendix ITR and are to be deployed in accordance with the Processes described below.

### **5.2.2 Processes:**

5.2.2.1 In addition to the semi-annual forecast process, discussions to provide relief to existing facilities can be initiated by either party.

Actual system augmentations will be initiated upon mutual agreement.

5.2.2.2 Both Parties will perform a joint validation to ensure current Interconnection facilities and associated trunks have not been over-provisioned. If any facilities and/or associated trunks are over-provisioned, they will be turned down where appropriate. Trunk design blocking criteria described in Appendix ITR will be used in determining trunk group sizing requirements and forecasts.

5.2.2.3 If, based on the forecasted equivalent DS-1 growth, the existing fiber optic system is not projected to exhaust within one year, the Parties will suspend further relief planning on this Interconnection until a date one (1) year prior to the projected exhaust date. If growth patterns change during the suspension period, either Party may re-initiate the joint planning process.

5.2.2.4 If the placement of a minimum size system will not provide adequate augmentation capacity for the joint forecast over a two-year period and the forecast appears reasonable, the next larger system may be deployed. If the forecast does not justify a move to the next larger system, another appropriately sized system could be placed. This criterion assumes both Parties have adequate fibers for either scenario. If adequate fibers do not exist, both Parties would negotiate placement of additional fibers.

5.2.2.5 Both Parties will negotiate a project service date and corresponding work schedule to construct relief facilities prior to facilities exhaust.

5.2.2.6 The joint planning process/negotiations should be completed within two months of the initiation of such discussion.

## **6. APPLICABILITY OF OTHER RATES, TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

6.1 Every interconnection and service provided hereunder shall be subject to all rates, terms and conditions contained in this Agreement which are legitimately related to such interconnection or service.



## **APPENDIX NUMBER PORTABILITY**

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## **APPENDIX NP NUMBER PORTABILITY**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This Appendix sets forth terms and conditions for Number Portability provided by TDS TELECOM and COMCAST.
- 1.2 The prices at which each Party agrees to provide the other Party with Number Portability are contained in the applicable Appendix PRICING and/or the applicable tariff where stated.

### **2. LOCAL NUMBER PORTABILITY**

#### **2.1 General Terms and Conditions**

- 2.2 The Parties agree to at all times adhere to all FCC orders, NANC and Industry Numbering Committee guidelines that establish the technology and standards for Local Number Portability.

- 2.2.1 TDS TELECOM may cancel any line-based calling cards associated with telephone numbers ported from their switch.

- 2.2.2 Complex ports require project management and will require negotiation of due date intervals. Complex ports include:

- 2.2.2.1 Port requests of 51 or more numbers;

- 2.2.2.2 Porting of 15 or more access lines for the same customer at the same location;

- 2.2.2.3 Porting associated with complex services including but not limited to Centrex and ISDN.

- 2.2.3 The Parties shall adhere to reserved number standards as set by the FCC.

- 2.2.4 The Parties shall cooperate in performing activities required to port Customer telephone number(s). The primary responsibility for the coordination of such activities will be assumed by the Party porting in the Customer telephone number(s).

#### **2.3 Obligations of Both Parties**

- 2.3.1 When a ported telephone number becomes vacant, e.g., the telephone number is no longer in service by the original End User, the ported telephone number will be released back to the carrier to whom it was

originally assigned after appropriate time has elapsed for intercept notification.

- 2.3.2 Each Party has the right to block default routed calls (e.g. calls sent without the N-1 query being performed) from entering a network in order to protect the public switched network from overload, congestion, or failure propagation.
- 2.3.3 Industry guidelines shall be followed regarding all aspects of porting numbers from one network to another.
- 2.3.4 Intercompany testing shall be performed prior to the submission of actual porting orders.
- 2.3.5 Each Party will designate a single point of contact (SPOC) to schedule and perform required testing. These tests will be performed during a mutually agreed time frame and must meet the criteria set forth by Local Number Portability Administration Working Group ("LNPA WG").
- 2.3.6 Each Party shall abide by FCC accepted NANC and LNPA WG provisioning and implementation processes.
- 2.3.7 Each Party shall become responsible for the End User's other telecommunications related items, e.g. E911, Directory Listings, Operator Services, Line Information Database (LIDB), when they port the End User's telephone number to their switch.
- 2.3.8 The Parties will provide a 10-digit trigger on all LNP orders unless a coordinated conversion of numbers is requested on the PNP order. The 10-digit trigger will remain active on the porting-out Party's switch until the first business day following the port due date at which time the line shall be physically disconnected from the porting-out Party's switch.

## 2.4 Limitations of Service

- 2.4.1 Telephone numbers can be ported only within TDS TELECOM rate centers or rate districts, which ever is a smaller geographic area, as approved by the State Commission. If geographic number portability is ordered by the FCC or the Commission during the term of this Agreement, the Parties will promptly negotiate any necessary revisions to this appendix to accommodate geographic number portability. In the event the Parties are unable to negotiate such changes within thirty (30) days, either Party may invoke the dispute resolution procedures under this Agreement.

- 2.4.2 Telephone numbers with NXXs dedicated to choke/High Volume Call-In (HVCI) networks are not portable via LRN. Such numbers will be ported on an ICB basis upon request.

## 2.5 Service Descriptions

- 2.5.1 The N-1 carrier (N carrier is the responsible Party for terminating call to the End User) has the responsibility to determine if a query is required, to launch the query, and to route the call to the switch or network in which the telephone number resides.
- 2.5.2 If a Party chooses not to fulfill its N-1 carrier responsibility, the other Party will perform queries on calls to telephone numbers with portable NXXs received from the N-1 carrier and route the call to the switch or network in which the telephone number resides. TDS TELECOM will perform LNP Query Service for COMCAST pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth in National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA) Tariff FCC No. 5. COMCAST will perform N-1 responsibilities on the same terms as TDS TELECOM provides for in its applicable tariff.
- 2.5.3 A Party shall be responsible for payment of charges to the other Party for any queries made on the N-1 carrier's behalf when one or more telephone numbers have been ported in the called telephone number's NXX. Charges by each Party will be at the rate set forth in TDS TELECOM's applicable tariff.
- 2.5.4 Both Parties shall populate the Jurisdictional Identification Parameter (JIP) field with the first six (6) digits (NPA NXX format) of the appropriate LRN of the originating switch for any ported telephone number.

## 2.6 Pricing

- 2.6.1 The price of LNP queries shall be the same as those in NECA's FCC No. 5 Access Services Tariff in which TDS TELECOM is a concurring carrier. COMCAST will perform N-1 queries at prices no higher than TDS TELECOM provides for in its applicable tariff.
- 2.6.2 Other than standard Service Order charges for processing Local Service Requests (LSRs) as specified in Appendix Pricing, or a Party's applicable tariff, the Parties agree not to charge each other, or any of the other Party's End Users for the provisioning or conversion of ported telephone numbers during regular working hours. To the extent either Party requests porting to be performed outside of other Party's regular working hours, or the work requires the porting-out Party's technicians or project managers to

work outside of regular working hours, premium time and material charges shall apply.

### **3. MASS CALLING**

#### **3.1 General Terms and Conditions**

3.1.1 Mass calling codes, i.e., choke/HVCI NXXs, are used in a network serving arrangement in special circumstances where large numbers of incoming calls are solicited by an End User and the number of calls far exceeds the switching capacity of the terminating office, the number of lines available for terminating those calls, and/or the STP's query capacity to the LNP database. Number portability for mass calling codes will be done on an Individual Case Basis.

### **4. APPLICABILITY OF OTHER RATES, TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

4.1 Every interconnection and service provided hereunder shall be subject to all rates, terms and conditions contained in this Agreement which are legitimately related to such interconnection or service.

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## APPENDIX NUMBERING

### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Appendix sets forth the terms and conditions under which TDS TELECOM and COMCAST will coordinate with respect to NXX assignments.

### 2. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- 2.1. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to limit or otherwise adversely impact in any manner either Party's right to employ or to request and be assigned any North American Numbering Plan (NANP) number resources from the numbering administrator including, but not limited to, central office (NXX) codes pursuant to the Central Office Code Assignment Guidelines, or to establish, by tariff or otherwise, Exchanges and Rating Points corresponding to such NXX codes. Each Party is responsible for administering the NXX codes it is assigned.
- 2.2. Parties agree to adhere to all FCC orders, and NANC and INC Guidelines related to Central Office Code administration and Thousands-Block Number Pooling.
- 2.3. Each Party is responsible to program and update its own switches and network systems to recognize and route traffic to the other Party at all times.
- 2.4. Each Party is responsible to input required data into the Routing Data Base Systems (RDBS) and into the Telcordia Rating Administrative Data Systems (BRADS) or other appropriate system(s) necessary to update the Local Exchange Routing Guide (LERG).
- 2.5. Neither Party is responsible for notifying the other Parties' End Users of any changes in dialing arrangements, including those due to NPA exhaust.
- 2.6. Test Numbers
- 2.6.1. Each Party is responsible for providing to the other, valid test numbers. One number terminating to a voice announcement identifying the Company and one number terminating to a milliwatt tone providing answer supervision and allowing simultaneous connection from multiple test lines. Both numbers

should remain in service indefinitely for regressive testing purposes.

### **3. APPLICABILITY OF OTHER RATES, TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

- 3.1 Every interconnection and service provided hereunder shall be subject to all rates, terms and conditions contained in this Agreement which are legitimately related to such interconnection or service.

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## **APPENDIX PRICING**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This Appendix sets forth the pricing terms and conditions for TDS TELECOM and COMCAST.
- 1.2 If a rate element and/or charge for a product or service contained in, referenced to or otherwise provided by a Party under this Agreement (including any attached or referenced Appendices) is not listed in this Appendix PRICING, such rates and charges shall be determined in accordance with Section 252(d) of the Act; provided however, if a Party provides a product or service that is not subject to the pricing principles of the Act, such rate(s) and/or charges shall be as negotiated by the Parties hereto.
- 1.3 Except as otherwise agreed upon by the Parties in writing or by the publication of or concurrence in tariffs or price lists filed with the FCC or the Commission, a Party shall not be required to provide the other Party a product or service under this Agreement unless and until the Parties have agreed upon a rate element or charge (whether a final rate/charge or, as agreed upon by the Parties, an interim rate/charge subject to a true-up, true-down) applicable to the requested product and/or service.
- 1.4 The pricing list is in Attachment A found in this Appendix PRICING.

### **2. RECURRING CHARGES**

- 2.1 Unless otherwise identified in Attachment A of this Appendix PRICING, where rates are shown as monthly, a month will be defined as a 30-day calendar month. The minimum term for each monthly rated element will be one (1) month. After the initial month, billing will be on the basis of whole or fractional months used. The minimum term for non-monthly rated services, if applicable, will be specified in the rate table included in this Appendix.
- 2.2 Where rates are distance sensitive, the mileage will be calculated on the airline distance involved between the locations. To determine the rate to be billed, the Parties will first compute the mileage using the V&H coordinates method, as set forth in the National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc. Tariff FCC No 4. When the calculation results in a fraction of a mile, the fractional mileage will be rounded up to the next whole mile before determining the mileage and applying rates.

