NEXSEN | PRUET

Burnet R. Maybank, III
Member
Admitted in SC

August 20, 2009

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Public Service Commission of South Carolina
Docketing Department
101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

Re: Docket Number _____
Interconnection Agreement between Windstream South Carolina, LLC and TC Systems, Inc.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

Enclosed for filing please find an executed Interconnection Agreement between Windstream South Carolina, LLC and TC Systems, Inc. in accordance with Sections 251 and 252 of the Telecommunications Act.

Very truly yours,

Burnet R. Maybank, III

sjn
Enclosures
cc: Nanette S. Edwards, Esq.
Traci Brunner
Jayne Eve
James White

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

(Caption of Case)

Interconnection Agreement between Windstream South Carolina, LLC and TC Systems, Inc.

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COVER SHEET

DOCKET NUMBER: _____ - _____ - C

(Please type or print)

Submitted by: Burnet R. Maybank III

Address: Nexsen Pruet, LLC
1230 Main Street, Suite 700
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NOTE: The cover sheet and information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law. This form is required for use by the Public Service Commission of South Carolina for the purpose of docketing and must be filled out completely.

DOCKETING INFORMATION (Check all that apply)

☐ **Emergency Relief demanded in petition**

☒ **Request for item to be placed on Commission's Agenda expeditiously**

☐ **Other:**

INDUSTRY (Check one)	NATURE OF ACTION (Check all that apply)		
☐ Electric	☐ Affidavit	☒ Letter	☐ Request
☐ Electric/Gas	☐ Agreement	☐ Memorandum	☐ Request for Certification
☐ Electric/Telecommunications	☐ Answer	☐ Motion	☐ Request for Investigation
☐ Electric/Water	☐ Appellate Review	☐ Objection	☐ Resale Agreement
☐ Electric/Water/Telecom.	☐ Application	☐ Petition	☐ Resale Amendment
☐ Electric/Water/Sewer	☐ Brief	☐ Petition for Reconsideration	☐ Reservation Letter
☐ Gas	☐ Certificate	☐ Petition for Rulemaking	☐ Response
☐ Railroad	☐ Comments	☐ Petition for Rule to Show Cause	☐ Response to Discovery
☐ Sewer	☐ Complaint	☐ Petition to Intervene	☐ Return to Petition
☒ Telecommunications	☐ Consent Order	☐ Petition to Intervene Out of Time	☐ Stipulation
☐ Transportation	☐ Discovery	☐ Prefiled Testimony	☐ Subpoena
☐ Water	☐ Exhibit	☐ Promotion	☐ Tariff
☐ Water/Sewer	☐ Expedited Consideration	☐ Proposed Order	☒ Other: Cover Sheet
☐ Administrative Matter	☒ Interconnection Agreement	☐ Protest	
☐ Other:	☐ Interconnection Amendment	☐ Publisher's Affidavit	
	☐ Late-Filed Exhibit	☐ Report	

Print Form Reset Form

INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

WINDSTREAM SOUTH CAROLINA, LLC

&

TC SYSTEMS, INC.

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GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

This Agreement ("Agreement") is between TC Systems, Inc. ("TCG"), having an office at One Bedminster Way, Bedminster, New Jersey 07921 and Windstream South Carolina, LLC ("Windstream"), having an office at 4001 Rodney Parham Road, Little Rock, Arkansas, 72212, hereinafter referred to collectively as the "Parties".

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the "Act"), the Parties wish to establish terms for the provision of certain services and Ancillary Functions as designated in the Attachments hereto for the purpose of determining the rates, terms, and conditions for the interconnection of the Parties' Telecommunications networks within the State of South Carolina.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and the mutual covenants of this Agreement, the Parties hereby agree as follows:

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This Agreement, in accordance with §§251 and 252 of the Act, sets forth the terms, conditions and prices under which Windstream may provide (a) services for interconnection, and (b) Ancillary Functions to TCG. The specific services, functions, or facilities that Windstream agrees to provide are those specifically identified in appendixes attached to this Agreement, and executed simultaneously with this general terms and conditions. Further this Agreement sets forth the terms, conditions, and prices under which TCG will provide services to Windstream, where applicable.

1.2 This Agreement includes and incorporates herein the Attachments of this Agreement, and all accompanying Appendices, Addenda and Exhibits.

1.3 The Parties acknowledge and agree that by entering into and performing in accordance with this Agreement, the Parties have not waived or relinquished any applicable exemptions that are provided by or available under the Act, including but not limited to those described in §251(f) of the Act, or under state law.

1.4 Prior to execution of this Agreement, TCG agrees to provide Windstream in writing TCG's CLEC certification for the state covered by this Agreement prior to the filing of this Agreement with the appropriate Commission for approval.

2.0 Effective Date

2.1 The effective date of this Agreement will be the first business day following receipt of final approval of this Agreement by the relevant state Commission, but no later than 60 days after the Agreement is fully executed by the Parties.

3.0 Intervening Law

3.1 In the event that any effective legislative, regulatory, judicial or other legal action materially changes any rule, law or judicial or administrative decision that was the basis of the requirement, obligation or right upon which any provision of this Agreement was negotiated, or materially impairs the ability of Windstream or TCG to perform any material terms of this Agreement, TCG or Windstream may, on thirty (30) days' written notice require that such terms be renegotiated, and the Parties shall renegotiate in good faith such mutually acceptable new terms as may be required. In the event that

such new terms are not renegotiated within ninety (90) days after such notice, the Dispute shall be referred to the Dispute Resolution procedure set forth in Section 9.0.

4.0 Term of Agreement

4.1 The Parties agree to the provisions of this Agreement for an initial term of two (2) years from the Effective Date of this Agreement, and thereafter on a month to month basis, unless terminated or modified pursuant to the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

4.2 Either Party may request for this Agreement to be renegotiated upon the expiration of the initial two (2) year term or upon any termination of this Agreement. The Party desiring renegotiation shall provide written notice to the other Party. Not later than thirty (30) days from receipt of said notice, the receiving Party will acknowledge receipt of the written notice and the Parties will commence negotiation, which shall be conducted in good faith, except in cases in which this Agreement has been terminated for Default pursuant to Section 4.6 or has been terminated for any reason not prohibited by law pursuant to Section 4.5.

4.3 If, during the period from the 135th to the 160th day (inclusive) of commencing the negotiation referred to in Section 4.2 above, the Parties are unable to negotiate new terms, conditions and prices for a Subsequent Agreement, either Party may petition the applicable state Commission to establish appropriate terms, conditions and prices for the Subsequent Agreement pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 252. Should the Commission decline jurisdiction, either Party may petition the FCC under the Act or resort to a commercial provider of arbitration services.

4.4 If either Party has requested negotiations and the Parties have not executed a subsequent agreement or filed arbitration at the applicable state commission in accordance with the timeframes in 47 USC 252(a), then this Agreement will terminate upon the date the arbitration window closes (the 160th day). TCG will execute Windstream's then current standard interconnection agreement or adopt another agreement pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 252 with an effective date of the next day following the close of the arbitration window. Failure by TCG to either execute Windstream's then current standard interconnection agreement or adopt another agreement, will result in termination of all services provided by Windstream to TCG.

4.5 After completion of the initial two (2) year term, this Agreement may be terminated by either Party for any reason not prohibited by law upon sixty (60) days written notice to the other Party. By mutual Agreement, the Parties may amend this Agreement in writing to modify its terms.

4.6 In the event of Default or Abandonment, as defined in this §4.6, the non-defaulting Party may terminate this Agreement provided that the non-defaulting Party so advises the defaulting Party in writing ("Default Notice") of the event of the alleged Default and the defaulting Party does not cure the alleged Default with sixty (60) after receipt of the Default Notice thereof. Default is defined as:

4.6.1 Either Party's insolvency or initiation of bankruptcy or receivership proceedings by or against the Party; or

4.6.2 If a Party is in breach of a material term or condition of this Agreement ("Defaulting Party"), the other Party shall provide written notice of such breach to the Defaulting Party. The Defaulting Party shall have ten (10) business days from receipt of notice to cure the breach. If the breach is not cured, the Parties shall follow the dispute resolution procedure set forth in §9.0.of this Agreement, provided however, that if the alleged material breach involves a material interruption to, or a material degradation of the E911 services provided under this Agreement, the cure shall be five (5) business days from receipt of such notice. If the Defaulting Party is making good faith efforts to cure such material breach and there is an impossibility to cure such breach with ten (10) business days, the Parties will agree to a reasonable extension of time

4.6.3 Illegal use or taking of facilities is considered a material breach of this Agreement and termination of the Agreement will occur.

In addition, this Agreement shall be null and void if TCG has not placed an order for a service or facility or terminated traffic hereunder by one (1) year following Effective Date. If TCG has not placed an order for a service, a facility, or terminated traffic within one (1) year, Windstream shall provide TCG with notice of Windstream's intent to terminate the Agreement. TCG shall have thirty (30) calendar days to indicate in writing to Windstream that TCG intends to place orders or terminate traffic within thirty (30) calendar days. If TCG cannot meet this timeframe for placing orders or terminating traffic, the Agreement will be terminated. If TCG does not intend to place orders or terminate traffic, this Agreement shall be deemed suspended and Windstream shall apply to the Commission to terminate the Agreement.

5.0 Assignment

5.1 Neither Party may assign, subcontract, or otherwise transfer its rights or obligations under this Agreement except under such terms and conditions as are mutually acceptable to the other Party and with such Party's prior written consent, which consent shall not be unreasonably restricted, delayed or withheld. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, a Party may assign, subcontract or otherwise transfer its rights or obligations under this Agreement upon notice to the other Party, but without needing the other Party's consent, to a subsidiary, affiliate, or parent company, including any firm, corporation, or entity which the Party controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with, or has a majority interest in, or to any entity which succeeds to all or substantially all of its assets whether by merger, sale, or otherwise. Nothing in this Section is intended to impair the right of either Party to utilize subcontractors.

5.2 Neither Party shall assign this Agreement to any Affiliate or non-affiliated entity unless either (1) the assigning Party pays all undisputed bills, past due and current, under this Agreement, or (2) the assignee expressly assumes liability for payment of such bills.

5.3 In the event that TCG makes any corporate name change (whether it involves a merger, consolidation, assignment or transfer, and 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 CLEC identifier (collectively, a "CLEC Change"), TCG shall submit written notice to Windstream within thirty (30) days of the first action taken to implement such CLEC Change.

5.4 In the event of an assignment as described in Section 5.1 above, the Parties shall negotiate an implementation plan to effectuate any changes. In addition, TCG shall compensate Windstream for any service order charges as specified in Windstream's General Subscriber/Local or Access tariffs, associated with such CLEC Change.

6.0 Confidential and Proprietary Information

6.1 For the purposes of this Agreement, confidential information means confidential or proprietary technical, Customer, End User, network, or business information disclosed by one Party (the "Discloser") to the other Party (the "Recipient"), which is disclosed by one Party to the other in connection with this Agreement, during negotiations or the term of this Agreement ("Confidential Information"). Such Confidential Information shall automatically be deemed proprietary to the Discloser and subject to this §6.0, unless otherwise confirmed in writing by the Discloser. All other information which is indicated and marked, as Confidential Information at the time of disclosure shall also be treated as Confidential Information under §6.0 of this Agreement. The Recipient agrees (i) to use Confidential Information only for the purpose of performing under this

Agreement, (ii) to hold it in confidence and disclose it to no one other than its employees or agents having a need to know for the purpose of performing under this Agreement, and (iii) to safeguard it from unauthorized use or disclosure using at least the same degree of care with which the Recipient safeguards its own Confidential Information. If the Recipient wishes to disclose the Discloser's Confidential Information to a third-party agent or consultant, such disclosure must be agreed to in writing by the Discloser, and the agent or consultant must have executed a written Agreement of nondisclosure and nonuse comparable to the terms of this Section.

6.2 The Recipient may make copies of Confidential Information only as reasonably necessary to perform its obligations under this Agreement. All such copies will be subject to the same restrictions and protections as the original and will bear the same copyright and proprietary rights notices as are contained on the original.

6.3 The Recipient agrees to return all Confidential Information to the Discloser in tangible form received from the Discloser, including any copies made by the Recipient within thirty (30) days after a written request is delivered to the Recipient, or to destroy all such Confidential Information if directed to do so by Discloser except for Confidential Information that the Recipient reasonably requires to perform its obligations under this Agreement. If either Party loses or makes an unauthorized disclosure of the other Party's Confidential Information, it will notify such other Party immediately and use reasonable efforts to retrieve the lost or wrongfully disclosed information.

6.4 The Recipient will have no obligation to safeguard Confidential Information: (i) which was in the possession of the Recipient free of restriction prior to its receipt from the Discloser; (ii) after it becomes publicly known or available through no breach of this Agreement by the Recipient, (iii) after it is rightfully acquired by the Recipient free of restrictions on its disclosure, or (iv) after it is independently developed by personnel of the Recipient to whom the Discloser's Confidential Information had not been previously disclosed. In addition, either Party will have the right to disclose Confidential Information to any mediator, arbitrator, state or federal regulatory body, or a court in the conduct of mediation, arbitration or approval of this Agreement, as long as, in the absence of an applicable protective order, the Discloser has been previously notified by the Recipient in time sufficient for the Recipient to undertake lawful measures to avoid disclosing such information and for Discloser to have reasonable time to seek or negotiate a protective order before or with any applicable state or regulatory body or a court.