### **3. NON-RECURRING CHARGES**

- 3.1 Where rates consist of usage sensitive charges or per occurrence charges, such rates are classified as “non-recurring charges.”
- 3.2 A party (“Submitting Party”) shall pay a service order processing/administration charge for each service order submitted by Submitting Party to the other Party.
- 3.3 Some items, which must be individually charged (e.g., extraordinary charges, COMCAST Changes, TDS TELECOM Changes, etc.), are billed as nonrecurring charges.
- 3.4 Time and Material charges (a.k.a. additional labor charges) are defined in the Pricing Attachment A.
- 3.5 All charges assume work performed during normal business hours (8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Friday) local time. For work requested outside of normal business hours or on weekends and holidays, premium rates will apply.

#### **4. BILLING**

- 4.1 For information regarding billing, non-payment, disconnects and dispute resolution, see the General Terms and Conditions of this Agreement.

#### **5. APPLICABILITY OF OTHER RATES, TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

- 5.1 Every interconnection and service provided hereunder shall be subject to all rates, terms and conditions contained in this Agreement which are legitimately related to such interconnection or service.

**TDS TELECOM- Comcast  
Contracted Interconnection Rates**

TDS TELECOM-Comcast	
Michigan	
Monthly Recurring	Non Recurring
<b>Local Service Non-Recurring Charges (see Appendix NP)</b>	
Local Service Order (LSR)	
Per Initial Order:	\$13.00
Per Supplemental Order:	\$5.00
Directory Service Order (DSR)- per Order	\$5.00
Miscellaneous Testing and other Additional Labor- each half hour or fraction thereof	
Overtime per employee	\$31.25
Premium Time per employee	\$41.66
<b>RECIPROCAL COMPENSATION (see Appendix Recip Comp)</b>	
<b>Local Traffic Termination**</b>	Bill and Keep**
Should Local Traffic become out of balance (>55/45) a reciprocal Local Traffic Termination rate shall be developed and this Attachment shall be updated to incorporate such rate.	
<b>WHITE PAGES (see Appendix WP)</b>	
<b>Directory</b>	
Per book copy delivered to COMCAST End User	\$2.50
Per Book copy Delivered in Bulk to COMCAST *5% discount on orders over 500	\$2.50*
Per Single Sided Informational Page	\$100.00
<b>PERCENT LOCAL USAGE FACTOR (PLU) (See Appendix Recip Comp)</b>	
TDS Telecom Originated- COMCAST Terminated Traffic (PLU)	TBD
COMCAST Originated- TDS Telecom Terminated Traffic (PLU)	TBD

# **APPENDIX RECIPROCAL COMPENSATION**



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**APPENDIX RECIPROCAL COMPENSATION  
(Mutual Compensation for Transport, Termination, and Transiting)**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 This Appendix sets forth terms and conditions for Reciprocal Compensation provided by TDS TELECOM and COMCAST.

**2. TRANSMISSION AND ROUTING OF TELEPHONE EXCHANGE SERVICE TRAFFIC RELEVANT TO COMPENSATION**

2.1 The Telecommunications traffic exchanged between COMCAST and TDS TELECOM will be classified as Local Traffic, ISP-Bound Traffic, IP-Enabled Voice Traffic, intraLATA Toll Traffic, or interLATA Toll Traffic.

2.1.1 “Local Traffic,” for purposes of intercarrier compensation, is Telecommunications traffic originated by a End User Customer of one Party in an exchange on that Party’s network and terminated to a End User Customer of the other Party on that other Party’s network located within the same exchange or other non-optional extended local calling area associated with the originating customer’s exchange as defined by TDS TELECOM’s applicable local exchange tariff. Local Traffic does not include: (1) any ISP-Bound Traffic; (2) traffic that does not originate and terminate within the same TDS TELECOM local calling area as such local calling area is defined by TDS TELECOM’s applicable local exchange tariff; (3) Toll Traffic, including, but not limited to, calls originated on a 1+ presubscription basis, or on a casual dialed (10XXX/101XXXX) basis; (4) optional extended local calling area traffic; (5) special access, private line, Frame Relay, ATM, or any other traffic that is not switched by the terminating Party; or, (6) Tandem Transit Traffic.

2.1.2 “ISP-Bound Traffic” means traffic that originates from or is directed, either directly or indirectly, to or through an information service provider or Internet service provider (ISP) who is physically located in an exchange within the local calling area of the originating End User. Traffic originated from, directed to or through an ISP physically located outside the originating End User’s local calling area will be considered toll traffic and subject to access charges. Subject to Section 4 of the General Terms and Conditions, the Parties rights and obligations with respect to intercarrier compensation that may be due in connection with their exchange of telecommunications traffic delivered to Internet Service Providers (ISPs) (Internet Traffic) shall be governed by the Order on Remand and Report and Order, *In the Matter of Implementation of the Local Competition Provisions in the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Intercarrier Compensation for ISP Bound Traffic*, FCC 01-131, CC Docket Nos. 96-98 and 99-68.

- 2.1.3 For purposes of this Agreement and subject to Section 4 of the General Terms and Conditions of this Agreement, “IP-Enabled Voice Traffic” means any IP-enabled, real-time, multi-directional voice call, including, but not limited to, service that mimics traditional telephony. IP-Enabled Voice Traffic includes:
- 2.1.3.1 Voice traffic originating on Internet Protocol Connection (IPC), and which terminates on the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN); and
  - 2.1.3.2 Voice traffic originated on the PSTN, and which terminates on IPC, and
  - 2.1.3.3 Voice traffic originating on the PSTN, which is transported through an IPC, and which ultimately, terminates on the PSTN.
- 2.2 Reciprocal compensation applies for transport and termination of Local Traffic terminated by either Party’s switch. The Parties agree that the jurisdiction of a call is determined by its originating and terminating (end-to-end) points, including calls that originate to or terminate from virtual NXX (“VNXX”) numbers. When an End User originates a call which terminates to an End User physically located in the same local calling area and served on the other Party’s switch, the originating Party shall compensate the terminating Party for the transport and termination of Local Traffic in accordance with Section 4 of this Appendix.
- 2.3 Notwithstanding any other provision of the Agreement, Local Traffic does not include ISP-Bound Traffic. COMCAST and TDS TELECOM agree to terminate each other’s ISP-Bound Traffic on a Bill and Keep basis of reciprocal compensation. “Bill and Keep” shall mean that the originating Party has no obligation to pay terminating charges to the terminating Party, regardless of any charges the originating Party may assess its End Users.
- 2.4 When COMCAST establishes service in a new area, the Parties’ obligation for reciprocal compensation to each other shall commence on the date the Parties agree that the network is complete (i.e., each Party has established its originating trunks as well as any ancillary functions (e.g., 9-1-1)) and is capable of fully supporting originating and terminating End Users’ (and not a Party’s test) traffic. If there is no formal agreement as to the date of network completion, it shall be considered complete no later than the date that live traffic first passes through the network.
- 2.5 The compensation arrangements set forth in this Appendix are not applicable to (i) Exchange Access traffic, (ii) traffic originated by one Party on a number

ported to its network that terminates to another number ported on that same Party's network or (iii) any other type of traffic found to be exempt from reciprocal compensation by the FCC or the Commission. All Exchange Access traffic and intraLATA Toll Traffic shall continue to be governed by the terms and conditions of applicable federal and state access tariffs. Optional calling plans, where applicable, will be classified as toll traffic.

- 2.6 IP-Enabled Voice Traffic shall be assigned to the corresponding jurisdiction for compensation purposes, if all the signaling parameters are included with the traffic exchange. Calling Party Number ("CPN") and Jurisdictional Indicator Parameter ("JIP"), where applicable, of the originating IP-Enabled Voice Traffic shall indicate the geographical location of the actual IPC location, not the location where the call enters the PSTN. Where the CPN and the called party number are in the same exchange or other non-optional extended local calling area, the traffic shall be exchanged pursuant to Section 4 of this Appendix.
- 2.7 Private Line Services include private line-like and special access services and are not subject to local reciprocal compensation. Private Line Services are defined as dedicated Telecommunications channels provided between two points or switched among multiple points and are used for voice, data, audio or video transmission. Private Line services include, but are not limited to, Wide Area Telecommunications Services (WATS) access lines.
- 2.8 Except as provided otherwise in this Agreement, the Parties understand and agree that either Party, upon ten (10) days written notice to the other Party, may block any traffic that is improperly routed by the other Party over any trunk groups and/or which is routed outside of the mutual agreement of the Parties. Notwithstanding the forgoing, a denial by the noticed Party that traffic is being improperly routed shall invoke the dispute resolution procedures provided in Section 16 of the Agreement.
- 2.9 Neither Party shall be obligated to compensate the other Party or any Third Party for telecommunications traffic that is inappropriately routed.

### **3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES**

- 3.1 Each Party to this Appendix will be responsible for the accuracy and quality of its data as submitted to the respective Parties involved. It is the responsibility of each Party to originate and transmit complete and unaltered calling party number (CPN), as received by an originating party. Each Party is individually responsible to provide facilities within its network for routing, transporting, measuring, and billing traffic from the other Party's network and for delivering such traffic to the other Party's network as referenced in Telcordia Technologies BOC Notes on LEC Networks and to terminate the traffic it receives in that standard format to

the proper address on its network. The Parties are each solely responsible for participation in and compliance with national network plans, including the Telecommunications Service Priority (TSP) System for National Security Emergency Preparedness (NSEP).

- 3.2 Each Party is responsible to input required data into Routing Data Base Systems (RDBS) and into Telecordia Technologies Rating Administrative Data Systems (example: BRADS) or other appropriate system(s) necessary to update the Local Exchange Routing Guide.
- 3.3 Neither Party shall use any Interconnection, function, facility, product, network element, or service provided under this Agreement or any other service related thereto or used in combination therewith in any manner that interferes with or impairs service over any facilities of either Party, its affiliated companies or other connecting telecommunications carriers, prevents any carrier from using its Telecommunication Service, impairs the quality or privacy of Telecommunications Service to other carriers or to either Party's End Users, causes hazards to either Party's personnel or the public, damage to either Party's or any connecting carrier's facilities or equipment, including any malfunction of ordering or billing systems or equipment. Upon such occurrence, either Party may discontinue or refuse service for so long as the other Party is violating this provision. Upon any such violation, either Party shall provide the other Party notice of the violation at the earliest practicable time.
- 3.4 Each Party is solely responsible for the services it provides to its End Users and to other Telecommunications Carriers.
- 3.5 Where SS7 connections exist, each Party will provide the other with the proper signaling information (e.g., originating Calling Party Number, JIP, where applicable, and destination called party number, etc.), to enable each Party to issue bills in a complete and timely fashion. All CCS signaling parameters will be provided including CPN, JIP, where applicable, Originating Line Information Parameter (OLIP) on calls to 8XX telephone numbers, calling party category, Charge Number, etc. All privacy indicators will be honored.

#### **4. LOCAL TRAFFIC COMPENSATION**

- 4.1 The rates, terms, conditions contained herein apply only to the transport and termination of Local Traffic on the Parties' networks. All applicable rate elements can be found in Appendix PRICING.
- 4.2 Based on the assumption that the Local Traffic exchanged by the Parties will be roughly balanced (i.e., neither Party is terminating more than fifty-five percent (55%) of the Parties' total terminated minutes for Local Traffic), the Parties shall initially terminate each other's Local Traffic on a Bill and Keep basis.

4.3 Either Party may request that a traffic study be performed no more frequently than once a quarter. Should such traffic study indicate, in the aggregate, that the traffic is no longer in balance, based on traffic exceeding the out-of-balance percentage for three (3) consecutive months, either Party may notify the other of their intent to bill for Local Traffic termination. At such time, the Parties shall mutually agree upon and amend Appendix PRICING to incorporate rates for transport and termination of Local Traffic which shall be utilized for the duration of the Term of this Agreement unless otherwise agreed by the Parties. A minimum of ninety (90) days written notice is required prior to the first billing of mutual compensation.

4.4 End Office Termination Rate

4.4.1 If the Parties invoke billing for Local Traffic termination pursuant to Section 4.3 of this Appendix, the End Office Termination rate applies to Local Traffic that is delivered to the Parties for termination at an End Office Switch. This includes direct-routed Local Traffic that terminates to offices that have combined Tandem Office Switch and End Office Switch functions.

**5. BILLING FOR MUTUAL COMPENSATION**

5.1 Direct Interconnection

5.1.1 Where the Parties utilize Direct Interconnection for the exchange of traffic between their respective networks, each Party will calculate terminating interconnection minutes of use based on standard Automatic Message Accounting (AMA) recordings made within each Party's network. These recordings are the basis for each Party to generate bills to the other Party. For purposes of reciprocal compensation only, measurement of minutes of use over Local Interconnection Trunk Groups shall be in actual conversation seconds. The total conversation seconds over each individual Local Interconnection Trunk Group will be totaled for the entire monthly bill and then rounded to the next whole minute.

5.1.2 Where SS7 connections exist between TDS TELECOM and COMCAST, if either Party fails to provide CPN (valid originating information) or JIP, where applicable, on at least ninety-five percent (95%) of total traffic, then traffic sent to the other Party without CPN or JIP (valid originating information) will be handled in the following manner.

5.1.2.1 The remaining five percent (5%) of unidentified traffic will be treated as having the same jurisdictional ratio as the ninety-five (95%) of identified traffic.

5.1.2.2 If the unidentified traffic exceeds five percent (5%) of the total traffic, fifty percent (50%) of the unidentified traffic shall be billed at a rate equal to interstate access charges and fifty percent (50%) shall be billed at a rate equal to intrastate access charges.

5.1.2.3 The Parties will coordinate and exchange data as necessary to determine the cause of the CPN or JIP failure and to assist its correction.

## 5.2 Indirect Interconnection

5.2.1 For any traffic exchanged between the Parties via third party tandems, each Party shall utilize records provided by the tandem operator to invoice for traffic terminating on its network. The Parties agree to accept the billing records from the tandem operator as representative of the traffic exchanged between the Parties.

5.2.2 To calculate intrastate toll access charges, each Party shall provide to the other, within twenty (20) calendar days after the end of each quarter (commencing with the first full quarter after the effective date of this Agreement), a PLU (Percent Local Usage) factor. Each company should calculate the PLU factor on a LATA basis using their originating IntraLATA minutes of use. The Parties shall provide a separate PLU for each TDS TELECOM operating company covered under this Agreement. The percentage of originating Local Traffic plus ISP-Bound Traffic to total intrastate (Local Traffic, ISP-Bound Traffic, and intraLATA toll) originating traffic would represent the PLU factor.

5.3 Audits of usage associated with Reciprocal Compensation shall be performed as specified in § 38 of the General Terms and Conditions of this Agreement.

5.4 The Parties shall be governed by applicable state and federal rules, practices, and procedures regarding the provision and recording of billing records. Neither Party shall bill for records older than one hundred eighty (180) days.

## 6. **APPLICABILITY OF OTHER RATES TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

6.1 Every interconnection and service provided hereunder shall be subject to all rates, terms and conditions contained in this Agreement which are legitimately related to such interconnection or service.

## **APPENDIX WP**



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**APPENDIX WP  
(WHITE PAGES DIRECTORY)**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This Appendix sets forth terms and conditions that shall apply to COMCAST for inclusion of End User Listings in TDS TELECOM White Page Telephone Directories and Directory Assistance databases provided by TDS TELECOM.
- 1.2 The prices at which TDS TELECOM agrees to provide COMCAST with White Page and Directory Assistance database services are contained in the applicable Appendix PRICING.

**2. SERVICE PROVIDED**

- 2.1 TDS TELECOM publishes White Pages (WP) directories for geographic areas in which COMCAST also provides local exchange telephone service, and COMCAST wishes to include alphabetical listings information for its End Users in the appropriate TDS TELECOM WP directories and/or Directory Assistance databases.
- 2.2 COMCAST also desires distribution to its End Users of the WP directories that include listings of COMCAST's End Users.
- 2.3 TDS TELECOM shall provide COMCAST and its End Users access to WP and/or directory listings under the following terms:
  - 2.3.1 COMCAST shall furnish to TDS TELECOM via a Local Service Request (LSR) or Directory Service Request (DSR) all new, changed and deleted subscriber listing information pertaining to COMCAST End Users located within the local directory scope, along with such additional information as TDS TELECOM may require to prepare and print the alphabetical listings of said directory. COMCAST may provide COMCAST's subscriber listing information to TDS TELECOM for inclusion in the WP directory up to ten (10) days prior to the business office close date. Either the LSR or DSR service order charges as set forth in Appendix PRICING shall apply. For purposes of clarification, if COMCAST provides the subscriber list information on the LSR, only the LSR order charge shall apply. In such case, there is no additional DSR order charge. TDS TELECOM will provide the business office close date(s) to COMCAST for the WP directory immediately following the execution of this Agreement by both Parties and, following that, once annually at least one-hundred twenty (120) days in advance of future business office close dates.

- 2.3.2 So long as COMCAST provides listing information to TDS TELECOM as set forth above, TDS TELECOM will include in appropriate WP directories the primary alphabetical listings of all COMCAST End Users located within the local directory scope. TDS TELECOM will also include, where applicable for COMCAST business End Users, one alphabetical, non-bold yellow page listing on the same basis as provided for TDS TELECOM business End Users.
- 2.3.3 COMCAST's End Users' primary listing shall be included in the appropriate TDS TELECOM WP directory at no additional charge to COMCAST or COMCAST's End Users. Additional, designer and foreign listings will be offered by TDS TELECOM upon request at tariffed rates as set forth in applicable TDS TELECOM General Subscriber Services Tariffs.
- 2.3.4 COMCAST's End User listings will be alphabetically interfiled with TDS TELECOM's subscriber listings of the WP directory. After the business office close date for a particular directory, TDS TELECOM shall provide COMCAST the directory publisher's interfiled proof of the subscriber listings as such listings are to appear in the directory. The verification list shall also include Directory Delivery Address information for each COMCAST End User. COMCAST shall review this verification list upon receipt and shall submit to TDS TELECOM any necessary additions, deletions or modifications within five (5) Business Days.
- 2.3.5 Each COMCAST subscriber will receive one copy per primary End User listing of TDS TELECOM's WP directory in the same manner and at the same time that they are delivered to TDS TELECOM's subscribers during the annual delivery of newly published directories. TDS TELECOM has no obligation to provide any additional WP directories above the directories provided to COMCAST or COMCAST customers after each annual distribution of newly published WP. For WP directories and/or WP directories that are co-bound with Yellow Pages, COMCAST may provide to TDS TELECOM written specifications of the total number of directories that it will require, at least sixty (60) days prior to the business office directory close date. In that event, TDS TELECOM will deliver the remaining directories included in the COMCAST's order in bulk to an address specified by COMCAST.
- 2.3.6 TDS TELECOM will provide COMCAST with 1/8<sup>th</sup> page in each directory (where COMCAST has or plans to have local telephone exchange customers) for COMCAST to include COMCAST specific-information (i.e., business office, residence office, repair bureau, etc.) in the WP directory on an "index-type" informational page. No advertising will be permitted on such informational page. This page will also include specific information pertaining to other CLECs. At its option,

COMCAST shall provide TDS TELECOM with its logo and information in the form of a camera-ready copy, sized at 1/8<sup>th</sup> of a page. The content of COMCAST's camera-ready copy shall be subject to TDS TELECOM's approval, which shall not unreasonably be withheld.

- 2.3.7 At its request, COMCAST may purchase "Informational Page(s)" in the informational section of the WP directory covering a geographic area where COMCAST provides local telecommunications exchange service. Such page(s) shall be no different in style, size, color and format than TDS TELECOM's "Informational Pages". Sixty (60) calendar days prior to the business office directory close date, COMCAST shall provide to TDS TELECOM the "Informational Page" in the form of camera-ready copy.
- 2.3.8 At no additional charge to COMCAST or COMCAST's End Users, TDS TELECOM will include and maintain COMCAST End User listings in TDS TELECOM's Directory Assistance databases. To the extent that TDS TELECOM's directory assistance listings are maintained in a database administered by a third party, COMCAST shall cooperate with TDS TELECOM as needed to have COMCAST listings loaded into such database. COMCAST shall provide such Directory Assistance listings to TDS TELECOM at no charge.
- 2.3.9 COMCAST shall provide to TDS TELECOM, pursuant to the LSR or DSR provisioning process as described in Section 2.3.1 above, the names, addresses and telephone numbers of all End Users who wish to be listed in the directory assistance database but omitted from publication in WP directories (Non-published). Non-Published listings will be subject to the rates as set forth in TDS TELECOM's applicable General Subscriber Services Tariff. Comcast is responsible to properly reflect in the LSRs or DSRs where the name, address and telephone number(s) of its End User is omitted from the directory assistance database or the WP directories. COMCAST need not provide names, address and telephone numbers of End Users who wish to be omitted from both the directory assistance database and WP directories.

### **3. USE OF SUBSCRIBER LISTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 COMCAST authorizes TDS TELECOM to include and use the subscriber listing information provided to TDS TELECOM pursuant to this Appendix in TDS TELECOM's appropriate printed WP directory and Directory Assistance database(s). Included in this authorization is the exchange of extended area service listings TDS TELECOM provides for Independent Company directory publications and release of COMCAST listings to requesting competing carriers solely as required by Section 251(b)(3) and any applicable state regulations and orders. Also included in this authorization is TDS TELECOM's use of

COMCAST's subscriber listing information in TDS TELECOM's current and future directory.

- 3.2 TDS TELECOM will take appropriate measures to guard against any unauthorized use of COMCAST's directory listing information using the same measures and at the same level of confidentiality that TDS TELECOM affords its own directory listing information.

#### **4. PRICING**

- 4.1 The rates for the services described herein are identified in Appendix PRICING. If COMCAST provides its subscriber listing information to TDS TELECOM's listings database, TDS TELECOM will assess a per book copy, per subscriber line, charge at the time newly published directories are distributed to COMCAST End Users listed in the directory, plus an annual, per book copy charge at the time directories are delivered in bulk to COMCAST. Included in this rate, COMCAST will receive for its End User, one primary listing in TDS TELECOM's WP directory; and, at the time of annual distribution of newly published directories, one copy of the directory provided to either COMCAST's End Users, or in bulk to the COMCAST location. TDS TELECOM has no obligation to warehouse WP directories for COMCAST or provide WP directories to COMCAST's End Users subsequent to the annual distribution of newly published directories.
- 4.2 TDS TELECOM has no obligation to provide any additional WP directories above the number of directories distributed to the COMCAST End Users or forecast by COMCAST per Section 2.3.5 above. While TDS TELECOM has no obligation to provide WP directories to COMCAST or COMCAST's End Users after the annual distribution of newly published directories, TDS TELECOM will in good faith attempt to accommodate COMCAST requests for "Subsequent" directory orders (orders placed after the initial order/forecast is provided - see Section 2.3.5 above). Orders for directories above the forecast number(s) will be filled subject to availability. In such event, TDS TELECOM will provide the directories in bulk to COMCAST and will assess a per book charge.