6.5 The Parties recognize that an individual End User may simultaneously seek to become or be a Customer of both Parties. Nothing in this Agreement is intended to limit the ability of either Party to use Customer specific information lawfully obtained from End Users or sources other than the Discloser, subject to applicable rules governing use of Customer Propriety Network Information (CPNI).

6.6 Each Party's obligations to safeguard Confidential Information disclosed prior to expiration or termination of this Agreement will survive such expiration or termination.

6.7 Except as otherwise expressly provided elsewhere in this Agreement, no license is hereby granted with respect to any patent, trademark, or copyright, nor is any such license implied solely by virtue of the disclosure of any Confidential Information.

6.8 Each Party agrees that the Discloser may be irreparably injured by a disclosure in breach of this Agreement by the Recipient or its representatives and the Discloser will be entitled to seek equitable relief, including injunctive relief and specific performance, in the event of any breach or threatened breach of the confidentiality provisions of this Agreement. Such remedies will not be deemed to be the exclusive remedies for a breach of this Agreement, but will be in addition to all other remedies available at law or in equity.

7.0 Liability and Indemnification

7.1 Limitation of Liabilities

With respect to any claim or suit for damages arising out of mistakes, omissions, defects in transmission, interruptions, failures, delays or errors occurring in the course of furnishing any service hereunder, the liability of the Party furnishing the affected service, if any, shall not exceed a credit for the actual cost of the services or functions not performed or improperly performed for the period of that particular service during which such mistakes, omissions, defects in transmission, interruptions, failures, delays or errors occurs and continues; provided, however, that any such mistakes, omissions, defects in transmission, interruptions, failures, delays, or errors which are caused by the gross negligence or willful, wrongful act or omission of the complaining Party or which arise from the use of the complaining Party's facilities or equipment shall not result in the imposition of any liability whatsoever upon the other Party furnishing service.

7.2 No Consequential Damages

EXCEPT AS SPECIFICALLY PROVIDED IN THIS AGREEMENT, NEITHER PARTY WILL BE LIABLE TO THE OTHER PARTY FOR ANY INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, CONSEQUENTIAL, OR SPECIAL DAMAGES SUFFERED BY SUCH OTHER PARTY (INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION DAMAGES FOR HARM TO BUSINESS, LOST REVENUES, LOST SAVINGS, OR LOST PROFITS SUFFERED BY SUCH OTHER PARTY), 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 EITHER PARTY'S LIABILITY TO THE OTHER PARTY FOR (i) WILLFUL OR INTENTIONAL MISCONDUCT (INCLUDING GROSS NEGLIGENCE) OR (ii) BODILY INJURY, DEATH, OR DAMAGE TO TANGIBLE REAL OR TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY.

7.3 Obligation to Indemnify

7.3.1 Each Party shall be indemnified and held harmless by the other Party against claims, losses, suits, demands, damages, costs, expenses, including reasonable attorneys' fees ("Claims"), asserted, suffered, or made by third parties arising from (i) any act or omission of the indemnifying Party in connection with its performance or non-performance under his Agreement; and (ii) provision of the indemnifying Party's services or equipment, including but not limited to claims arising from the provision of the indemnifying Party's services to its End Users (e.g., claims for interruption of service, quality of service or billing disputes) unless such act or omission was caused by the negligence or willful misconduct of the indemnified Party. Each Party shall also be indemnified and held harmless by the other Party against claims and damages of persons for services furnished by the indemnifying Party or by any of its subcontractors, under worker's compensation laws or similar statutes.

7.3.2 Each Party, as an Indemnifying Party agrees to release, defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the other Party from any claims, demands or suits that asserts any infringement or invasion of privacy or confidentiality of any person or persons caused or claimed to be caused, directly or indirectly, by the Indemnifying Party's employees and equipment associated with the provision of any service herein. This provision includes but is not limited to suits arising from unauthorized disclosure of the End User's name, address or telephone number.

7.3.3 Neither Party makes any warranties, express or implied, concerning the other Party's (or any third party's) rights with respect to intellectual property (including without limitation, patent, copyright and trade secret rights) or contract rights associated with the services provide herein

7.3.1.1 Ownership of Intellectual Property. Any intellectual property that originates from or is developed by a Party shall remain in the exclusive property of that Party. Except for a limited, non assignable, non-exclusive, non-transferable license to use patents or copyrights to the extent necessary for the Parties to use any facilities or equipment (including software) or to receive any service solely as provided under this Agreement, no license in patent, copyright, trademark, trade secret or other proprietary or intellectual property right, now or hereafter owned, controlled or licensable by a Party, is granted to the other Party. Neither shall it be implied nor arise by estoppel. Any trademark, copyright or other proprietary notices appearing in association with the use of any facilities or equipment (including software) shall remain on the documentation, material, product, service, equipment or software. It is the responsibility of each Party to ensure at no additional cost to the other Party that it has obtained any necessary licenses in relation to intellectual property of third Parties used in its network that may be required to enable the other Party to use any facilities or equipment (including software), to receive any service, or to perform its respective obligations under this Agreement.

7.3.4 When the lines or services of other companies and carriers are used in establishing connections to and/or from points not reached by a Party's lines, neither Party shall be liable for any act or omission of the other companies or carriers.

7.4 **Obligation to Defend; Notice; Cooperation**

Whenever a claim arises for indemnification under this Section (the "Claim"), the relevant Indemnitee, as appropriate, will promptly notify the Indemnifying Party and request 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 Claim in which event the Indemnifying Party will give written notice to the Indemnitee of acceptance of the defense of such Claim and the identity of counsel selected by the Indemnifying Party. Except as set forth below, such notice to the relevant Indemnitee will give the Indemnifying Party full authority to defend, adjust, compromise, or settle such Claim with respect to which such notice has been given, except to the extent that any compromise or settlement might prejudice the Intellectual Property Rights of the relevant Indemnities. The Indemnifying Party will consult with the relevant Indemnitee prior to any compromise or settlement that would affect the Intellectual Property Rights or other rights of any Indemnitee, and the relevant Indemnitee will have the right to refuse such compromise or settlement and, at such Indemnitee's sole cost, to take over such defense of such Claim. Provided, however, that in such event the Indemnifying Party will not be responsible for, nor will it be obligated to indemnify the relevant Indemnitee against any damages, costs, expenses, or liabilities, including without limitation, attorneys' fees, in excess of such refused compromise or settlement. With respect to any defense accepted by the Indemnifying Party, the relevant Indemnitee will be entitled to participate with the Indemnifying Party in such defense if the Claim requests equitable relief or other relief that could affect the rights of the Indemnitee and also will be entitled to employ separate counsel for such defense at such Indemnitee's expense. In the event the Indemnifying Party does not accept the defense of any indemnified Claim as provided above, the relevant Indemnitee will have the right to employ counsel for such defense at the expense of the Indemnifying Party, and the Indemnifying Party shall be liable for all costs associated with

Indemnitee's defense of such Claim including court costs, and any settlement or damages awarded the third party. Each Party agrees to cooperate and to cause its employees and agents to cooperate with the other Party in the defense of any such Claim.

8.0 Payment of Rates and Late Payment Charges

8.1 Windstream, at its discretion may require TCG to provide Windstream a security deposit to ensure payment of TCG's account. The security deposit must be an amount equal to three (3) months anticipated charges (including, but not limited to, recurring, non-recurring, termination charges and advance payments), as reasonably determined by Windstream, for the interconnection, resale services, network elements, collocation or any other functions, facilities, products or services to be furnished by Windstream under this Agreement.

8.1.1 Such security deposit shall be a cash deposit or other form of security acceptable to Windstream. Any such security deposit may be held during the continuance of the service as security for the payment of any and all amounts accruing for the service.

8.1.2 If a security deposit is required, such security deposit shall be made prior to the activation of service.

8.1.3 The fact that a security deposit has been provided in no way relieves TCG from complying with Windstream's regulations as to advance payments and the prompt payment of bills on presentation nor does it constitute a waiver or modification of the regular practices of Windstream providing for the discontinuance of service for non-payment of any sums due Windstream.

8.1.4 Windstream reserves the right to increase the security deposit requirements when, in its sole judgment, circumstances so warrant and/or gross monthly billing has increased beyond the level initially used to determine the security deposit.

8.1.5 In the event that TCG is in breach of this Agreement, service to TCG may be terminated by Windstream; any security deposits applied to its account and Windstream may pursue any other remedies available at law or equity.

8.1.6 In the case of a cash deposit, interest at a rate as set forth in the appropriate Windstream tariff shall be paid to TCG during the possession of the security deposit by Windstream. Interest on a security deposit shall accrue annually and, if requested, shall be annually credited to TCG by the accrual date.

8.2 Windstream may, but is not obligated to, draw on the cash deposit, as applicable, upon the occurrence of any one of the following events.

8.2.1 TCG owes Windstream undisputed charges under this Agreement that are more than thirty (30) calendar days past due; or

8.2.2 TCG admits its inability to pay its debts as such debts become due, has commenced a voluntary case (or has had an involuntary case commenced against it) under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code or any other law relating to insolvency, reorganization, wind-up, compostion or adjustment of debts or the like, has made an assignment for the benefit of creditors or, is subject to a receivership or similar proceeding; or

8.2.3 The expiration or termination of this Agreement.

8.3 If Windstream draws on the security deposit, upon request by Windstream, TCG will provide a replacement deposit conforming to the requirements of Section 8.1.

8.4 Except as otherwise specifically provided elsewhere in this Agreement, the Parties will pay all rates and charges due and owing under this Agreement within thirty (30) days of the invoice date in immediately available funds. The Parties represent and covenant to each other that all invoices will be promptly processed and mailed in accordance with the Parties' regular procedures and billing systems.

8.4.1 If the payment due date falls on a Sunday or on a Holiday which is observed on a Monday, the payment due date shall be the first non-Holiday following such Sunday or Holiday. If the payment due date falls on a Saturday or on a Holiday which is observed on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday, the payment due date shall be the last non-Holiday preceding such Saturday or Holiday. If payment is not received by the payment due date, a late penalty, as set forth in §8.5 below, will be assessed.

8.5 If the amount billed is received by the billing Party after the payment due date or if any portion of the payment is received by the billing Party in funds which are not immediately available to the billing Party, then a late payment charge will apply to the unpaid balance.

8.6 Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement interest on overdue invoices will apply at the lesser of the highest interest rate (in decimal value) which may be levied by law for commercial transactions, compounded daily and applied for each month or portion thereof that an outstanding balance remains, or shall not exceed 0.0004930% compounded daily and applied for each month or portion thereof that an outstanding balance remains.

9.0 Dispute Resolution

9.1 Notice of Disputes

Notice of a valid contractual dispute must be in writing, specifically documenting the nature of the dispute, and must include a detailed description of the underlying dispute (the "Dispute Notice"). Billing disputes must be submitted on the Billing Dispute Form contained in Appendix A or the dispute will not be accepted as a valid billing dispute and therefore rejected by the billing Party. The billing dispute form must be completed with all fields populated by the disputing Party or the form will be rejected by the billing Party.

9.1.1 Billing Disputes

The disputing Party must submit billing disputes ("Billing Disputes") to the billing Party on the Billing Dispute Form contained in Appendix A by the due date on the disputed bill unless the disputing Party does not receive the billing within ten (10) calendar days from the bill date and at least twenty (20) calendar days prior to the payment due date as described in Attachment 12, Section 7.1. The dispute form must be complete, with all fields populated with the required information for the billable element in dispute. If the billing dispute form is not complete with all information, the dispute will be rejected by the billing Party. After receipt of a completed dispute, the billing Party will review to determine the accuracy of the billing dispute. If the billing Party determines the dispute is valid, the billing Party will credit the disputing Party's bill by the next bill date. If the billing Party determines the billing dispute is not valid, the disputing Party may escalate the dispute as outlined in section 9.1.1.1. If escalation of the billing dispute does not occur within the 30 days as outlined below, the disputing Party must remit payment for the disputed charge, including late payment charges, to the billing Party by the next bill date and these charges are no longer considered disputed charges. The Parties will

endeavor to resolve all Billing Disputes within sixty (60) calendar days from receipt of the Dispute Form.

9.1.1.1 Resolution of the dispute is expected to occur at the first level of management, resulting in a recommendation for settlement of the dispute and closure of a specific billing period. If the issues are not resolved within the allotted time frame, the following resolution procedure will be implemented:

9.1.1.1.1 If the dispute is not resolved within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of the Dispute Notice, the dispute will be escalated to the second level of management for each of the respective Parties for resolution. If the dispute is not resolved within sixty (60) calendar days of the notification date, the dispute will be escalated to the third level of management for each of the respective Parties for resolution.

9.1.1.1.2 If the dispute is not resolved within ninety (90) calendar days of the receipt of the Dispute Form, the dispute will be escalated to the fourth level of management for each of the respective Parties for resolution.

9.1.1.1.3 Each Party will provide to the other Party an escalation list for resolving billing disputes. The escalation list will contain the name, title, phone number, fax number and email address for each escalation point identified in this section 9.1.1.1.

9.1.1.1.4 If the dispute is not resolved within one hundred twenty (120) days of receipt of the Dispute Form or either Party is not operating in good faith to resolve the dispute, the Formal Dispute Resolution process, outlined in section 9.4, may be invoked.

9.1.1.2 If the disputing Party disputes a charge and does not pay such charge by the payment due date, such charges shall be subject to late payment charges as set forth in subsection 8.3 above. If the disputing Party disputes charges and the dispute is resolved in favor of the disputing Party, the billing Party shall credit the bill of the disputing Party for the amount of the disputed charges, along with any late payment charges assessed, by the next billing cycle after the resolution of the dispute. Accordingly, if the disputing Party disputes charges and the dispute is resolved in favor of the billing Party, the disputing Party shall pay the billing Party the amount of the disputed charges and any associated late payment charges, by the next billing due date after the resolution of the dispute.

9.1.1.3 For purposes of this subsection 9.1.1, a billing dispute shall not include the refusal to pay other amounts owed to a Party pending resolution of the dispute. Claims by the disputing Party for damages of any kind will not be considered a Bona Fide Dispute for purposes of this subsection 9.1.1. Parties failure to pay all undisputed amounts by the due date listed on the bill, is a material breach of this agreement.

9.1.1.3.1 If a Party is in breach of a material term or condition of this Agreement ("Party in Breach"), the other Party shall provide written notice of such breach to the Party in Breach. The Party in Breach shall have ten (10) business days from receipt of notice to cure the breach. If the breach is not cured, termination of this agreement will occur.

9.1.1.4 Once the billing dispute has been processed in accordance with this subsection 9.1.1, the disputing Party will make immediate payment on any of the disputed amount owed to the billing Party, or the billing Party shall have the right to pursue normal treatment procedures. Any credits due to the disputing Party resulting from the Dispute process will be applied to the disputing Party's account by the billing Party immediately upon resolution of the dispute.

9.1.1.5 Neither Party shall bill the other Party for charges incurred more than twelve (12) months after the service is provided to the non-billing Party.

9.1.2 **All Other Disputes**

The Parties agree that any other dispute that arises as to the interpretation of any provision of this Agreement or as to the proper implementation of this Agreement, will be submitted to the other Party through the dispute resolution process outlined in 9.2, 9.3 and 9.4 below. All other disputes (*i.e.*, contractual disputes) shall be valid only if reasonable within the scope of this Agreement, and the applicable statute of limitations shall govern such disputes.

9.2 **Alternative to Litigation**

9.2.1 The Parties desire to resolve disputes arising out of this Agreement without litigation. Accordingly, except for action seeking a temporary restraining order, an injunction, or similar relief from the PUC 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.

9.2.2 Each Party agrees to promptly notify the other Party in writing of a dispute and may in the Dispute Notice invoke the informal dispute resolution process described in §9.4. The Parties will endeavor to resolve the dispute within thirty (30) days after the date of the Dispute Notice.

9.3 **Informal Resolution of Disputes**

In the case of any dispute and upon receipt of the Dispute Notice each Party will appoint a duly authorized representative knowledgeable in telecommunications matters, 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, but are not obligated to, 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 any lawsuit without the concurrence of both Parties. Documents identified in or provided with such communications, which are not prepared for purposes of the negotiations, are not so exempted and, if otherwise admissible, may be admitted in evidence in the lawsuit. Unless otherwise provided herein, or upon the Parties' Agreement, either Party may invoke formal dispute resolution procedures or other procedures as appropriate, not earlier than thirty (30) days after the date of the Dispute Notice, provided the Party invoking the formal dispute resolution process has in good faith negotiated, or attempted to negotiate, with the other Party.

9.4 **Formal Dispute Resolution**

9.4.1 The Parties agree that all unresolved disputes arising under this Agreement may be submitted to PUC for resolution in accordance with its dispute resolution process and the outcome of such process will be binding on the Parties, subject to any right to appeal a decision reached by the PUC under applicable law.

9.4.2 If the PUC does not have or declines to accept jurisdiction over any dispute arising under this Agreement, either Party may proceed with any remedy available to it pursuant to law, equity or agency mechanisms

9.4.3 Each Party shall bear its own costs of these procedures unless the South Carolina PUC or other presiding authority, if any, rules otherwise. A Party seeking discovery shall reimburse the responding Party for the costs of production of documents (including search time and reproduction costs).

9.5 Conflicts

9.5.1 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 state commission with regard to procedures for the resolution of disputes arising out of this Agreement and do not preclude a Party from seeking relief under applicable rules or procedures of the PUC.

10.0 INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

11.0 Notices

11.1 Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement, all notice, consents, approvals, modifications, or other communications to be given under this Agreement shall be in writing and sent postage prepaid by registered mail return receipt requested. Notice may also be effected by personal delivery or by overnight courier. All notices will be effective upon receipt, and should be directed to the following:

If to TCG:

Bill Peacock
Director – Interconnection Agreements
6404 Highway 5
Douglasville, GA 30135

Copy to:

Douglas W. Trabaris
Senior Attorney
225 W. Randolph Street, Rm. 25D
Chicago, IL 60606

If to Windstream:
Windstream
Staff Manager – Interconnection Services
4001 Rodney Parham Road
1170 B1F2-12A
Little Rock, AR 72212

Copy to:
Windstream
Attn: Windstream Legal Department
4001 Rodney Parham Road
1170 B1F03-53A
Little Rock, AR 72212

11.2 Either Party may unilaterally change its designated representative and/or address, telephone contact number or facsimile number for the receipt of notices by giving seven (7) days' prior written notice to the other Party in compliance with this Section.

12.0 Taxes

12.1 Each Party purchasing services hereunder shall pay or otherwise be responsible for all federal, state, or local sales, use, excise, gross receipts, transaction or similar taxes, fees or surcharges (hereinafter "Tax") levied against or upon such purchasing Party (or the providing Party when such providing Party is permitted to pass along to the purchasing Party such taxes, fees or surcharges), except for any tax on either Party's corporate existence, status or income. Whenever possible, these amounts shall be billed as a separate item on the invoice. Purchasing Party may be exempted from certain taxes if purchasing Party provides proper documentation, e.g., reseller certificate, from the appropriate taxing authority. Failure to timely provide said resale tax exemption certificate will result in no exemption being available to the purchasing Party until such time as the purchasing Party presents a valid certification.

12.2 With respect to any purchase of services, facilities or other arrangements, if any Tax is required or permitted by applicable law to be collected from the purchasing Party by the providing Party, then (i) the providing Party shall bill the purchasing Party for such Tax, (ii) the purchasing Party shall remit such Tax to the providing Party and (iii) the providing Party shall remit such collected Tax to the applicable taxing authority, except as otherwise indicated below.

12.3 The Parties agree that each Party shall generally be responsible for collecting and remitting to the appropriate city, any franchise fees or taxes for use of city rights of way, in accordance with the terms of that Party's franchise Agreement. In the event a city attempts to require both Parties to pay franchise fees on the same revenues with respect to resold services or unbundled network elements then the Parties agree to cooperate in opposing such double taxation.

12.4 With respect to any purchase hereunder of services, facilities or arrangements that are resold to a third party, if any Tax is imposed by applicable law on the End User in connection with any such purchase, then (i) the purchasing Party shall be required to impose and/or collect such Tax from the End User and (ii) the purchasing Party shall remit such Tax to the applicable taxing authority. The purchasing Party agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the providing Party on an after-tax basis for any costs incurred by the providing Party as a result of actions taken by the applicable taxing authority to collect the Tax from the providing Party due to the failure of the purchasing Party to pay or collect and remit such tax to such authority.

12.5 If the providing Party fails to collect any Tax as required herein, then, as between the providing Party and the purchasing Party, (i) the purchasing Party shall remain liable for such uncollected Tax and (ii) the providing Party shall be liable for any penalty and interest assessed with respect to such uncollected Tax by such authority. However, if the purchasing Party fails to pay any taxes properly billed, then, as between the providing Party and the purchasing Party, the purchasing Party will be solely responsible for payment of the taxes, penalty and interest.

12.6 If the purchasing Party fails to impose and/or collect any Tax from End Users as required herein, then, as between the providing Party and the purchasing Party, the purchasing Party shall remain liable for such uncollected Tax and any interest and penalty assessed thereon with respect to the uncollected Tax by the applicable taxing authority. With respect to any Tax that the purchasing Party has agreed to pay or impose on and/or collect from End Users, the purchasing Party agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the providing Party on an after-tax basis for any costs incurred by the providing Party as a result of actions taken by the applicable taxing authority to collect the Tax from the providing Party due to the failure of the purchasing Party to pay or collect and remit such Tax to such authority.

12.7 All notices, affidavits, exemption certificates or other communications required or permitted to be given by either Party to the other Party under this §12.0, shall be made in writing and sent postage prepaid by registered mail return receipt requested. All notices shall be effective upon receipt. All notices sent pursuant to this Section shall be directed to the following:

To Windstream:
Windstream
Attn: Director State and Local Taxes
4001 Rodney Parham Road
1170 B1F3-70A
Little Rock, AR 72212

Copy to:
Windstream
Attn: Staff Manager - Interconnection Services
4001 Rodney Parham Road
1170 B13F2-12A
Little Rock, AR 72212

To TCG:

Steve Shashack – Executive Director
1010 N. Saint Mary's Street
Room 9-Y-40
San Antonio, TX 78215

Copy to:

Lacey Stevenson- Senior Attorney
2535 E. 40th Avenue, Room 1225
Denver, CO 80205

12.8 Either Party may unilaterally change its designated representative and/or address, telephone contact number or facsimile number for the receipt of notices by giving seven (7) days' prior written notice to the other Party in compliance with this Section.

12.9 In the event either Party is audited by a taxing authority, the other Party agrees to cooperate fully 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.

13.0 Force Majeure

13.1 Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement, neither Party shall be liable for delays or failures in performance resulting from acts or occurrences beyond the reasonable control of such Party, regardless of whether such delays or failures in performance were foreseen or foreseeable as of the date of this Agreement, including, without limitation: fire, explosion, power failure, acts of God, war, revolution, civil commotion, or acts of public enemies; epidemics, riots, insurrections, earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes, nuclear accidents, floods, or labor unrest, including, without limitation strikes, slowdowns, picketing or boycotts or any other similar circumstances beyond the Party's reasonable control. In such event, the Party affected shall, upon giving prompt notice to the other Party, be excused from such performance on a day-to-day basis to the extent of such interference (and the other Party shall likewise be excused from performance of its obligations on a day-for-day basis to the extent such Party's obligations relate to the performance so interfered with). The affected Party shall use its reasonable commercial efforts to

avoid or remove the cause of nonperformance and both Parties shall proceed to perform with dispatch once the causes are removed or cease.

14.0 Publicity

14.1 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.

14.2 Neither Party will offer any services using the trademarks, service marks, trade names, brand names, logos, insignia, symbols or decorative designs of the other Party or its affiliates without the other Party's written authorization.

15.0 Network Maintenance and Management

15.1 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 Government, etc.) to achieve this desired reliability, subject to the confidentiality provisions herein.

15.2 Each Party will provide a 24-hour contact number for Network Traffic Management issues to the other's surveillance management center. A facsimile (FAX) number must also be provided to facilitate event notifications for planned mass calling events. Additionally, both Parties agree that they will work cooperatively to ensure that all such events will attempt to be conducted in such a manner as to avoid disruption or loss of service to other End Users.

15.2.1 **24 Hour Network Management Contact:**

For Windstream:

Contact Number: 330-650-7929

For TCG:

Contact Number: 866-466-2288

15.3 Neither Party will use any service provided under this Agreement in a manner that impairs the quality of service to other carriers or to either Party's subscribers. Either Party will provide the other Party notice of said impairment at the earliest practicable time.

16.0 Law Enforcement and Civil Process

16.1 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 requirement, 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.

16.2 **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.

16.3 **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.

16.4 The Parties will provide five (5) day a week (Monday through Friday) from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Central Time for installation and information retrieval pertaining to lawful, manual traps and information retrieval on Customer invoked CLASS services pertaining to non-emergency calls such as annoyance calls. The Parties will provide assistance twenty-four (24) hours per day for situations involving immediate threat of life or at the request of law enforcement officials. The Parties will provide a twenty-four (24) hour contact number to administer this process.

17.0 Changes in Subscriber Carrier Selection

17.1 Each Party will abide by applicable state or federal laws and regulations in obtaining End User authorization prior to changing End User's Local Service Provider to itself and in assuming responsibility for any applicable charges as specified in §258 (b) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Either Party shall make authorization available to the other Party upon reasonable requests and at no charge.

17.2 Either Party can initiate a challenge to a change in its local exchange service provider. If an End User notifies either Party that the End User requests local exchange service, the Party receiving such request shall be free to immediately provide service to such End User.

17.3 When an End User changes or withdraws authorization, each Party will release Customer specific facilities in accordance with the Customers' direction or the End User's authorized agent.

17.4 Subject to applicable rules, orders, and decisions, Windstream will provide TCG with access to Customer Proprietary Network Information (CPNI) for Windstream End Users upon TCG providing Windstream a signed Letter of Authorization (LOA) for Windstream's Customer of record.

17.4.1 The Parties agree that they will conform to FCC and/or state regulations regarding the information provided in the LOA, the provisioning of CPNI between the Parties, and regarding the use of that information by the requesting Party.

17.4.2 The requesting Party will document End User permission obtained to receive CPNI, whether or not the End User has agreed to change Local Service Providers.

17.4.3 CPNI requests will be processed and responded to by each Party in parity. TCG will provide the same CPNI to Windstream that Windstream provides TCG.

17.4.4 If the Parties do not agree that TCG requested CPNI for a specific End User, or that Windstream has erred in not accepting proof of an LOA, the Parties may immediately request dispute resolution in accordance with General Terms & Conditions, §9.0, Dispute Resolution.

17.5 Windstream will only accept an LOA for a Windstream Customer of record. TCG may not delegate its obligation to obtain written authorization from Windstream's Customer of record to a third party.