#### **5. LIABILITY & INDEMNIFICATION**

- 5.1 COMCAST hereby releases TDS TELECOM from any and all liability for damages due to errors or omissions in COMCAST's subscriber listing information as provided to TDS TELECOM under this Appendix, and/or COMCAST's subscriber listing information as it appears in the WP directory, including, but not limited to, special, indirect, consequential, punitive or incidental damages. The above notwithstanding, TDS TELECOM shall indemnify COMCAST for claims by third parties for errors in directory listings to the extent, and only to the extent, such claims are caused by the intentionally wrongful acts or gross negligence of TDS TELECOM or its employees.

- 5.2 This Appendix shall not establish, be interpreted as establishing, or be used by either Party to establish or to represent their relationship as any form of agency, partnership or joint venture. Neither Party shall have any authority to bind the other nor to act as an agent for the other unless written authority, separate from this Appendix, is provided. Nothing in the Appendix shall be construed as providing for the sharing of profits or losses arising out of the efforts of either or both of the Parties. Nothing herein shall be construed as making either Party responsible or liable for the obligations and undertakings of the other Party.

## **6. BREACH OF CONTRACT**

- 6.1 If either Party is found to have materially breached this Appendix and the breaching Party fails to cure the breach within thirty (30) calendar days after receipt of notice from the other Party, the non-breaching Party may terminate the Appendix by providing written notice to the breaching Party, whereupon this Appendix shall be null and void with respect to any issue of TDS TELECOM's WP directory published sixty (60) or more calendar days after the date of receipt of such written notice.

## **7. TERM**

- 7.1 The term of this Appendix shall be coterminous with the term of the Interconnection Agreement. Upon termination, where no successor interconnection agreement is being negotiated, arbitrated or adopted, TDS TELECOM shall cease using, for any purpose whatsoever, the subscriber listing information provided hereunder by COMCAST, and shall promptly return such subscriber listing information to the COMCAST.
- 7.2 Upon termination of the Interconnection Agreement, where no successor interconnection agreement is being negotiated, arbitrated or adopted, this Appendix will be null and void with respect to any issue of directories published thereafter, except that the indemnification provided by Section 6 herein shall continue with respect to any directory published within one hundred and twenty (120) calendar days of termination.

## **8. APPLICABILITY OF OTHER RATES, TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

- 8.1 Every interconnection and service provided hereunder shall be subject to all rates, terms and conditions contained in this Agreement which are legitimately related to such interconnection or service.

## **APPENDIX 911**

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**APPENDIX E911****1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This Appendix sets forth terms and conditions that shall apply for 911 (E911) arrangements.

**2. 911 SERVICE**

- 2.1 911 Arrangements are arrangements for routing 911 calls from a Party's Customers to the appropriate Public Safety Answering Point ("PSAP"), passing certain customer information for display at the PSAP answering station based on the class of 911 service (Basic 911 or E911) deployed in the area.
- 2.2 As of the Effective Date of this Agreement, TDS Telecom is not the 911 service provider serving the PSAP and each party is solely responsible for making their own 911 Arrangements to connect to the current 911 service provider and for making updates on a timely basis to the ALI database for their respective Customers. In the event that TDS Telecom becomes the 911 service provider for any exchange where Comcast is providing service under this Agreement, TDS Telecom will provide Comcast advance notice of no less than one hundred eighty (180) days and the Parties agree to negotiate terms to amend this Agreement for the provision of 911 Arrangements by TDS Telecom to Comcast.

**STATE OF MICHIGAN**

**BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

\* \* \* \* \*

In the matter of the Petition of )  
Comcast Phone of Michigan, LLC )  
for Arbitration pursuant to Section 252(b) )  
of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 )  
to establish an Interconnection Agreement )  
with TDS Telecom/Communications Corp. )  
of MI (CCM). )

Case No. U-15730

**PETITION FOR ARBITRATION  
OF COMCAST PHONE OF MICHIGAN, LLC**

**EXHIBIT D**

*Excerpt from an Interconnection Agreement  
between Comcast and TDS affiliates in Vermont*

**INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT- UNDER SECTIONS 251  
AND 252 OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996**

Between

**TDS TELECOM**

and

**COMCAST Phone of Vermont, LLC  
d/b/a Comcast Digital Phone**

**INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT**

This Interconnection Agreement - under Sections 251 and 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("Agreement") is dated as of May 1, 2008 by and between TDS Telecommunications Corporation, a Delaware corporation, as agent for the Vermont operating companies listed in Appendix A, ("TDS TELECOM") and, Comcast Phone of Vermont, LLC, d/b/a Comcast Digital Phone, ("COMCAST"), a Delaware Limited Liability Company, with its principal place of business at 1500 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102.

**WHEREAS**, the Parties desire to interconnect their networks at mutually agreed upon points of interconnection to provide, directly or indirectly, Telephone Exchange Services and Exchange Access to residential and/or business End Users in the state of Vermont; and

**WHEREAS**, the Parties are entering into this Agreement to set forth the respective obligations of the Parties and the terms and conditions under which the Parties will interconnect their networks and facilities and provide to each other services as required by Sections 251(a) and (b) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 as specifically set forth herein.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of the premises and the mutual covenants of this Agreement COMCAST and TDS TELECOM hereby agree as follows:

This Agreement is composed of General Terms and Conditions, which are set forth below, together with certain Appendices, Schedules, Exhibits and Addenda which immediately follow this Agreement, all of which are hereby incorporated in this Agreement by this reference and constitute a part of this Agreement.

**GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS****1. INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE OF AGREEMENT**

1.1 Pursuant to Sections 251(a) and (b) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("Act"), this Agreement sets forth the terms and conditions for the interconnection of COMCAST's network to TDS TELECOM's network, compensation for the transport and termination of telecommunications traffic between TDS TELECOM and COMCAST, and the provision of ancillary functions by TDS TELECOM and COMCAST.

1.2 The Parties acknowledge and agree that by entering into and performing in accordance with this Agreement, the Parties have not waived any applicable

**53. DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTIES**

53.1 EXCEPT AS EXPRESSLY PROVIDED UNDER THIS AGREEMENT, NO PARTY MAKES OR RECEIVES ANY WARRANTY, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, WITH RESPECT TO THE INTERCONNECTION, FUNCTIONS, FACILITIES, PRODUCTS AND SERVICES IT PROVIDES UNDER OR IS CONTEMPLATED TO PROVIDE UNDER THIS AGREEMENT AND EACH PARTY DISCLAIMS THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND/OR OF FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. ADDITIONALLY, NO PARTY TO THIS AGREEMENT ASSUMES RESPONSIBILITY WITH REGARD TO THE CORRECTNESS OF DATA OR INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY ANY OTHER PARTY TO THIS AGREEMENT WHEN SUCH DATA OR INFORMATION IS ACCESSED AND USED BY A THIRD PARTY.

**Comcast Phone of Vermont, LLC**  
**d/b/a Comcast Digital Phone**

Signature

Date

Susan Jin-Davis

Printed Name

Vice President, Corp. Development

Position/Title

**TDS Telecommunications Corporation,**  
agent

Signature

Date

Katherine S. Barnekow

Printed Name

Director- Carrier Relations

Position/Title

Signature Page to the Interconnection Agreement TDS Telecommunications Corporation (Vermont Cos.) and Comcast Phone of Vermont, LLC d/b/a Comcast Digital Phone (COMCAST) dated the 1st day of April, 2008.

STATE OF MICHIGAN

BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

\* \* \* \* \*

In the matter of the Petition of )  
Comcast Phone of Michigan, LLC )  
for Arbitration pursuant to Section 252(b) )  
of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 )  
to establish an Interconnection Agreement )  
with TDS Telecom/Communications Corp. )  
of MI (CCM). )

Case No. U-15730

PETITION FOR ARBITRATION  
OF COMCAST PHONE OF MICHIGAN, LLC

EXHIBIT E

*Comcast's Local Interconnection Service  
Telecommunications Service Offering Tariff  
on file with the Commission*

**7. LOCAL INTERCONNECTION SERVICE**

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## 7. LOCAL INTERCONNECTION SERVICE

### 7.1. LOCAL INTERCONNECTION SERVICE

#### 7.1.1. GENERAL

- A. Subject to the terms set forth in Section 7.1.4, following, this Tariff provides an overview of Local Interconnection Service (“LIS”) and the terms and conditions under which LIS is offered.
- B. Facilities and equipment of a type and/or quantity necessary to provide LIS are not available on a ubiquitous basis in the Company’s service area(s). To limit the real potential for stranded investment, recurring and nonrecurring costs will be developed on a case-by-case basis in response to a bona fide request from a Customer or prospective Customer to develop a competitive bid for service. Charges will be offered to the Customer in writing and on a nondiscriminatory basis.
- C. Upon receipt of a bona fide request for LIS from a Customer, the Company will negotiate in good faith with the Customer to enter into an agreement that effectuates the terms and conditions set forth in this Tariff.
- D. LIS is available to Customers for resale to retail Subscribers.
- E. The Customer must comply with all applicable FCC regulations governing the provision of interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol (“VoIP”) service. In addition, it is the Customer’s sole responsibility to comply with all applicable laws and regulatory requirements.
- F. LIS does not support “nomadic” VoIP services. As provided elsewhere in this Tariff, the Customer must provide its services to Subscribers at a fixed service address.
- G. The terms and conditions set forth in this Section are in addition to the terms and conditions found in the General Regulations section of this Tariff.



## 7. LOCAL INTERCONNECTION SERVICE

### 7.1. LOCAL INTERCONNECTION SERVICE (CONT'D)

#### 7.1.2. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Company" means an affiliate of Comcast that is a Competitive Local Exchange Carrier (CLEC) certificated by the applicable state regulatory commission to offer telecommunications services in the state in which the Customer requests LIS.
- B. "Customer" means the provider of retail interconnected VoIP service, as defined in 47 C.F.R. § 9.3, that purchases LIS from the Company in order to serve its own customers, which are the Subscribers to the interconnected VoIP service provided by the Customer.
- C. "Subscriber" means the interconnected VoIP end-user customer of the Customer.

#### 7.1.3. DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE

- A. LIS provides a connection between a Customer's facilities and the public switched telephone network, and related services described herein. In order to make use of the Company's LIS, the Customer's facilities must consist of an IP-based, broadband network that uses a Cable Modem Termination System (CMTS) employing the Network-based Call Signaling specified by Cable Television Laboratories, Inc. (CableLabs®). LIS does not support Customers providing services to Subscribers that operate using a different format.
- B. The IP-based, broadband connecting facility between Customer and Subscribers, the CMTS, the soft switch, the connecting facilities to the Company's media gateway, and all customer premises equipment must be provided by the Customer or its Subscribers and is not included as part of LIS. The Company will only accept and deliver traffic in time division multiplex ("TDM") protocol.
- C. LIS is available to Customers where suitable facilities exist, are technologically available, and are operationally and economically feasible.
- D. LIS provides standard 10-digit telephone numbers with associated two-way statewide local exchange telecommunications service to permit Customers to provide interconnected VoIP service to the Customer's Subscribers. Where available in a service territory, LIS may also include support for the provision of 911 capability, telecommunications relay services (711), Toll, and Directory Listings. Operator Services and Directory Assistance are not included in LIS. LIS does not support calling to 976 or similar exchanges or to calls to the 900 Service access code.