18.0 Amendments or Waivers

18.1 Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, no amendment to this Agreement will be effective unless the same is in writing and signed by an authorized representative of each Party. 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. It is Windstream's position that it is a 2 % Rural Telephone Company and is entitled to all rights afforded 2% Rural Telephone Companies under the Act including, but not limited to, exemptions, suspensions, and modifications under 47 USC § 251(f). This Agreement does not affect, and Windstream does not waive, any rights including, but not limited to, the rights afforded Windstream under 47 USC § 251(f). 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, other public forum, contract negotiation, bona fide request or arbitration addressing any matters, including matters related to the types of arrangements prescribed by this Agreement.

19.0 Authority

19.1 Each person whose signature appears below represents and warrants that they have the authority to bind the Party on whose behalf they executed this Agreement.

20.0 Binding Effect

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

21.0 Consent

21.1 Where consent, approval, or mutual Agreement is required of a Party, it will not be unreasonably withheld or delayed.

22.0 Expenses

22.1 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.

23.0 Headings

23.1 The headings in this Agreement are inserted for convenience and identification only and will not be considered in the interpretation of this Agreement.

24.0 Relationship of Parties

24.1 This Agreement will 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 will have any authority to bind the other Party, nor to act as an agent for the other Party unless written authority, separate from this Agreement, is provided. Nothing in the Agreement will 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 will be construed as making either Party responsible or liable for the obligations and undertakings of the other Party.

25.0 Conflict of Interest

25.1 The Parties represent that no employee or agent of either Party has been or will be employed, retained, paid a fee, or otherwise received or will receive any personal compensation or consideration from the other Party, or any of the other Party's employees or agents in connection with the arranging or negotiation of this Agreement or associated documents.

26.0 Multiple Counterparts

26.1 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.

27.0 Third Party Beneficiaries

27.1 Except as may be specifically set forth in this Agreement, this Agreement does not provide and will not be construed to provide third parties with any remedy, claim, liability, reimbursement, cause of action, or other privilege.

28.0 Regulatory Approval

28.1 Each Party agrees to cooperate with the other Party and with any regulatory agency to obtain regulatory approval. During the term of this Agreement, each Party agrees to continue to cooperate with the other Party and any regulatory agency so that the benefits of this Agreement may be achieved.

28.2 Upon execution of this Agreement, it shall be filed with the appropriate state regulatory agency pursuant to the requirements of §252 of the Act. If the state regulatory agency imposes any filing(s) or public interest notice(s) regarding the filing or approval of the Agreement, the Parties shall equally share the cost of such filing and/or public interest notice fee and Windstream shall assume sole responsibility in making such filings or notices. All costs associated with the aforementioned filing(s) or notice(s) shall borne by TCG. Notwithstanding the foregoing, this Agreement shall not be submitted for approval by the appropriate state regulatory agency unless and until such time as TCG is duly certified as a local exchange carrier in such state, except as otherwise required by a Commission.

29.0 Trademarks and Trade Names

29.1 Each Party warrants that, to the best of its knowledge, the services provided under this Agreement do not or will not violate or infringe upon any patent, copyright, trademark, or trade secret rights of any other persons.

29.2 Except as specifically set out in this Agreement, nothing in this Agreement will grant, suggest, or imply any authority for one Party to use the name, trademarks, service marks, or trade names of the other Party for any purpose whatsoever, absent written consent of the other Party.

30.0 Regulatory Authority

30.1 Each Party will be responsible for obtaining and keeping in effect all Federal Communications Commission, state regulatory commission, franchise authority and other regulatory approvals that may be required in connection with the performance of its obligations under this Agreement. Each Party will reasonably cooperate with the other Party in obtaining and maintaining any required approvals necessary for fulfilling its obligations under this Agreement.

31.0 Verification Reviews

31.1 Subject to each Party's reasonable security requirements and except as may be otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement, either Party may audit the other Party's relevant books, records and other documents pertaining to services provided under this Agreement once in each Contract Year solely for the purpose of evaluating the accuracy of the other Party's billing and invoicing. Such audit will take place at a time and place agreed on by the Parties no later than sixty (60) days after notice thereof.

31.2 The review will consist of an examination and verification of data involving records, systems, procedures and other information related to the services performed by either Party as related to settlement charges or payments made in connection with this Agreement as determined by either Party to be reasonably required. Each Party shall maintain reasonable records for a minimum of twelve (12) months and provide the other Party with reasonable access to such information as is necessary to determine amounts receivable or payable under this Agreement.

31.3 Adjustments, credits, or payments shall be made and any corrective action shall commence within thirty (30) days from the Requesting Party's receipt of the final audit report to compensate for any errors or omissions which are disclosed by such audit and are agreed to by the Parties. Audit findings may be applied retroactively for no more than twelve (12) months from the date the audit began. Interest shall not exceed one and one-half percent (1 ½%) of the highest interest rate allowable by law for commercial transactions shall be assessed and shall be computed by compounding daily from the time of the overcharge, not to exceed twelve (12) months from the

date the audit began to the day of payment or credit. Any disputes concerning audit results will be resolved pursuant to the Dispute Resolution procedures described in §9.0 of this Agreement.

31.4 Each Party will cooperate fully in any such audit, providing reasonable access to any and all appropriate employees and books, records and other documents reasonably necessary to assess the accuracy of the Party's bills.

31.5 Verification reviews will be limited in frequency to once per twelve (12) month period, with provision for staged reviews, as mutually agreed, so that all subject matters are not required to be reviewed at the same time. Verification reviews will be scheduled subject to the reasonable requirements and limitations of the audited Party and will be conducted in a manner that will not interfere with the audited Party's business operations.

31.6 The Party requesting a verification review shall fully bear its costs associated with conducting a review. The Party being reviewed will provide access to required information, as outlined in this Section, at no charge to the reviewing Party. Should the reviewing Party request information or assistance beyond that reasonably required to conduct such a review, the Party being reviewed may, at its option, decline to comply with such request or may bill actual costs incurred in complying subsequent to the concurrence of the reviewing Party.

31.7 For purposes of conducting an audit pursuant to this Agreement, the Parties may employ other persons or firms for this purpose (so long as said Parties are bound by this Agreement). The Parties will bear their own reasonable expenses associated with the audit.

31.8 Information obtained or received by either Party in conducting the audit described in §31.0 shall be subject to the confidentiality provisions of §6.0 of this Agreement, whether or not marked as confidential.

32.0 Complete Terms

32.1 This Agreement sets forth the entire understanding and supersedes prior Agreements between the Parties relating to the subject matter contained herein and merges all prior discussions between them, and neither Party shall be bound by any definition, condition, provision, representation, warranty, covenant or promise other than as expressly stated in this Agreement or as is contemporaneously or subsequently set forth in writing and executed by a duly authorized officer or representative of the Party to be bound thereby.

33.0 Cooperation on Preventing End User Fraud

33.1 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 Party.

33.2 In cases of suspected fraudulent activity by an End User, at a minimum, the cooperation referenced in the above paragraph will include providing to the other Party, upon request, information concerning End Users who terminate services to that Party without paying all outstanding charges. The Party seeking such information is responsible for securing the End User's permission to obtain such information.

34.0 Notice of Network Changes

34.1 The Parties agree to provide each other with reasonable notice consistent with applicable FCC rules of changes in the information necessary for the transmission and routing of services using the

other Party's facilities or networks, as well as other changes that affect the interoperability of those respective facilities and networks. Nothing in this Agreement is intended to limit either Party's ability to upgrade or modify its network, including without limitation, the incorporation of new equipment, new software or otherwise so long as such upgrades are not inconsistent with the Parties' obligations under this Agreement.

35.0 Modification of Agreement

35.1 If TCG changes its name or makes changes to its company structure or identity due to a merger, acquisition, transfer or any other reason, it is the responsibility of TCG to notify Windstream of said change and request that an amendment to this Agreement, if necessary, be executed to reflect said change.

36.0 Responsibility of Each Party

36.1 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 will be solely responsible for all matters relating to payment of such employees, including compliance with social security taxes, withholding taxes and all other regulations governing such matters. Each Party will be solely responsible for proper handling, storage, transport and disposal at its own expense of all (i) substances or materials that it or its contractors or agents bring to, create or assume control over at Work Locations or, (ii) waste resulting therefrom or otherwise generated in connection with its or its contractors' or agents' activities at the Work Locations. Subject to the limitations on liability and except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, each Party will be responsible for (i) its own acts and performance of all obligations imposed by applicable law in connection with its activities, legal status and property, real or personal and, (ii) the acts of its own affiliates, employees, agents and contractors during the performance of the Party's obligations hereunder.

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38.0 Governmental Compliance

38.1 Each Party will comply at its own expense with all applicable law that relates 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. The Parties agree to indemnify, defend, (at the other Party's request) and save harmless the other Party, 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) its failure or the failure of its contractors or agents to so comply or ii) any activity, duty or status of it or its contractors or agents that triggers any legal obligation to investigate or remediate environmental contamination.

39.0 Responsibility for Environmental Contamination

39.1 TCG will in no event be liable to Windstream for any costs whatsoever resulting from the presence or release of any Environmental Hazard that TCG did not introduce to the affected work location. Windstream will indemnify, defend (at TCG's request) and hold harmless TCG, 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 Windstream, its contractors or agents introduce to the Work Locations or (ii) the presence or release of any Environmental Hazard for which Windstream is responsible under applicable law.

39.2 Windstream will in no event be liable to TCG for any costs whatsoever resulting from the presence or release of any Environmental Hazard that Windstream did not introduce to the affected work location. TCG will indemnify, defend (at Windstream's request) and hold harmless Windstream, 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 TCG, its contractors or agents introduce to the Work Locations or ii) the presence or release of any Environmental Hazard for which TCG is responsible under applicable law.

40.0 Subcontracting

40.1 If a Party through a subcontractor performs any obligation under this Agreement, such 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 Confidential Information covered by this Agreement will be required by the subcontracting Party to protect such Confidential Information to the same extent the subcontracting Party is required to protect the same under the terms of this Agreement.

41.0 Referenced Documents

41.1 Whenever any provision of this Agreement refers to a technical reference, technical publication, any publication of telecommunications industry administrative or technical standards, Windstream handbooks and manuals, 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. However, if such reference material is substantially altered in a more recent version to significantly change the obligations of either Party as of the Effective Date of this Agreement and the Parties are not in Agreement concerning such modifications, the Parties agree to negotiate in good faith to determine how such changes will impact performance of the Parties under this Agreement, if at all. Until such time as the Parties agree, the provisions of the last accepted and unchallenged version will remain in force.

42.0 Severability

42.1 If any term, condition or provision of this Agreement is held to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, such invalidity or unenforceability will not invalidate the entire Agreement, unless such construction would be unreasonable. The Agreement will be construed as if it did not contain the invalid or unenforceable provision or provisions, and the rights and obligations of each Party will be construed and enforced accordingly; provided, however, that in the event such invalid or unenforceable provision or provisions are essential elements of this Agreement and substantially impair the rights or obligations of either Party, the Parties will promptly negotiate a replacement provision or provisions. If impasse is reached, the Parties will resolve said impasse under §9.0, Dispute Resolution.

43.0 Survival of Obligations

43.1 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.

44.0 Governing Law

44.1 This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with federal law, the Act, and the FCC's Rules and Regulations, except insofar as state law may control any aspect of this Agreement, in which case the domestic laws of South Carolina, without regard to its conflicts of laws principles, shall govern. The Parties submit to personal jurisdiction in South Carolina.

45.0 Other Obligations of TCG

45.1 To establish service and provide efficient and consolidated billing to TCG, TCG is required to provide a CLEC Profile, which includes its authorized and nationally recognized Operating Company Number ("OCN"), to establish TCG's billing account. TCG will be provided with a billing account number ("BAN") for each CLEC Profile submitted. TCG will pay Windstream $380.00 for the establishment of each billing account number ("BAN").

45.2 TCG shall use Windstream's electronic operations support system access platform (Windstream Express) to submit orders and requests for maintenance and repair of services, and to engage in other pre-ordering, ordering, provisioning, maintenance and repair transactions and billing disputes for resale services. If Windstream Express is not available, TCG shall use such other processes as Windstream has made available for performing such transaction (including, but not limited, to submission of orders by telephonic facsimile transmission and placing trouble reports by voice telephone transmission). If TCG chooses to submit orders, requests for maintenance and repair of services and resale billing disputes manually, when Windstream's electronic operations support system access platform (Windstream Express) is available, TCG will pay a manual order charge as reflected in the applicable Windstream tariff.

45.3 TCG represents and covenants that it will only use Windstream Express pursuant to this Agreement for services related to UNEs, resold services or other services covered by this Agreement, for which this Agreement contains explicit terms, conditions and rates and will not provide its access to a third party.

45.4 A service order processing charge (Service Order Charge), listed in Appendix B, will be applied to each service order issued by Windstream to process a request for installation, disconnection, rearrangement, or changes to orders or existing service pursuant to this Agreement.

46.0 Customer Iuquiries

46.1 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.

46.2 Each Party will ensure that all of their representatives who receive inquiries regarding the other Party's services or products: (i) provide the numbers described in §47.1; and (ii) do not in any way disparage or discriminate against the other Party or its services or products.