## 7. LOCAL INTERCONNECTION SERVICE

### 7.1. LOCAL INTERCONNECTION SERVICE (CONT'D)

#### 7.1.4. USE OF SERVICE

- A. LIS is provided in accordance with the regulations and rates in this Tariff, applicable law, and the Company's agreements with other providers, including but not limited to: applicable state or federal law, applicable state or federal regulations, orders issued by regulatory agencies and/or courts of competent jurisdiction, Incumbent Local Exchange Company ("ILEC") interconnection agreements, or similar requirements (collectively "Company Obligations"). To the extent that changes in Company Obligations affect the terms and conditions under which the Company may provide LIS, including being unable to provide LIS at all, the liability of the Company for any such changes shall be subject to the limitation of liability provisions set forth in Sections 7.1.8 and 7.1.9 of this Tariff.
1. The Customer shall, at its sole cost, be responsible for providing all equipment software, facilities and IP connectivity (including connectivity to Subscribers) necessary for the Customer to provide interconnected VoIP service to its Subscribers.
    - a. The Customer must provide the proper signaling information (e.g., originating Calling Party Number (CPN) (a/k/a Automatic Number Identification (ANI), destination called party number, Originating Line Information Parameter ("OLIP") on calls to 8XX telephone numbers, calling party category, charge number, Automatic Location Identification (ALI), etc.) for all calls. To the extent that failure to provide ANI or other signaling information leads to increased charges from third parties to the Company as a result of the Company Obligations, the Company may recover all such increased charges, as well as the Company's reasonable costs associated with defending against and/or administering such increased charges, from the Customer. If for two months in any twelve month period the Customer sends calls to the Company lacking required signaling information in excess of 5% of all calls during such months, the Company may terminate LIS to the Customer immediately with no liability from the Company to the Customer for such termination.
    - b. The Customer shall input, validate and maintain accurate Subscriber information so that the Company can provide such Customer-provided information to applicable national databases, including but not limited to, Automatic Local Identification (ALI) Database, Directory Listing information, Line Information Database (LIDB) and Caller ID with NAME Database (CNAM). The Customer shall deliver to the Company valid postal addresses that can be confirmed against the Master Street Address Guide ("MSAG").

## 7. LOCAL INTERCONNECTION SERVICE

### 7.1. LOCAL INTERCONNECTION SERVICE (CONT'D)

#### 7.1.4. USE OF SERVICE (CONT'D)

##### A.1.(Cont'd)

- c. The Customer shall not: (1) re-classify or re-originate traffic or take any other action to make traffic appear as if it: (i) is anything other than the type of traffic delivered to such party (including but not limited to making TDM originated traffic appear to be IP originated) or (ii) originated from a place or on a type of equipment different from the place or type of equipment from where it, in fact, originated; or (2) modify, alter or delete in any manner calling party number information, originating point codes or any other signaling information, or call detail in connection with the transport and termination of traffic to the called party.
- d. Based on the Company Obligations, LIS service is limited to Subscribers physically located in areas served by the Company within the states/locations identified in Section 7.1.11. The Customer shall in all cases assign telephone numbers to Subscribers based on the Subscribers' locations and fully in accordance with NANPA guidelines associating NPA-NXX codes with particular exchange areas. LIS under this Tariff is not to be used with any "virtual numbering" or foreign-exchange-like arrangements. Any such arrangements must be separately identified and negotiated between the Company and the Customer and will be established, if at all, only on an "individual case basis."
- e. The Company and the Customer will conduct interoperability testing prior to the Customer's implementing any software or call flow upgrade, enhancement or modification thereto. All special configurations are subject to the Company's approval. The Company may terminate (without liability) LIS where proper interoperability testing has not been completed.

## 7. LOCAL INTERCONNECTION SERVICE

### 7.1. LOCAL INTERCONNECTION SERVICE (CONT'D)

#### 7.1.5. TERM AND TERMINATION

- A. LIS is available for an initial term ("Term") of three years following execution of a contract or service order between the Company and the Customer effectuating the provisions of this Tariff, unless earlier terminated as provided herein. The Customer will provide notice of its intent to renew at least 90 days prior to expiration of the Term.
- B. In the event of early termination of service by the Customer before the expiration of the Term, the Company may assess a termination liability equal to 100% of all monthly recurring rates multiplied by the number of months left in the contract. Such early termination charges do not constitute a penalty under this Tariff but are assessed in order for the Company to fully recover costs associated with providing LIS.
- C. Discontinuance of Service for Cause
  - 1. Upon nonpayment of any amounts owing to the Company, the Company may, by giving 24 hours prior written notice to the Customer, discontinue or suspend service without incurring any liability.
  - 2. Upon Customer violation of any of the other material terms or conditions for furnishing service the Company may, by giving 24 hours prior notice in writing to the Customer, discontinue or suspend service without incurring any liability if such violation continues during that period.
  - 3. Upon condemnation of any material portion of the facilities used by the Company to provide service to a Customer or if a casualty renders all or any material portion of such facilities inoperable beyond feasible repair, the Company, by notice to the Customer, may discontinue or suspend service without incurring any liability.
  - 4. Upon the Customer's insolvency, assignment for the benefit of creditors, filing for bankruptcy or reorganization, or failing to discharge an involuntary petition within the time permitted by law, the Company may immediately discontinue or suspend service without incurring any liability.

**7. LOCAL INTERCONNECTION SERVICE**

**7.1. LOCAL INTERCONNECTION SERVICE (CONT'D)**

**7.1.5. TERM AND TERMINATION (CONT'D)**

**C. Discontinuance of Service for Cause (Cont'd)**

5. Upon any governmental prohibition or required alteration of the services to be provided or any violation of an applicable law or regulation, the Company may immediately discontinue service without incurring any liability.
6. In the event of fraudulent use of the Company's network, the Company may without notice immediately suspend or discontinue service. The Customer will be liable for all related costs. The Customer will also be responsible for payment of any reconnection charges.
7. Upon the Company's discontinuance of service to the Customer under this Section, the Company, in addition to all other remedies that may be available to the Company at law or in equity or under any other provision of this Tariff, may declare all future monthly and other charges which would have been payable by the customer during the remainder of the term for which such services would have otherwise been provided to the customer to be immediately due and payable.
8. In the event a Customer's LIS is discontinued for any reason, it is the Customer's responsibility to ensure its affected Subscribers have access to an alternative 911 service.

**7.1.6. SUBSCRIBER ORDERS AND USAGE FORECASTS**

- A. The Customer must submit customer order(s) to activate a market(s) and request telephone numbers (each a "market order") in a format that will be provided by the Company and that may be updated from time to time. After doing so, the Customer may submit customer orders to activate Subscribers for use of LIS within a market ("subscriber order").
- B. The Customer will provide the Company with a non-binding forecast setting forth the Customer's estimated usage by market or local calling area and anticipated Local Number Portability ("LNP") requests for the next 12 month period, which shall be updated on a calendar quarter basis thereafter.
- C. The Customer may use other common carriers in addition to or in lieu of the Company.

**7. LOCAL INTERCONNECTION SERVICE**

**7.1. LOCAL INTERCONNECTION SERVICE (CONT'D)**

**7.1.7. LOCAL NUMBER PORTABILITY**

- A. Porting In. As between the Company and the Customer, the Customer may act as the Company's agent in obtaining Subscriber requests to port a telephone number from a third party telecommunications provider to the Company so that the Customer may provide interconnected VoIP service to the Subscriber using that ported number. The Customer represents and warrants that it has all necessary rights and authority necessary for any Port-In it requests, will provide copies of letters of authority authorizing the same (or access to recordings of third-party verification of customer ports) upon request and shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Company and its affiliates from any third party claim related to or arising out of any Port-In (or request for Port-In). The Customer shall not request a Port-In in any situation that does not meet the definition of "number portability" contained at 47 C.F.R. § 52.21(m).
- B. Porting Out. The Company shall honor requests received from third-party providers of telephone exchange service to port to such a provider a telephone number currently assigned to a Subscriber ("Port-Out"). Prior notice of Port-Outs will not be provided. The Company will support such third-party Port-Out requests in accordance with the Company's standard operating procedures.

**7.1.8. EMERGENCY 911 SERVICE**

- A. Subject to technical limitations which may vary from market location to market location, the Company may offer 911 Services as part of LIS, subject to the limitations stated herein.
- B. The Customer shall ensure that a Subscriber does not use LIS from a location different from the Subscriber's address and shall further ensure that telephone numbers are assigned to Subscribers whose primary address is within the rate center (as defined by the incumbent local exchange carrier) associated with such telephone number.

## 7. LOCAL INTERCONNECTION SERVICE

### 7.1. LOCAL INTERCONNECTION SERVICE (CONT'D)

#### 7.1.8. EMERGENCY 911 SERVICE (CONT'D)

- C. 911 Services may not function, or may not function properly: (i) if a telephone number is assigned to a Subscriber located outside of the ILEC rate center associated with such telephone number; (ii) if a Subscriber attempts a 911 call from a location different from the Subscriber's address provided to the Company by the Customer; (iii) during a disruption of power at the Subscriber location; (iv) during a loss of connectivity to the Subscriber location due to network outages or other degradations of service, whether in the Company's network or an interconnecting network; (v) during any period where service to a Subscriber has been cancelled or suspended for any reason (including suspensions or cancellations for failure to pay or other default); (vi) if incorrect or invalid Subscriber address information is provided, or if such information is not updated in the event of a change in primary location; or (vii) if equipment provided to or used by the Subscriber fails to function or is improperly installed or configured.
- D. 911 Services may not function correctly until correct and valid address information has been input into the appropriate database(s), which may occur after initial service activation.
- E. The Customer's agreements with Subscribers shall contain the following: (i) an explanation of the limitations on the functionality of 911 Services, including those set forth in Section 7.1.8.C, which the Company may supplement from time to time; and (ii) a release in favor of the Customer and the Company relating to claims arising out of the failure of 911 Services to function properly for the reasons set forth in this Section.
- F. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY. IN ADDITION TO THE GENERAL LIMITATION OF LIABILITY SET FORTH IN SECTION 7.1.9 OF THIS TARIFF, NEITHER THE COMPANY, ITS AFFILIATES, SUBSIDIARIES, OFFICERS OR EMPLOYEES SHALL BE LIABLE TO CUSTOMER, SUBSCRIBER OR ANY THIRD PARTY FOR ANY DIRECT, SPECIAL, INCIDENTAL, INDIRECT, PUNITIVE OR CONSEQUENTIAL COSTS, DAMAGES OR LIABILITIES, INCLUDING DAMAGE TO GOOD WILL, ECONOMIC LOSS, LOST PROFITS, OR OTHERWISE, REGARDLESS OF THE FORM OF ACTION, WHETHER IN CONTRACT OR TORT (INCLUDING STRICT LIABILITY), WHETHER FORESEEN OR FORESEEABLE, ARISING FROM THE COMPANY'S PROVISION OR FAILURE TO PROVIDE 911 SERVICES.



## 7. LOCAL INTERCONNECTION SERVICE

### 7.1. LOCAL INTERCONNECTION SERVICE (CONT'D)

#### 7.1.9. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

- A. Except as otherwise stated in this section, the liability of the Company for damages arising out of either: (1) the furnishing of its services, including but not limited to mistakes, omissions, interruptions, delays, or errors, or other defects, or use of these services or (2) the failure to furnish its service, whether caused by acts or omissions, shall be limited to the extension of allowances to the Customer for the amount of the cost of service during the outage.
- B. Except for the extension of allowances to the Customer for interruptions in service as set forth in Section 7.1.9.A, the Company shall not be liable to a Customer or Subscriber or any third party for any direct, indirect, special, incidental, reliance, consequential, exemplary or punitive damages, including, but not limited to, loss of revenue or profits, for any reason whatsoever, including, but not limited to, any act or omission, failure to perform, delay, interruption, failure to provide any service or any failure in or breakdown of facilities associated with the service, except for willful neglect or willful misconduct.
- C. The liability of the Company for errors in billing that result in overpayment by the Customer shall be limited to a credit equal to the dollar amount erroneously billed or, in the event that payment has been made and service has been discontinued, to a refund of the amount erroneously billed.
- D. The Company shall not be liable for any claims for loss or damages involving:
  - 1. Any act or omission of: (a) the Customer, (b) any other entity furnishing service, equipment or facilities for use in conjunction with services or facilities provided by the Company; or (c) common carriers or warehousemen.
  - 2. Any delay or failure of performance or equipment due to causes beyond the Company's control, including but not limited to, acts of God, fires, floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, or other catastrophes; national emergencies, insurrections, riots, wars or other civil commotions; strikes, lockouts, fiber cuts, criminal actions taken against the Company; unavailability, failure or malfunction of equipment or facilities provided by the Customer or third parties; and any law, order, regulation or other action of any governing authority or agency thereof;



**7. LOCAL INTERCONNECTION SERVICE**

**7.1. LOCAL INTERCONNECTION SERVICE (CONT'D)**

**7.1.9. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY (CONT'D)**

**D. (Cont'd)**

3. Any unlawful or unauthorized use of the Company's facilities and services;
4. Libel, slander, invasion of privacy or infringement of patents, trade secrets, or copyrights arising from or in connection with the transmission of communications by means of Company-provided facilities or services; or by means of the combination of Company-provided facilities or services with Customer-provided facilities or services;
5. Breach in the privacy or security of communications transmitted over the Company's facilities;
6. Changes in any of the facilities, operations or procedures of the Company that render any equipment, facilities or services provided by the Customer obsolete, or require modification or alteration of such equipment, facilities or services, or otherwise affect their use or performance, except where reasonable notice is required by the Company and is not provided to the Customer, in which event the Company's liability is limited as set forth in this section;
7. Defacement of or damage to Customer premises resulting from the furnishing of services or equipment on such premises or the installation or removal thereof;
8. Injury to property or injury or death to persons, including claims for payments made under Workers' Compensation law or under any plan for employee disability or death benefits, arising out of, or caused by, any act or omission of the Customer, or the construction, installation, maintenance, presence, use or removal of the Customer's facilities or equipment connected, or to be connected to the Company's facilities;
9. Any non-completion of calls due to network busy conditions;
10. Any calls not actually attempted to be completed during any period that service is unavailable.

## 7. LOCAL INTERCONNECTION SERVICE

### 7.1. LOCAL INTERCONNECTION SERVICE (CONT'D)

#### 7.1.9. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY (CONT'D)

- E. The Company shall not be liable, for any claims, loss, demands, suits, expense, or other action or any liability whether suffered, made, instituted, or asserted by the Customer or by any other party, for any personal injury to any person or persons, and for any loss, damage or destruction of any property, including environmental contamination, whether owned by the Customer or by any other party, caused or claimed to have been caused directly or indirectly by the installation, operation, failure to operate, maintenance, presence, condition, location, use or removal of any Company or Customer equipment or facilities or service provided by the Company.
- F. The Company does not guarantee nor make any warranty with respect to installations provided by it for use in an explosive atmosphere. The Company shall not be liable for any claims, loss, demands, suits, or other action, or any liability whether suffered, made, instituted or asserted by the Customer or by any other party, for any personal injury to any person or persons, and for any loss, damage or destruction of any property, including environmental contamination, whether owned by the Customer or by any other party, caused or claimed to have been caused directly or indirectly by the installation, operation, failure to operate, maintenance, presence, condition, location, use or removal of any equipment or facilities or the service.
- G. The Company assumes no responsibility for the availability or performance of any cable or satellite systems or related facilities under the control of other entities, whether or not affiliated with the Company, or for other facilities provided by other entities used for service to the Customer. Such facilities are provided subject to such degree of protection or non-preemptibility as may be provided by the other entities.
- H. The Customer will indemnify and hold harmless the Company against any and all liability, claims, suits, losses, costs and legal fees caused by, arising out of, or resulting from any intentional or negligent act or omission of the Customer with respect to the services purchased under this Tariff, including the acts or omission of any subcontractor or any direct or indirect employees of a subcontractor of the Customer.

## **7. LOCAL INTERCONNECTION SERVICE**

### **7.1. LOCAL INTERCONNECTION SERVICE (CONT'D)**

#### **7.1.9. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY (CONT'D)**

- I. The Customer will indemnify and hold harmless the Company against any and all liability, claims, suits, losses, costs and legal fees with regard to infringement of patents, trade secrets or copyrights arising from or in connection with Customer-provided facilities or services.
- J. THE COMPANY MAKES NO WARRANTIES OR REPRESENTATIONS, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED EITHER IN FACT OR BY OPERATION OF LAW, STATUTORY OR OTHERWISE, INCLUDING WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR USE.

#### **7.1.10 DIRECTORY LISTINGS**

- A. The Company will assist the Customer in the provision of Primary, Non-Published and Non-Listed Directory Services (as those services are described in Section 6.1.3.D, preceding).
- B. The Company's liability, if any, for its gross negligence or willful misconduct in the provision of Directory Services is not limited by this Tariff. In the absence of gross negligence or willful misconduct with respect to any claim or suit brought by (or other legal remedies available to) the Customer for damages associated with Directory Services, the Company's liability, if any, shall not exceed the monthly charges, if any, for the impacted Directory Services for the affected period.
- C. The Company is not liable for damages arising from errors or omissions in the making up or printing of directories or in accepting listings as presented by the Customer.

#### **7.1.11. SERVICE TERRITORIES**

Service is offered subject to the availability of suitable facilities within the state. LIS provides unlimited statewide local exchange calling.

## 7. LOCAL INTERCONNECTION SERVICE

### 7.1. LOCAL INTERCONNECTION SERVICE (CONT'D)

#### 7.1.12. DESCRIPTION OF RATES AND CHARGES

- A. Facilities and equipment of a type and/or quantity necessary to provide LIS are not available on a ubiquitous basis in the Company's service area(s). To limit the real potential for stranded investment, recurring and nonrecurring charges for Customer-determined service configurations will be developed on a case-by-case basis in response to a bona fide request from a Customer or prospective Customer to develop a competitive bid for service. Charges will be offered to the Customer in writing and on a nondiscriminatory basis.
- B. Charges for service are exclusive of taxes. Except for taxes that the Company must remit directly based on the Company's income, the Customer will be responsible for all taxes that arise in any jurisdiction, including value added, consumption, sales, use, gross receipts, foreign withholding (which will be grossed up) excise, access, bypass, franchise or other taxes, fees, duties, charges or surcharges imposed on or incident to the provision, sale or use of service (whether imposed on the Company or any affiliate of the Company). Such charges may be shown on invoices as cost recovery fees. The Customer may present the Company a valid exemption certificate and the Company will give effect thereto prospectively.
- C. Rates for Interstate and International services associated with LIS are included in the Company's Service Guides posted on the Company's website at [www.comcast.com/tariffs](http://www.comcast.com/tariffs).
- D. Add or Change Charge – The customer will be assessed a charge for any add or change of a Company service as defined below.
  - Add – The addition of service(s) to existing equipment and/or service(s) at one location.
  - Change – The rearrangement or reclassification of existing service at the same location.

**7. LOCAL INTERCONNECTION SERVICE**

**7.1. LOCAL INTERCONNECTION SERVICE (CONT'D)**

**7.1.13. RATES AND CHARGES**

	<b>NONRECURRING CHARGE</b>
1. Local Interconnection Service	ICB
2. Local Interconnection Port	
· Per-T-1	\$1,200.00
· All Other Bandwidths	ICB
3. Local Interconnection Service	[1]

[1] The monthly rate for LIS is a function of a combination of market-specific cost considerations as well as customer-determined factors including service capacity, length of contract term, optional features, and maintenance and security considerations. See 7.1.12.A preceding for additional information.

**STATE OF MICHIGAN**  
**BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

\* \* \* \* \*

In the matter of the Petition of )  
Comcast Phone of Michigan, LLC )  
for Arbitration pursuant to Section 252(b) )  
of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 )  
to establish an Interconnection Agreement )  
with TDS Telecom/Communications Corp. )  
of MI (CCM) )

Case No. U-15730

**PETITION FOR ARBITRATION**  
**OF COMCAST PHONE OF MICHIGAN, LLC**  
**DIRECT TESTIMONY OF BETH CHOROSER**

1   **Q.     PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME, BUSINESS ADDRESS, EMPLOYER AND**  
2       **CURRENT POSITION.**

3   A.     My name is Beth Choroser. My business address is One Comcast Center, 50th Floor,  
4       Philadelphia, PA 19103. I am employed as Senior Director of Regulatory  
5       Compliance for Comcast Cable Communications, LLC.

6  
7   **Q.     ON WHOSE BEHALF ARE YOU TESTIFYING?**

8   A.     I am testifying on behalf of Comcast Phone of Michigan, LLC, d/b/a Comcast Digital  
9       Phone (“Comcast”).

10

1   **Q.   PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL**  
2   **BACKGROUND.**

3   A.   I received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Pennsylvania State University and a Master  
4       of Business Administration from Syracuse University. I have worked in various  
5       capacities in both the communications industry and the electric utility industry. My  
6       experience includes work in the areas of rates, billing, taxation, regulatory reporting,  
7       tariffs, interconnection, numbering, and overall regulatory compliance. From 1985 to  
8       1988, I worked for New England Electric System as a rate analyst and later as staff  
9       assistant to the Chief Operating Officer. In those roles I performed cost of service  
10      studies and fuel cost studies, and testified before the state commission on fuel cost  
11      charges. I also oversaw budgeting for the Chief Operating Officer. From 1997 to  
12      1999, I was with ATX Telecommunications. Initially I had responsibility for billing  
13      specifications and revenue assurance. Subsequently, I managed the end-user taxation  
14      and regulatory functions. I have been with the Comcast organization since 2000.  
15      From 2000 to 2003, I was the Manager of Regulatory Compliance for the company's  
16      start-up commercial voice business, Comcast Business Communications, LLC. I had  
17      responsibility for tariffs, billing compliance, interconnection, regulatory reporting,  
18      end-user taxation, and surcharging. From 2003 to the present, I have held positions  
19      of increasing responsibility in the company's residential voice business, including  
20      promotion to my current position.