47.0 Disclaimer of Warranties

47.1 **EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE SPECIFICALLY PROVIDED IN THIS AGREEMENT, NEITHER PARTY MAKES ANY REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ANY WARRANTY AS TO MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR INTENDED OR PARTICULAR PURPOSE WITH RESPECT TO SERVICES PROVIDED HEREUNDER. ADDITIONALLY, NEITHER PARTY ASSUMES ANY RESPONSIBILITY WITH REGARD TO THE CORRECTNESS OF DATA OR INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY THE OTHER PARTY WHEN THIS DATA OR INFORMATION IS ACCESSED AND USED BY A THIRD PARTY.**

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53.0 Definitions and Acronyms

53.1 **Definitions**

For purposes of this Agreement, certain terms have been defined in Attachment 20: Definitions and elsewhere 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 "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.

53.2 **Acronyms**

Other terms that are capitalized and not defined in this Agreement will have the meaning in the Act. For convenience of reference only, Attachment 21: Acronyms provides a list of acronyms used throughout this Agreement.

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57.0 Other Requirements and Attachments

57.1 This Agreement incorporates a number of listed Attachments, which, together with their associated Appendices, Exhibits, and Addenda, constitute the entire Agreement between the Parties.

57.1.1 Each Party agrees that if at anytime a discrepancy arises between the General Terms and Conditions and one of the Attachments, the Attachments will control.

57.1.2 Appended to this Agreement and incorporated herein are the Attachments listed below. To the extent that any definitions, terms or conditions in any given Attachment differ from those contained in the main body of this Agreement, those definitions, terms or conditions will supersede those contained in the main body of this Agreement, but only in regard to the services or activities listed in that particular Attachment. In particular, if an Attachment contains a term length that differs from the term length in the main body of this Agreement, the term length of that Attachment will control the length of time that services or activities are to occur under the Attachment, but will not affect the term length of other attachments.

Attachment 4: Network Interconnection Architecture
Attachment 12: Compensation
Attachment 13: Numbering
Attachment 14: Number Portability
Attachment 18: Performance Measures
Attachment 19: Bona Fide Request (BFR) Process
Attachment 20: Definitions
Attachment 21: Acronyms
Appendix A: Billing Dispute Form
Appendix B: Price List

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed as of this 27th day of July, 2009.

TC Systems, Inc.

Eileen M. Oakley
Print Name

Sign Name: Date 24 June 09

Regional VP-Carrier Management
TC Systems, Inc.

Windstream South Carolina, LLC

Michael D. Rhoda
Print Name

Sign Name: Date 7/27/09

SVP – Government Affairs
Windstream South Carolina, LLC

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ATTACHMENT 4: NETWORK INTERCONNECTION ARCHITECTURE

1.0 Scope

1.1 This Attachment describes the arrangements that may be utilized by the Parties for interconnection of their respective networks for the transmission and routing of Telephone Exchange Service and Exchange Access Service pursuant to §251 of the Act. Network Interconnection will be provided by the Parties at any technically feasible point(s) within Windstream's interconnected network within a LATA. TCG must establish Points Of Interconnection (POI) as described in Sections 2.1.1 and 2.2 below. TCG must establish a point of interconnection at each Windstream tandem within the LATA. It is TCG's responsibility to establish interconnection, pursuant to this Attachment, within Windstream's interconnected network within each LATA. In each Windstream Exchange Area where the Parties interconnect their networks, the Parties will utilize the interconnection method as specified below unless otherwise mutually agreed to in writing by the Parties. Traffic originated by any third party, not a Party to this Agreement, delivered to the other Party, regardless of whether such traffic is delivered to the Party's End User, is not originating on that Party's network and may not be routed through any interconnection facilities. The terms "originate" and "terminate" refer to the end points of a call, regardless of the classification of the Party's End User.

1.2 Each Party is responsible for the cost, appropriate sizing, operation, and maintenance of the facilities on its side of each POI. Each POI must be located within Windstream's serving territory in the LATA in which traffic is originating. A POI determines the point up to which the originating Party shall be responsible for providing, at its own expense, the call transport with respect to its Local traffic and IntraLATA Traffic.

1.3 A Point of Interconnection (POI), as defined in §2.0 of this Attachment will be designated for each interconnection arrangement established pursuant to this Agreement. Street address and/or Vertical and Horizontal (V & H) Coordinates will be provided to identify each POI.

2.0 Interconnection

2.1 Direct interconnection facilities provide for network interconnection between the Parties at a technically feasible point(s) on Windstream's interconnected network within a LATA as described in Section 2.1.1 TCG must establish Points Of Interconnection as described in Sections 2.1.1 and 2.2 below. Traffic originated by any third party, not a Party to this Agreement, delivered to the other Party, regardless of whether such traffic is delivered to the Party's End User, is not originating on that Party's network and may not be routed through the direct interconnection facilities. Direct interconnection shall be accomplished by, including but not limited to, one or more of the following methods: 1) lease arrangements, and 2) jointly provisioned facilities arrangements.

2.1.1 In order to gain connectivity, the POI is required as described in Section 2.2 below at the following locations:

a) POI at the Windstream Tandem Office where available;
b) POI at the Windstream End Office;
c) POI at the Windstream Access Tandem, where available, or End Office for a Windstream remote central office.

2.1.2 Lease arrangements will be governed by the applicable Windstream interstate, intrastate or local, special access or private line tariffs under which TCG orders service.

2.1.3 Each Party will be responsible for the engineering and construction of its own network facilities on its side of the POI, however, should Windstream be required to modify its network to accommodate the interconnection request made by TCG, TCG agrees to pay Windstream reasonable charges for such modifications. If TCG uses a third party network Carrier to reach the POI, TCG will bear all third party Carrier charges for facilities and traffic.

2.2 TCG will establish POIs under the following conditions:

2.2.1 For LATAs where Windstream has no tandems:

i. TCG will establish a Point Of Interconnection at a technically feasible point(s) within Windstream's local exchange boundary for each End Office, and each Party will be responsible for the cost, appropriate sizing, operation, and maintenance of the facilities on its side of such POI.

2.2.2 For LATAs where Windstream has one tandem:

i. TCG will establish a POI at the Windstream tandem. Each Party is responsible for the cost, appropriate sizing, operation, and maintenance of the facilities on its side of each POI.
ii. Where traffic to a Windstream End Office reaches nine (9) DS1s of traffic threshold over a three consecutive month period, then TCG shall install and retain direct end office facilities sufficient to handle such traffic volumes.
iii. Where Windstream End Office is not interconnected to a Windstream Tandem, and the traffic to the Windstream End Office reaches two (2) DS1s of traffic threshold over a three consecutive month period, then TCG shall install and retain direct end office facilities sufficient to handle such traffic volumes.

2.2.3 For LATAs where Windstream has interconnected tandems:

i. If Windstream's tandems are interconnected, TCG will establish a POI at one Windstream tandem location of TCG's choosing. Each Party is responsible for the cost, appropriate sizing, operation, and maintenance of the facilities on its side of each POI. The Parties will establish a direct trunk group via that POI with each interconnected Windstream tandem in the LATA.
ii. TCG will establish an additional POI at any Windstream tandem when traffic measured in both directions to that location reaches a threshold of nine (9) DS1's for three consecutive months.
iii. Where traffic to a Windstream End Office reaches nine (9) DS1s of traffic threshold over a three consecutive month period, then TCG shall install and retain direct end office facilities sufficient to handle such traffic volumes.
iv. Where Windstream End Office is not interconnected to a Windstream Tandem, and the traffic to the Windstream End Office reaches two (2) DS1s of traffic threshold over a three consecutive month period, then TCG shall install and retain direct end office facilities sufficient to handle such traffic volumes.

2.2.4 For LATAs where Windstream has non-interconnected tandems:

i. TCG will establish a POI at each non-interconnected Windstream tandem. Each Party is responsible for the cost, appropriate sizing, operation, and maintenance of the facilities on its side of each POI.
ii. Where traffic to a Windstream End Office reaches nine (9) DS1s of traffic threshold over a three consecutive month period, then TCG shall install and retain direct end office facilities sufficient to handle such traffic volumes.
iii. Where Windstream End Office is not interconnected to a Windstream Tandem, and the traffic to the Windstream End Office reaches two (2) DS1s of traffic threshold over a three consecutive month period, then TCG shall install and retain direct end office facilities sufficient to handle such traffic volumes.

2.2.5 Tandem Exhaust - If a tandem through which the Parties are interconnected is unable to, or is forecasted to be unable to support additional traffic loads for any period of time, the Parties will mutually agree on an end office facility plan that will alleviate the tandem capacity shortage and ensure completion of traffic between TCG and Windstream.

2.2.6 Mutual Agreement - The Parties may install direct end office facilities upon mutual agreement in the absence of conditions (2.2.5) above

2.3 Indirect Interconnection. Both Parties agree only to deliver traffic to the other pursuant to and consistent with the terms of this Agreement. Neither Party shall utilize a third party for the delivery of traffic to the other pursuant to this Agreement without the prior written consent of all Parties and without the establishment of mutually agreeable terms and conditions among all Parties governing any intermediary arrangement with a third party. Traffic originated by any third party, not a Party to this Agreement, delivered to the other Party, regardless of whether such traffic is delivered to the Party's End User, is not originating on that Party's network and may not be routed through Indirect Interconnection.

2.4 Transit Traffic. Neither Party shall provide an intermediary or transit function for the connection of the End Users of a third party to the End Users of the other Party and without the establishment of mutually agreeable terms and conditions governing the provision of the intermediary function. This Agreement does not obligate either Party to utilize any intermediary or transit traffic functions of the other Party or to accept transit traffic or intermediary arrangements with third parties.

2.5 Neither Party shall deliver: (i) traffic destined to terminate at the other Party's end office via another LEC's end office, or (ii) traffic destined to terminate at an end office subtending the other Party's tandem via another LEC's tandem.

3.0 Signaling Requirements

3.1 Signaling protocol. The Parties will interconnect their networks using SS7 signaling where technically feasible and available as defined in FR 905 Bellcore Standards including ISDN user part ("ISUP") for trunk signaling and Transaction Capabilities Application Part ("TCAP") for CCS-based features in the interconnection of their networks. All Network Interoperability Interface Forum (NIIF) adopted standards shall be adhered to.

3.2 Where available, CCS signaling shall be used by the Parties to set up calls between the Parties' Telephone Exchange Service networks. If CCS signaling is unavailable, the Parties shall use MF (Multi-Frequency) signaling.

3.3 The following list of publications describe the practices, procedures and specifications generally utilized by the industry for signaling purposes and are listed herein to assist the Parties in meeting their respective interconnection responsibilities related to signaling:

GR-000246-CORE, Bell Communications Research Specifications of Signaling System 7 ("SS7")

GR-000317-CORE, Switching System Requirements for Call Control Using the Integrated Services Digital Network User Part

GR-000394-CORE, Switching System Requirements for Interexchange Carrier Interconnection Using the Integrated Services Digital Network User Part

GR-000606-CORE, LATA Switching Systems Generic Requirements-Common Channel Signaling-§6.5

GR-000905-CORE, Common Channel Signaling Network Interface Specification Supporting Network Interconnection Message Transfer Part ("MTP") and Integrated Digital Services Network User Part ("ISDNUP")

3.4 The Parties will cooperate on the exchange of Transactional Capabilities Application Part (TCAP) messages to facilitate interoperability of CCS-based features between their respective networks, including all CLASS features and functions, to the extent each Party offers such features and functions to its End Users. All CCS signaling parameters will be provided including, without limitation, Calling Party Number (CPN), Originating Line Information ("OLI"), calling party category and charge number.

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

3.6 The Parties shall jointly develop a grooming plan (the "Joint Grooming Plan") which shall define and detail, inter alia,

3.6.1 disaster recovery provisions and escalations;

3.6.2 direct/high usage trunk engineering guidelines; and

3.6.3 such other matters as the Parties may agree.

3.7 If a Party makes a change in its network, which it believes will materially affect the interoperability of its network with the other Party, the Party making the change shall provide thirty (30) days advance written notice of such change to the other Party.

4.0 Interconnection and Trunking Requirements

4.1 Local Traffic and IntraLATA Toll Traffic

4.1.1 The Parties shall reciprocally terminate Local Traffic and IntraLATA calls originating on each other's networks as follows:

4.1.1.1 Where technically feasible, the Parties shall make available to each other two-way interconnection trunks for the reciprocal exchange of combined Local Traffic and IntraLATA traffic. In such case, each Party will provide to each other its Percentage of Local Use (PLU) for billing purposes. If either Party questions the accuracy of the other's PLU, that issue may be included in a verification review as provided in §32.0 of the General Terms and Conditions. If at any time during the term of this Agreement, the average monthly number of minutes of use (combined Local Traffic and IntraLATA traffic) terminated by either Party on the network of the other exceeds the generally accepted engineering practices as mutually agreed to by the Parties, the Party on whose network those minutes have been terminated may elect to require jurisdictionally separate trunks for Local Traffic and IntraLATA traffic.

4.1.1.2 Where technically feasible, each Party's operator bureau shall accept BLV and BLVI inquiries from the operator bureau of the other Party in order to allow transparent provisioning of BLV/BLVI traffic between the Parties' networks. Each Party shall route BLV/BLVI inquiries between the Parties respective operator bureaus.

4.1.2 Neither Party shall utilize the Local/IntraLATA facilities for delivery of any other type of traffic to the other Party.

4.2 Trunking and Facilities

4.2.1 Trunking will be established at the DS-1 level or DS-0 level, and facilities will be established at the DS1 level (End Office), DS-3/OC-3 level (Tandem), or higher, as agreed upon by the Parties. All trunking will be jointly engineered to an objective P.01 grade of service.