1   **Q.   PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR CURRENT RESPONSIBILITIES WITH**  
2   **COMCAST.**

3   A.   I am responsible for a wide variety of regulatory matters, including compliance with  
4       both state and federal regulatory requirements. More specifically for purposes of this  
5       docket, I negotiate Interconnection Agreements with incumbent local exchange  
6       carriers (“ILECs”) consistent with Section 251 of the federal Communications Act of  
7       1934, as amended (“Act”) on behalf of Comcast and its affiliates who provide  
8       regulated telecommunications services.

9

10   **Q.   WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY IN THIS PROCEEDING?**

11   A.   The purpose of my testimony is to describe, explain, and provide support for  
12       Comcast’s positions on the issues in dispute between Comcast and TDS  
13       Telecom/Communications Corp. of MI (CCM) (“TDS”).

14

15   **Q.   WHAT ISSUES IS COMCAST SEEKING TO HAVE THE MICHIGAN**  
16   **PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION (“COMMISSION”) ARBITRATE**  
17   **BETWEEN IT AND TDS?**

18   A.   The issue in this arbitration is whether Comcast is entitled to an interconnection  
19       agreement with TDS. Through negotiations, Comcast and TDS have managed to  
20       resolve all of the technical issues associated with establishing an interconnection  
21       agreement for Michigan, as well as to resolve nearly all terms for agreements with  
22       operating affiliates in New Hampshire, Georgia, Indiana, Washington and Florida.



1 Just after all terms and conditions of the agreement were resolved , however, TDS  
2 announced, that it questions whether Comcast is a telecommunications carrier entitled  
3 to interconnection under Section 251 of the Act. The precise nature of TDS' position  
4 is not fully known at this point, but TDS' contention that Comcast is not a  
5 telecommunications carrier is clearly incorrect. The Commission should, therefore,  
6 pursuant to its authority under the Act, issue an order affirming Comcast's  
7 telecommunications carrier status (as it has in orders approving interconnection  
8 agreements between Comcast and other ILECs) and require TDS to execute the  
9 proposed Interconnection Agreement attached to Comcast's Petition as Exhibit C.

10  
11 **Q. WERE YOU INVOLVED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS THAT LED TO THE**  
12 **DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPOSED INTERCONNECTION**  
13 **AGREEMENT?**

14 A. Yes. I generally oversaw Comcast's negotiation of the proposed Interconnection  
15 Agreement with TDS, which was negotiated with the intention that it would serve as  
16 the basis for the Comcast-TDS Interconnection Agreement in multiple states. I have  
17 been involved in well over 100 other negotiations for Section 251 Interconnection  
18 Agreements on behalf of Comcast and its affiliates since 2000.

1   **Q.    WHY HAS TDS REFUSED TO EXECUTE AND SUBMIT THE PROPOSED**  
2       **INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT TO THE COMMISSION PURSUANT**  
3       **TO SECTION 252(e) OF THE ACT?**

4    A.   As noted, Comcast and TDS were able to resolve all disputed issues and negotiated  
5       the proposed Interconnection Agreement attached to the Petition as Exhibit C. TDS  
6       has refused, however, to execute the agreement based on unspecified “concerns”  
7       about Comcast’s telecommunications carrier status, which has , necessitated the filing  
8       of this Petition.

9  
10   **Q.   IS COMCAST A TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER?**

11   A.   Yes. Comcast offers various wholesale telecommunications services to the public,  
12       including both telephone exchange and exchange access service offerings. Both the  
13       Commission and the Federal Communications Commission have expressly  
14       recognized that Comcast and its similarly situated affiliates operating in 37 other  
15       states are telecommunications carriers that are entitled to interconnection under the  
16       Act and other applicable state and federal laws. The Commission licensed Comcast  
17       to provide basic local exchange service in 482 communities throughout Michigan,  
18       pursuant to the Commission’s Opinions and Orders of September 12, 1996 in Case  
19       No. U-11090, December 21, 1998 in Case No. U-11827, August 20, 2002 in Case No.  
20       U-13437, November 25, 2002 in Case No. U-13520, and August 22, 2006 in Case  
21       No. U-14915. Comcast is a Registered Intrastate Telecommunication Services  
22       Provider, which has registered with the Commission as a Competitive Local

1 Exchange Carrier and as a Toll Reseller pursuant to the Commission's Order in  
2 MPSC Case No. U-11900. In addition, the Commission has approved Section 251  
3 Interconnection Agreements between Comcast and eight other incumbent carriers in  
4 Michigan, including AT&T Michigan f/k/a SBC Michigan,<sup>1</sup> Verizon North Inc. and  
5 Contel of the South, Inc., d/b/a Verizon North Systems, CenturyTel of Michigan, Inc.,  
6 CenturyTel Midwest-Michigan, Inc., CenturyTel of Northern Michigan, Inc.,  
7 CenturyTel of Upper Michigan, Inc., and Frontier Communications of Michigan, Inc.

8  
9 **Q. HASN'T COMCAST DISCONTINUED ITS TELECOMMUNICATIONS**  
10 **SERVICE OFFERINGS?**

11 A. No. While TDS may suggest that Comcast's discontinuance of one of its service  
12 offerings – the legacy, circuit switched product marketed to consumers under the  
13 brand name Comcast Digital Phone – constituted a discontinuance of all

---

<sup>1</sup> *In the matter of the request for Commission approval of an Interconnection Agreement between Comcast Telecommunications, Inc. and SBC Michigan*, MPSC Case No. U-13378, July 10, 2002; *In the matter of the request for Commission approval of an Interconnection Agreement between Comcast Phone of Michigan, LLC, d/b/a Comcast Digital Phone and Verizon North Inc. and Contel of the South, Inc., d/b/a Verizon North Systems*, MPSC Case No. U-14395, Jan 25, 2005; *In the matter of the request for Commission approval of an Interconnection Agreement between CenturyTel of Michigan, Inc., CenturyTel Midwest-Michigan, Inc., CenturyTel of Northern Michigan, Inc., and CenturyTel of Upper Michigan, Inc. and Comcast Phone of Michigan, LLC*, MPSC Case No. U-14680, Nov 30, 2005; *In the matter of the request for approval of an Interconnection Agreement between Frontier Communications of Michigan, Inc. and Comcast Phone of Michigan, LLC*, MPSC Case No. U-15227, March 21, 2007.

1 telecommunications service offerings in the state, that is clearly not the case.<sup>2</sup> To the  
2 contrary, Comcast continues to offer telecommunications services in the state – both  
3 wholesale services to other providers as well as retail offerings to schools and  
4 libraries. Comcast has not surrendered its regulatory authority to provide service in  
5 Michigan, nor has Comcast surrendered its international section 214 authority granted  
6 by the FCC.

7

8 **Q. DOES COMCAST HAVE TARIFFS ON FILE WITH THE COMMISSION**  
9 **FOR ITS TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE OFFERINGS?**

10 Yes, Comcast has the following Tariffs on file with the Commission:

- 11 • Comcast Phone of Michigan, LLC d/b/a Comcast Digital Phone, Tariff  
12 MPSC No. 1-R – Schedule of Rates, Charges, and Regulations  
13 Applying to the Provision of Exchange Services within the State of  
14 Michigan;

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<sup>2</sup> See Comcast Phone of Michigan d/b/a Comcast Digital Phone's notice of discontinuance of basic local exchange and toll service on its Comcast Digital Phone platform, Case No. U-15370 (Mich. PSC *filed* August 15, 2007) (approval granted by operation of law); *see also* Section 63.71 Application of Comcast Phone of Michigan, LLC for Authority Pursuant to Section 214 of the Communications Act to Discontinue the Provision of Residential Facilities-Based and Resold Telecommunications Services in Michigan (Federal Communications Commission *filed* August 2, 2007) (approval granted by operation of law Sep. 16, 2007).

- Comcast Phone of Michigan, LLC d/b/a Comcast Digital Phone, Tariff MPSC No. 2-R – Schedule of Maps Applying to the Provision of Exchange Services within the State of Michigan; and,
- Comcast Phone of Michigan, LLC d/b/a Comcast Digital Phone, Tariff MPSC No. 3 R – Schedule of Rates, Charges, and Regulations Applying to the Provision of Access Services within the State of Michigan.

**Q. HAS TDS PREVIOUSLY RECOGNIZED COMCAST AS A TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER FOR PURPOSES OF SECTION 251 INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS?**

A. Yes, TDS has recognized Comcast's status as a Telecommunications Carrier. Comcast requested interconnection with TDS pursuant to Section 251 of the Act, and TDS participated in Interconnection Agreement negotiations under the Act. Indeed, in the letter attached to the Petition as Exhibit B, TDS agreed that it was engaging in negotiations with Comcast for purposes of establishing an Interconnection Agreement under Section 251 of the Act pursuant to the process outlined in Section 252. Likewise, TDS affiliates have entered into Interconnection Agreements with Comcast's competitive local exchange carrier affiliates in Tennessee, Indiana, and most recently in Vermont. The Vermont agreement, which the Vermont Public Service Board approved in August 2008, states expressly that it was entered into pursuant to Section 251 of the Act. Thus, TDS has already stipulated that Comcast is

1 a telecommunications carrier entitled to interconnection and Comcast has taken  
2 actions in reliance on that stipulation.

3

4 **Q. PLEASE PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON COMCAST'S**  
5 **TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE OFFERINGS IN MICHIGAN.**

6 A. Among the telecommunications services that Comcast offers pursuant to tariff is a  
7 wholesale Local Interconnection Service ("LIS") that is available to qualified  
8 providers of interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol ("VoIP") services.<sup>3</sup> As the  
9 LIS tariff explains, LIS is available to qualified providers of interconnected VoIP  
10 services, as defined in 47 CFR § 9.3. Comcast's LIS telecommunications service  
11 offering provides interconnected VoIP provider customers with interconnection to the  
12 public switched telephone network ("PSTN"), access to emergency services,  
13 telephone exchange services, access to numbering resources, directory listings, and  
14 other services that make it possible for interconnected VoIP providers to make and  
15 receive calls to and from the PSTN and otherwise serve their customers.<sup>4</sup> LIS is a  
16 public offering available to prospective customers who qualify for the service, as  
17 described in the tariff. Comcast has received several inquiries about the service.

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<sup>3</sup> The terms and conditions of Comcast's publicly available LIS offering are available at:  
[http://www.comcast.com/MediaLibrary/1/1/About/PhoneTermsOfService/PDF/interconnection/Local\\_Interconnection\\_Service.pdf](http://www.comcast.com/MediaLibrary/1/1/About/PhoneTermsOfService/PDF/interconnection/Local_Interconnection_Service.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> Comcast currently has two customers for its LIS service in Michigan: Comcast IP Phone, LLC and Comcast IP Phone II, LLC, both of whom do business as Comcast Digital Voice ("CDV"). CDV is also the trade name for the interconnected VoIP service provided to end user customers.