4.2.2 Where Windstream is a 911 provider, separate trunks connecting TCG's switch to Windstream's E911 routers will be established by TCG. If TCG purchases such services from Windstream, they will be provided at full applicable tariff rates. For all 911/E911 traffic originating from TCG, it is the responsibility of TCG and the appropriate state or local public safety answering agency to negotiate the manner in which 911/E911 traffic from TCG will be processed.

4.2.3 TCG will not route traffic to Windstream's local end office switches to act as a tandem on TCG's behalf nor will Windstream route traffic to TCG's local end office switches to act as a tandem on Windstream's behalf.

4.2.4 This Agreement is applicable only to Windstream's serving areas. Windstream will not be responsible for interconnections or contracts relating to any of TCG's interconnection with any other Carrier.

5.0 Network Management

5.1 Protective Protocols

Either Party may use protective network traffic management controls such as 7-digit and 10-digit code gaps on traffic toward each others network, when required to protect the public switched network from congestion due to facility failures, switch congestion or failure or focused overload. The Parties will immediately notify each other of any protective control action planned or executed.

5.2 Expansive Protocols

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.

5.3 Mass Calling

The Parties shall cooperate and share pre-planning information, where available, 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.

6.0 Forecasting/Servicing Responsibilities

6.1 Both Parties agree to provide an initial forecast for establishing the initial interconnection facilities. Subsequent forecasts will be provided on a semi-annual basis.

6.2 Windstream shall be responsible for forecasting and servicing the trunk groups terminating to TCG. TCG shall be responsible for forecasting and servicing the trunk groups terminating to Windstream End Users. Standard trunk traffic engineering methods will be used as described in Bell Communications Research, Inc. (Bellcore) document SR-TAP-000191, Trunk Traffic Engineering Concepts and Applications.

6.3 The Parties shall both be responsible for efficient planning and utilization of the network and employ all reasonable means of forecasting, monitoring and correcting for inefficient use of the network. The Parties will conduct facility planning meetings to determine initial and subsequent utilization standards subsequent to execution of this Agreement but prior to direct interconnection in accordance with §3.5 of this Appendix preceding.

6.4 Each Party shall provide a specified point of contact for planning, forecasting and trunk servicing purposes.

7.0 Trunk Servicing

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

7.2 The Parties shall jointly manage the capacity of local Interconnection Trunk Groups. Either Party may send the other Party an ASR to initiate changes to the Local Interconnection Trunk Groups that the ordering Party desires based on the ordering Party's capacity assessment.

7.3 Orders that comprise a major project (i.e., new switch deployment) shall be submitted in a timely fashion, and their implementation shall be jointly planned and coordinated.

7.4 Each Party shall be responsible for engineering its networks on its side of the IP.

7.5 Each Party will provide trained personnel with adequate and compatible test equipment to work with each other's technicians.

7.6 The Parties will coordinate and schedule testing activities of their own personnel, and others as applicable, to ensure its interconnection trunks/trunk groups are installed per the interconnection order, meet agreed-upon acceptance test requirements, and are placed in service by the due date.

7.7 Each Party will perform sectionalization to determine if a trouble is located in its facility or its portion of the interconnection trunks prior to referring the trouble to each other.

7.8 The Parties will advise each other's Control Office if there is an equipment failure, which may affect the interconnection trunks.

7.9 Each Party will provide to each other test-line numbers and access to test lines.

7.10 The Parties will cooperatively plan and implement coordinated repair procedures for the local interconnection trunks to ensure trouble reports are resolved in a timely and appropriate manner.

7.11 A blocking standard of one-half of one percent (.005) during the average busy hour for final trunk groups between an TCG end office and Windstream access tandem carrying meet point traffic shall be maintained. All other final trunk groups are to be engineered with a blocking standard of one percent (.01). Windstream will engineer all interconnection trunks between the Parties to a 6 db of digital pad configuration.

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ATTACHMENT 12: COMPENSATION

1.0 Introduction

1.1 For purposes of compensation under this Agreement, the traffic exchanged between the Parties will be classified as one of three types: Local Traffic, ISP Bound Traffic, IntraLATA Interexchange Traffic, or InterLATA Interexchange Traffic. The Parties agree that, notwithstanding the classification of traffic by TCG with respect to its End Users, the classification of traffic provided in this Agreement shall control with respect to compensation between the Parties under the terms of this Agreement. The provisions of this Attachment shall not apply to services provisioned by Windstream to TCG as local Resale Services.

1.2 Calls originated by TCG and terminated to Windstream (or vice versa) will be classified as "Local Traffic" under this Agreement if: (i) the call originates and terminates in the same Windstream Exchange; or (ii) originates and terminates within different Windstream Exchanges that share a common mandatory local calling area, e.g., mandatory Extended Area Service (EAS), mandatory Extended Local Calling Service (ELCS), or other like types of mandatory expanded local calling scopes as specified or defined by Windstream tariffs. The terms "originate" and "terminate" refer to the end points of the call, regardless of the classification of the Party's End User.

1.3 The Parties agree to reciprocally exchange ISP Bound Traffic between their networks. Each Party shall bill its end–users for such ISP Bound Traffic and will be entitled to retain all revenues from such ISP Bound Traffic without payment or further compensation to the other Party.

1.4 Traffic, other than ISP Bound Traffic and Local Traffic, shall be terminated to a Party subject to that Party's tariffed access charges.

1.5 The Parties agree that all traffic, other than ISP Bound Traffic and Local Traffic, that is terminated on the public switched network, regardless of the technology used to originate or transport such traffic, including but not limited to Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP), will be assessed either interstate or intrastate (depending on the end points of the call) terminating charges at the rates provided in the terminating Party's access tariff.

1.6 By entering into this Agreement, both Parties expressly reserve the right to advocate their respective positions before state and/or federal regulatory bodies, whether in complaint dockets, arbitrations under Section 252 of the Act, rulemaking dockets, or in any legal challenges stemming from such proceedings with regard to the treatment of Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) traffic for intercarrier compensation purposes.

1.7 The Parties agree that until the FCC enters a final, binding, and non-appealable order ("Final Order") determining the appropriate compensation mechanism for VoIP traffic, the Parties shall exchange traffic and compensate each other in accordance with Section 1.5. At such time as a Final Order becomes applicable, the Parties agree to amend this Agreement to conform with the findings of the Final Order.

2.0 Responsibilities of the Parties

2.1 Each Party will be responsible for the accuracy and quality of the data it submits to the other Party.

2.2 Each Party will provide the other Party the originating Calling Party Number (CPN) with respect to each call terminated on the other Party's network to enable each Party to issue bills in a complete and timely fashion. All CCS signaling parameters will be provided including CPN.

2.3 Neither Party shall strip, modify or alter any of the data signaling or billing information provided to the other Party. In the event a Party strips, modifies or alters any of the data signaled or strips, modifies or alters any of the billing information provided to the other Party, such event will be a material breach of this Agreement.

2.4 Each Party shall identify and make available to the other Party, at no additional charge, a contact person for the handling of any billing questions or problems that may arise during the implementation and performance of this Attachment.

2.5 All calls exchanged without CPN will be billed as IntraLATA Interexchange Traffic, if the failure to transmit CPN is not caused by technical malfunctions. In the event that technical malfunctions result in lack of transmission of CPN, the Parties will cooperate in attempting to resolve such technical malfunctions and the Parties will develop and utilize mutually agreeable surrogate methods for determining compensation that shall be utilized until the technical malfunctions are resolved.

3.0 Reciprocal Compensation for Termination of Local Traffic

3.1 Each Party will be compensated for the exchange of Local Traffic, as defined in §1.2 of this Attachment, in accordance with the provisions of §3.0.

3.2 The Parties agree to reciprocally exchange Local Traffic between their networks. Each Party shall bill its end-users for such traffic and will be entitled to retain all revenues from such traffic without payment of further compensation to the other Party.

3.3 Upon data submitted by one of the Parties, and agreed to by the other Party, supporting the level of traffic exchanged between the Parties is out of balance using a ratio of 60%/40% for three (3) consecutive months (one Party originates 60% or more of the traffic exchanged), the parties agree to the reciprocal compensation minute of use rates pursuant to Appendix B.

3.4 Any traffic utilizing the Public Switched Telephone Network, regardless of transport protocol method, where the originating and terminating points (end-to-end points), are in different local calling areas as defined by the terminating Party and delivered to the terminating Party using switched access services shall be considered Switched Access Traffic. The traffic described herein shall not be considered Local Traffic. Irrespective of origination or transport protocol method used, a call that originates in one local calling area and terminates in another local calling area (i.e. the end-to-end points of the call) shall not be compensated as Local Traffic.

4.0 Compensation for Termination of IntraLATA and Interstate Interexchange Traffic

4.1 Compensation for termination of intrastate IntraLATA Interexchange service traffic will be at the terminating access rates for Message Telephone Service (MTS) and originating access rates for 800 Service, including the Carrier Common Line (CCL) charge, as set forth in the relevant Party's intrastate access service tariff or price list. Compensation for termination of interstate IntraLATA intercompany traffic will be at the terminating access rates for MTS and originating access rates for 800 Service including the CCL charge, as set forth in the relevant Party's interstate access service tariff.

4.2 In the event that TCG does not have a filed IntraLATA Interexchange tariff for access service, TCG agrees to utilize rates that do not exceed Windstream's tariffed access rates.

5.0 Billing Arrangements for Compensation for Termination of IntraLATA, Local Traffic

5.1 Measuring and billing procedures are specified in §§7.2-7.6 of this Attachment.

5.2 With respect to those Exchanges where TCG intends to provide Local Exchange Service, TCG will, at a minimum, obtain a separate NXX code for each Exchange or group of Exchanges that share a common Mandatory Local Calling Scope. At such time as both Parties have implemented billing and routing capabilities to determine traffic jurisdiction on a basis other than NXX codes separate NXX codes as specified in this paragraph will not be required. At such time as TCG requests Windstream to establish interconnection to enable TCG to provide Exchange Services, the Parties will determine the number of NXXs necessary to identify the jurisdictional nature of traffic for intercompany compensation. At such time as TCG requests additional points of interconnection, the Parties will appropriately define the number of NXXs necessary for the new interconnection points.

5.3 Bills rendered by either Party to the other will be due and payable as specified in the General Terms and Conditions, §8.0.

6.0 Alternate Billed Traffic

6.1 All call types routed between the networks must be accounted for, and revenues settled among the Parties. Certain types of calls will require exchange of billing records between the Parties including IntraLATA alternate billed calls (e.g. calling card, bill-to-third party, and collect records and LEC/CTU-provided Toll Free Service records). The Parties will utilize, where possible existing accounting and settlement systems to bill, exchange records and settle revenue.

6.1.1 The exchange of billing records for alternate billed calls (e.g., calling card, bill-to-third, and collect) will be through the existing CMDS processes, unless otherwise agreed to by the Parties in writing.

6.1.2 Inter-Company Settlements ("ICS") revenues will be settled through the Calling Card and Third Number Settlement System ("CATS"). Each Party will make its own arrangements with respect to participation in the CATS processes, through direct participation or a hosting arrangement with a direct participant.

6.1.3 Non-ICS revenue is defined as revenues associated with collect calls, calling card calls, and billed to third number calls which originate, terminate and are billed within the same Bellcore Client Company Territory. The Parties will negotiate and execute an agreement within 30 days of the execution of this Agreement for settlement of non-ICS revenue. This separate arrangement is necessary since existing CATS processes do not permit the use of CATS for non-ICS revenue. The Parties agree that the CMDS system can be used to transport the call records for this traffic.

6.1.4 Each Party will provide the appropriate call records to the other for toll free IntraLATA Interexchange Traffic, thus permitting each Party to bill its subscribers for the inbound Toll Free Service. Each Party may charge its tariffed rate for such record provision. No adjustments to data contained in tapes, disks or Network Data Mover will be made by a Party without the mutual Agreement of the Parties.

7.0 Issuance of Bills

7.1 Each Party shall establish monthly billing dates and the bill date will be the same day each month. All bills will be delivered to the other Party no later than ten (10) calendar days from the bill date and at least twenty (20) calendar days prior to the payment due date (as described in this Attachment), whichever is earlier. If a Party fails to receive a billing within the time period specified in this Section, the corresponding payment due date will be extended by the number of days the bill is late in being delivered.

ATTACHMENT 13: NUMBERING

1.0 Numbering

1.1 Nothing in this Section will be construed to limit or otherwise adversely impact in any manner either Party's right to employ or to request and be assigned any NANP numbers 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 assigned to it.

1.2 Each Party agrees to make available to the other, up-to-date listings of its own assigned NPA-NXX codes, along with associated Rating Points and Exchanges.

1.3 It will be the responsibility of each Party to program and update its own switches and network systems to recognize and route traffic to the other Party's assigned NXX codes at all times. Neither Party will impose fees or charges on the other Party for such required programming and updating activities.

1.4 It will be the responsibility of each Party to input required data into the Business Integrated Rating and Routing Database System (BIRRDS) or other appropriate system(s) necessary to update the Local Exchange Routing Guide (LERG).

1.5 Neither Party is responsible for notifying the other Parties' End Users of any changes in dialing arrangements, including those due to NPA exhaust, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission, the FCC, or a court.

2.0 NXX Migration

2.1 Where a Party (first Party) has activated, dedicated or reserved an entire NXX for a single End User, if such End User chooses to receive service from the other Party (second Party), the first Party shall cooperate with the second Party to have the entire NXX reassigned in the LERG (and associated industry databases, routing tables, etc.) to an end office operated by the second Party. Such transfer will require development of a transition process to minimize impact on the network and on the End User(s) service and will be subject to appropriate industry lead-times (currently 45 days) for movements of NXXs from one switch to another.

ATTACHMENT 14: NUMBER PORTABILITY

1.0 Service Provider Number Portability (SPNP)

1.1 The FCC First Report and Order in CC Docket 95-116 requires " . . .all LECs to implement a long term service provider portability solution that meets our performance criteria in the 100 large Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) no later than October 1, 1997, and to complete deployment in those MSAs by December 31, 1998." While the FCC declined " .to choose a particular technology for providing number portability", they did establish performance criteria for permanent number portability and aligned expectations with the statutory definition of the Telecommunication Act of 1996 ordering Service Provider Number Portability (SPNP). In a follow-up First Memorandum Opinion and Order on Reconsideration, the commission determined that the technology that meets the performance criteria is Location Routing Number (LRN). LRN is being used by the telecommunications industry to provide SPNP.

2.0 Terms, Conditions Under Which Windstream Will Provide SPNP

2.1 Windstream will not offer SPNP services for NXX codes 555, 976, 950.

2.2 Prior to commencement of any service porting or LRN query service, the Parties must have an approved interconnection Agreement along with a conforming, functional direct network interconnection, pursuant to Attachment 4: Network Interconnection Architecture, between and among involved switches and exchanges.

2.3 Windstream will only provide SPNP services and facilities where technically feasible, subject to the availability of facilities, and only from properly equipped central offices. SPNP applies only when a Customer with an active account wishes to change local Carriers while retaining the telephone number or numbers associated with the account.

2.4 An SPNP telephone number may be assigned by TCG only to TCG's Customers located within Windstream's rate center, which is associated with the NXX of the ported number.

2.5 Windstream will deploy SPNP at a location within six (6) months after receipt of a Bona Fide Request from TCG as provided in §6.0, and subject to approval of this Agreement by the Commission and completion of the network preparation specified herein.

2.6 A service order processing charge (Service Order Charge), listed in Appendix B, will be applied to each service order issued by TCG to process a request for installation, disconnection, rearrangement, changes to or record orders pursuant to this Attachment.

2.7 If TCG requests a coordinated cutover the charges contained in Appendix B will be applied.

2.8 If TCG cancels a conversion of an End User, TCG will notify Windstream of the cancellation by 2:00 Central Time on the day prior to the due date requested on the LSR. If TCG notifies Windstream of a cancellation after 2:00 Central Time on the day prior to the due date requested on the LSR ("Late Notice"), TCG will pay the applicable time and material charge contained in Exhibit A Price List. In the event of a Late Notice, Windstream does not guarantee that service disruption will not occur to the End User.

2.9 If TCG cancels or makes a change to an LSR due date, the original LSR will be cancelled, TCG will issue a new LSR and TCG shall be charged an additional Service Order charge, listed in Appendix B, for each LSR submitted under this Attachment.

3.0 Obligations of TCG

3.1 Each Party must offer proof of its certification with applicable regional Number Portability Administration Center (NPAC) prior to requesting SPNP from the other Party.

3.2 Each Party must advise the NPAC of telephone numbers that it imports and the associated data identified in industry forums as is required for SPNP.

3.3 After the initial deployment of SPNP in an MSA, if TCG wants a Windstream switch to become LRN capable, TCG must submit a Bona Fide request as provided in §6.0. Windstream will make requested switch LRN capable within the time frame required by the FCC.

3.4 TCG will conform to NANC guidelines and LERG administration rules in requesting Windstream to open an NPA-NXX for portability in an LRN capable switch.

3.5 TCG is responsible to coordinate with the local E911 and Public Services Answering Point (PSAP) coordinators to insure a seamless transfer of End User emergency services.

3.6 TCG is required to conform to industry standard Local Service Request (LSR) format and guidelines in ordering and administration of individual service/number ports.

4.0 Obligations of Both Parties

4.1 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 Local Service Provider owning the switch in which the telephone number's NXX is native.

4.2 Either Party may block default routed calls from entering the public switched network when necessary to prevent network overload, congestion, or failure.

4.3 The Parties will conform to industry guidelines referenced herein in preparing their networks for SPNP and in porting numbers from one network to another.

4.4 The Parties will perform all standard SPNP certification and intra-company testing prior to scheduling intercompany testing between the Parties' interconnected networks.

4.5 Each Party will designate a single point of contact (SPOC) to schedule and perform required test. These tests will be performed during a mutually agreed time frame and must conform to industry portability testing and implementation criteria in force in the NPAC region.

5.0 Limitations of Service

5.1 Telephone numbers will be ported only within Windstream rate centers as approved by the State Commission.

5.2 Windstream and TCG porting rate center areas must comprise identical geographic locations and have common boundaries.

5.3. Telephone numbers associated with Windstream Official Communications Services (OCS) NXXs will not be ported.

5.4 Telephone numbers in NXXs dedicated to choke networks will not be ported.

6.0 Service Provider Number Portability (SPNP) Bona Fide Request (BFR) Process

6.1 The Service Provider Number Portability (SPNP) Bona Fide Request (BFR) Process is the process for TCG to request that SPNP be deployed in Windstream exchanges that are not then capable of LRN query service.

6.2 TCG may request that SPNP be deployed by Windstream in is switches located in the MSAs. Windstream will enable SPNP in the requested switches within six (6) months of receipt of BFR, based on the beginning dates for each MSA and subject to State Commission approval of an interconnection Agreement with respect to the location of the requested switch.

6.2 A BFR with respect to opening a Windstream switch for SPNP must be made in the form of a letter from TCG to:

Windstream
Attn: Interconnection Services
Rodney Parham Road
1170 B3F03-84A
Little Rock, AR 72212

6.4 The BFR must specify the following:

6.4.1 The MSA in which requested switch(es) are located.

6.4.2 Windstream switch(es), by CLLI codes, which are being requested to become SPNP capable.

6.4.3 Specific, resident NXX codes requested to open in each Windstream switch on the BFR.

6.4.4 The date when SPNP capability is requested for each Windstream switch on the BFR; however, the requested date must fall within the governing FCC schedules and interval guidelines. .

6.4.5 CLLI and NXXs of TCG switches serving the exchanges associated with the relevant Windstream switches.

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ATTACHMENT 18: PERFORMANCE MEASURES

1.0 General

1.1 Windstream will use its best efforts to satisfy all service standards, intervals, measurements, specifications, performance requirements, technical requirements, and performance standards that are specified in this Agreement or are required by law or regulation. In addition, Windstream's performance under this Agreement shall be provided to TCG at parity with the performance Windstream provides itself for like service(s).

2.0 Interconnection

2.1 Trunk Provisioning Intervals

2.1.1 Access Service Request (ASR)

Positive acknowledgment of receipt of a non-valid ASR will be made within two business days, provided the ASR is received before 3PM Eastern Standard Time (1PM Mountain Standard Time.) The start time for determining the FOC interval will commence with receipt of a valid ASR. A non-valid ASR will not start the FOC interval.

2.1.2 Firm Order Confirmation (FOC)

An FOC confirming the due date will be sent within 2 business days (16 business hours) after receipt of a valid ASR subject to facility availability. Subject to availability of facilities service will be implemented (trunks in service) within 20 business days of receipt of a valid ASR.

2.1.3 Performance Expectation

Provided the conditions are met under 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 proceeding, Windstream's performance expectation is to provide 100% due dates met within reporting month. If service levels fall below 95% of the performance expectation within a reporting month, root cause analysis and joint problem resolution will be implemented within thirty (30) days.

2.2 Trunking Grade of Service

2.2.1 Exchange Access (IXC Toll Traffic)

For exchange access traffic routed via an access tandem blocking on each leg will be held to .005 (1/2% blockage).

2.2.2 All Other

All other final routed traffic will be held to .01 (1% blockage).

2.2.3 Performance Expectation

Provided the conditions are met under 2.2.1 and 2.2.2 preceding, Windstream's performance expectation is to provide traffic flow 100% of the time. If service levels fall below the performance expectation within a reporting month, root cause analysis and joint problem resolution will be implemented within thirty (30) days.

2.3 Trunk Service Restoration

2.3.1 Service Affecting

Service affecting trunk service trouble will be responded to at parity with the performance Windstream provides itself for like service(s). Service affecting trouble is defined as a condition or event affecting 20% or more of the total trunk group and overflows are experienced.

2.3.2 Non Service Affecting

Non service affecting trouble will be responded to at parity with the performance Windstream provides itself for like service(s).

2.3.3 Performance Expectation

Zero loss of service due to downtime. If service levels fall below the Performance Expectation within a reporting month, root cause analysis and joint problem resolution will be implemented within thirty (30) days. Specific time-frames will be listed relative to performance.

3.0 Maintenance Intervals

3.1. Service Affecting

Service affecting maintenance trouble will be responded to at parity with the performance Windstream provides itself for like service(s).

3.2 Non Service Affecting

Non service affecting trouble will be responded to at parity with the performance Windstream provides itself for like service(s).

3.3 Performance Expectation

Zero loss of service due to downtime. If service levels fall below the Performance Expectation within a reporting month, root cause analysis and joint problem resolution will be implemented within thirty (30) days. Specific time-frames will be listed relative to performance.

4.0 Local Service Provisioning Intervals

4.1 Local Service Request (LSR)

Positive acknowledgement of receipt of a non-valid LSR will be made within two business days, provided the LSR is received before 3PM Eastern Standard Time (1PM Mountain Standard Time). The start time for determining the Local Service Request Confirmation (LSCN) interval will commence with receipt of a valid LSR. A non-valid LSR will not start the LSCN interval.

4.2 Local Service Request Confirmation (LSCN)

An LSCN confirming the due date will be sent within 2 business days (16 business hours) after receipt of a valid LSR subject to facility availability.

4.3 Performance Expectation

Provided the conditions are met under 4.1.1 and 4.1.2 proceeding, Windstream's performance expectation is to provide 100% due dates within the reporting month. If service levels fall below 95% of the performance expectation within a reporting month, root cause analysis and joint problem resolution will be implemented within thirty (30) days.

ATTACHMENT 19: BONA FIDE REQUEST (BFR) PROCESS

1.1 A Bona Fide Request (BFR) must be used when TCG requests a change to any Services and/or Elements provided hereunder, including features, capabilities, or functionality.

1.2 A BFR shall be submitted in writing by TCG and shall specifically identify the required service date, technical requirements, space requirements and/or such specifications that clearly define the request such that Windstream has sufficient information to analyze and prepare a response. Such a request also shall include TCG's designation of the request as being (i) pursuant to the Telecommunications Act of 1996 or (ii) pursuant to the needs of the business.

1.3 Although not expected to do so, TCG may cancel, without penalty, a BFR in writing at any time. Windstream will then cease analysis of the request.

1.4 Within two (2) business days of its receipt, Windstream shall acknowledge in writing, the receipt of the BFR and identify a single point of contact and any additional information needed to process the request.

1.5 Except under extraordinary circumstances, within twenty (20) days of its receipt of a BFR, Windstream shall provide to TCG a preliminary analysis of the BFR. The preliminary analysis will include Windstream's proposed price (plus or minus 25 percent) and state whether Windstream can meet TCG's requirements, the requested availability date, or, if Windstream cannot meet such date, provide an alternative proposed date together with a detailed explanation as to why Windstream is not able to meet TCG's requested availability date. Windstream also shall indicate in this analysis its agreement or disagreement with TCG's designation of the request as being pursuant to the Act or pursuant to the needs of the business. If Windstream does not agree with TCG's designation, it may utilize the Dispute Resolution Process described in the General Terms and Conditions §9.0. In no event, however, shall any such dispute delay Windstream's process of the request. If Windstream determines that it is not able to provide TCG with a preliminary analysis within twenty (20) days of Windstream's receipt of a Bona Fide Need request, Windstream will inform TCG as soon as practicable. The Parties will then determine a mutually agreeable date for receipt of the preliminary analysis.

1.6 As soon as possible, but in no event more than forty-five (45) days after receipt of the request, Windstream shall provide TCG with a BFR quote which will include, at a minimum, the firm availability date, the applicable rates and the installation intervals, and a price quote.

1.7 Unless TCG agrees otherwise, all proposed prices shall be the pricing principles of this Agreement, in accordance with the Act, and any applicable FCC and Commission rules and regulations. Payments for services purchased under a BFR will be made as specified in this Agreement, unless otherwise agreed to by TCG.

1.8 Within thirty (30) days after receiving the firm BFR quote from Windstream, TCG will notify Windstream in writing of its acceptance or rejection of Windstream's proposal. If at any time an Agreement cannot be reached as to the terms and conditions or price of the request, or if Windstream responds that it cannot or will not offer the requested item in the BFR and TCG deems the item essential to its business operations, and deems Windstream's position to be inconsistent with the Act, FCC, or Commission regulations and/or the requirements of this Agreement, the Dispute Resolution Process set for in the General Terms and Conditions, §9.0 of the Agreement may be used by either Party to reach a resolution.

ATTACHMENT 20: DEFINITIONS

Definitions of the terms used in this Agreement are listed below. The Parties agree that certain terms may be defined elsewhere in this Agreement, as well as terms not defined shall be construed in accordance with their customary meaning in the telecommunications industry as of the Effective Date of this Agreement.

"Access Service Request" or **"ASR"** means the industry standard forms and supporting documentation used for ordering Access Services. The ASR may be used to order trunking and facilities between Windstream and TCG for local interconnection.

"Act" means the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. §151 et seq.), as amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, as may be subsequently amended or, as from time to time interpreted in the duly authorized rules and regulations of the FCC or the Commission having authority to interpret the Act within its state of jurisdiction.