1 Comcast has not received a single complaint alleging that it refused to consider a  
2 request for the service from a prospective customer.  
3

4 **Q. WHAT OTHER SERVICES DOES COMCAST PROVIDE?**

5 A. Pursuant to its federal and state tariffs, Comcast and its similarly situated operating  
6 affiliates around the country provide exchange access services to interexchange  
7 carriers (“IXCs”) that request the service. Comcast has more than 25 exchange  
8 access service customers in Michigan who purchase either intrastate or interstate  
9 terminating access services from Comcast, pursuant to tariff.<sup>5</sup> Moreover, Comcast  
10 pays terminating access charges to numerous other carriers, including TDS, in  
11 Michigan and elsewhere. Likewise, Comcast makes and receives reciprocal  
12 compensation payments to other local exchange carriers pursuant to its Section 251  
13 Interconnection Agreements in the state.<sup>6</sup> Comcast also offers, pursuant to tariff, a  
14 network service to schools and libraries, which provides networking, connectivity and  
15 other services to school and library customers. And Comcast may unveil yet other  
16 telecommunications service offerings in the future. Clearly, Comcast requires all of  
17 its rights under Section 251(a)-(b) to bring the full benefits of these offerings to  
18 Michigan consumers.

---

<sup>5</sup> Upon request, Comcast will submit evidence of its CABs bills into the record of this case, under seal, following the execution of an appropriate protective order with TDS.

<sup>6</sup> Comcast is prepared to submit additional evidence of its reciprocal compensation bills and receipts upon request, subject to the execution of an appropriate protective order with TDS.

1

2 **Q. HAS THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION RECOGNIZED**  
3 **LOCAL INTERCONNECTION SERVICE AS A TELECOMMUNICATIONS**  
4 **SERVICE?**

5 A. Yes it has. The FCC has recognized this type of arrangement, in which a state-  
6 licensed CLEC “partner” provides telecommunications services to an interconnected  
7 VoIP provider and has previously concluded that a CLEC has full interconnection  
8 rights and obligations to provide PSTN connectivity to such providers.<sup>7</sup> In fact, in its  
9 recent order extending FCC numbering obligations to interconnected VoIP providers,  
10 the FCC noted that such action “may spur consumer demand for [VoIP] service, in  
11 turn driving demand for broadband connections and consequently encouraging more  
12 broadband investment and deployment.”<sup>8</sup> Moreover, the FCC recently recognized  
13 that Comcast’s provision of its interconnection services to its Interconnected VoIP  
14 affiliate qualified it as a telecommunications carrier under Section 222(b) of the Act.<sup>9</sup>

15 The LIS service that Comcast provides to its interconnected VoIP service  
16 provider customers is identical to that which Sprint, MCI and other CLECs provide to

---

<sup>7</sup> *Time Warner Cable Request for Declaratory Ruling that Competitive Local Exchange Carriers May Obtain Interconnection Under Section 251 of the Communications Act of 1934, as Amended, to Provide Wholesale Telecommunications Services to VoIP Providers*, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 22 FCC Rcd 3513 (2007).

<sup>8</sup> *In re Telephone Number Requirements for IP-Enabled Services Providers*, 22 FCC Rcd 19531, 19548 at ¶ 29 n.102 (2007).

<sup>9</sup> *Bright House Networks, LLC v Verizon California, Inc.*, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 23 FCC Rcd 10704 at ¶¶ 37-41(2008).



1 interconnected VoIP service providers such as Time Warner Cable. At least one-half  
2 dozen states have affirmed the common carrier nature of such service offerings and  
3 affirmed these CLECs' interconnection rights in order to provide interconnection  
4 services to interconnected VoIP service providers.<sup>10</sup> Comcast seeks affirmance of the  
5 same rights.

6

7 **Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER COMMENTS FOR THE COMMISSION?**

8 A. Comcast is only requesting that this Commission order TDS to provide what TDS has  
9 already agreed to provide to Comcast's competitive local exchange carrier affiliates  
10 in Tennessee, Indiana, and Vermont. In addition, TDS, and its Michigan affiliates,  
11 have already agreed to provide Interconnection Agreements to at least six other

---

<sup>10</sup> See, *Consolidated Comm Of Fort Bend Co v Public Utility Commission of Texas*, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 497 F Supp 2d 836 (WD Tex 2007), *aff'g* *Petition of Sprint Comm Co LP*, Order, Docket No. 32582, 2006 WL 2366391 (Tex PUC, Aug 14, 2006); *Sprint Comm Co LP*, Order, App No. 310183F0002AMA, *et al*, 101 PaPUC 895, 2006 WL 3675279 (Pa PUC, Nov 30, 2006); *Sprint Comm Co LP v ACE Comm Group, et al*, Order on Rehearing, Docket No. ARB-05-2, 2005 WL 3624405 (Iowa Util Bd, Nov 28, 2005); *Re Spring Comm Co LP*, Opinion and Findings, Appl No. C-3429, 2005 WL 3824447 (Neb PSC, Sept 13, 2005); *Cambridge Telephone Company, et al*, Order, Docket No. 05-0259, *et al*, 2005 WL 1863370 (Ill CC, July 15, 2005); *Re The Champaign Tel Co*, Case No. 04-1494-TP-UNC (Ohio PUC April 13, 2005); See *Berkshire Tel Corp v Sprint*, 2006 WL 3095665 (WDNY) (affirming *Order Resolving Arbitration Issues* (NY PSC Cases 05-C-0170, 0183) (May 24, 2005) and *Order Denying Rehearing* (NY PSC Cases 05-C-0170, 0183) (Aug 24, 2005)

1 competitive carriers in Michigan.<sup>11</sup> Comcast seeks an Interconnection Agreement that  
2 addresses rates, terms and conditions for direct and indirect connection, reciprocal  
3 compensation terms and certain duties contained in Section 251(b) of the Act – an  
4 Interconnection Agreement that we thought we had already negotiated with TDS.  
5 TDS’ eleventh hour refusal to enter into an agreement with Comcast while entering  
6 into, and seeking to enter into, similar agreements with other telecommunications  
7 carriers violates both state and federal laws. Therefore, TDS should be ordered to  
8 execute the Interconnection Agreement it negotiated with Comcast.  
9

---

<sup>11</sup> See, *In the matter of the request for approval of an Interconnection Agreement and amendment between Chatham Telephone Company, Communication Corporation of Michigan, Island Telephone Company, Shiawassee Telephone Company, Wolverine Telephone Company and Verizon North Inc. and Contel of the South, Inc. d/b/a Verizon North Systems*, MPSC Case No. U-15165, Jan 30, 2007; *In the matter of the joint request for approval of a mutual traffic exchange agreement between Climax Telephone Company and Communication Corporation of Michigan*, MPSC Case No. U-15178, Jan 30, 2007; *In the matter of the joint request for approval of a mutual traffic exchange agreement between Charter Fiberlink Michigan, LLC and Chatham Telephone Company, Communication Corporation of Michigan, Shiawassee Telephone Company, and Wolverine Telephone Company*, MPSC Case No. U-15476, Dec 18, 2007; *In the matter of the request for Commission approval of a reciprocal compensation agreement arrived at through voluntary negotiations between TDS Telecom and TelNet Worldwide, Inc.*, MPSC Case No. U-15432, Oct 25, 2007; *In the matter of the joint request for approval of an Interconnection Agreement between 1-800-Reconex, Inc. and Chatham Telephone Company, Communication Corporation of Michigan, Island Telephone Company, Shiawassee Telephone Company, and Wolverine Telephone Company*, MPSC Case No. U-14665, Nov 10, 2005; *In the matter of the joint request for approval of an Interconnection Agreement between Universal Telecom and Chatham Telephone Company, Communication Corporation of Michigan, Island Telephone Company, Shiawassee Telephone Company, and Wolverine Telephone Company*, MPSC Case No. U-14057, Apr 20, 2004.

1    **Q.     DOES THAT CONCLUDE YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY?**

2    **A.     Yes it does.**

**STATE OF MICHIGAN**

**BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

In the matter of the Petition of )  
Comcast Phone of Michigan, LLC )  
for Arbitration pursuant to Section 252(b) )  
of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 )  
to establish an Interconnection Agreement )  
with TDS Telecom/Communications Corp. )  
of MI (CCM). )

Case No. U-15730

**PROOF OF SERVICE**

STATE OF MICHIGAN     )  
  ) ss  
COUNTY OF INGHAM     )

Patricia A. Tooker, being duly sworn, deposes and says that she is an employee of Clark Hill PLC, and that on November 12, 2008 she arranged for service of the Petition for Arbitration of Comcast Phone of Michigan, LLC, in the above captioned proceeding, upon:

Linda Lowrance  
Manager – Interconnection  
TDS Telecom – Knoxville  
10025 Investment Drive, Suite 200  
Knoxville, TN 37932  
(865) 671-4758  
(865) 966-4720 Fax  
E-Mail: Linda.Lowrance@tdstelecom.com

Paul E. Pederson  
TDS Manager State Government Affairs  
525 Junction Road  
Madison, WI 53717  
(608) 664-4180  
(608) 664-4185 Fax  
E-Mail: paul.pederson@tdstelecom.com

Service was accomplished via Electronic Mail and Federal Express Overnight Courier.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patricia A. Tooker

Subscribed and sworn to before me  
this 12<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2008

\_\_\_\_\_  
Haran C. Rashes, Notary Public  
Washtenaw County, Michigan  
Acting in Ingham, Michigan  
My Commission Expires: September 18, 2013

**STATE OF MICHIGAN**

**BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

In the matter of the petition of Communications )  
Corporation of Michigan d/b/a TDS Telecom )  
for Sections 251/252 arbitration of )  
interconnection rates, terms, and conditions )  
with Comcast Phone of Michigan, LLC d/b/a )  
Comcast Digital Phone. )

Case No. U-15725

**PROOF OF SERVICE**

STATE OF MICHIGAN     )  
  ) ss  
COUNTY OF INGHAM     )

Patricia A. Tooker, being duly sworn, deposes and says that she is an employee of Clark Hill PLC, and that on December 8, 2008 she arranged for service of the Reply of Comcast Phone of Michigan, LLC to the Petition for Arbitration, in the above captioned proceeding, upon the parties on the attached service list. Service was accomplished via Electronic Mail and United States First Class Mail

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Patricia A. Tooker

Subscribed and sworn to before me  
this 8<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2008

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Haran C. Rashes, Notary Public  
Washtenaw County, Michigan  
Acting in Ingham, Michigan  
My Commission Expires: September 18, 2013

**MPSC Case Nos. U-15725 & U-15730  
Service List**

**MEDIATOR**

Hon. Mark E. Cummins  
State Office of Administrative  
Hearings and Rules  
Michigan Public Service Commission  
6545 Mercantile Way, Suite 14  
P.O. Box 30221  
Lansing, MI 48911  
E-mail: cumminsm1@michigan.gov

**MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE  
COMMISSION –  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS DIVISION**

Mr. Barry Harmon  
Michigan Public Service Commission  
6545 Mercantile Way, Suite 7  
P.O. Box 30221  
Lansing, MI 48911  
E-Mail: bharmon@michigan.gov

**TDS TELECOM/COMMUNICATIONS  
CORP. OF MI (CCM)**

Harvey J. Messing  
Michael C. Rampe  
Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, P.L.C.  
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E-Mail: [messing@millercanfield.com](mailto:messing@millercanfield.com)  
[rampe@millercanfield.com](mailto:rampe@millercanfield.com)

Linda Lowrance  
Manager – Interconnection  
TDS Telecom – Knoxville  
10025 Investment Drive, Suite 200  
Knoxville, TN 37932  
E-Mail: [Linda.Lowrance@tdstelecom.com](mailto:Linda.Lowrance@tdstelecom.com)

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**COMCAST PHONE OF MICHIGAN,  
LLC**

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