"Ancillary Services" are services which support, but, are not required for interconnection of telecommunications networks between two or more parties, e.g., 911 (if applicable) and Directory Services.

"Calling Party Number" or "CPN" is a feature of Signaling System 7 ("SS7") protocol whereby the 10-digit number of the calling party is forwarded from the end office.

"CLASS (Custom Local Area Signaling Service) and Custom Features" means a grouping of optional enhancements to basic local exchange service that offers special call handling features to residential and single-line business Customers (e.g., call waiting, call forwarding and automatic redial).

"Commission" or "PUC" or "PSC" means the state administrative agency to which the United States Congress or state legislature has delegated authority to regulate the operations of Local Exchange Carriers ("LECs") as defined in the Act.

"Common Channel Signaling" or "CCS" means a special network, fully separate from the transmission path of the public switched network that digitally transmits call setup and network control data.

"Confidential Information" has the meaning set forth in §6.0 of the General Terms and Conditions.

"Contract Year" means a twelve (12) month period during the term of the contract commencing on the Effective Date and each anniversary thereof.

"Customer" means, whether or not capitalized, any business, residential or governmental Customer of services covered by the Agreement, and includes the term "End User". More specific meanings of either of such terms are dependent upon the context in which they appear in the Agreement and the provisions of the Act.

"**Customer Proprietary Network Information**" or "**CPNI**" means information that relates to the quantity, technical configuration, type, destination, and amount of a Telecommunications Service subscribed to by any Customer of a Telecommunications Carrier, and that is made available to the carrier by the Customer solely by virtue of the carrier Customer relationship; and information contained in the bills pertaining to telephone exchange service or telephone toll service received by a Customer of a carrier.

"Discloser" means that Party to this Agreement which has disclosed Confidential Information to the other Party.

"E911 Service" is a method of routing 911 calls to a PSAP that uses Customer location data in the ALI/DMS to determine the PSAP to which a call should be routed.

"Effective Date" is the date indicated in the Preface on which the Agreement shall become effective.

"End Office" means a local Windstream switching point where Windstream Customer station loops are terminated for purposes of interconnection to each other and to the network.

"End User" means, whether or not capitalized, any business, residential or governmental Customer of services covered by the Agreement and includes the term "Customer". More specific meanings of either of such terms are dependent upon the context in which they appear in the Agreement and the provisions of the Act.

"Exchange" is the geographic territory delineated as an exchange area for Windstream by official commission boundary maps.

"Exchange Access" is defined in the Act.

"Exchange Services" are two-way switched voice-grade telecommunications services with access to the public switched network with originate and terminate within an exchange.

"FCC" means the Federal Communications Commission.

"ICB" means individual case basis.

"Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier" or "ILEC" has the meaning given the term in the Act.

"Interconnection" has the meaning given the term in the Act and refers to the connection of separate pieces of equipment, facilities, or platforms between or within networks for the purpose of transmission and routing of Telephone Exchange Service traffic and Exchange Access traffic.

"Interconnection Agreement" means the Agreement between the Parties entitled "Interconnection Agreement Under §§251 and 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996," dated July 16, 1996.

"Interexchange Carrier" or "IXC" means a telecommunications provider that provides long distance communications services between LATAs and authorized by the Commission to provide long distance communications services.

"InterLATA" has the meaning given the term in the Act.

"IntraLATA Traffic" means all IntraLATA calls provided by a LEC other than traffic completed in the LECs local exchange boundary.

"Interconnection Point" or **"IP"** is the point of demarcation at a technically feasible point within Windstream's interconnected network within the LATA, as specified in *Attachment 4* Section 2.1.1, where the networks of Windstream and TCG interconnect for the exchange of traffic.

"ISP Bound Traffic" means the ISP Bound traffic that is exchanged between TCG and Windstream and was the subject of the FCC's Order on Remand Report and Order, In the Matter of Implementation of the Local Compensation Provisions in the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Intercarrier Compensation for ISP Bound Traffic, FCC 01-131, CC Docket Nos. 96-98, 99-68 (rel. April 27, 2001) ("FCC ISP Compensation Order"). "ISP Bound Traffic " is traffic which the originating End User of one Party and the terminating ISP of the other Party are:

(i)both physically located in the same Windstream local exchange area as defined by Windstream's Local or General Exchange Tariff on file with the applicable state commission or regulatory agency; or

(ii)both physically located within neighboring Windstream local exchange areas that are within the same common mandatory local calling area.

"Local Access and Transport Area" or "LATA" has the meaning given to the term in the Act.

"Local Exchange Carrier" or "LEC" means the incumbent carrier that provides facility-based Exchange Services, which has universal-service and carrier-of-last-resort obligations.

"Local Service Provider" or "TCG" means a non-incumbent carrier licensed by the Commission with the appropriate certification (e.g., a Certificate of Authorization or Service Provider Certificate of Authorization) and authority necessary to provide Exchange Services.

"Local Service Request" or "LSR" means an industry standard form used by the Parties to add, establish, change or disconnect services provided under this Agreement.

"911 Service" means a universal telephone number, which gives the public direct access to the PSAP. Basic 911 service collects 911 calls from one or more local exchange switches that serve a geographic area. The calls are then sent to the correct authority designated to receive such calls.

"Operating Company Number" or "OCN" means nationally recognized company codes set forth in Bellcore's LERG that will be used as the official identification code for each company that provides local exchange telephone service.

"Parties," means Windstream and TCG collectively.

"Party" means either Windstream or TCG as applicable.

"**P.01 Transmission Grade of Service**" means a trunk facility provisioning standard with the statistical probability of no more than one call in 100 blocked on initial attempt during the average busy hour.

"**Percent Interstate Local Usage**" or "**PLU**" is a calculation which represents the ratio of the local minutes to the sum of local IntraLATA minutes between exchange carriers sent over Local Interconnection Trunks. Directory assistance, BLV/BLVI, 900, 976, transiting calls from other exchange carriers and switched access calls are not included in the calculation of the PLU.

"**Public Safety Answeriug Point**" or "**PSAP**" is the public safety communications center where 911 calls placed by the public for a specific geographic area will be answered.

"Recipient" means the Party to this Agreement, which has received Confidential Information from the other Party.

"Service Provider Number Portability/Number Portability" or "SPNP" means the ability of users of telecommunications services to retain, at the same location, existing telecommunications numbers without the impairment of quality, reliability, or convenience when switching from one telecommunications carrier to another.

"Signaling System 7" or "SS7" means a signaling protocol used by the CCS network.

"Telephone Exchange Service" means wireline exchange connections amongst LEC End Users.

"Telecommunications" has the meanings given in the Act.

"Termination" means the switching of Local Traffic at the terminating carrier's end office switch, or equivalent facility, and delivery of such traffic to the called Party.

"Territory" means the incumbent local exchange areas within the states identified in Appendix A

"Undefined Terms" The Parties acknowledge that terms may appear in the Agreement that are not defined and agree that any such terms shall be construed in accordance with their end-user usage in the telecommunications industry as of the Effective Date of this Agreement.

"Windstream" has the meaning set forth in the preamble.

"Work Locations" means any real estate that Windstream owns, leases or licenses or in which it holds easements or other rights to use, or does use, in connection with this Agreement.

ATTACHMENT 21: ACRONYMS

AMA	Automated Message Accounting
ASR	Access Service Request
BAN	Billing Account Number
BFR	Bona Fide Request
BRADS	Bellcore Rating Administrative Data Systems
CAP	Competitive Access Provider
CATS	Calling Card and Third Number Settlement System
CCL	Carrier Common Line
CCS	Common Channel Signaling
TCG	TCG
CLASS	Custom Local Area Signaling Service
CMDS	Centralized Message Distribution System
CPN	Calling Party Number
CPNI	Customer Propriety Network Information
EAS	Extended Area Service
ELCS	Extended Local Calling Service
EMI	Exchange Message Interface
EUCL	End User Common Line
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
FOC	Firm Order Commitment
ILEC	Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier
IP	Interconnection Point
ISDN	Integrated Digital Services Network
ISDNUP	Integrated Digital Services Network User Part
IXC	Interexchange Carrier
LATA	Local Access and Transport Area
LEC	Local Exchange Carrier
LERG	Local Exchange Routing Guide
LOA	Letter of Authority
LRN	Local Routing Number
LSCN	Local Service Request Confirmation
LSP	Local Service Provider
LSR	Local Service Request
MSA	Metropolitan Statistical Area
MTP	Message Transfer Part
MTS	Message Telephone Service
NEBS	Network Equipment Building System
NECA	National Exchange Carrier Association
NIIF	Network Interoperability Interface Forum
NPA	Numbering Plan Area
NPAC	Number Portability Administration Center
OCN	Operating Company Number
OLI	Originating Line Information
PIC	Primary Interexchange Carrier
PLU	Percent Local Usage
PON	Purchase Order Number
PSC	Public Service Commission
PUC	Public Utilities Commission
RDBS	Routing Data Base Systems
SLC	Subscriber Line Charge

SONET	Synchronous Optical Network
SPNP	Service Provider Number Portability
SS7	Signaling System 7
STP	Signaling Transfer Point
TCAP	Transaction Capabilities Application Part
Windstream	Windstream

APPENDIX A – Billing Dispute Form

Billing Company Contact Information Section:	
1. Billing Company Name:	2. Billing Contact Name:
3. Billing Contact Address:	4. Billing Contact Phone:
	5. Billing Contact Fax #:
	6. Billing Contact Email:
Disputing Company Contact Information Section:	
7. Disputing Company Name:	8. Disputing Contact Name:
9. Disputing Contact Address:	10. Disputing Contact Phone:
	11. Disputing Contact Fax #:
	12. Disputing Contact Email:

General Dispute Section:				
13. Date of Claim: (yyyy-mm-dd):	14. Status:	15. Claim/Audit Number:		
16. Service Type:				
17. ACNA:	18. OCN:	19. CIC:	20. BAN:	21. Invoice Number(s):
22. Bill Date: 23. Billed Amount: $_____		24. Dispute Reason Code:	25. Dispute Desc:	
26. Disputed Amount: $ 27. Disputed Amount Withheld: $ 28. Disputed Amount Paid: $			29. Dispute Bill Date From: Dispute Bill Date Thru:	

Dispute Information Section:		
30. Rate Element/USOC:		31. Rate: Billed Correct
Factor Information: 32. PIU: Billed Correct 33. PLU: Billed Correct 34. BIP: Billed Correct 35. Other Factors: Billed Correct	36: Jurisdiction ☐Non Jurisdictional ☐Inter/Interstate ☐Intra/Interstate ☐Intra/Intrastate ☐Inter/Intrastate ☐ Local	37. Mileage: Billed Correct 38. Contract Name/#: 39. Business/Residence Indicator: 40: State: 41: LATA:

Facilities/Dedicated Circuit Dispute Information Section:	
42. PON: 43 SON: 44. EC Circuit ID: 45 Circuit Location: 46. IC Circuit ID: 47. CFA :	48. TN/All: 49. Point Code: 50. USOC Quantity: 51. Two-Six Code:
52. Facilities From Date: Thru Date:	

Usage Dispute Information Section:		
53. End Office CLLI:	54. TN/All:	
55. Usage Billed Units/Quantity:	56. Usage Billed Units/Quantity Disputed:	
57. Directionality: ☐ N/A ☐ Orig. ☐ Term. ☐ Combination	58. Query:	59. Query Type:
60. OC&C SON:	61 OC&C PON:	
62. Usage From Date: Thru Date:		
Information Section:		
63. Tax Dispute Amount:	64. Tax exemption form attached : ☐	
65. Invoice(s) LPC billed: 66. LPC paid, date of payment:		
OTHER		
67. Other remarks		
Resolution Information Section:		
68. Resolution Date:		
69. Resolution Amount: $	70. Resolution Reason:	
71. Adjustment Bill Date:	72. Adjustment Invoice Number:	
73. Adjustment Phrase Code(s):	74. Adjustment BAN/	75. Adjustment SON:
76. Disputed Amount: $	77. Amount Credited: $	
78. Bill Section Adjustment will appear on: OC&C_____ Adjustment_____		
79. Resolution remarks:		

Appendix B: Price List

	Nonrecurring Charges	
	Initial	**Additional**
Service Order Charges		
New [1]	$22.39	$22.39
Change [2]	$17.44	$17.44
Disconnect [3]	$12.26	$12.26
Expedite Charge [4]	$21.76	$21.76
Manual Service Order Charges [5]	$8.07	$8.07
Time and Material Charges		
Basic Time per half (1/2) hour	$45.00	$45.00
Overtime per half (1/2) hour	$62.50	$62.50
Premium Time per half (1/2) hour	$85.00	$85.00
Coordinated Cut-Over Charge		
Basic Time per half (1/2) hour	$45.00	$45.00
Overtime per half (1/2) hour	$62.50	$62.50
Premium Time per half (1/2) hour	$85.00	$85.00

	Reciprocal Compensation MOU Rate
Windstream South Carolina, LLC	**$0.01511**

[1] **New** – includes each local number portability request and each new directory assistance request.
[2] **Change** - includes any rearrangement or change to an existing service, supplemental requests or existing directory assistance.
[3] **Disconnect** – disconnection of a Windstream service or of a Windstream or TCG directory assistance.
[4] **Expedite** - applies if TCG requests service prior to the standard due date intervals and the expedite request can be met by Windstream and are in addition to the applicable service order charge.
[5] **Manual** – applies to orders sent via facsimile, electronic mail or US Postal Service when Windstream Express is available and are in addition to the applicable service order charge.